

Bradford Ripley Alden Scott: Memoirs of the Civil War

"To a youngster of nine years all this excitement was intensely interesting..."

It must have been interesting to another youngster as well, when Bradford Ripley Alden Scott presented these memoirs to his grandson -- my father. Never before published, they may also be of interest to historians, genealogists, and Civil War buffs.

This document is a rambling reminiscence, not always quite grammatical, with digressions about trains, dogs, and horses. Most importantly, though, it recounts Scott's experiences as a boy amid the tumult surrounding Fredericksburg, Virginia, through four years of warfare. Though too young to serve as a regular soldier, he made his own contributions to the Southern cause, sometimes at great peril to himself.

As was typical for the Virginia aristocracy, family connections were important to Scott. He often noted the kinship of the people he mentions, both within and without his own family.

At the end, Scott insists that "I am not attempting to write History." Indeed, after six decades he probably got some of his facts wrong. However -- as my maternal grandfather used to say -- never let the facts interfere with a good story.

-- Scott McKellar

Note: For the Web I have broken up the text into a series of pages, giving a title to each. The title on the first page was originally the title of the entire manuscript.

<http://home.swbell.net/mck9/brascott>

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