The CIVIL WAR
In America

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A Worldwide Celebration of Books

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First Recipe for Pumpkin Pie
Library of Congress Magazine
Vol. 1 No. 2: November/December 2012

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Library of Congress Magazine is issued bimonthly by the Office of Communications of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, donors, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States.

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e-mail pao@loc.gov
www.loc.gov/lcm/
ISSN 2169-0855 (print)
ISSN 2169-0863 (online)

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Library visitors explore the “Books That Shaped America” exhibition that ran throughout the summer in the Jefferson Building. See story on page 12 for more on the books selected. Photo / Abby Brack Lewis
Women and children, like Rose Greenhow and her daughter (pictured here) were imprisoned during the Civil War as suspected confederate spies. Prints and Photographs Division

On the cover: First-person accounts of the Civil War by, from left, freed slave and presidential seamstress Elizabeth Keckley, southern society matron Eugenia Levy Phillips and teen diarist Leroy Gresham reveal much about this tumultuous time in history.
In History

On May 24, 1861—less than two months after the start of the Civil War—President Abraham Lincoln appointed a political supporter, John G. Stephenson, a physician from Terre Haute, Ind., to the position of Librarian of Congress. The record shows that Stephenson asked for the job. On May 7, 1861, the doctor wrote to Lincoln regarding “the question of a change in the Office of ‘Librarian to the Library of Congress’ and reminded him of his past support of “the Cause that triumphed in your election.”

During his tenure as the fifth Librarian of Congress, Stephenson spent a good deal of time on the battlefield as a surgeon and aide-de-camp for the Union Army, earning a commendation for his performance at Gettysburg. To act in his stead, he appointed Cincinnati bookseller and journalist Ainsworth Rand Spofford as Assistant Librarian. Spofford lobbied hard to replace Stephenson upon the doctor’s retirement at the end of 1864. In all, he boasted the endorsement of 22 senators and 87 representatives “who have signified their preference in the matter.”

On Dec. 31, 1864, Lincoln appointed Spofford the sixth Librarian of Congress. Spofford, who served through 1897, established the Library’s national role and obtained support for several legislative acts that ensured growth of the collections and made Congress’s library the largest in the United States. It was said Spofford continued to increase the Library’s collections to the last few weeks of his life, in 1908.

Six weeks before Lincoln’s assassination on April 14, 1865, he approved a $160,000 appropriation for expansion and fireproofing of the Library’s space in the Capitol.

In the first published Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress, covering the year 1866, Spofford wrote, “The fact that the whole library is now impregnably fire-proof, being constructed of solid iron material throughout, and that future accessions to its stores, as well as the present accumulate of valuable works, are secure from a casualty which has twice consumed our national library, is a matter for sincere congratulation.”

—Audrey Fischer

More Information:

View the Abraham Lincoln papers
memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html

Learn more about past Librarians of Congress
www.loc.gov/about/librarianoffice/librarians.html

From top, the Congressional Library in the U.S. Capitol circa 1870, John G. Stephenson, Ainsworth Rand Spofford | Prints and Photographs Division

LCM | Library of Congress Magazine

AN INTERPRETATION OF THE MAYAS’ “Long Count” calendar, which began with the ritual date of Maya creation, Aug. 11, 3114 B.C., shows its end on Dec. 21, 2012.

Don’t delay your Christmas shopping just yet. Nothing in what is known of Maya writing supports this conjecture.

That reassuring word comes from art historian and epigrapher Mark Van Stone. In his book, “2012: Science & Prophecy of the Ancient Maya,” he takes a scientific and archaeological-focused look at what the ancient Maya actually believed. Van Stone, who spoke at the Library of Congress in October, concludes that end-of-the world prophecies are the creations of our current society, with little basis in what is known about the Maya and their beliefs.

David Stuart, the foremost expert on Maya hieroglyphs, agrees. In his book, “The Order of Days: The Maya World and the Truth about 2012,” Stuart reveals that by deciphering dates and information carved into stone stelae (monuments), one may postulate that the full Maya calendar accounts for nearly 72 octillion years. Stuart delivered the fifth Jay I. Kislak lecture on this topic at the Library last year.

In addition to establishing the lecture series, the Jay I. Kislak Foundation donated to the Library an important collection of books, manuscripts, historical documents, maps and art of the early Americas. A permanent rotating exhibition of materials from the Kislak Collection, “Exploring the Early Americas,” opened in December 2007 and remains on view in the Thomas Jefferson Building.

A handful of Maya artifacts were recently rotated into the “Early Americas” exhibition in a section titled “The Heavens and Time: 2012 Phenomenon.” These include a facsimile edition of the Dresden Codex—the most comprehensive source of the Maya calendar system and astronomy—and the oldest known book written in the Americas.

—Audrey Fischer

MORE INFORMATION:

View the Early Americas exhibition online
myLOC.gov/Exhibitions/EarlyAmericas/

View a webcast of Mark Van Stone’s lecture
View a webcast of David Stuart’s Kislak lecture
www.loc.gov/webcasts/
EVERYTHING OLD IS MADE NEW AGAIN

THE LIBRARY’S RECORDED-SOUND and moving-image collections are the largest in the world, comprising approximately 4.5 million items. The task at hand is to preserve and provide access to these historical and varied collections.

The Library’s Packard Campus for Audio Visual Conservation in Culpeper, Va., provides ample cool, dry storage space and the latest tools and technologies with which to extract images and sounds from disintegrating media. They can then be preserved in digital formats that can be served easily to generations of users. Each type of media presents its own challenges.

At the Packard Campus, pre-1951 motion pictures made on flammable nitrate film stock are transferred and preserved on polyester-based film stock. From there, they can be transferred to digital media. Several hundred early motion pictures are accessible on the Library’s website.

Whether the recording medium is an 1880s wax cylinder, a “shellac” 78-rpm disc from the 1940s, an eight-track audio tape from 1964 or a Betamax video from 1975, the Library must maintain the original playback equipment to preserve its content.

