

Books in Print

McCoy, a man of Edward Spencer's acquaintance, perhaps a newspaper man himself. He offered the sum of \$50 per month for the upkeep of the young Spencer children who would remain in Eliza's care.

Nan Hayden Agle has told Eliza's story well. Not a woman for wishful thinking, Eliza emerges as strong, sensible, and tremendously devoted to "Miss Braddie" and her offspring.

Free To Stay is a delightful read for Southerners, perhaps more to the taste of women. In any case, Eliza's story offers another perspective of Southern history.

Author: Nan Hayden Agle
Publisher: Maryland History Press
www.marylandhistorypress.com
410-742-2682
Paperback \$18.00

Reviewed by Ann Rives Zappa

The Boys of Diamond Hill The Lives and Civil War Letters of the Boyd Family of Abbeville County, South Carolina

My first reaction when I looked at this book was, Oh me, another collection of family letters from the War Between the States After reading it I feel very different. I almost feel like a member of the Boyd Family of Abbeville Co., South Carolina.

The Boyds were like so many other Southern families in 1861; they were farmers struggling to provide for their families. This family sent five sons and a son-in-law to defend the South in war. Only one returned home, Daniel.

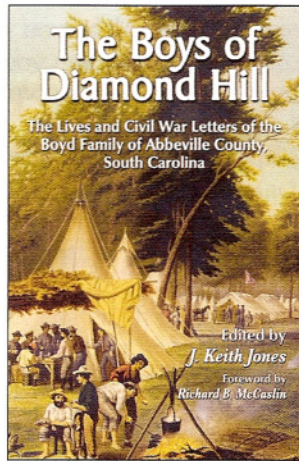
In the early days of the war the men from South Carolina enlisted in the Confederate Army to defend their homes. Most of the young soldiers ended up in Virginia and Tennessee, and in the beginning were rather upset to be

transplanted away from South Carolina. These South Carolina boys felt Virginia's soldiers should be defending Virginia; Tennessee's soldiers should defend Tennessee, and South Carolina boys should defend South Carolina. As the war progressed they slowly accepted that soldiers were sent where they were needed to defend the entire Confederacy.

Prior to each letter the editor, J. Keith Jones, describes the content of the letter, the letter writer's name, his location and a brief description of the contents of the letter. This was much appreciated since Mr. Jones did not correct the grammar or spelling in any of the letters the Boyd boys sent home to their father and sister. A lot of the spelling was difficult to decipher. Also, some words were spelled differently in the same letter; but remember, these young men had very little, if any, formal education.

These young men from South Carolina were no different from the young men of any Confederate state who left home to defend their homeland. Their letters were filled with questions about the health and welfare of family members and friends still living at home. They asked about the condition of the crops. They talked about the battles they witnessed. They shared information about friends from home who were serving with them ... their illnesses ... the hospital stays ... their deaths. They talked of wanting to come home and of hoping the war would end soon, like all men in the Confederate Army.

However, as I read this book, I realized the Boyd sons were expressing deep emotions about the war and home in their letters ... something not all letters from the war contained. The reader gets a very good look inside the hearts and



souls of this South Carolina family.

Edited by J. Keith Jones
Publisher: McFarland & Company, Inc.
Jefferson, North Carolina and London
www.mcfarlandpub.com
800-253-2187
Paperback \$45.00

Reviewed by Elizabeth D. Wilson

The Second Maryland Infantry An Oration

This stirring oration honoring the Second Maryland Infantry was delivered by the Reverend Randolph McKim on Friday, May 7, 1909. Reverend McKim spoke at the State House in Annapolis, Maryland. The occasion was the return of the Regimental Flag of the Second Maryland Infantry, carried proudly by these Maryland Confederate soldiers from the summer of 1863 to April 2, 1865, one week before General Lee's surrender. Reverend McKim thanked the Legislature of Ohio for retuning "this precious emblem and memento of our regimental life and history."

The Reverend McKim is identified as "formerly 1st Lieut. and A.D.C., Third Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia."

In this oration, the Reverend McKim covered the complete history of Maryland's service to the Confederacy. He stated "The State of Maryland did not secede from the Union. There was no star in the Confederate flag to represent her." He reminded his 1909 listeners that most Maryland men served the Confederacy as single soldiers or in small units assimilated into larger Confederate forces. Reverend McKim stated "To be a Confederate soldier meant for the Marylander, in addition to hardship and danger, exile from home and kindred."

