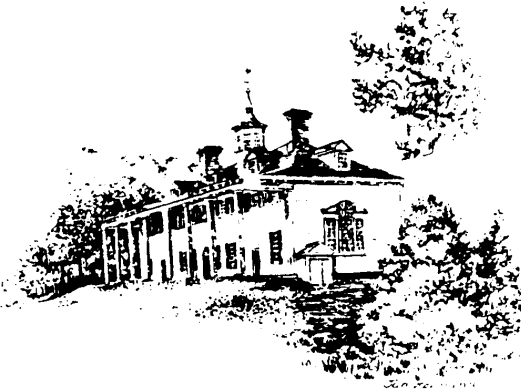


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Arlington and Fairfax Counties: Land of Many Reconnaissance Firsts

Dino A. Brugioni

With the onset of the Civil War, Confederate and Federal Forces both sought new devices that might effect speedy victory. New weapons were under development continually, while others were being adapted to a new style of strategic and tactical warfare. President Lincoln was especially receptive to new devices which showed promise of making the conflict short and decisive. Professor Joseph Henry, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, sought to interest the President in large hydrogen filled balloons — large enough to take men aloft to observe enemy movements and terrain.

Swept along by patriotic fervor, a number of balloonists volunteered their services to the Union Army. Among them were John Allen, John Wise, and John La Mountain. The most flamboyant, however, was Thaddeus Sobieski Coullin-court Lowe, a 29-year old Ohio "aeronaut," who caught the eye of Professor Henry. Lowe was invited to Washington from Cincinnati and granted an audience with President Lincoln on June 11, 1861. While the President, Secretary of War Simon Cameron and Professor Henry enthusiastically endorsed the idea, the proposed experimentation with balloon reconnaissance did not receive the support of the venerable General Winfield Scott, Commander of the Union Army.¹

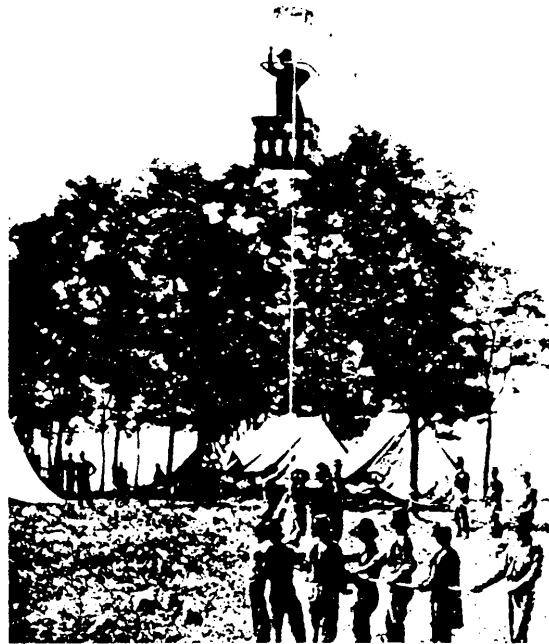
In mid-June, with Professor Henry looking on encouragingly, Lowe made a number of ascents from the Smithsonian grounds. On June 18, Lowe took his balloon and wicker basket to what is today the apex of the Federal Triangle, started up his portable generators and made an ascent. Taking along a telegrapher and equipment loaned by the American Telegraph Company, the balloon was in direct communication by electrical line with the War Department. When the balloon had attained its highest altitude, Lowe ordered the following dispatch transmitted to the President of the United States:

"This point of observation commands an area nearly fifty miles in diameter. The city, with its girdle of encampments, presents a superb scene. I take great pleasure in sending you this first dispatch ever telegraphed from an aerial station, and in acknowledging indebtedness to your encouragement, for the opportunity of demonstrating the availability of the science of aeronautics in the military service of the country. Yours respectfully, T.S.C. Lowe"²

