



Images from Little Connecticut Leave a Big Impression

BY RONALD S. CODDINGTON

I've rubbed elbows with Buck Zaidel at many Civil War shows over the years. Unfailingly polite and always ready with a friendly word, his enthusiasm for images—especially Connecticut's citizen soldiers—is infectious. After learning that he and historian Dione Longley had teamed up to author a book about Connecticut during the war years, I eagerly awaited the result.

I was not disappointed.

Heroes for All Time: Connecticut Civil War Soldiers Tell Their Stories is a fitting sesquicentennial tribute to the 50,000-plus volunteers who served between 1861-1865. The handsome, coffee table-sized volume draws extensively from Zaidel's impressive collection. One of the most powerful images is a quarter-plate tintype of Charles Hallock of the 5th Connecticut Infantry. Hallock sits slightly forward with hands resting upon his knees, his clothes and the rakish tilt of his hat leave no doubt that he is a seasoned



Heroes for All Time: Connecticut Civil War Soldiers Tell Their Stories
By Dione Longley and Buck Zaidel
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veteran. Beside him sits 15-year-old Jimmy John, a displaced slave adopted by the regiment, and Hallock in particular. John, appearing uncertain and tentative, is one of the millions of freedmen who would make the transition from slave to citizen. (The image of John and Hallock, and a selection of other photographs from *Heroes*, begins on page 24.)

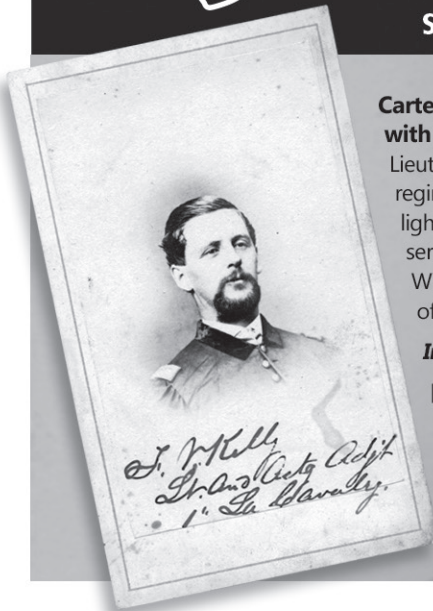
Historian Longley's narrative is accessible and informative, and establishes a context to better appreciate the portraits. Period artwork, maps, newspapers, other ephemera and personal items also illustrate the text.

Still, the moving wartime images of soldiers and their stories of tragedy and triumph are the heart and soul of *Heroes*. And though they offer a distinctively Connecticut perspective, they also speak to the larger Civil War experience, and thus should appeal to photo and military collectors and those with an avid interest in Civil War and American history. ■



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Carte de Visite Photograph of Lieutenant Frank V. Kelly, 1st Louisiana (Union) Cavalry, with back stamp of photographer Eugene A. Piffet on Camp Street in New Orleans.

Lieutenant Kelly, originally from Rhode Island, helped form the Unionist 1st Louisiana Cavalry regiment in 1864, and, as his signature reveals, served as acting adjutant of the regiment. Very light foxing; otherwise a clear and beautiful image. An unusual signed CDV of a Union soldier serving in a Southern regiment.

With good tonality; minor foxing and staining; signature clear of mount, except for descender of "y" in Cavalry. Back mark upside down.

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