The Packard Campus contains an incredible wealth of television programs dating back to the 1940s. Many of these shows are on old videotape formats which are no longer manufactured or supported.

“We are always looking for old videotape machines that work, or spare parts, until the day comes when we have all the old programs transferred to an archival format,” said Michael Mashon, head of the Moving Image Section of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Sound Division.

The oldest tape format was produced on 2-inch Quadruplex videotape machines (Quad decks), which were introduced in the late 1950s and used well into the 1970s. The Packard Campus maintains an inventory of 27 Quad decks, of which just a few are in working condition but valuable sources for spare parts.

Recorded sound preservation is also a challenge. The Library holds the papers of Emile Berliner (1851-1929), a German-born immigrant whose inventions, such as the gramophone, contributed to the birth of the recording industry. The collection includes more than 100 discs produced by the Berliner Gramophone Company from the mid-1890s to 1900. The Library has preserved the analog audio to high quality WAV files and Real Audio streaming files, and made them accessible online.

In May 2011, the Library of Congress and Sony Music Entertainment launched the National Jukebox, a website of more than 10,000 rare historic sound recordings issued by the Victor Talking Machine Company between 1901 and 1925. This was made possible by digitizing the audio from the 78-rpm discs.

“The National Jukebox project makes available to a worldwide audience a vast collection of music and spoken recordings that have fallen from our collective cultural memory, bringing them back onto our soundscape in ways that only digital technology can,” said Gene DeAnna, head of the Recorded Sound Section.

MORE INFORMATION:

Packard Campus for Audio Visual Conservation
www.loc.gov/avconservation/
THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, in collaboration with the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives and the Government Printing Office recently unveiled Congress.gov, a new public beta site for accessing free, fact-based legislative information. The site eventually will replace the public THOMAS system and the congressional Legislative Information System (LIS).

THOMAS, named for Jefferson, was launched by the Library in 1995 as a bipartisan initiative of Congress. The system has been updated over the years, but its foundation can no longer support the capabilities that today’s Internet users have come to expect, including access on mobile devices.

“The new, more robust platform reaffirms for the 21st century Congress’s vision of a vital legislative information resource for all Americans,” said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington at an event at the Library.

Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), chairman of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee and the Joint Committee on the Library, said, “The Congress.gov website heralds a new era in presenting congressional information online, with tools and infrastructure unimagivable 17 years ago.”

Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Calif.), chairman of the Committee on House Administration, said, “Congress.gov will enhance transparency, increase savings for the Library, and provide Congress and the nation the vital legislative information we need to deliberate about our collective public policies.”

Using best practices for retrieving and displaying information, the refined, user-friendly system also will make finding and using legislative information more intuitive, comprehensive and accessible than the existing system. Congress.gov includes bill status and summary, bill text and member profiles and new features such as effective display on mobile devices; ability to narrow and refine search results; ability to simultaneously search all content across all available years, with some files dating from the 93rd congress; easier identification of current bill status; and Members’ legislative history and biographical profiles. Many existing features have been maintained, such as links to video of the House and Senate floor, top searched bills and the save/share feature.

Other data, such as the Congressional Record, committee reports, nominations, treaties and communications, will be incorporated over time in a planned, prioritized order. The Library anticipates Congress.gov will operate as a beta site for approximately one year as this work is completed. During that time, both THOMAS and LIS will continue to operate as usual.

**for you AT THE LIBRARY**

TOURS OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDING

NEARLY 2 MILLION visitors annually visit the Library’s historic Thomas Jefferson Building in Washington, D.C. They can view current exhibitions and take a tour of the building. Free one-hour walking tours of the building are led by volunteer docents who tell the story of the Library of Congress, its history, art and architecture, collections and services for Congress and the nation. The Library’s buildings are fully accessible. A limited number of wheelchairs are available.

**WHAT:** Public tours of the Thomas Jefferson Building

**WHERE:** Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First Street S.E., Washington, D.C. Ground Floor Information Desk.

**WHERE:** Monday – Saturday (see visitors site for schedule)

**COST:** FREE, reservations are not required for groups of fewer than 10 individuals.

**Visitor Services Office** www.loc.gov/visit/

**Arranging group tours** www.loc.gov/visit/tours/groups/request.php

**MORE INFORMATION:**

www.congress.gov

November/December 2012 | www.loc.gov/lcm
What inspired your interest in the Civil War?
A childhood book, which I still have, called “Meet Mr. Lincoln” introduced me at an early age to Abraham Lincoln. While still in elementary school, I received a picture book on Lincoln’s life and remember poring over all the pictures from the war with great interest. From then on I was hooked, and the Civil War has always been my favorite era in history.

Who is your favorite Civil War figure, and why?
Abraham Lincoln, no question. There are so many qualities about him to admire. He overcame tremendous obstacles in his life. He valued knowledge and worked to educate himself. He was a wonderful writer, and he bore the heavy burden of prosecuting the Civil War, often in the face of crushing defeats and great criticism. Yet he persevered through it all with both a sense of purpose and a sense of humor. And despite being ambitious for success, he was also willing to compromise and take abuse when he saw that the cause was more important than his own ego.

Have you learned anything new about the Civil War while working in the Manuscript Division?
I always knew the Library offered amazing Civil War resources, but their depth continues to surprise me as I further explore our collections. About a year ago, I happened upon the note from Confederate Gen. Beauregard’s representatives to Union Major Robert Anderson on the morning of April 12, 1861, that Fort Sumter would be fired upon in an hour, which it was. It was like having the Civil War’s birth certificate in front of me! You never know what great stuff you’ll find when you poke around in a box of manuscripts.
EXPOSING CARTOON ART

Sara Duke, curator of popular and applied graphic art in the Library’s Prints and Photographs Division, and Megan Halsband, a reference librarian in the Library’s Serial and Government Publications Division, note some of their favorite items in the Library’s Small Press Expo (SPX) Collection.