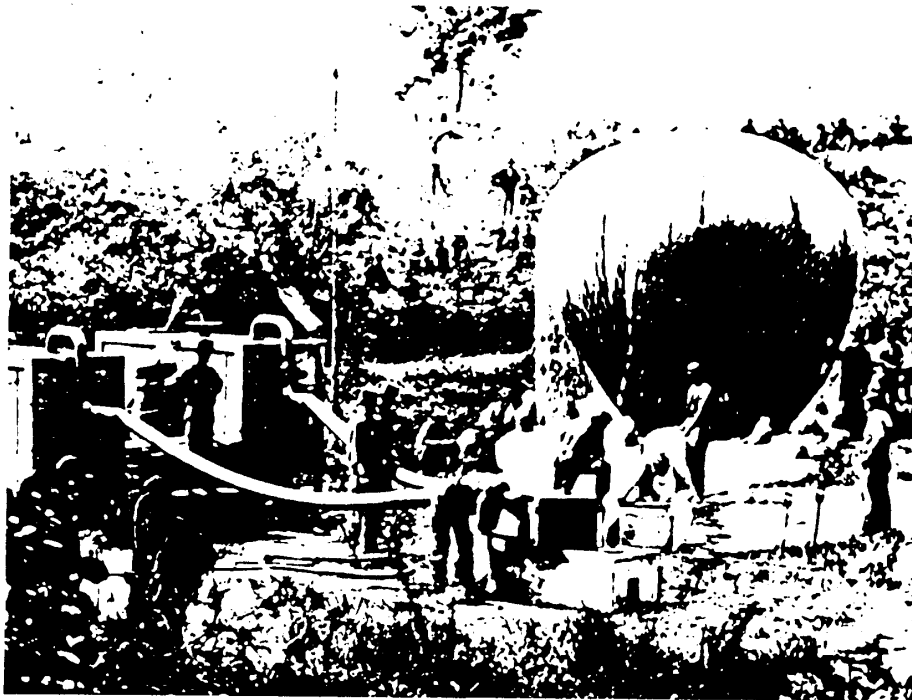
Six days later, on June 24, Professor Lowe set out with his balloon to reconnoiter the buildup of Confederate forces in Fairfax County. From Bailey's Cross Roads he headed in the direction of Falls Church. Informed that he might encounter Confederate pickets at Falls Church, he stopped at Taylor's Tavern (now Koons Ford Agency) at Seven Corners at about

10 a.m. He attempted an ascent at noon but the wind velocity was too strong. The wind had died down by 6 p.m., and Lowe ascended to an altitude of about 500 feet and looked down the road (now Lee Highway) towards Fairfax. He reported that, although no Rebel forces were seen in the immediate area, a huge cloud of dust coming from the direction of the Fairfax Courthouse (headquarters of the main Confederate Cavalry Force) could have been caused by the maneuvering of "a considerable body of enemy cavalry." He made another ascent at 10 p.m. and reported that no enemy evening camp activity could be seen.³ Lowe made a number of ascents desired by General McDowell at Falls Church before returning to Washington on June 25.⁴

In the early morning hours of July 21, Washington ladies hurriedly dressed in the latest fashions; picnic lunches were packed; and the finest carriages and horses were readied by the livery stables. All Washington society seemed en route to the Virginia countryside to see the Army of the Potomac deliver a



Lowe's early balloon ascensions impressed government officials enough to win permission to accompany the Federal Army as an airborne observer. In this photo ground crews play out handling lines during the balloon's ascent. National Archives.



Union troops inflate an observation balloon in the field using two of the portable hydrogen gas generators invented by Professor Lowe. The professor is believed to be the man at right with his hand raised near the balloon. National Archives.

crushing blow to the Confederate forces massed in the Manassas-Centreville area. The Union Army had detailed balloonist John Wise of Pennsylvania to provide aerial observations for General Irvin McDowell, Commander of the Army of the Potomac. The balloon had been filled with hydrogen in Washington without sufficient consideration of the difficulty of transporting an inflated balloon through heavily wooded country. On its way to the battlefield, Wise's balloon became entangled in the upper branches of trees along Fairfax Road and the bag was torn.⁵ It was a most unfortunate, indeed calamitous reconnaissance "abort." That afternoon the Federal forces clashed with the Confederates near a stream called Bull Run and what was to have been a stunning Federal triumph turned into an inglorious rout of the Union forces. The nation was awakened to the reality that the struggle was going to be of prolonged duration.

When Lincoln received the unwelcome news that the Union Army no longer comprised an organized fighting force, he convened an extraordinary meeting of his cabinet. Washington appeared defenseless and the cabinet discussion centered on emergency measures to be taken because the Southern forces surely would follow up their victory at Bull Run. However, Confederate generals Pierre Beauregard and Joseph Johnston, in a meeting with Jefferson Davis the next day, concluded they would not mount an offensive against Washington but, rather, celebrate the victory and rest.

Major General George P. McClellan, who succeeded McDowell as Commander of the Army of the Potomac, endorsed a proposal to construct a massive defensive system consisting of "48 forts, lunettes, redoubts, and batteries mounting three hundred guns" situated on strategic hills encircling the city to guard all approaches to the capital.

Throughout the summer of 1861, Washington was rife with rumors that the victorious Confederate forces were preparing an attack. On the morning of July 24, Lowe made an ascent at Ft. Corcoran to investigate the purported march.⁶ He correctly reported that no Rebel forces were threatening Washington. Later that afternoon, on an ascent to check the Confederate bivouacs at Manassas and Centreville, Lowe asked that the tethering cables be released so that he could gain additional altitude for a better view of Fairfax and beyond. A quirk current caught his balloon and carried him toward Alexandria. He then had the dreaded experience that all reconnaissance pilots fear — being fired on by friendly troops. Federal troops, thinking Lowe's was a Rebel balloon, opened fire. Lowe quickly released ballast and was carried to a landing a few miles behind enemy lines. He was later rescued by troops from the 31st New York Infantry. When he reached Washington, he did what all recon pilots do when fired upon. Lowe wrote a stinging memo to his superiors in the War Department emphatically stating that the Confederates had no balloons similar to his and demanded that all Union commanders be so informed.⁷

