



# WHAT WAS LIFE REALLY LIKE DURING THE CIVIL WAR: FOR SOLDIERS, CIVILIANS, ENSLAVED AND FREE BLACKS...



**Cover images:**

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CDV of Union officer B. A. Sturnburg, of the First Alabama Cavalry. This was the only all white Union regiment from Alabama. It was saved from a dumpster.

This pistol was carried at Gettysburg by Union Colonel Edward Cross, of New Hampshire. He would be mortally wounded in the action on July 2 near the fight in the Wheatfield.

There were about eight million enslaved African-Americans when the war began. Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation would declare them free on January 1, 1863.

**...WE HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP...**





The average age of the Civil War soldier was 22. Most grew up on farms and most were literate. Without their voluminous letters and diaries, we couldn't tell their story.

**A visit to this museum may well change some of your perceptions of the Civil War era. We do not exist to display relics; we exist to let the relics help tell the story. Our focus is on interpretation, not exhibition.**

# WHY?

**ANOTHER CIVIL WAR MUSEUM, AND WHY  
IN SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VIRGINIA...**





**...BECAUSE IT'S TIME TO BUILD A MUSEUM THAT TELLS THE COMPLETE, UNBIASED TRUTH ABOUT SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE, WHO LIVED THROUGH AMERICA'S DEFINING WAR, AND COUNTLESS OTHERS WHO DID NOT.**



**Spotsylvania County is the location of four of the greatest battlefields of the Civil War. Over 100,000 casualties were suffered by America here.**



President Lincoln wanted all 34 stars to remain on the American flag despite the fact that eleven southern states seceded from the Union in April, 1861.

**One of the primary responsibilities of any good museum is the educational support it gives to the community. We will meet this responsibility by hiring a full time educational director.**

# HOW? **BY COMMUNICATING THEIR STORY THROUGH NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, A RESEARCH CENTER AND STATE-OF-THE-ART EXHIBITS.**

The focus of The National Civil War Life Museum is on people. We have taken history, and made it “their story.” This is important because too many museums make themselves into a shrine to a cause. They become a place for a small select membership to come and worship the past and its fallen leaders. In contrast, The National Civil War Life Museum will be a place where people come to learn from the past and use that knowledge to better understand the present and direct the future.

A museum must not be a lifeless, dusty attic of relics. Instead, it must be a voice for the people of the past to speak to us. The museum must not put forth a particular agenda. Many issues of the Civil War are controversial. The museum’s role is to provide the visitor with unbiased facts on both sides of issues and let them discover their own answers.



## FACILITIES

- \* Visitor Center: 11,000 sq. ft. of exhibits
- \* Civil War Life & The Center for Civil War Photography
- \* 100 seat 3-D Theater
- \* Tintype studio
- \* 3,000 sq. ft. Conference Center
- \* Museum Store



The Civil War Life photographic studio will offer a valuable educational opportunity for all ages to step back in time and learn about the importance of 19th century photography.