“Le Sketch #9”

Le Sketch is a free mini-comic series with each issue devoted to a selection of sketches from a single contemporary cartoonist or illustrator. “Mini-comics are a wonderful example of just one of the formats artists are using to publish their comics. They are often self-published, have very limited print runs, are informally distributed—often for free—and therefore not regularly collected by libraries,” said Halsband.

2011 SPX Festival tote bag

“SPX President Warren Bernard told us that original drawings by Jim Woodring such as this one on a tote bag, are rare because he has not given away or sold many,” said Duke.

“Papercutter”

“Tugboat Press has donated a complete set of “papercutter” to the SPX Collection,” said Halsband. “This comic book anthology, which features young and emerging comic book artists, has been the recipient of numerous Ignatz awards since its debut in 2006.”

“Matt Bors”

Matt Bors won the 2012 Herblock Prize for editorial cartooning. “Unlike the previous generation of cartoonists, Bors utilizes the Internet to reach his audience yet continues to work in traditional pen-and-ink media,” said Duke.

“(Th)ink”

Keith Knight produces three cartoons each week: The Knight Life, The K Chronicles and (Th)ink. “This cartoon from (Th)ink reflects on the life of Henrietta Lacks, whose cells have been used for decades of scientific research,” said Duke.

About SPX

Founded in 1994, the Small Press Expo (SPX) is an annual festival in Bethesda, Md., for alternative comic creators. SPX hosts the annual Ignatz Awards, which recognize outstanding achievement in comics, cartooning and graphic novels.

Through an agreement reached with SPX in 2011, the Library can acquire independent comics and cartoon-art forms not received through copyright deposit.
The book—arguably the greatest container of knowledge in history—will be celebrated at the Library of Congress, Dec. 6 and 7, on the occasion of the first-ever International Summit of the Book.

Legislators, policymakers, educators, authors, publishers, technologists and librarians will come together to discuss the value of books in expressing our humanity and promoting cultural understanding. They will also explore the history of the book and how the book is changing and, in the process, revolutionizing knowledge and culture throughout the world.

The summit will celebrate the role of libraries as temples of knowledge and their role in preserving what societies have learned and transmitted. It will explore how technology can be harnessed to preserve the values of the book culture, provide access to knowledge that has been preserved in libraries and engage citizens and schools in taking full advantage of the knowledge resources available to them through their libraries.
Calling books “the cornerstones of American culture and democracy,” Librarian of Congress James H. Billington declared 2012 the start of a multiyear “Celebration of the Book.” The celebration comprises exhibitions, symposia and other special events that explore the important ways books have affected people, politics, culture and history.

During the year, the Library mounted three exhibitions to celebrate the book. “To Know Wisdom and Instruction: The Armenian Literary Tradition at the Library of Congress” marked the 500th anniversary of Armenian printing. “Books That Shaped America” featured 88 significant works. (See story on page 12.) Currently on display through March 16, “Words Like Sapphires: 100 Years of Hebraica at the Library of Congress, 1912-2012,” marks the centennial of a gift to the Library of 10,000 Hebrew books.

In June, the Library hosted a conference titled “Creating a Dynamic, Knowledge-based Democracy.” The conference explored the legacy of three key events that profoundly shaped the nation: the founding of more than 1,600 free libraries by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie, the establishment of land-grant universities under legislation introduced by former Rep. Justin S. Morrill, and the founding of the National Academy of Sciences—the last two the result of legislation signed by Abraham Lincoln. The day ended with a brass quintet and the laying of a wreath at the Lincoln Memorial in recognition of the 16th president’s deep commitment to education, science and the welfare of the American people.

The public celebrated the book at the Library’s 12th Annual National Book Festival. Held on the National Mall Sept. 22 and 23, the event featured more than 125 authors and illustrators discussing their works before record crowds estimated at more than 200,000. The book festival included awards to winners of a writing contest for local 5th and 6th graders on the topic “A Book That Shaped Me.”

This free, public event will feature a diverse group of distinguished speakers and a compelling display drawn from the Library’s collections.

The Library has selected a group of highly respected speakers who will analyze the book from a variety of essential perspectives. They will include authors, educators, legislators, historians, rare-book experts, legal scholars, librarians, digital-media specialists, publishers, copyright attorneys, members of Congress and other policymakers. Two keynote addresses, three lectures and three moderated panels comprise the symposium. Topics will range from the history of book publishing to the future of the book in a digital world.

A new Library exhibition, “Books that Shaped the World,” will be on view at the summit. The display builds on the Library’s recent exhibition, “Books That Shaped America.” (See story on page 12.)

The summit will be the first in a periodic series of international summits, held in different cities around the world, which will examine the revolution in knowledge and culture through the book, whatever its forms. The 2012 event at the Library of Congress—and subsequent summits in other cities—will address reading and writing at a time when language, thinking and communication are dramatically changing. The 2013 Summit will be held in Singapore.

“It is an honor for Singapore to host the Second International Summit of the Book following the inaugural summit organized by the prestigious Library of Congress,” said Elaine Ng, CEO of the National Library Board of Singapore.

“We look forward to an insightful debate on the evolving concept of the book from an Asian perspective. We are privileged to have Professor Tommy Koh, Singapore’s Ambassador-At-Large and former Ambassador to the United Nations, as chairman of the organizing committee. We warmly welcome everyone to the summit.”

MORE INFORMATION:
Information on the International Summit of the Book
www.loc.gov/international-book-summit/

Video from summit sessions
www.loc.gov/webcasts/
www.youtube.com/libraryofcongress

THE YEAR OF THE BOOK

“Creating a Dynamic, Knowledge-based Democracy”
www.loc.gov/webcasts/

National Book Festival information, webcasts, authors
www.loc.gov/bookfest/
BOOKS THAT SHAPED AMERICA

On June 25, the Library of Congress opened a new exhibition titled “Books That Shaped America,” which featured 88 titles published over a 250-year period.

Curators and experts from throughout the Library contributed their choices for the list and there was much debate in having to cut worthy titles from a much larger list in order to accommodate the physical restrictions of the exhibition space.

