**Nov 9th Library of Congress**

**“Behind the Scenes” Tour**

Are you interested in seeing the following items and more?:

* The message from James C. Chesnut and Stephen D. Lee, on behalf of General P. G. T. Beauregard, April 12, 1861, providing one hour’s notice before the Confederate firing on Fort Sumter commenced.
* A letter from John G. Nicolay to his fiancée Therena Bates, July 21-22, 1861, in which Nicolay provides a running account of news coming from the battlefield at Bull Run/Manassas.
* An original edition of Volume 1 of Alexander Gardner’s *Gardner’s Photographic Sketch Book of the War* (1865-1866), including scenes from Manassas
* Original Ambrotypes/Tintypes/Ivorytypes showing
* Two unidentified sailors in Union uniforms with rope and anchor
* Unidentified soldier in Confederate uniform of the 11th Virginia regiment with knapsack and bedroll
* Stereographs from the recently acquired Stanford Collection:
* Tending wounded Union soldiers at Savage's Station, Virginia, during the Peninsular Campaign
* Negro quarters on Fripp Place, St. Helena Island, S.C
* Drawings about:
* Colonel Burnside's brigade at Bull Run
* The battle of Groveton or Second Bull Run. Between the Union army commanded by Genl. Pope and the Confederate army under Genl. Robert E. Lee. Sketched from Baldface Hill, looking towards the village of Groveton
* Original maps from the Civil War

These items and more will be shown to BRCWRT members on November 9th (a Monday), 2015 during a special “behind the scenes” tour of three different departments in the Library of Congress. The Manuscript Division, Prints and Photographs, and Geography and Mapping Departments will host a full day tour of some of their selected holdings, some of which are normally not shown to the general public. Besides showing their items, representatives from each of the departments will talk about how people can do research in their divisions, both in person as well as on-line. All departments are located within the James Madison Building at 101 Independence Ave between 1st & 2nd St, SE, catty-corner from the US Capital Building. The Capital South Metro station on the Orange, Blue & Silver line is a half block away. We’ll have lunch in their 6th floor cafeteria, which is open the public.

The schedule for November 9,2015 is as follows:

* Meet at 10:00am – First floor just inside the Independence Ave entrance. We’ll meet everyone just outside the Manuscript division, which is straight ahead when you get through security.
* We’ll spend the morning with Michelle Krowl, Civil War and Reconstruction Specialist in the Manuscript Division
* Noon – We’ll go upstairs to the 6th floor cafeteria where lunch and drinks can be purchased. You can bring a sack lunch if you want. There are plenty of tables there and we can pull together a number of them in a corner so everyone can eat together.
* 1:00pm – We’ll go downstairs to the basement where the Geography and Map room is located.
	+ Map discussion with Mike Buscher, Reference Team Leader in Maps, civil war specialist
* 3:00pm – Head up to the third floor, room 337 for the Prints and Photographs division.
	+ Tour and talk by Barbara Orbach Natanson, Head of the Reference Section for the Prints and Photographs Division
* 4:30-5:00pm – Tour ends

When we announced this tour at last month’s meeting, we had 28 people sign up on the sheet that was passed around. Since that time another half dozen people have expressed interest in joining the trip. However, in discussions with people in the three divisions, it turns out that each of their rooms will only comfortably handle an upper limit of 20 individuals. As a result they have agreed that we can do a second tour of the Library after the first of the year.

So to be fair to all, as well as an enticement for everyone to attend our October 8th Round Table meeting, we’ll have a drawing for the first tour’s 20 slots. Given the closeness of Halloween, I obtained a jar of multi-colored jelly beans and we’ll have 10 blue and 10 gray beans for the special drawing. Come and try your hand at drawing out one of the special beans.

Kim Brace

Tour Coordinator