By August, Confederate forces began to show some offensive maneuvering and slow forward movement. Strategic heights were occupied in an arc extending from Bailey's Cross Roads, past Seven Corners, Falls Church, Arlington, Lewinsville and McLean to Chain Bridge. Confederate activity could be seen at the following locations:

Munson's Hill, located between Seven Corners and Bailey's Cross Roads (now Apex Circle Road off Munson Hill Road), afforded a commanding view in all directions. It was occupied by a force of Virginia cavalry under the command of Col. J.E.B. Stuart. A battery of artillery was also positioned there. The stars and bars

flag, from the dome of the Capitol.⁸

Upton's Hill, located off Wilson Boulevard (now the site of the Willston Water Tower), was manned by infantry troops and a signal unit.⁹

Taylor's Hill, located at Seven Corners, was a headquarters for Confederate infantry troops billeted in and around Taylor's Tavern (now Koon's Ford). Troops from Taylor's Hill also occupied Fort Buffalo (now the location of three medical buildings at Seven Corners).¹⁰

Falls Church, an important crossroads, was occupied by a regiment of Confederate Infantry. Troops were billeted near the Star Tavern, in the vicinity of the Leesburg-Arlington Turnpike (now Broad Street near the present location of the Falls Church Post Office).¹¹ General James Longstreet's headquarters was the Lawton House (behind the State Theater on Lawton Street).¹² It is still standing, and once had been the headquarters of Union General Irvin McDowell.

Both the Falls Church and the Columbia Baptist Church (then located in the 100 block of East Broad Street) were used as hospitals.

Confederate snipers were positioned on Miner's Hill (Williamsburg Boulevard and North Powhatan Street in Arlington) and Stuart's cavalry pickets were positioned at Lewinsville and McLean. Additional Confederate units were positioned in Vienna, Flint Hill and on Mason Hill.

Lowe made a number of ascents at Arlington Heights (now Fort Myer) before shifting his base of operations to Fort Corcoran (now Wilson Boulevard at Woodrow Wilson School), a bastioned earthworks commanding the approaches to Aqueduct Bridge (now Key Bridge). To get a better view of the Confederate activity on Munson's Hill, Lowe moved two and a half miles nearer and established his base at Ball's Cross Roads (now the intersection of Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard — Hecht's Parkington Parking Lot).¹³ There were numerous Confederate references to "that infernal balloon" interfering with their military operations. Confederate forces made several attempts to infiltrate sharpshooters to fire on the balloon, but all were unsuccessful.

On August 27, Lowe took up his new balloon, "Union," on its aerial maiden mission at Ball's Cross Roads and this time received an unprecedented reception. The Confederate Forces on Munson Hill had a battery of rifled cannons that had been used with amazing accuracy to fire on Federal cavalry forces reconnoitering the Bailey's Cross Roads area. That afternoon, an infuriated and frustrated Lt. Thomas Rosser, commander of a section of Stuart's celebrated New Orleans Washington Artillery, positioned a rifled piece, aimed down the barrel and fired at the "Union." The shot missed and the Federals quickly winched the "Union" down. Although the Confederates failed, another milestone had been established — the first use of anti-aircraft artillery fire.¹⁴

On one of his ascents at Ball's Cross Roads, Lowe reported the following:

"During my observations this evening, I noticed a pretty heavy picket force on Upton's Hill and several camp smokes at Taylor's Corners. On the west slope of Munson's Hill there appeared to be a full regiment with a set of colors, their bayonets glistening in the sun as if on parade. I could see nothing of the horses you [General Porter] spoke of, but as soon as I can get the balloon inflated again, I will go nearer and examine the woods."¹⁵

The Confederate leaders watched with envious eyes as the Federal balloons made their observations, and bemoaned the fact that they did not possess such a capability. While General Beauregard attempted unsuccessfully to obtain a balloon from the authorities in Richmond, he did obtain one from a private source. On September 4, during its initial ascent on Munson's Hill, the balloon's bag was torn beyond repair. The Confederate commanders, denied the technological luxuries of the North, would not have another balloon until the Battle for Richmond when a call went out to patriotic ladies who contributed their silk dresses and underclothing to make what Gen. Longstreet would describe as "a great patchwork ship of many varied hues."¹⁶

It was generally agreed that Lowe was a competent aerial observer, but military commanders always were concerned that troop movements could escape the detection of an un-

Taylor's Tavern was a famous Falls Church watering hole. The location is now occupied by the Koons Ford Agency at Seven Corners. Lowe conducted reconnaissance missions here prior to the Battle of Bull Run to observe Confederate cavalry forces at the Fairfax Courthouse. This photograph by Matthew Brady shows Union cavalry forces occupying the tavern and surrounding area. Library of Congress.



trained observer. Large numbers of men, no matter how stealthily they moved, left marks on the earth's surface. Careful observations could reveal whether mounted or unmounted troops had moved, and in what numbers and to what locations. Trained observers, armed with powerful telescopes, it was argued, would not depend on guesswork but rather on experience and deductive skills. To satisfy the commanders' misgivings, Lowe began taking trained military observers aloft with him. Thus began the military aerial observer program.