Some of the titles on display have been the source of great controversy, even derision, in U.S. history. Nevertheless, they shaped Americans’ views of their world and the world’s views of America.

The initial selection of titles was not meant to be definitive, but rather to spark a national conversation on books written by Americans that have influenced our lives.

Bloggers and critics across America wrote commentary about the selections throughout the summer. Members of the public commented through a survey on the Library’s National Book Festival website. To date, nearly 10,000 people have responded, many listing their own nominations. Additions to the original list of 88 titles will be announced in December at the International Summit of the Book.

1750–1769
“Experiments and Observations on Electricity,” Benjamin Franklin, 1751
“Poor Richard Improved,” Benjamin Franklin, 1758

1770–1789
“Common Sense,” Thomas Paine, 1776
“A Grammatical Institute of the English Language,” Noah Webster, 1783
“The Federalist,” anonymous, 1787
“A Curious Hieroglyphick Bible,” anonymous, 1788
“A Survey of the Roads of the United States of America,” Christopher Colles, 1789

1790–1809
“The Private Life of the Late Benjamin Franklin, LL.D.” Benjamin Franklin, 1793
“American Cookery,” Amelia Simmons, 1796

1810–1829
“New England Primer,” anonymous, 1803
“History of the Expedition Under the Command of the Captains Lewis and Clark,” Meriwether Lewis, 1814
“The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” Washington Irving, 1820

1830–1849
“McGuffey’s Newly Revised Eclectic Primer,” William Holmes McGuffey, 1836
“Peter Parley’s Universal History,” Samuel Goodrich, 1837
“The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass,” Frederick Douglass, 1845

1850–1869
“The Scarlet Letter,” Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1850
“Moby-Dick”; or, “The Whale,” Herman Melville, 1851
MAPMAKING HAS BEEN REVOLUTIONIZED SINCE THE CIVIL WAR.
Comparatively speaking, creating a map using modern technologies little resembles yesteryear’s methodology. Yet, many consistencies in mapping prevail from one era to the next. The basic elements of map production still consist of determining geographic coordinates and reference points, construction of projections, design, compilation, drafting and reproduction.

During the Civil War era, the production of a finished map was a protracted and labor-intensive process that involved a variety of skills and crafts. It began with a land survey or field reconnaissance by a military topographer—often on horseback—with sketchbook in hand. Rivers, roads and significant landscape features were rapidly drawn in pencil on pages marked with grid lines. Direction was determined by compass bearings, and distance was tracked by pacing on foot or horseback. Data from these field sketches were later transferred to larger sheets notated with geographic coordinates to produce a composite manuscript map of an area or region at a particular scale.

If a map was to be reproduced for wider dissemination, copies could be furnished in a variety of formats. Various photographic methods were devised during the war to reproduce manuscript field surveys quickly, in limited numbers for field commanders. Woodcut engraving was favored by newspapers, which published maps almost daily to help war families locate the remote places described in the letters they received from their loved ones at the front. Official and commercial maps were engraved or lithographed, and then hand-colored. Each of these processes required trained craftsmen as well as specialized tools and equipment. The copperplate engravers who worked for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, for example, were primarily German craftsmen recruited especially for the detailed engraving required by that agency.

Current trends in mapping allow for multiple layers of data to be combined by one cartographer using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software on a desktop computer. GIS has become a useful tool for research using spatial data analysis and is being applied to many fields of study, wherever geography can be modeled.

Creating a map using GIS is also a layered process. Using multiple sources of data, such as field data, research statistics, real-time data, and so on, information can be overlaid on a base map representing a geographic area of interest such as a Civil War battle site. Base layers may be characterized as either a pixilated, raster format, derived from remote-sensing imagery, or as a vector file, which depicts geography as points, lines and polygons.

Map specifications such as projection, scale, and key details are determined in this initial phase. Data is standardized to ensure attribute-matching with the base layer prior to performing data analysis.

GIS software packages include toolkits containing many devices for analysis and editing. Metadata is compiled to document specific information about the GIS project, such as source data, attribute definitions, or algorithms used for statistical computations. Analysis is the primary end-product of a GIS project, though a cartographic rendering may be created such as a paper map, a web-based application for visual interpretation on a computer screen, or applications software for display on mobile devices (apps).
MAPMAKING ON HORSEBACK: 
JEDEDIAH HOTCHKISS

Gen. Stonewall Jackson’s chief cartographer during the Civil War, Jedediah Hotchkiss, would often work on horseback in the field, observing and drawing the lay of the land. Armed with a sketchbook, colored pencils and a compass—and using the pacing of his horse to determine feet and miles—Hotchkiss produced remarkably accurate, detailed and visually beautiful maps.

That sketchbook is on display in the Library’s new Civil War exhibition. Hotchkiss was born in Windsor, N.Y., on Nov. 30, 1828. In 1846, at the age of 18, Hotchkiss began teaching school near Harrisburg, Pa., supplementing his income by working as a mining geologist. He enjoyed exploring nearby areas and started his hobby of mapmaking. Fond of Virginia, Hotchkiss moved to Mossy Creek, Va., and served as principal of the Mossy Creek Academy for 10 years. In 1858, he started the Loch Willow School for Boys in Churchville, Va., and the school flourished until the Civil War.

In 1861, Hotchkiss started to run supplies for the Confederates and offered his services as a mapmaker to Brig. Gen. Richard B. Garnett. By March 1862, Hotchkiss was serving as a captain and chief topographical engineer of the Valley District in Virginia, reporting to Maj. Gen. Stonewall Jackson. Hotchkiss attained the rank of major and on numerous occasions was directed to choose lines of defense, to select troop positions for important engagements and to perform other arduous and dangerous duties.

Over four years of war service, ending with Lee’s surrender at Appomattox Courthouse in 1865, Hotchkiss created some 600 maps and numerous drawings, which he was allowed to retain following the cessation of hostilities. The Library eventually purchased the Hotchkiss Papers—some 20,000 items, including maps and photographs—from Hotchkiss’s granddaughter in 1948.

