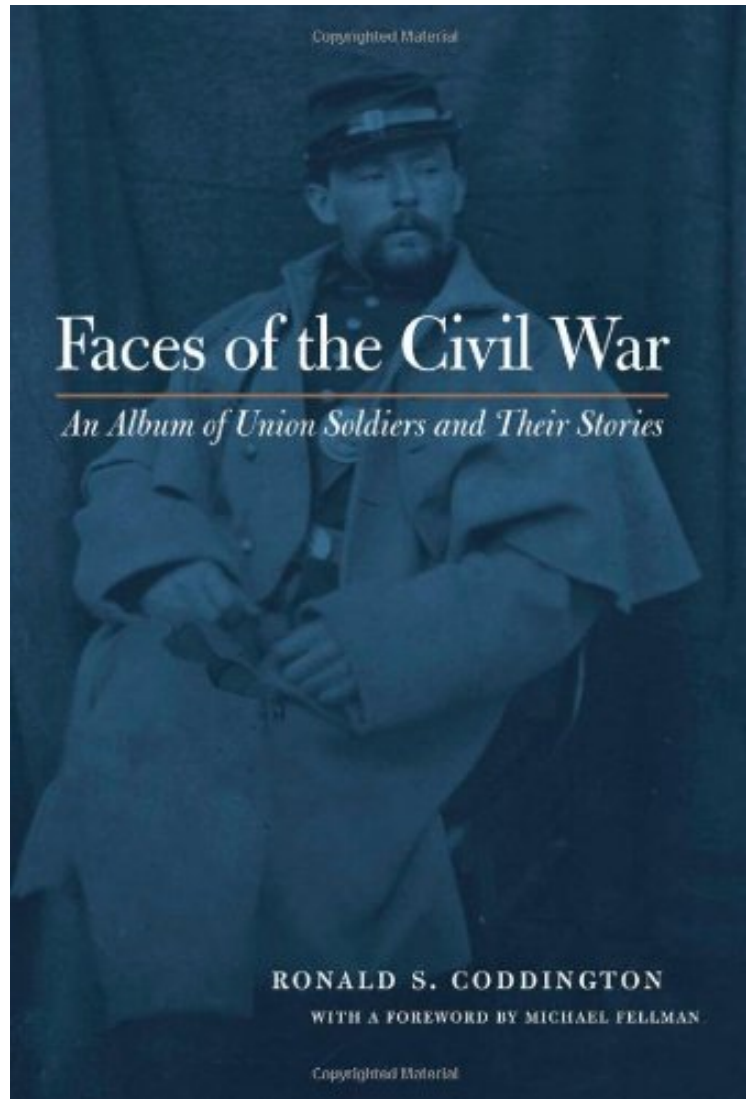


[Free and download] Faces of the Civil War: An Album of Union Soldiers and Their Stories

Faces of the Civil War: An Album of Union Soldiers and Their Stories

Ronald S. Coddington

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Ronald S. Coddington : Faces of the Civil War: An Album of Union Soldiers and Their Stories before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Faces of the Civil War: An Album of Union Soldiers and Their Stories:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Our Union Soldiers of the Civil WarBy MWThe author, Ronald S. Coddington did an amazing amount of research on these soldiers. He supplied 70 photographs from his personal

collection. At a time when most of our Civil War soldier's names have been lost, because their family history has been lost to time. Leaving only their nameless photographs to us today. He not only supplied the name of each soldier, but also a brief, but thorough description of each of their lives, during their tenure of service, and how their lives were, after they were mustered out of service. He tells us how each man died and what caused their deaths, be it in active duty or as a civilian. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. I am now looking forward to read his book, "Faces of the Civil War An Album of Confederate Soldiers and Their Stories".

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Civil War Soldier: Remembering the Long-Forgotten Veteran By Fezziwig

The Civil War was one of the first wars to be photographed. One very popular offering of the enterprising photographer of this era was the carte de visite, a small (2.5 x 4 inches) photograph that was taken in a photographer's studio. The soldier going off to war would have his photo taken to send to loved ones as a reminder of their absent hero. Thousands of these cartes de visite have survived to today, but usually there is nothing known about the soldier in the photo other than a name written in the photo frame or on the back. Ronald Coddington has dug into Civil War archives, histories, diaries, and letters to tell a little story behind the faces in some of these photos. This book reveals the stories behind the faces of 77 soldiers who served in Union armies. (The author has also written two other volumes of Civil War cartes de visite: "Faces of the Confederacy: and "African-American Faces of the Civil War.")

