



Cecilius Calvert  
First Proprietor  
of Maryland

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Friends of the  
Maryland State Archives

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Calvert Medal, 1634



Anne Arundell  
Calvert  
Wife of Cecilius

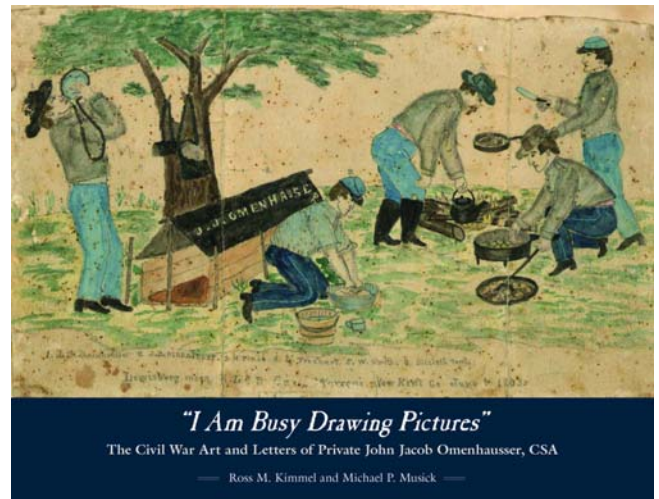
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**Book of Civil War Drawings and Letters by CSA Soldier Published by  
Friends of the Maryland State Archives**

June 13, 2014 --- A new book of drawings and letters by a former Baltimore resident who joined the Confederate Army and was imprisoned at Point Lookout prisoner-of-war camp in St. Mary's County, MD, has been released by the Friends of the Maryland State Archives. *I Am Busy Drawing Pictures: The Civil War Art and Letters of Private John Jacob Omenhausser, CSA*, by Ross M. Kimmel and Michael P. Musick, provides a rare glimpse into the everyday life of a Civil War soldier, especially while imprisoned at Point Lookout. Among the artist's more poignant renderings are many depicting the strained – and sometimes violent – relations between the prisoners and the African American Union troops sent to guard them.

Professor Gary Gallagher, noted Civil War scholar at the University of Virginia and who wrote the book's foreword, observes of Omenhausser, "His gift to subsequent generations lies in his artworks, which offer the best graphic account we have of Civil War prison life."



Using beautiful, high-resolution images of Omenhausser's drawings, as well as texts of his letters, many to his beloved "Annie," the book is a window into the life and soul of an ordinary soldier caught up in a terrible conflict. The book reproduces nearly 80 of Omenhausser's renderings in full color. The renderings are drawn from institutions around the nation and from private collections. The vast majority of Omenhausser's artworks illustrate life at Point Lookout, where he was imprisoned for the last year of the war. Most of the pictures are published here for the first time.

Private Omenhausser's drawings and letters show how the Confederate soldiers at Point Lookout lived, worked, made money, cooked, ate, and played in captivity, and provides insight into how the Confederate soldiers interacted with their African American guards.

The book is the product of many years of research and gathering of letters and images by Ross M. Kimmel and Michael P. Musick, life-long friends who met as teenage re-enactors during the Civil War Centennial of the early 1960s. Mr. Kimmel earned a master's degree from the University of Maryland in colonial American history and Mr. Musick a master's degree in Civil War history from Emory University. Mr. Musick spent his working career as a Civil War documents specialist at the United States National Archives, Mr. Kimmel as chief historian for the Maryland Park Service. Throughout their working lives, they collaborated, as time permitted, on collecting and identifying art by, and documentation about, John J. Omenhausser. Mr. Kimmel gathered the pictures and prepared the narrative for this publication and Mr. Musick edited the letters.

*I Am Busy Drawing Pictures: The Civil War Art and Letters of Private John Jacob Omenhausser* is available for \$45 plus \$3 handling and shipping from the Maryland State Archives through the website: [msa.maryland.gov/msa/homepage/html/bookstore.html](http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/homepage/html/bookstore.html) or send a check for \$45 per copy, plus \$3 to: Maryland State Archives, 350 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis MD 21401. ###