—Donna Urschel is a public affairs specialist in the Office of Communications.
The civil war in America

The U.S. Civil War was more than great generals and bloody battles. A new Library exhibition, on display beginning Nov. 12, highlights the impact of the war on the soldiers and sailors, spouses, children, slaves and others, on and off the battlefield—ordinary folk dealing with unimaginable challenges and becoming extraordinary in their own right out of their remarkable experiences.

The Civil War defined America in countless ways. So much of what we understand of the nation-shaping conflict comes down to us in stories of battlefields, presidents, controversial issues, and—in the literary canon—killer angels, gods and generals, and wearers of the red badge of courage. But while the military leaders and statesmen serve as the great historical pillars of the conflict, the Civil War had an incredible impact on the millions of ordinary American citizens of the time, as well.

A new Library of Congress exhibition showcases some of these individuals, demonstrating the effect of the Civil War in America. On the following pages are excerpts from three Americans from different parts of the country, with decidedly different perspectives on the war.
Elizabeth Keckley [sometimes spelled “Keckly”] was born a slave in 1818 in Dinwiddie, Va. A series of moves by her master's family resulted in Elizabeth, her mother and her young son living for a time in St. Louis, the home of a large free black population. An able seamstress, Keckley worked several years for hire and gained the support of many financial patrons, until she had enough money to buy her freedom in 1855.

Her skills brought her to live and work in Washington, D.C., just before the war broke out, and she quickly earned a word-of-mouth popularity among society women. One such patron introduced Keckley to the newly elected president Abraham Lincoln and his wife, for whom she became not only exclusive dressmaker but also daily dresser and confidante.

Despite her gains, Keckley never forgot her humble beginnings and the suffering of her people. From her 1868 book, “Behind the Scenes: Thirty Years a Slave and Four Years in the White House”:

One fair summer evening I was walking the streets of Washington, accompanied by a friend, when a band of music was heard in the distance. We wondered what it could mean, and curiosity prompted us to find out its meaning. We quickened our steps, and discovered that it came from the house of Mrs. Farnham. We approached the sentinel on duty at the gate, and asked what was going on. He told us that it was a festival given for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers in the city. This suggested an idea to me. If the white people can give festivals to raise funds for the relief of suffering soldiers, why should not the well-to-do colored people go to work to do something for the benefits of suffering blacks? … The next Sunday I made a suggestion in the colored church, that a society of colored people be formed to labor for the benefit of the unfortunate freedmen. The idea proved popular, and in two weeks “the Contraband Relief Association” was organized, with forty working members. …

Armed with credentials, I took the train for New York, and went to the Metropolitan, where Mrs. Lincoln had secured accommodations for me. The next morning I told Mrs. Lincoln of my project; and she immediately headed my list with a subscription of $200. I circulated among the colored people, and got them thoroughly interested in the subject, when I was called to Boston by Mrs. Lincoln, who wished to visit her son Robert, attending college in that city. I met Mr. Wendell Phillips, and other Boston philanthropists who gave me all the assistance in their power.

Through her business success and connections in Washington society, Keckley helped many others make the transition from slavery to freedom.
By Prison

Thursday 28 August 1861

This day has ended in the history of the war which marks the arrest and imprison ment of women, for political opin ions. At eleven o’clock we were not in our homes, but were ordered to come a proposer of our imprisonment. We immediately with courage, hearts, and firmness to bear ourselves, as not to do as others. Even in a woman’s. The dear her father’s honor. For even a conqueror, we had done no wrong, nothing. After a brief trial, we were sent back away from our home, and here we are confined to two small rooms of the upper story of a house in the village. A place of the chamber door.

Having been informed that we should be supplied with every thing we required for our comfort, a list of the necessities was furnished, but they have been

EUGENIA LEVY PHILLIPS
Courtesy University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Libraries
South Carolina native Eugenia Levy Phillips was the wife of Philip Phillips, a prominent lawyer who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1852. An outspoken Confederate sympathizer, Eugenia Phillips often found herself at odds with Union officials in the couple’s home of Washington, D.C. When South Carolina seceded and war broke out in 1861, Phillips was treated as a Southern sympathizer.

In her journal, Phillips describes the indignities of her confinement after her arrest at the home of Rose Greenhow by federal officers in Washington, along with her two daughters and sister Martha.

Aug. 28, 1861
This day has ushered in a new era in the History of the Country one which marks the arrest and imprisonment of women, for political opinions! At eleven o’clock we were notified by an officer, that my sister (a visitor) my two daughters and myself were by the orders of the Government to be taken from our house, and conveyed as prisoners to another place of confinement. We immediately prepared with courageous hearts, inspired with the thought that we were suffering in a noble cause, and determined so to bear ourselves, as not to shame our southern countrywomen. My dear husband was my chief sorrow. For ourselves, conscious we had done no wrong, we feared nothing—

Aug. 30, 1861
Again I ask myself what is my crime?
If an ardent attachment to the land of my birth and the expression of deepest sympathy with my relatives and friends in the South, constitute treason—then am I indeed a traitor—! If hostility to Black Republicanism, its sentiments, and policy—is a crime—I am self condemned—! If detestation of this unholy war, inaugurated by party lust—is deserving punishment then am I worthy of its severest penalties—! and thus suffering, I would shout Hosannas for the glorious cause of southern independence.

Although my heart sickens, and the Future looks dark, some indefinable emotion, whispers courage and promises that the day of reckoning will soon come.

Released after a three-week imprisonment, Phillips relocated to New Orleans, where she supported Confederate spying efforts. She also ran afoul of the notorious Union General Benjamin “Beast” Butler by allegedly mocking the funeral of a Union soldier. Butler issued a special order imprisoning her at the harsh, primitive Ship Island facility off the coast of Mississippi, a fate almost unheard of for a woman up to that time. She was only released after reluctantly taking an oath foreswearing giving aid and comfort to the enemies of the Union. Surviving these indignities, she died in Georgia in 1902.
War Through the Eyes of a Child: LeRoy Gresham

John J. Gresham was an attorney, judge, and plantation owner in Macon, Ga., where he lived with his wife Mary, and their children, LeRoy, Thomas and Minnie. LeRoy was an invalid and kept a diary for nearly every day of the war, experiencing the conflict through newspapers, letters and personal visitors.