The stories are very brief, a page and a half at most. But they are fascinating in the very fact that they help us peer behind the curtain of mystery that time inevitably draws over the life of all but a few of the participants in the great events of the past. Who knows anything of the story of even an ancestor's participation in the Civil War? Coddington has looked behind this curtain for each of these 77 soldiers. Some of these soldiers did not survive the war. Some died in battle, some died later of wounds from a battle, and some died of sickness or disease without ever having fought in a battle. Of those who survived the war, some went back to civilian life, married, raised families, and died at a ripe old age. But some carried the mental and emotional wounds of war back home, and the misery of war continued to haunt them and their families.

A book like this is timeless. As long as there are wars, there will be soldiers who leave home and, if they are lucky, come home again. Great generals and their deeds will always be remembered and honored in books and movies, but the ordinary soldier is forgotten. The men in these photographs are resurrected, if only briefly, to retell their stories. Much of the information on these long-dead soldiers is contained in publicly accessible records held by the National Archives and Record Service (NARS), which is cited as a source in almost every one of these short biographies. Other sources are books, including soldiers' published diaries and letters, manuscript collections, magazine and newspaper articles, and online genealogical services. The author has done a great deal of research to produce this wonderful book, a resurrection of 77 forgotten soldier lives.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Faces of the Civil War By Cabin Girl

I bought this book for my husband who loves history. As a veteran I knew he would find it interesting. I was right... he loved it. I purchased it along with Ron Coddington's other book Faces of the Confederacy because I thought my husband would want to read about both sides. They are a great pairing and I can't wait to buy more of Ron's books for my husband.

Before going off to fight in the Civil War, many soldiers on both sides of the conflict posed for a carte de visite, or visiting card, to give to their families, friends, or sweethearts. Invented in 1854 by a French photographer, the carte de visite was a small photographic print roughly the size of a modern trading card. The format arrived in America on the eve of the Civil War, which fueled intense demand for the convenient and affordable keepsakes. Considerable numbers of these portrait cards of Civil War soldiers survive today, but the experiences—and often the names—of the individuals portrayed have been lost to time. A passionate collector of Civil War-era photography, Ron Coddington became intrigued by these anonymous faces and began to research the history behind them in military records, pension files, and other public and personal documents. In *Faces of the Civil War*, Coddington presents 77 cartes de visite of Union soldiers from his collection and tells the stories of their lives during and after the war. The soldiers portrayed were wealthy and poor, educated and unschooled, native-born and immigrant, urban and rural. All were volunteers. Their personal stories reveal a tremendous diversity in their experience of war: many served with distinction, some were captured, some never saw combat while others saw little else. The lives of those who survived the war were even more disparate. While some made successful transitions back to civilian life, others suffered permanent physical and mental disabilities, which too often wrecked their families and careers. In compelling words and haunting pictures, *Faces of the Civil War* offers a unique perspective on the most dramatic and wrenching period in American history.

"An engaging and human portrait of the Civil War." (Weekly Standard) "Faces of the Civil War not only exhibits Coddington's appreciation and understanding of Civil War history but also his passion for early photography." (C. D. Myers Knight Ridder Newspapers) "The book helps to humanize the men who volunteered for 'Father Abraham's' army and illustrates that some of the war's experiences have changed little over the last century and a half." (Heidi Campbell-Shoaf Civil War Times Illustrated) "This is a well-written, well-documented and interesting little book." (Michael J. Winey Civil War Book News) "A fascinating window into the war's impact on the individual soldier... well researched and engagingly written. Any teacher of the Civil War would do well to consult this volume and incorporate some of

