

Photo Exhibit Draws on Remarkable Private Collections

It is a portrait of a Maryland family. The husband, a soldier, is wearing his Union uniform. His wife is outfitted in a conservative dark dress with a lace collar, while their twin daughters are wearing matching coats and flower-bedecked straw hats.

It is an extraordinary image. The family is not stiffly posed, as was often the case in the 1860s. The father has his arm around one daughter, the elbows of the parents touch as the other daughter leans against her mother's side.

It is also a rarity among Civil War photographs — one of the very few images of a member of the U.S. Colored Troops posed with his family. Neither the name of the photographer nor the family is known.

Black soldiers were first officially recruited into state regiments after President Abraham Lincoln's issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation of Jan. 1, 1863. Five months later, the War Department issued General Order 143, creating the U.S. Colored Troops. By the end of the war, about 180,000 African Americans had served in the Union army.

For this family picture alone, it is worth the trip to see "The Civil War in Maryland: An Exhibit of Rare Photographs" at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. It is one of about 300 strong images assembled by guest curator Ross J. Kelbaugh representing the collection of the historical society, his own and that of collectors Arthur "Gil" Barrett, P.D. Mark Sr., Frederick D. Shroyer and Daniel Carroll Toomey.

Kelbaugh, who has collected Civil War photographs since childhood, is a retired Baltimore public school history teacher and longtime member of the society's library committee. He is the founder and owner of Historic Photographs.com, which specializes in vintage image services, and is the author of several books on Civil War photography and photographers.

The show is displayed in the society's library in wall frames and glass-covered display cabinets. Because many of the images are fragile and subject to fading, they are not brightly illuminated.

The show includes photographs of Dough-oregan Manor, once the home of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, showing relatives and African American workers, most likely slaves. The women wear hoop skirts, the horses are well-

Riots, and the exhibit includes the images of two men who gained fame that day. Nick Biddle, an African American servant of Capt. James Wren of Pottsville, Pa., was cut on his left cheek by a thrown brick leaving him with a jagged scar. When

The photograph of the second man was found only recently at an auction in Maryland. William R. Clark, known as the "Martyr of Baltimore," was also on Pratt Street when the soldiers were attacked. Clark, a 20-year-old sailor who recently had enlisted in the Confederate cause, was standing at Pratt and South streets when a musket ball instantly killed him.

His portrait shows a young man with hair carefully combed to one side, wearing a formal black suit and bow tie. According to Kelbaugh, it is the only known photograph of any local resident killed during the riot. Because he was killed after enlistment as he waited for transportation south, many now consider him the first Confederate soldier killed in the war.

This show, as it is now organized, is not likely to be seen again after it closes on Oct. 14 because the images will be returned to their owners. Kelbaugh has published an informative 56-page show catalogue that includes the image of the black Union family. It is available at the society for \$10.

For more information, call 410-685-3750 or visit www.mhds.org.



A Maryland soldier and his family pose in a photographer's studio. The "quarter-plate ambrotype" was found in Cecil County. Maryland fielded seven U.S. Colored Troop regiments.

groomed and the gardens are lush with flowering shrubs.

In other outdoor scenes are Union soldiers posed around cannons and tents in Maryland forts and camps. Baltimore streets were also photographed: the barricaded intersection of Pine and Saratoga streets as it looked in June 1863 and several blocks of Pratt Street, where residents attacked Union soldiers as they passed through the city on April 19, 1861.

That attack is known as the Pratt Street

he died in 1876, his tombstone was inscribed, "His Was the Proud Distinction of Shedding the First Blood in the late War for the Union."

Biddle was photographed by R.W. Mortimer of Pottsville sometime after the war. In the *carte-de-visite*, he appears to be an elderly man wearing a tight-fitting Union jacket, his hands folded on his lap and his eyes downcast. A highlight on his left cheek shows a raised scar running down the side of his face.

The Civil War Preservation Trust and the National Parks Conservation Association have condemned construction work done within the boundaries of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park over the Aug. 19 weekend. A residential developer used heavy machinery to lay water and sewer pipes in the School House Ridge Battlefield area of the park. He did not have a permit.

That portion of the park was purchased for \$1.5 million last year through funds raised by the trust and the association, working with federal and state officials.

David Barna, public affairs chief for the National Park Service, said that the matter has been turned over to the Justice Department and that criminal action is being considered.

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