The teenager's diaries provide a poignant record of his suffering and that of his family during those trying times. They reveal an unusual precocity of mind and generosity of spirit. His place in the family was firmly and lovingly established, his interests were wide-ranging, and he followed assiduously the unfolding events of the Civil War.
Of special note are the entries of November–December 1864, when Union Gen. William T. Sherman made his historic march through Georgia to the sea. Macon was thought to be in the line of advance, and LeRoy Gresham’s diary reflects the uncertainties faced by those in the path of Sherman’s army.

Nov. 17, 1864
Clear and warmer. Rode down to Dr Emerson’s and found the town in an uproar about the approach of the enemy, who are this side of Griffin and ‘marching on,’ 10 & some declare 15,000 strong. The trains have been running in all day with the stores &c. The College will be broken up its thought. We have about 10 or 11,000 to oppose them & I can’t see why Macon should give up 8P.M. We have received the following from Mr. Bowdre which I copy for future reading:

“Mrs. Gresham: The news is bad enough: our forces have been compelled to retreat, & were at Barnesville last night (40 miles from Macon) & Gen. Toombs tells me they will be some 15 miles from Macon tonight—I mean ours—Sherman’s army is coming on as rapidly as they can; his cavalry camped last night, it is said, only 10 miles from Forsythe in Butts co. He is coming in two columns—it is thought by those who ought to know that Sherman’s forces will be here on Sunday or Monday, possibly sooner, unless opposed & we have too small a number to do anything much I fear. We may fight him in this vacinity but I fear not with any chance of success. Gen. Toombs advises all ladies & children to get away if they can. He is now at our store. I am greatly disturbed myself about my family. Yours in haste P.E. Bowdre.”

We do not know what to do or think. We have no place to run to, where we could be safe, and we feel awfully about it. The town is in a furor of excitement & I fear little or nothing will be done to save the town. If Father were only here!

LeRoy Gresham persevered throughout these times and kept his diary almost daily until just a few days before his death on June 18, 1865, at the age of 17 due to causes unknown.

THE CIVIL WAR BLOGGERS

Elizabeth Keckley, Eugenia Phillips and LeRoy Gresham are among the “authors” of a new Civil War in America blog from the Library of Congress. The blog will run twice a week for the duration of the exhibition. Using the Library’s collections of diaries and other first-person accounts, more than 40 people, from those well known to those rescued from obscurity, will tell their stories in their own words for a contemporary audience and perhaps show that these people were not so different than us in their hopes, fears and aspirations.

Susan Mordan is the educational specialist in the Interpretive Programs Office. Michelle Krowl in the Manuscript Division, Cheryl Regan in the Interpretive Programs Office and Margaret Wagner in the Publishing Office also contributed to this article.

MORE INFORMATION:

“Voices of the Civil War” blog
blogs.loc.gov/civil-war-voices/

“The Civil War in America” exhibition online
myloc.gov/exhibitions/civil-war-in-america

Civil War Photos from the Liljenquist Collection
myloc.gov/exhibitions/civilwarphotographs
Michelle Krowl: There are some people who don’t feel that the Civil War speaks to them or their experiences. Of course war is about battles and generals, but we wanted to engage our visitors beyond the battlefield, so we looked at the individual citizen—North, South, black, white, male, female, adult, child—and their different perspectives, so that visitors will find someone with whom they can identify.

Cheryl Regan: We used Peggy’s book, “The Library of Congress Illustrated Timeline of the Civil War,” as a starting point for the exhibition, and we made a concerted effort to mine all the different collections in the library, as she did in the book. And we kept coming back to these compelling personal accounts.

Peggy Wagner: All wars are clashes between people. But what was so interesting was during the Civil War period, so many people were so eloquent and so devoted to their causes. As Lincoln said, “This is a people’s contest,” and it was deciding the fate of the country.

PW: We also found some interesting and sad parallels between the Civil War and today. For instance, the technology of war at the time had improved (and medicine had not) to the point where no one fully anticipated the vast numbers of casualties. The war’s brutality shocked the world. One English correspondent, Francis Charles Lawley, wrote in an editorial, “Won’t someone come over here and stop this slaughter?”

CR: Thousands of veterans, if they survived, returned from the war as amputees—removing a limb was often the only viable treatment available. Today, due to improvements in body armor and medical technology, soldiers who would have been killed in the past survive with head injuries or missing limbs.

MK: And then as now, the culture found ways to adapt. Most people in the 19th century were right-handed—or if left-handed, were encouraged to be right-handed. If you lost the use of your right hand or arm, this would affect your ability to return to your old life.

William Oland Bourne, the editor of a postwar veterans’ newspaper called The Soldier’s Friend, ran a nationwide “Left-Hand Penmanship” contest designed for veterans who had lost their right hand or arm in the war. Bourne, who was also a chaplain at New York’s Central Park Hospital during the Civil War, asked vets to write in and compete for cash prizes.

What’s so striking about this contest is that most of the soldiers took the opportunity to write their personal stories. Sometimes it’s patriotic poetry or doggerel, but for the most part they write, “This is who I am, I enlisted on this date, I fought in these battles, and here’s how I was wounded.” When you read some of the stories in their own handwriting—which are preserved in the Wm. Oland Bourne Papers in the Library of Congress—you get a first-hand account of that person’s experience that would have been completely lost without this contest.

PW: It was a precursor, in many ways, to the Library’s Veterans History Project, where we collect first-hand accounts from living veterans now. We’re making it easier for researchers and curators down the road to do what we’ve tried to do with this exhibition—to bring back to life these people and their stories.
FROM THE PAST

The Library’s Rare Book and Special Collections Division holds many cookbooks from around the world, dating to the 15th century. Along with recipes, many of these works offer insight into gastronomy, domestic sciences and the household.