the captivating tales into lectures and readings." (Lisa M. Brady *Journal of Military History*) "I recommend this book to all the Civil War buffs out there." (Daniel Caplice Lynch *Berkshire Eagle*) "Faces of the Civil War is one of those rare prizes that has multiple entry points." (C.D. Myers *Times Union*) "77 brilliantly researched stories about the lives of Union soldiers during the Civil War." (*Indianapolis Star*) "Faces of the Civil War is well worth purchasing and placing in a Civil War library... My copy will always be on a handy shelf." (Michael J. McAfee *Military Collector Historian*) "These are haunting stories?and so are their pictures." (Harold Holzer, *Metropolitan Museum of Art Journal of Southern History*) "With the plethora of Civil War books that focus on battles, regiments, and the famous, this volume's subject matter and format are a welcome counterpoint." (*Library Journal*) "It was not a 'good war,' and these faces tell that tale all too well." (Allen C. Guelzo *Civil War Monitor*) "A tour de force. The cartes de visite of soldiers proudly posed in their uniforms and the narratives of their lives, drawn from the veterans' service and pension records, enable the reader to better understand the grim realities that confronted Civil War soldiers and sailors on the battlefield, in camp, on the march, at the hospital, and also on the home front." (Edwin C. Bearss, *Chief Historian Emeritus, National Park Service*) "First-class storytelling that skillfully combines words and images to educate and fascinate at the same time." (Bob Zeller, president, *Center for Civil War Photography, Florida*) "Ron Coddington's research is prodigious and his writing excellent. The biographical sketches of common soldiers in Faces of the Civil War are engaging and endlessly fascinating. He has made and is making an important addition to Civil War study, bringing to life ordinary men who stepped forward to fight for the Union." (William J. K. Beaudot, author of *The 24th Wisconsin Infantry in the Civil War: The Biography of a Regiment*) "With his meticulous research and a journalist's eye for good stories, Ron Coddington has brought new life to Civil War photographic portraits of obscure and long-forgotten Confederates whose wartime experiences might otherwise have been lost to history. This is more than just a fine compilation of Civil War photographs." (Bob Zeller, *Center for Civil War Photography*) "Ronald S. Coddington has scored a masterpiece again. As a follow-up to his much applauded Faces of the Civil War featuring Union soldiers and sailors, he has authored a sequel. This time Confederates are center stage as they proudly pose for the all-important cartes de visite that are as treasured today by collectors and buffs as by their home folks and comrades of long ago. Complementing these are biographical profiles that inform but do not overwhelm, reminding us that each haunting face is a real person who lived, served and died many years ago." (Edwin C. Bearss, *National Park Service*) "Ron Coddington has produced a fine new volume that will take its place beside William A. Albaugh's Confederate Faces and several other Confederate photographic histories. Coddington's Faces of the Confederacy: An Album of Southern Soldiers and Their Stories continues the tradition of publishing Confederate soldier portraits, and further restricts the collection to carte de visite format. That, however, is where the similarity with earlier books ends. Instead of the standard fare of somewhat small photographs and brief captions, he provides us with full page or nearly full page pictures, as sharp as modern digital technology can make them, and has thoroughly researched and presented the story of each individual pictured. In that way, he has widened our understanding of these men far beyond the normal presentation. Just as important, for the most part, these are not familiar photographs or well known faces. Instead, they comprise a broad band of individuals about whom little has been published before. Many served in the western theater, though there is certainly good representation from Lee's army. While some of the photographs are from well known collections such as that of the Museum of the Confederacy, far more are from private collectors who have dedicated their lives to finding and saving these rare treasures. I was particularly delighted to see some of Bill Turner's treasures in this book, as well as those of David Wynn Vaughan. In the world of Civil War photography, it is rare to find something that is truly new, but this book fits that bill." (Les Jensen, *West Point Museum*) "In developing parallels between the control of one's image in narratives and the use of the photograph as biography, Coddington makes a compelling argument for the reader to rethink the place of photography in telling history. His use of photographs as visual text allows the reader to reimagine history through the photographer's lens. This book maps new methodologies for researching and writing about photographs and plumbs the hidden history of the Civil War narrative." (Deborah Willis *Indiana Magazine of History*) "Faces of the Civil War Navies is a notable addition to anyone's Civil War library – whether they are interested in the War's naval history or social aspects. Coddington does a worthy job providing scholarly biographies that are both interesting to read and informative. The scholarly nature of this work can be appreciated through the thoroughly cited entries, and extensive bibliography. In the end Faces of the Civil War Navies does accomplish Coddington's goal of adding the human story of the war at sea." (*Civil War Book*)

About the Author Ron Coddington is a visual journalist whose work has appeared in USA Today, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, and the San Jose Mercury News. He currently writes a monthly column, "Faces of War," for The Civil War News. He lives in Arlington, Virginia, with his wife, Anne.