The new science of reconnaissance also caught the attention of the Union military hierarchy. On September 5, 1861, Generals Irvin McDowell and Fitz-John Porter went aloft together to obtain first-hand knowledge of the enemy. On September 7, General McClellan made several ascents to observe enemy activity at Munson's Hill.¹⁷ Other Generals who ascended during this period included John H. Martindale, W.F. Smith and Samuel Heintzelman.

The maps of Fairfax County, for that matter of most Virginia, were terribly out of date and the terrain detail for

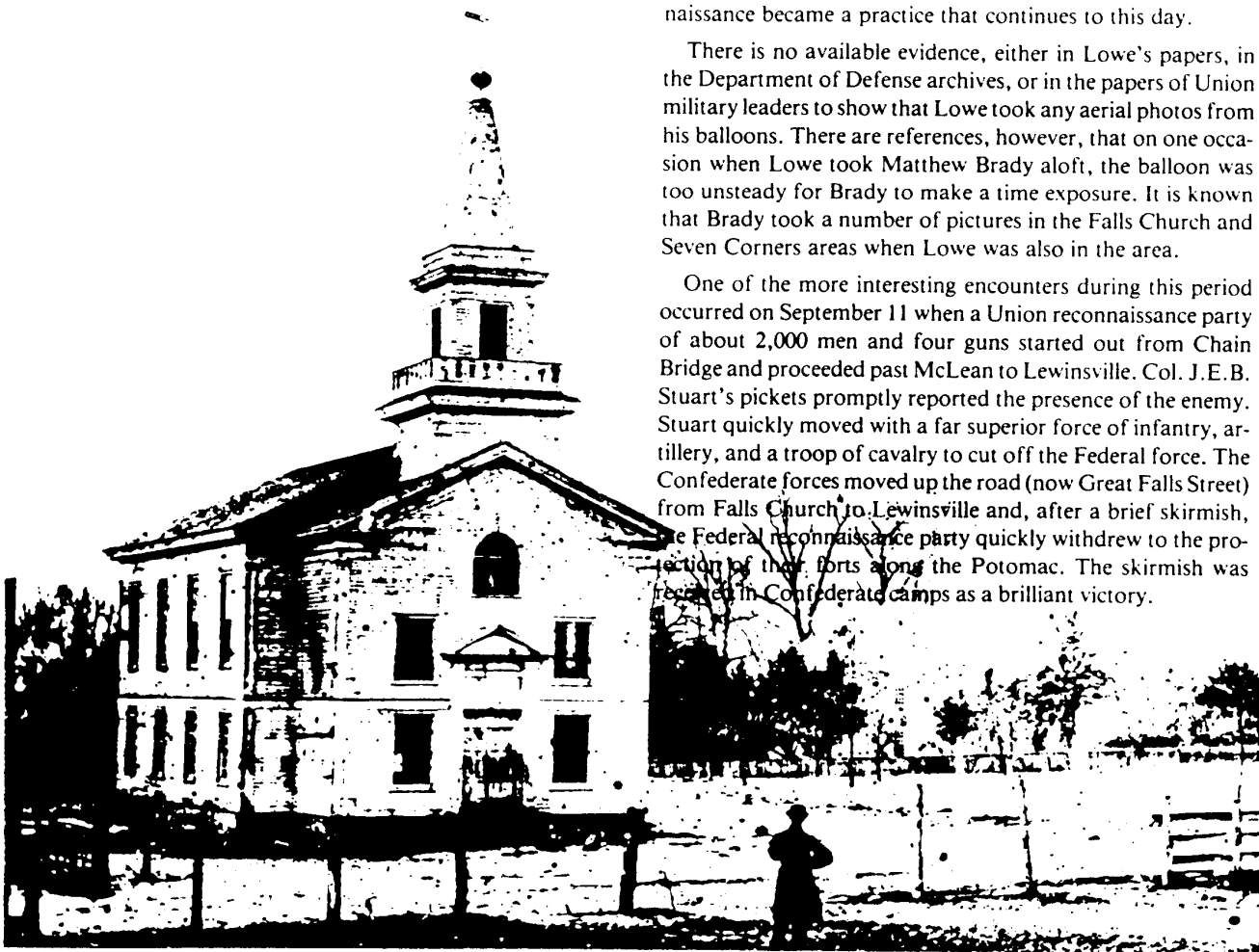
military operations left much to be desired. On June 24, 1861, Brigadier General Daniel Tyler, then commanding a brigade at Falls Church, sent up Major Leyard Colburn of the 2nd Connecticut Infantry with Lowe to make a map of a portion of the county.¹⁸ It was the first map to be made from space. Unfortunately, a copy of it cannot be found. It was so accurate that Virginians familiar with the county could immediately recognize the roads, terrain, and houses. On the same day General Tyler telegraphed General McDowell:

"I have not been much of a convert to ballooning in military operations, but the last ascent made by Major Colburn of the 2nd Connecticut Volunteers this p.m. and the map of the country, rough as it is, which he made during the ascent convince me that a balloon may at times greatly assist military operations."¹⁹

Major Colburn's map also elicited the praises of Gen. Tyler's superiors and it was subsequently decided by the Topographical Engineers that maps of all areas occupied by Confederate forces should be made from the air. Another dimension to aerial reconnaissance was established — the making of up-to-date maps from using the latest reconnaissance became a practice that continues to this day.