In addition to the first cookbook—the manuscript “Libro de Arte Coquinaria” (“Book on the Art of Cookery”) by Maestro Martino, ca. 1470—the collection includes the first American cookbook, “American Cookery” by Amelia Simmons. Published in the U.S. in 1796—just 20 years after the Declaration of Independence was adopted—the book includes numerous recipes that adapted traditional dishes by substituting Native American ingredients, such as corn, squash and pumpkin. Among these is Simmons’ recipe for “Pompkin Pudding,” baked in a crust, which is the basis for the American classic, pumpkin pie.

“American Cookery” was recently on display at the Library in an exhibition titled “Books That Shaped America.” The exhibition, on view from June 25 through Sept. 29, was part of a multiyear “Celebration of the Book” that includes a series of programs, symposia and other events that explore the important and varied ways that books influence our lives.

MORE INFORMATION:

Books That Shaped America
http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/books-that-shaped-america/

PARTICIPATE IN THE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

THE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT of the Library’s American Folklife Center collects, preserves and makes accessible the first-hand remembrances of American wartime veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. To date, more than 78,000 stories have been collected and about 10,000 may be viewed online. These include the remembrances of veterans of World War I through the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The project, which was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 2000, relies on volunteers to record veterans’ remembrances using the guidelines below.

1. Fill out the online form. www.loc.gov/vets/donate/
2. Print the VHP Field Kit. The kit includes all required forms found at www.loc.gov/vets/kitmenu.html.
3. Prepare for the interview. Make sure to complete the Biographical Data Form found in the Field Kit to identify possible interview questions, and if possible, conduct a pre-interview with your subject. See http://www.loc.gov/vets/moreresources.html for equipment and lighting tips.
4. Conduct the interview.
5. Send your recording to: Veterans History Project Library of Congress 101 Independence Ave. SE Washington, DC 20540-4615

MORE INFORMATION
www.loc.gov/vets/kit.html
888.371.5848
vohp@loc.gov

A few hints:
• Keep questions short and avoid ones that can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no.”
• Don’t begin with painful or controversial questions.
• Encourage the interviewee with head nods rather than audible responses.
• Be yourself and be patient.
THE WILSON ROOM

THIS BEAUTIFUL ROOM ON MAHOGANY ROW in the Library’s Thomas Jefferson Building is named to honor another president, Woodrow Wilson, and houses a portion of his private library. Wilson’s collection of books and papers (acquired by the Library after his death) was considerable and varied—he served as president of Princeton University prior to his election as 28th U.S. president in 1912.
AT THE 2012 NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

1. Lauren Allen of Alexandria, Va., dances along with the Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players at the Family Storytelling Stage. Photo | Amanda Lucidon

2. National Book Festival poster illustrator Rafael López. Photo | Adriel Bettelheim


4. On Saturday, folksinger and poet Jewel discusses the importance of reading and writing in her life. Photo | Meg Greene

5. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington greets Nobel Prize Winner Mario Vargas Llosa. Photo | Nancy Alfaro

6. Alexander Constantino, a grand prize winner in the “A Book That Shaped Me” essay contest, with festival sponsor David Rubenstein. Photo | Cecelia Rogers
12TH ANNUAL NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL CELEBRATES THE BOOK

Book-lovers from across the country gathered on the National Mall Sept. 22 and 23 to celebrate reading and literacy at the 2012 National Book Festival. Organized by the Library of Congress, with Honorary Co-Chairs President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, the event featured presentations and book-signings by more than 125 bestselling authors, illustrators and poets.

The two-day festival, now in its 12th year, featured presentations in various pavilions, including Children, Teens & Children, Contemporary Life, Fiction & Mystery, History & Biography, Poetry & Prose, Sci Fi/Fantasy/Graphic Novels and on the Family Storytelling Stage. Festival-goers of all ages met their favorite authors, posed with beloved storybook characters (courtesy of PBS KIDS), played literacy games and participated in sing-alongs and read-alouds.

The 2012 National Book Festival was made possible through the generous support of National Book Festival Board Co-Chair David M. Rubenstein; Charter Sponsors Target, The Washington Post, Wells Fargo and the Institute of Museum and Library Services; Patrons the National Endowment for the Arts and PBS KIDS; Contributors Barnes & Noble; Digital Bookmobile powered by OverDrive, LEGO Systems, Inc. and Scholastic Inc.; and—in the Friends category the Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction, The Hay-Adams and the National Endowment for the Humanities. C-SPAN2’s Book TV, The Junior League of Washington and The Links also provided assistance.

MORE: www.loc.gov/bookfest/
MORE: www.youtube.com/libraryofcongress

KUBRICK FILM RESTORED, RELEASED

The Library’s Packard Campus for Audio Visual Conservation in Culpeper, Va., has restored Stanley Kubrick’s first feature-length film, “Fear and Desire” (1953), which foreshadows his later war-themed works “Full Metal Jacket” (1988) and “Paths of Glory” (1957). The film, which follows a squad of soldiers who have crash-landed behind enemy lines and must work their way downriver to rejoin their unit, has rarely been shown since its original release. The Library of Congress photochemically preserved both the picture and soundtrack in 1993, directly from the original negatives. The film was digitally restored by the Library prior to its recent release on DVD and Blu-ray by Kino Lorber Inc.

MORE: www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov
MORE: www.loc.gov/today/pr/2012/12-198.html

CONGRESS.GOV LAUNCHED

Photo | Cecelia Rogers

CHRONICLING AMERICA HITS 5 MILLION MARK

The Library's online database of historic American newspapers known as Chronicling America has placed its 5 millionth page online. Chronicling America is operated by the National Digital Newspaper Program, a partnership between the Library and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The website debuted in 2007 with 226,000 pages from newspapers published in six states and the District of Columbia between 1900 and 1910. Today the site offers 5 million pages from 737 newspapers published in 25 states and Washington, D.C., between 1836 and 1922. The pages trace life in America from industry trends (birth of the automobile) to major events like Lincoln's assassination (1865), the sinking of the Titanic (1912) and the end of World War I (1918).

