

Caught in time

Group hosts largest-ever exhibit of Md. Civil War images

By Dan Collins
Special to The Examiner

Ross Kelbaugh is obviously in his element.

In fact, he's up to his eyes in it, surrounded by more than 200 images that comprise "The Civil War in Maryland: Rare Photographs from the Collection of the Maryland Historical Society and its Members."

An author and Civil War photograph collector himself, Kelbaugh speaks excitedly about the show, which he says is the "largest collection of Maryland Civil War photos in the entire history of photography since the Civil War!"

"Quite a number of these photos are being exhibited for the first time. Some have never been published; those that have been published as half-tones, so now you have the opportunity to see the original image in all of its detail," Kelbaugh said.

The images, which are presented chron-

ologically with detailed captions, are taken from the Society's collection, as well as from the collections of Kelbaugh, fellow Civil War author Daniel Carroll Toomey, Arthur "Gil" Barrett, David P. Mark Sr., and Frederick D. Shroyer. Kelbaugh was given the daunting task of assembling photos for the exhibit in less than half the time typical for such a project.

"I'm totally exhausted. Usually an exhibit like this would take at least a year to be done, and I was first asked by the Society's head librarian [about creating the exhibit] in December of last year," Kelbaugh admitted.

Originally the exhibit was to feature only Kelbaugh's images, "but I wanted to expand the scope of the collection and bring in these other people so we could really tell a story," he said.

And there are quite a few stories to tell. For example, a newly discovered portrait of a citizen killed in the Pratt Street riot, possibly the Confederacy's first casualty.

"He had:



WHERE TO SEE

"The Civil War in Maryland" through Oct. 14

» **Venue:** Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument St., Baltimore

» **Info:** 410-685-3750; mdhs.org

on Federal Hill; and two Southern soldiers, sons of Baltimore Marshall George Kane. "To me, they capture cavalier spirit of the Confederacy," Kelbaugh said.

In addition to portraits — which include a few rare daguerreotypes (an early form of photography that produces no negative), including one Barbara Fritchie, the Unionist who inspired the poem by John Greenleaf Whittier — there are many outdoor images as well. These include photographs taken after the battle of Antietam; shots of camps, forts, hospitals and battlefields; and approximately 50 images from the first extensive photographic study of Baltimore's public buildings, churches, synagogues, monuments and theaters, dating back to 1864.

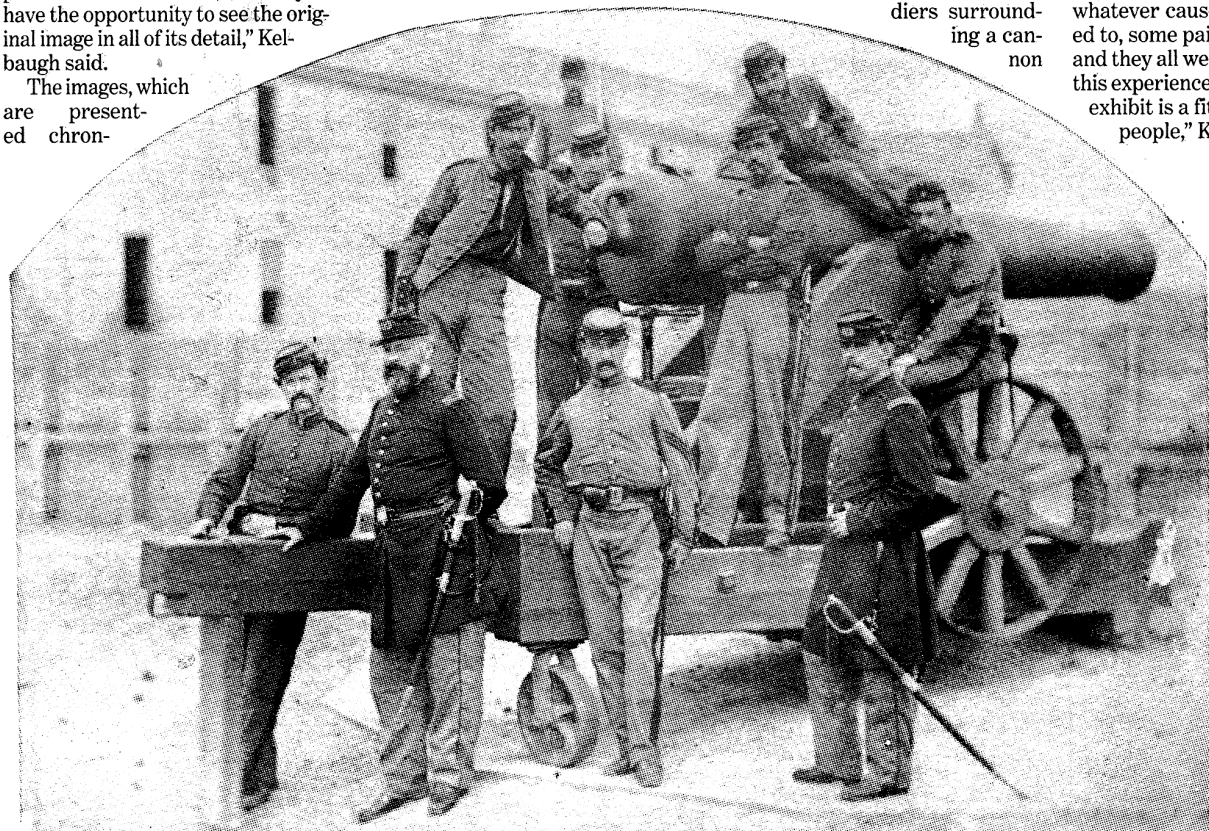
"This exhibit is a monument to the dedication, sacrifice and patriotism of these individuals. We can't lose sight of these Marylanders, that for whatever cause they were dedicated to, some paid the ultimate price, and they all were deeply affected by this experience. Our hope is that the exhibit is a fitting tribute to these people," Kelbaugh said.

just enlisted in the Confederate regular army and was waiting to be shipped to Charleston, South Carolina. He was shot standing on the corner. Some believe this makes him the first Confederate soldier killed in the Civil War," Kelbaugh said.

Other images include a number of portraits of Maryland black soldiers, "the largest collection of identified African American Civil War soldiers that has ever been put together," Kelbaugh said.

Upon entering, patrons will notice enlargements made from fabric picturing a black Union sailor and a

Union sergeant; a group of soldiers surrounding a cannon



"The Civil War in Maryland" exhibit features more than 200 images of local soldiers, including one taken in Federal Hill, left.