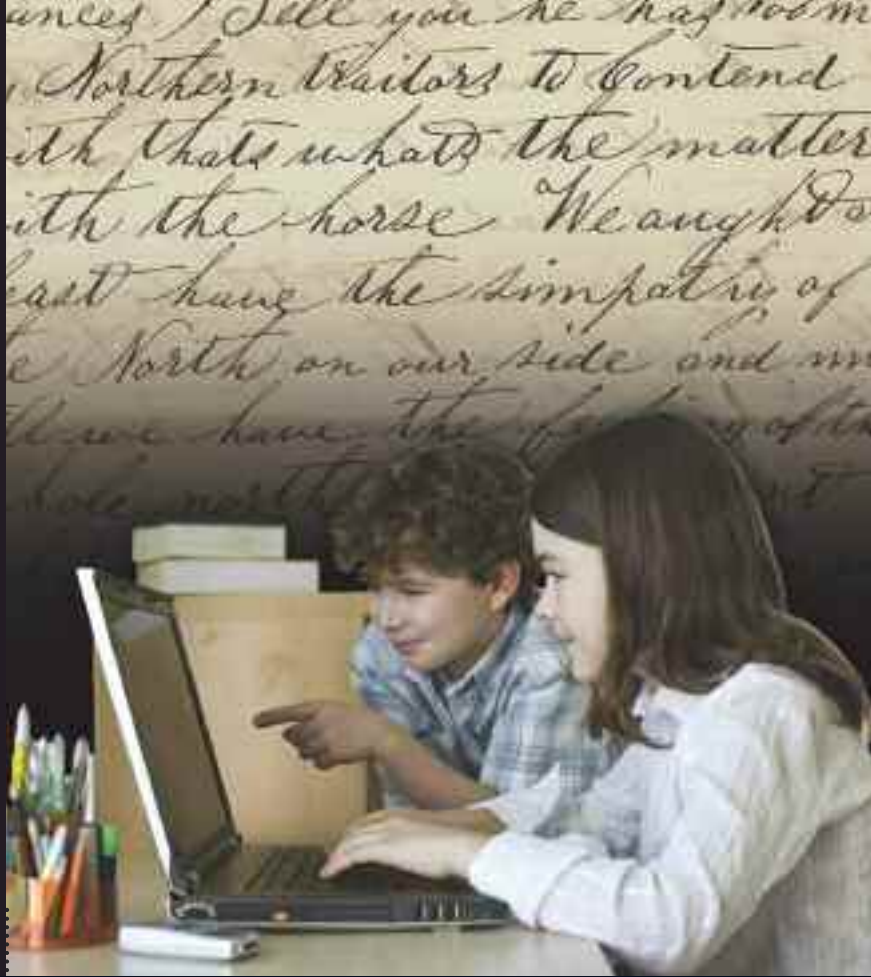
## RESEARCH CENTER

Our research center will be available to all of our visitors. A full time or volunteer staff member will be available to help them start their research. In addition to a standard print library, computers will be available for on-line or electronic searches.

Many museums are trying to impress visitors with the amount of glass and marble they can erect, no matter the expense. Their galleries become grand empty halls sparsely populated with pictures and reproductions of artifacts. Size matters, but only to a point. Museums should be guided by common sense, not emotion.

The museum will be the cornerstone for the new Spotsylvania Courthouse Village being built by the W.J. Vakos Company. The village will combine shopping, restaurants, an Inn and homes to create a village center in the Courthouse area.

The museum will be an economic engine for the county and local businesses. Museums that do not attract visitors are irrelevant. Visitors will vote with their feet and museums that cannot provide exhibits of interest to the widest segment of the population will fail.



## STATE-OF-THE-ART EXHIBITS

Of course our exhibits are different too. They won't look so different but they will be. They will be directly tied to our educational program. They will challenge your perception of the Civil War.

You won't find a display case of Union equipment on one side of the gallery and a case of Confederate equipment on the other side. You will find them in the same display case. Our exhibits will focus on the similarities of the North and South, not their differences. After all they had more commonalities than differences. This was a family war. They were all Americans before the war and they are all Americans today.

The Civil War Life gallery opens in the parlor of a home in 1860. Family members, some from the North and some from the South gather to talk about issues of the day. This exhibit leads into the main exhibits about the lives of soldiers and civilians.

Our closing exhibit "Remembering the Civil War" will bring you back to the 21st century. In this exhibit you will see how veterans groups brought the nation back together. We have adopted their motto "We Drank from the Same Canteen" to highlight the reunification of America.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Our educational programs will be the hallmark of this museum. Public and Home School programs will be based on "Study Tours." These visits will be coordinated with the school staff to provide a pre visit curriculum, a guided visit and a post visit curriculum. This plan will maximize the teaching effect for and retention level of the students. All programs will meet Virginia Standards Of Learning requirements.

