

*Look to the Earth: Historical Archaeology and the American Civil War*, edited by Clarence R. Geier, Jr., and Susan E. Winter. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1994. xvi, 325 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth.

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The recent discovery of the sunken Confederate submarine *CSS Hunley* in Charleston Harbor attests to the great potential that historical archeology offers to the study of Civil War history. *Look to the Earth* offers the first compendium of Civil War-related archeological articles. Each of the dozen articles touches on a topic that would interest the archeological avocationist, but the pieces also have been successfully edited for a general audience.

A "new frontier" for Civil War research is the linkage of historical event with place and artifactual context. This new emphasis is largely the product of recent battlefield preservation initiatives. Archeologists are uniquely positioned to link event with artifact, and *Look to the Earth* reflects their leading role in this work. Three of the articles describe how new historical findings resulted from archeological investigation. William B. Lees used artifact patterns to correctly locate the sites of the several phases of the battle of Mine Run in Kansas. Samuel D. Smith knew that artifact hunters consistently have found quantities of unfired "Williams Clean-out bullets" on battlefields. When he excavated the Carter House on the Franklin, Tennessee, battlefield, Smith confirmed that soldiers clearly had discarded these special bullets. This find led Smith to written records that addressed possible reasons for the soldiers' behavior. Lastly, Joel Grossman discovered a pattern of high-status artifacts in what should have been working-class lodgings at the West Point, New York, cannon foundry. This prompted him to identify espionage at the site, including the War Department's support for the clandestine importation of skilled European cannon makers before the Civil War.

The articles will tease the reader who craves more detail, more figures, and more photos, but the intent is to introduce and apply archeological concepts to Civil War sites, not to produce yet another artifact catalog. A forty-page bibliography will lead those readers who yearn for more to the original reports and other useful sources. Archeological reports are usually hard for the general reader to obtain and harder to understand; this work makes contemporary Civil War archeology accessible to a broad and interested readership.

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