There is no available evidence, either in Lowe's papers, in the Department of Defense archives, or in the papers of Union military leaders to show that Lowe took any aerial photos from his balloons. There are references, however, that on one occasion when Lowe took Matthew Brady aloft, the balloon was too unsteady for Brady to make a time exposure. It is known that Brady took a number of pictures in the Falls Church and Seven Corners areas when Lowe was also in the area.

One of the more interesting encounters during this period occurred on September 11 when a Union reconnaissance party of about 2,000 men and four guns started out from Chain Bridge and proceeded past McLean to Lewinsville. Col. J.E.B. Stuart's pickets promptly reported the presence of the enemy. Stuart quickly moved with a far superior force of infantry, artillery, and a troop of cavalry to cut off the Federal force. The Confederate forces moved up the road (now Great Falls Street) from Falls Church to Lewinsville and, after a brief skirmish, the Federal reconnaissance party quickly withdrew to the protection of their forts along the Potomac. The skirmish was regarded in Confederate camps as a brilliant victory.



At the present intersection of Broad Street and Lee Highway in Falls Church, Lowe conducted a number of reconnaissance missions. Here the first map was made from space, and later Confederate forces billeted a block away were fired upon by Union artillery directed aloft by Lowe. This photograph by Matthew Brady shows the Columbia Baptist Church and the Falls Church can be seen in the background. Library of Congress.

Often an event occurs that thoroughly perplexes the aerial observer. Such was the case on September 13, when Lowe ascended to observe the Confederate forces following the Union defeat at Lewinsville. He saw a large fire on Munson's Hill and in other areas where Confederate troops were billeted. Men could be seen in the flickering light and there appeared to be much activity and celebrating. What Lowe didn't know was that Col. J.E.B. Stuart had received the news of his promotion to Brigadier General, and his troops were celebrating. On September 24, with Stuart and his men standing at attention, wearing dapper uniforms with scarlet lined capes and flamboyantly plumed hats, Stuart formally received his promotion.²⁰

To better observe the Confederate Forces at Falls Church, Lowe moved his operations back to Fort Corcoran. On September 24, Lowe ascended and by telegraph wire directed Union artillery fire onto unsuspecting Confederate troops at Falls Church. It was the first aerial spotting of artillery fire. The commander of the artillery battery, pleased with the results, sent Lowe the following message:

"The signals from the balloon have enabled my gunners to hit with a fine degree of accuracy an unseen and dispersed target area. This demonstration will revolutionize the art of gunnery."²¹

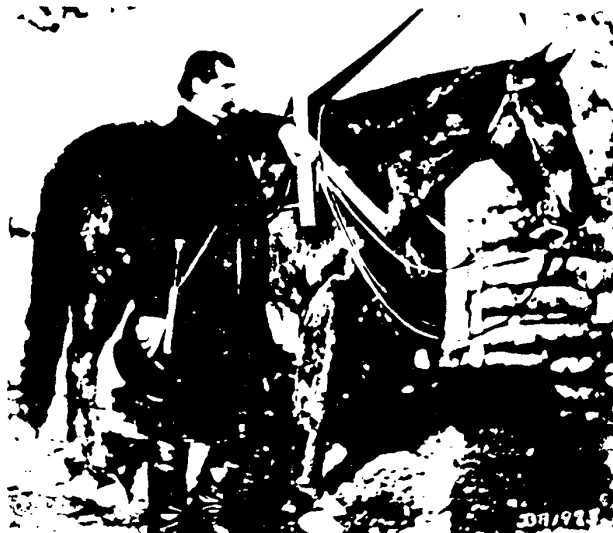
This major milestone in proving the value of aerial reconnaissance prompted the Secretary of War on September 25 to authorize Lowe to build four additional balloons, together with the necessary inflation equipment. By the end of November, Lowe had a fleet of five balloons (*Eagle, Constitution, Washington, Intrepid and Union*).

On September 28, Lowe observed a large number of campfires in the Annandale area, marking the positions of Brigadier Richard S. Ewell's brigade that was ordered to the Annandale area on September 11.