MORE: www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov
MORE: www.loc.gov/today/pr/2012/12-198.html
FROM BOOKS TO CALENDARS TO ORNAMENTS, the Library of Congress Shop features the Library’s unique collection items in a wide variety of formats.

**Seeing the World Anew**  
Product # 21107161  
Price: $35  

**The Southern Journey of Alan Lomax**  
Product # 21109115  
Price: $35  
Published by the Library in association with W. W. Norton & Company, this 136-page hardcover book features photographs by folklorist Alan Lomax.

**2012 Library of Congress Annual Ornament**  
Product # 21404066  
Price: $24.95  
The portrait of Thomas Jefferson depicted on this ornament was inspired by Jean-Antoine Houdon’s bust of Jefferson. The inscription on the ornament is Jefferson’s impassioned June 1815 quote to John Adams, “I cannot live without books.”

**2013 Wall Calendars**  
Product #21407038, 21407053, 21407065*  
Price: $12.95*, $21.95  
Choose from among an easel calendar of the Library of Congress, vintage travel posters and colorful botanical drawings.

**Library of Congress National Book Festival Scouting Badge**  
Size: 2.5-inch diameter  
Product # 21509647  
Price: $2.95 ea, discount on multiples  
Scouts are invited to earn this embroidered, sew-on patch for visiting the National Book Festival. Available for the rest of us, too.

MORE INFORMATION:  
Order online: www.loc.gov/shop  
Order by phone: 888.682.3557  
Order by fax: 202.707.1771
MARY TODD LINCOLN LIVED A LIFE FULL OF TRAGEDY and sorrow: Her mother died when Mary was very young. Mary witnessed the assassination of her husband, Abraham Lincoln. And three of her four children died of disease before reaching adulthood.

The Manuscript Division recently acquired a letter written by the first lady that reveals the depths of the despair she felt upon the death of one of those children, 11-year-old Willie, less than a year after the Lincolns moved into the White House.

William Wallace Lincoln, the third of the Lincolns’ four sons, contracted typhoid in early 1862 – presumably from drinking contaminated water drawn from the Potomac River – and died on Feb. 20. Inconsolable, Mary rarely left her bed, didn’t correspond with anyone for months and refused to enter Willie’s bedroom again. She fell into such deep grief that her husband feared for her sanity.

Of the small number of known letters written by Mary during 1862, the letter acquired by the Library is considered the best document of the profound effect – the “crushing bereavement,” as she described it – of Willie’s death on her.

“We have met with so overwhelming an affliction in the death of our beloved Willie, a being too precious for earth, that I am so completely unnerved, that I can scarcely command myself to write,” she wrote to Julia Ann Sprigg, an old friend from Springfield, Ill.

The death of Willie, followed by the assassination of her husband in 1865 and the death of her son Tad from tuberculosis in 1871, deeply affected Mary, and her behavior became increasingly erratic. In 1875, Mary’s only living child, Robert Todd Lincoln, committed her to an asylum. She later engineered her own release, traveled for several years in Europe and, in 1882, died at the home of her sister in Springfield.

“Willie was the Lincolns’ favorite child, and his death was a severe blow to the entire family,” said Michelle Krowl, a curator in the Manuscript Division. “Mary’s grief, and her awareness of the severity of her bereavement, is so palpable in her letter to Mrs. Sprigg.”

—Mark Hartsell is the editor of the Library’s staff newspaper, The Gazette.
ON A SUNNY SEPTEMBER SATURDAY, Speaker of the House John Boehner led the G8 Presiding Officers group across the Capitol grounds to a lunch meeting in the Library’s Jefferson Building. The group consisted of his counterparts from European and other countries, and included the speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, the president of the National Assembly of France, the president of the German Bundestag, the speaker of Japan’s Diet, the first deputy chair of the Russian State Duma and the speaker of the British House of Commons.

All gathered in the Members Room—designated as the Library’s reading room for House members when the building opened in 1897—to continue their weekend-long discussions on economic, fiscal and security challenges. In a few days, Congress would return from the summer break and the political conventions for two weeks before recessing for the elections.

While the House and Senate were concentrating on wrapping up the work of the 112th Congress, many in the Library were already focusing on the 113th Congress that would convene in January. Analysts in the Congressional Research Service (CRS) were identifying the key legislative and policy issues they felt would be on the Congressional agenda next session, so that research and reports would be ready when needed by Members and Congressional staff. The Law Library was anticipating the foreign law research for which their experts would be called upon. Attorneys and policy experts in the U.S. Copyright Office were working with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees on the anticipated agenda for copyright policy in the next Congress.

All of this aims to align the unparalleled expertise of the Library with the Congressional legislative agenda—which could change significantly after the elections, depending on the majority party in either chamber.

The sheer number of issues Library experts are preparing for—more than 160 policy areas in CRS alone—shows the prescience of Thomas Jefferson’s words to the Congress in 1815 when offering the Congress his comprehensive personal library as a replacement for the Library of Congress collection recently burned by the British: “There is, in fact, no subject to which a Member might not have occasion to refer.”

Once the new Congress is elected, CRS will also host a three-day seminar for new Members and provide hundreds of new staff extensive briefings on Congressional procedure.

When the new Congress convenes, the Library will be prepared to do what it did for the Congress about to adjourn: directly assist every single Member of the House and Senate in their legislative work. While we continue to provide a unique array of services to the American people and serve as a resource to the world, we are still, very much, the library of the Congress.

Robert Dizard Jr. is the Deputy Librarian of Congress.
A beautiful, two-story tree fully decorated in the glow of holiday cheer is an annual fixture in the Great Hall of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building, and adds warmth to the cold Washington winters. Photo / Abby Brack Lewis
The Civil War in America
Nov. 12, 2012–June 1, 2013

Words Like Sapphires: 100 Years of Hebraica at the Library of Congress

The Musical Worlds of Victor Herbert

MORE INFORMATION:
www.loc.gov/exhibits