

**Guide to the Quincy Holt Civil War Stereographs, 1862-1890
MS0384**

**The Mariners' Museum Library
at
Christopher Newport University**

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Processed by Jay Moore, 2012

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Mariners' Museum Library

Title: Quincy Holt Civil War Stereographs

Inclusive Dates: 1862-1890

Catalog number: MS0384

Physical Characteristics: 6 stereographs, 3 of which are forgeries

Language: English

Creators: Holt, M. Quincy; Taylor, John C., publisher; E. and H.T. Anthony (Firm)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Micajah Quincy Holt was born Aug. 15, 1914, the son of the late former Virginia Lt. Governor Saxon Winston Holt and Maria Davis Reynolds Holt. He married Mary Sherwood Giese and had five children. Following military service in World War II, Quincy Holt managed the family business, S.W. Holt & Co., wholesale grocers, in Newport News, Va. He died January 11, 2011.

Edward and Henry T. Anthony were prominent publishers of stereographs in New York City. Edward Anthony began the firm in 1859, and took his brother Henry into partnership in 1862. The firm changed its name from E. Anthony to E & H.T. Anthony in 1863. According to William Darrah, E. & H.T. Anthony were not only publishers of stereographs, but had also become the largest supplier of photographic materials in the country, including cameras, enlargers, papers, glass, chemicals, and studio equipment. They manufactured large quantities of stereographs until at least 1892, though they had stopped publishing them under their own imprint in 1874.

Little is known of John C. Taylor of Hartford, CT. His firm was one of several who re-issued Matthew Brady Company stereographs in the 1880s, using one of Brady's 3 sets of negatives that E. & H.T. Anthony had acquired from Brady and that General Albert Ordway had purchased from them. Taylor hoped to profit from the 25th anniversary of the war by making at least two efforts to re-issue the war views in a format palatable to the public. His efforts were not commercially successful.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection includes six stereo view photographs from the Civil War period.

The first three images were issued by John C. Taylor of Hartford. Two of the photos are listed as being the *Monitor*, but have been altered and are actually images of the ironclad *Passaic*. The *Passaic* class incorporated improvements to the plan of the original US Steam Battery *Monitor* that are visually present in the photograph. The turret in the first image has a 15-inch smoothbore Dahlgren and an 8-inch rifled Parrott gun, whereas the *Monitor* had two 11-inch Dahlgren guns. The detail of the ordnance dates the photograph to after Dec. 31, 1864, when *Passaic*'s 11-inch smoothbore Dahlgren was swapped out for the Parrott rifle. The second photograph shows the other side of the turret with a ring visible around the bottom of the turret. The ring was an addition to the *Passaic* class to prevent the turret from being wedged or otherwise jammed and rendered immobile. The

original un-retouched photograph included men standing around the turret, but they were removed from this picture. Another image in this collection, taken on 2 April 1865, is that of a dead Confederate soldier, which the picture's caption stated was found inside the Union picket line. The picture of the Confederate also included a statement from the publisher along with the caption, indicating that the images were produced 25 years after the Civil War from negatives taken during the conflict.

The other three photographs were published by E. and H.T. Anthony and Company. They all depict Richmond, Virginia and the surrounding area. One shows the Dutch Gap Canal, after the bank was blown out on the James River. Another depicts three bystanders and the riddled smoke stack from the ironclad *Virginia II*, which had been removed from the ship after coming back from an unsuccessful Jan. 23, 1865 raid on the James River. The caption identifies the stack as from the famous CSS *Virginia*, not *Virginia II*, possibly with the intent to deceive the viewer and sell more stereographs. The third is a photograph of the James River at City Point, Virginia. Information from the publisher on the stereograph card states that the negative was taken by Brady and Company of Washington, D.C.

The stereographs are organized into a single folder and are arranged by accession number.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession Number

MS0384

Accession Date

2007

Restrictions

The collection is open to all researchers.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

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Other Finding Aids

Full records and electronic reproductions of the original photographs in this collection can be found in Museum's photograph database.

Note to Users

Due to the fragile and rare nature of the collection, researchers are requested to handle the materials with caution and in accordance with prescribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

RELATED MATERIALS

A Becker's Tabletop Sweetheart Stereo Viewer was donated with this collection of stereographs. A full record and electronic reproduction of the viewer can be found in the Museum's photograph database. Patrons should search for accession number PHOT.001.

Three other important collections of Civil War stereographs are located in the library: David Kent Collection (MS0311), the *Monitor* Collection Associated Records, Jerry Lee Harlowe Collection (MS0390, Series 13.7- Photographs), and the Jeffrey Kraus Collection (MS0316)

FILE GUIDE

BOX 1

- Folder 1** Stereographs, 1862-1890
"The Turret of the Monitor Shows Fifteen Marks Where She Was Hit by Rebel Shot...." [MS0382.01]

"The James River at City Point" [MS0384.02]

"No.3186-A Dead Rebel Soldier Inside the Union Picket Lines" [MS0384.03]

"The 'Monitor' Showing Her Ports Open, and the Muzzle of Her 'Barkers'. This View Shows the Dents in Turret...." [MS0382.04]

"The Smoke Stack of the Rebel Ram Virginia at Rocketts, Richmond, Virginia, Showing the Effects from Shot and Shell, After the Return from Her Raid Down the River." [MS 0384.05]

"War Views, Dutch Gap Canal, Taken After The Back Was Blown Out, James River , Va No. 2693" [MS0384.06]

SOURCES CONSULTED

- Konstam, Angus. *Union Monitor, 1861-65*. Oxford, England: Osprey Publishing, 2002.
Harlowe, Jerry Lee. "An Ironclad Forgery." 1990. Reprint, *Military Images* 20 (Sep/Oct 1998), 38-39.
Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion. Series II, vol. 1: 170. Washington: G.P.O., 1894-1922.
Darrah, William C. *The World of Stereographs*. Gettysburg, PA: W.C. Darrah, 1977.
----- *Stereo Views: A History of Stereographs in America and Their Collection*. Gettysburg, PA: W.C. Darrah, 1964.

SUBJECTS

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865

James River (Va.)

Armored vessels-Virginia

Monitor (Ironclad : 1862)-Forgeries

Passaic (Ironclad : 1862)-Pictorial works

Virginia II (Ironclad : 1864)-Pictorial works

Virginia (Ironclad : 1862)-Forgeries