While the Confederates were unsuccessful in mustering effective direct action against balloon reconnaissance, they did embark on a series of camouflage, concealment, and deceptive practices that proved highly effective in confusing the Federals as to the strength of Confederate Forces and their defenses. Longstreet recalled that "we collected a number of old wagon wheels and mounted on them stove-pipes of different calibre, till we had formidable-looking batteries, some large enough of calibre to threaten Alexandria, and even the National Capital and Executive Mansion."²² Most of these "Quaker" guns were being reported by the balloonists as real. In addition,

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Unfortunately, we are out of the first two issues of *Northern Virginia Heritage* (Feb. and June, 1979) and the last issue (June, 1984). All other issues are available. The price of all back issues is \$3 per copy. Those desiring back copies should indicate issue and quantity, and send their checks in the proper amount to *Northern Virginia Heritage*, George Mason University, History Department, Fairfax, Virginia 22030.



Thaddeus Sobieski Coulaincourt Lowe, "aeronaut" and head of the Balloon Corps for the Union forces during the Civil War. National Archives.

Gen. Beauregard ordered the camouflaging of supply depots and began locating camps in the Centreville area near wooded areas to escape the observation of the balloonist. Old unoccupied tents were pitched in other areas, prompting them to be reported and counted as active troop concentrations. At eventide, balloonists would ascend and observe the camp and smoke where Confederate forces were billeted and preparing their evening meals. To deny the Union accurate information of this kind, hundreds of "false" fires were started and kept burning in secluded woods long into the night. Large bonfires were also started and rockets set off at various locations to keep the Northern forces in a constant state of excitement. The Union forces knew that each Confederate regiment had a musical band, so the Confederates would send a single band to different areas during the night giving the impression that more than one regiment was billeted in the area.

In the fall of 1861, Confederate troops began to withdraw to winter quarters. By October 19, most of the troops billeted in the Bailey's Cross Roads, Arlington, Falls Church, and Lewinsville areas had departed for either the Fairfax Courthouse or the Centreville area where they started to construct huts, strengthen defensive positions and gather firewood.

After the Confederate forces had departed, Union forces occupied their abandoned positions. Gen. McClellan decided to take advantage of the Confederate withdrawal and stage an elaborate celebration. On November 20, 1861, President Lincoln, his cabinet, and foreign dignitaries met Gen. McClellan at Munson's Hill and proceeded to a reviewing stand which had been erected on a hill overlooking Bailey's Cross Roads. There they witnessed a spectacular grand review of the Union army that was arrayed for miles along Columbia Pike. On command from Gen. McClellan, about 60,000 men consisting of 50 infantry regiments, 7 regiments of cavalry, and 20 batteries of artillery passed in review. Among the 70,000 spectators was a visitor from Boston, Julia Ward Howe. She watched the brilliantly uniformed soldiers with their silk flags and guidons fluttering in the breeze. Stirred by the music

emanating from fifty regimental bands, the tramping feet, and the attendant pomp and ceremony, she was deeply moved. Later that night at the Willard Hotel, she awoke and composed the lyrics to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," the most stirring anthem of the Civil War.

The idea of supporting land operations by conducting aeronautic operations from barges along the rivers, and at sea to observe naval activities, afforded a number of advantages in the launching and unencumbered movement of the balloons. John La Mountain inflated one of his balloons and placed it aboard the armed transport barge *Fanny* to observe Confederate activity in the Hampton area on August 1, 1861.²³ But it was Professor Lowe who conceived and designed the first aircraft carrier. The Navy had a large coal barge at the Washington Navy Yard and Lowe directed a complete overhaul of the vessel. A flat top was constructed over the entire deck to provide a broad uncluttered area to launch balloons. The gas generating equipment was placed in the bow and there was ample space below deck for the storage of the iron fillings, acid and other equipment used in launchings. Quarters for the aeronaut were also situated below deck. The barge was re-named the *USS George Washington Parke Custis* and, on November 12, began its maiden voyage down the Potomac to launch balloons in support of Gen. Hooker's division at Budd's Ferry (now Quantico).²⁴ The barge later played a role in the Peninsular Campaign.



Thaddeus Lowe conducted aerial observations of Confederate positions near Budd's Ferry (Quantico) from the Balloon-Boat *George Washington Parke Custis*. This ascension from a specifically designed platform paved the way for the Navy's present effective use of the air as an element of sea power. U.S. Navy Historical Center.

eight

In an effort to replenish our stock of fine articles, *Northern Virginia Heritage* is proud to announce that thanks to a special grant it will once again establish a special prize fund. The prize money will be awarded as follows:

First Prize	\$500.00
Second Prize	150.00
Third Prize	50.00

Readers will note that the \$500.00 first prize is an increase of \$200.00 over the previous contest and should be a real incentive to prospective authors. The winners will be chosen by a three judge panel from *NVH's* Advisory Board. All articles submitted between August 1st, 1984 and July 31st, 1985 may be considered for the special prize. The winners shall be announced in the October 1985 issue of *NVH*. All articles submitted may be published by *Northern Virginia Heritage* at its option whether or not the article wins a prize. The prize money is in addition to *NVH's* normal honorarium.