Our staff Educational Director will develop programs based on several themes: Civil War Life, Slavery, Civil War Science and Reunification. Custom programs may be developed to meet a specific institution's needs.

School children should never be paraded through a museum without guidance and context. We will provide both.

We will challenge preconceived notions about slavery issues and the impact of the Civil War on the America of today. Our four primary themes will be identified as they are threaded through our exhibits.





Over 150,000 African-American troops (right) eventually served the Union cause, and many faced medical treatment along with doctors using a typical surgical kit like the one pictured above.

**T**he Civil War is the defining event in American history since the founding of our Republic. Many of us have studied its history, battles, tactics and strategy; some have delved into the fundamental causes and the dominant political, economic and human right issues. However, we cannot truly comprehend the magnitude and impact of the Civil War era unless we take time to understand the bravery and sacrifices, individually and collectively, of those who fought on both sides, and all whose lives that were indelibly shaped and affected before, during and in the aftermath of this epic struggle. **To this day, we still live with the legacy, outcome and consequences of the Civil War.**

The focus of the Civil War Life Museum will be on the lives of people, combatants and non-combatants, slave and free, North and South. It will be both local and national in the scope of its exhibits, presentations and resources. We have taken historical data, documents, relics and artifacts and made it "their life stories" to provide context for the heroic efforts of both soldiers and civilians. In order to understand our past and future, we must understand the trials, tribulations and consequences of our Civil War.

The National Civil War Life Museum will provide resources for military experts, history buffs, and families alike. There will be continually updated exhibits, a research library and an auditorium. **One of our primary goals is sharing a passion for Civil War history with youth and to that end, we'll actively reach out to schools and youth groups.**

The Civil War Preservation Trust endorses this project, and we work in partnership with hundreds of preservation groups that share our goal. The National Civil War Life Museum will be built with the backing of interested individuals, the business community and philanthropic organizations. Our ability to realize the goals of the Museum is directly dependent upon the financial support that we receive. **Please join us in making the Civil War Life Museum a reality by contributing to this noble cause.** A contribution form is enclosed. Many Thanks.

Sincerely,

Col. Horace McCaskill Jr.,  
Chairman, The National Civil War Life Foundation



Officer's writing desk (left), patriotic stationery and writing tools (far left), and "housewife" (below), the term soldier's used to describe their sewing kit. Not long into the war most soldiers felt they could sew as well as their wives.



## WAYS OF GIVING

Our flexible giving program provides many ways to support the National Civil War Life Museum:

- ☆ Individuals
- ☆ Foundations
- ☆ Businesses
- ☆ Other organizations



Donations can be made not only for the new building, but also many areas within the building, and major exhibits may be named for substantial donors. This is a wonderful way to ensure a lasting memorial to a venerated ancestor or provide recognition to a family, business, or organization. A list of naming opportunities will be provided to those interested.

Special endowments may be made to support artifact acquisition, preservation and for special programs. This list is available to those interested persons.

**Please add your leadership to our effort to build the most important Civil War Museum, Research Center and Educational program in Virginia. Thank you!**

## DONATIONS

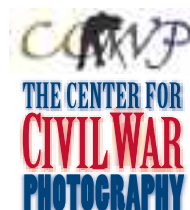
**ALL DONATIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

The National Civil War Life Foundation  
4712 Southpoint Parkway  
Fredericksburg, VA 22407

**PLEASE CONTACT THE MUSEUM'S DIRECTOR:**

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[civilwarlife@yahoo.com](mailto:civilwarlife@yahoo.com)

*Our partners include The Center for Civil War Photography and The Civil War Preservation Trust.*



Civil War Preservation Trust  
*Standing Guard Over History*





**“WE DRANK FROM THE SAME CANTEEN”**

Concept and design: The ID Entity



The National Civil War Life Foundation  
Spotsylvania County, Virginia