It is characteristic of the history of reconnaissance that ideas develop into gadgets, gadgets become operational hardware, and doctrine and practice become strategy. Reconnaissance is also the history of motion, weapon and counter weapon, fanatics and visionaries, believers and non-believers. It is the epic saga of brave, unarmed men willing to risk their lives time and time again or, if captured, to be deemed and prosecuted as a spy in procuring information vital to the survival of this nation. Thaddeus Sobieski Coulaincourt Lowe was a hero of this stature. He, more than anyone, should be credited with the innovative concept of tactical aerial reconnaissance and its acceptance as a technique fundamental to the conduct of modern warfare. In his autobiography, Gen. McClellan paid tribute to Lowe's efforts:

"To Professor Lowe, the intelligent and enterprising aeronaut, who had the management of the balloons, I was indebted for information obtained during his ascensions. In a clear atmosphere and in a country not too much obstructed by woods, balloon reconnaissance made by intelligence officers are often of considerable value."²⁵

But time and circumstances have been unkind to Professor Lowe, our greatest "spy in the sky" during the Civil War. In his book, *Spies for the Blue and Gray*, Harnett T. Kane fails to mention either Lowe or his fellow aeronauts. Perhaps the cruelist ignominy is that neither the District of Columbia nor Fairfax or Arlington Counties has seen fit to honor Lowe with commemorative markers at the sites of his many reconnaissance firsts within their jurisdictions.

(See page twenty for footnotes)

Dino Brugioni is a former senior official and a reconnaissance and photo interpretation expert for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Northern Virginia Heritage, February 1985

Footnotes

Reconnaissance Firsts

- ¹ Captain Daniel T. Davis, "The Air Role in the War Between the States—The Civil War Balloon Activities of Professor Thaddeus S.C. Lowe," *Air University Review*, July-August 1976, Vol. XXVII, No. 5, p. 14.
- ² "The Civil War as Reported by the Star 100 Years Ago—Aeronaut Telegraphs Lincoln from Balloon," *The Washington Star Magazine*, June 25, 1961, p. 13.
- ³ *Ibid.*, p. 16.
- ⁴ Frederick Stansbury Hayden, *Aeronautics in the Union and Confederate Armies*, (New York: Arno Press, 1980), pp. 187-190.
- ⁵ U.S. Tactical Air Command Digest, "The Heritage of Reconnaissance, A Year by Year Development of Tactical Air Reconnaissance," U.S. Tactical Air Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia (no date), p. 3.
- ⁶ Tom D. Crouch, *The Eagle Aloft—Two Centuries of the Balloon in America*, (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1983), p. 353.
- ⁷ Frederick Stansbury Hayden, *Aeronautics in the Union and Confederate Armies*, p. 193. See also Lydel Sims, *Thaddeus Lowe: Uncle Sam's First Airman*, (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1968), pp. 124-128.
- ⁸ Melvin Lee Steadman, Jr., *Falls Church by Fence and Fireside*, (Falls Church, Virginia: Falls Church Public Library, 1964), p. 51.
- ⁹ In a letter dated August 28, 1861 from Colonel J.E.B. Stuart to General James Longstreet, Stuart has ordered 2 companies of the 1st Regiment stationed at Falls Church to occupy the ridge along Upton's Hill. Melvin Steadman, Jr., *Falls Church by Fence and Fireside*, p. 58. See also Jane Chapman Whitt, *Elephants and Quaker Guns*, (New York: Vantage Press, 1966), p. 51.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, See also Tony P. Wrenn, *Falls Church: History of a Virginia Village*, (Falls Church, Virginia: Historical Commission of the City of Falls Church, 1972), pp. 16-19.
- ¹¹ Richard W. Stephenson, *The Cartography of Northern Virginia, Facsimile Reproductions of Maps, Dating from 1608 to 1915*, (Fairfax County, Virginia: History and Archaeology Section, Office of Comprehensive Planning, Fairfax County Virginia, 1981). Plate 44 shows a large Rebel camp where the Falls Church Post Office now stands along with another Rebel camp straddling Lee Highway immediately west of the city. Plate 44 also shows a large Rebel encampment at Taylor's Tavern.
- ¹² "Citizens Fight to Save Lawton House," *Washington Post*, April 18, 1965.
- ¹³ Before the development of the Ball's Crossroads area, there was a historic marker—a brass plaque on a stone pillar about 3 feet high attesting to the point where Lowe's balloon was moored when fired upon.
- ¹⁴ Jane Chapman Whitt, *Elephants and Quaker Guns*, pp. 50-51.
- ¹⁵ Captain Daniel T. Davis, "The Air Role in the War Between the States—The Civil War Activities of Thaddeus S.C. Lowe," p. 19.
- ¹⁶ Herman Hattaway, "Balloons: America's First Air Force," *American History*, June 1, 1984, p. 27.
- ¹⁷ Tom D. Crouch, *The Eagle Aloft—Two Centuries of the Balloon in America*, pp. 355-356. (In the National Air and Space Museum are the binoculars used by Lowe in his ascents.)
- ¹⁸ Frederick Stansbury Hayden, *Aeronautics in the Union and Confederate Armies*, p. 186. See also Jean Geddes, *Fairfax County Historical Highlights from 1607*, (Middleburg, Virginia: Denlingers, 1967), pp. 103-104.
- ¹⁹ Frederick Stansbury Hayden, *Aeronautics in the Union and Confederate Armies*, p. 186.
- ²⁰ Jane Chapman Whitt, *Elephants and Quaker Guns*, p. 49.
- ²¹ Grover Heinman, *Aerial Photography, The Story of Aerial Mapping and Reconnaissance*, Air Force Academy Series. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1976), p. 16.
- ²² James Longstreet, *From Manassas to Appomattox*. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1960), p. 60.
- ²³ Frederick Stansbury Hayden, *Aeronautics in the Union and Confederate Armies*, pp. 95-96.
- ²⁴ Naval History Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, *Civil War Naval Chronology 1861-1865*, (Washington, D.C.: Navy Department, 1971), p. 1-34.
- ²⁵ George B. McClellan, *McClellan's Own Story*, (New York: Charles L. Webster and Co., 1887), pp. 135.

Freedman's Village

- ¹ "Contraband of War," *Harper's Weekly*, June 8, 1861, p. 354.
- ² *Report to the Executive Committee of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends Upon the Condition and Needs of the Freed People of Color in Washington and Virginia*. New Bedford: E. Anthony & Sons, 1864, p. 8.
- ³ "Freedman's Village Haven for Liberated Slaves," *The Arlington Daily*, September 6, 1945.
- ⁴ Thomas Holt, C. Smith-Parker and R. Terborg-Penn, "A Special Mission: The Story of Freedmen's Hospital, 1862-1962", Washington, D.C., Academic Affairs Division, Howard University, 1975.
- ⁵ Letter from Elias M. Green to Charles Thomas, December 17, 1863. Consolidated Quartermaster General File, MSS, Record Group, 92 (Hereafter R.G.)
- ⁶ Margaret Leech, *Reveille in Washington 1860-1865*, New York: Harper & Brothers, 1941, p. 252.
- ⁷ *Addresses and Ceremonies at the New Year's Festival to the Freedmen, on Arlington Heights; and Statistics and Statements of the Educational Condition of the Colored People in the Southern States and Other Facts*, Washington, D.C.: McGill and Witherow, 18676, p. 6.
- ⁸ Hertha Paul, *Her Name Was Sojourner Truth*. Avon, N.Y., Camelot Books, 1962, pp. 216-211.
- ⁹ *Report to the Executive Committee of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends*, p. 5.
- ¹⁰ *Report of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands*, Washington, D.C.: War Department, November 1, 1866, p. 730. (Hereafter B.R.F.A.L.)
- ¹¹ Letter from G.A. Wheeler to C.H. Howard, February 28, 1867. Records of the Assistant Commissioner of the District of Columbia. B.R.F.A.L. R.G. 105.
- ¹² Letter from G.A. Wheeler to A.A. Laurence, February 14, 1867. B.R.F.A.L. R.G. 105.
- ¹³ A.R. Waud, "Freedman's Village, Arlington, Virginia," *Harper's Weekly*, May 7, 1864.
- ¹⁴ Felix James, *Freedman's Village, Arlington, Virginia: A History*. Master's Dissertation, Department of History, Howard University, Washington, 1967.
- ¹⁵ Letter from Edward Smith to General Howard, November 22, 1866. B.R.F.A.L. R.G. 105.
- ¹⁶ Letter from Bergevin to C.H. Howard, June 22, 1866. *Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia*. B.R.F.A.L. R.G. 105.
- ¹⁷ Letter from A.A. Laurence to C.H. Howard, July 30, 1866. *Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia*. B.R.F.A.L. R.G. 105.
- ¹⁸ Letter from Henry A. Armstrong to E.B. Gates, April 6, 1867. *Records of the Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia*. B.R.F.A.L. R.G. 105.
- ¹⁹ Enoch A. Chase, *The History of Arlington*, Washington, D.C. National Art Service Co., Inc., 1929.
- ²⁰ "The Eviction of the Squatters from Freedman's Village", *Washington Post*, Washington, D.C. December 7, 1887.
- ²¹ Letter from A.H. Holmes to Redfield Proctor, September 27, 1890. C.Q.M.G.F. R.G. 92.
- ²² James, *op. cit.*

Problems of a Country Pastor

- ¹ Diary of the Rev. C.B. McKee, June 28, 1857. The diary is in the archives of the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. All entries are for 1857.
- ² Newspaper clippings dated Sept. 17, 1857; Sept. 18, 1857 and Sept. 23, 1857, in the files of the Atlantic Companies, marine insurers, New York City.
- ³ *Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser*, Dec. 12, 1857.
- ⁴ This paragraph is based on a talk with Donald Sweig, Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning.



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