

NOMINATION COVER SHEET
2012 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards

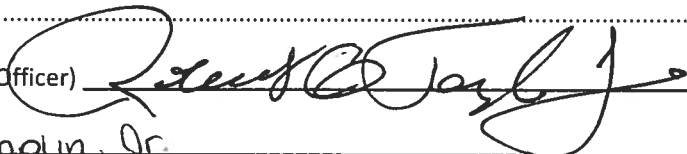
1. <u>NAME</u>	
Full (Legal): Charles P. Poland Jr.	Preferred First Name: Charles
2. <u>INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION</u>	3. <u>PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION</u>
Institution: Northern Virginia Community College	Academic Discipline: History
Rank/Position Title: Professor of History	Specialization/Field: United States History
Year Rank/Title Attained: 1976	Type of Terminal Degree: Ph.D.
Years at Institution: 43	Year Awarded: 1974
Campus Email Address: cpoland@nvcc.edu	Awarding Institution: Western Colorado University
Campus Phone: 703.323.3376	4. <u>PERSONAL INFORMATION</u>
Campus Mailing Address: Division of Liberal Arts, CN 214E 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale, VA 22003	Home Phone:
Campus Communications Contact: -Name: Jessica Baxter -E-mail: jbaxter@nvcc.edu	Cell Phone Number:
	Home Mailing Address:

Please check only one box:

- RESEARCH/DOCTORAL INSTITUTION NOMINEE:
- MASTERS/COMPREHENSIVE INSTITUTION NOMINEE:
- BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTION NOMINEE:
- TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION NOMINEE:
- TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY NOMINEE:
- RISING STAR NOMINEE:

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Signature (President or Chief Academic Officer) 

Printed Name: Robert G. Templin, Jr.

E-mail address: rtemplin@nvcc.edu Telephone: 703-323-3101

MISSION STATEMENT

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

With commitment to the values of access, opportunity, student success, and excellence, the mission of Northern Virginia Community College is to deliver world-class, in-person and online post-secondary teaching, learning, and workforce development to ensure our region and the Commonwealth of Virginia have an educated population and globally competitive workforce.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Charles Poland has taught American history for more than five decades, touching the lives of thousands of students and community members in Northern Virginia. A scholar of the Civil War, he promotes direct engagement with history and its tools. For example, since 1977, he has conducted a celebrated field-trip course to the major and minor battlefields of the Civil War, and he is the creator of a mobile Civil War Museum, now installed at Northern Virginia Community College, with hundreds of artifacts and documents that he has toured to public schools across the region. The author of seven books, he has appeared on television and radio and made countless presentations to historical, civic, and educational groups on the Civil War and on the impact of unfettered development on Northern Virginia.

TEACHING

Dr. Poland works tirelessly to create an appreciation of history in students, and he has inspired many of them to work in the field or to become teachers and professors. His course evaluations praise his enthusiasm, organization, humor, and ability to make history interesting and relevant. "He is the best professor any student could have," writes one student. "He has a real passion for history," writes another. "He not only teaches us history, he shows us how to use it," says another. A long-time student states "A teacher like this impacts lives." Dr. Poland teaches six different courses each semester, including U.S. history surveys, and he has taught graduate courses on Virginia history and the Civil War for the University of Virginia and United States intellectual history at George Mason University. In all of his courses, he encourages original research at libraries and museums, and he asks students to write their own family histories, which often lead to illuminating discoveries. He expands students' historical knowledge through an emphasis on study techniques and writing and organizing answers to essay questions. Through NOVA's Extended Learning Institute, he developed and continues to teach four distance learning courses on Virginia history and the Civil War, reaching students as far away as Afghanistan.

Each year, he offers a field-trip course to major and minor Civil War battle sites in the eastern theater of the war; over time, he has walked through them all with college-age students and also with graduates of colleges and universities interested in the subject. In fact, many students return every year. Since 1977, Dr. Poland has traveled more than 120,000 miles to battlefields from Alexandria, Virginia, to the Ohio River and from Gettysburg to Appomattox, giving hundreds of on-site lectures and using over 200 large original maps of military operations he arduously created from combing original sources and visiting major and little known battle sites. This research has also resulted in more than 300 pages of handouts for students who tramped with him through woods, streams, and up and down hills and mountains during weather that varied from freezing to 100 degrees, from balmy sunny to rainy days. Decades prior to the recent marking of Civil War sites and trails, he and his intrepid students, from early morning to sunset, walked, eating their lunches on the battlefields, studying not only major bloodbaths, like Antietam and Gettysburg, but also lesser-known areas of conflict and obscure characters like the rogue Confederate guerrilla John Mobberly. For more than three decades, Dr. Poland concluded each field trip with his students as dinner guests at the Poland home, where, on occasion, more than sixty people enjoyed a meal on the lawn. These field trips help students capture the emotional feelings and the sweep of the Civil War, bringing the era alive to them in a way that books and articles alone cannot do. These courses have also motivated several of his students to author their own books.

Dr. Poland has long supported the Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia, dedicated to providing continuing education for older adults. His lectures to these well-educated and motivated seniors have included "The Life of Abraham Lincoln," "The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln," and "Marriage, Medicine and Lifestyles in Colonial Virginia," and a tour of the Northern Virginia Community College Civil War Museum. He has been active giving presentations to another organization dedicated to providing educational opportunities for retired citizens, Elderhostel. For this group Dr. Poland has lectured on the "Great Emancipation," the "Old Dominion," "Civil War Medicine" and "Civil War Weapons."

In recognition of his teaching, he has received several awards, including the NOVA Alumni Federation Faculty of Year Award in 2008 and the Outstanding Faculty Award, voted by students on the Annandale Campus, in 1983 and 1987. In 1986 he was honored with an award from the Virginia Institute for Instructional Excellence. Other honors include the Award for Outstanding Contributions to the History of Loudoun County and, while a college student, he was the winner of an essay contest sponsored by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, for his work, entitled, "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address." His teaching also receives accolades from former students. Jim Lewis, a former student researching the Civil War at the 2011 Bull Run Round Table, calls Dr. Poland, "the best teacher he has ever had." Ron Blevins, who discovered the unknown grave of a Confederate soldier on the Ox Hill battle site, credits his former professor for inspiring his Civil War studies. And Dr. Ethan S. Rafuse, a renowned author and professor of military history, recognized Dr. Poland in the acknowledgments section of his book, *McClellan's War* (2005): "Meeting Charles P. Poland, Jr. in the summer of 1987 was one of the turning points of my life, as his guidance and example transformed my interest in the American past into a passion and inspired me to make studying and teaching history a career."

DISCOVERY

Although Northern Virginia Community College does not require that its professors publish scholarly research, Dr. Poland has authored seven books in addition to numerous articles and book reviews. His research has taken him to private libraries and family records, as well as to prominent libraries and archives. He has written on local history (*Dunbarton: Dranesville, Virginia; A Loudoun County Story; The Lure of Loudoun*); urbanization (*From Frontier to Suburbia; A Forgotten Way of Life*); American history (*An Introductory Outline of American History*), and terrorism (*The Good Terrorist: John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry*). His articles, among other subjects, have considered President Lincoln ("Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties; A Reappraisal," *Lincoln Herald*) and the Revolutionary War in Virginia ("Architects of Freedom; Remarkable Virginians," *Northern Virginia Country*). The latter is an extensive examination of the Revolutionary movement in the Old Dominion.

Three of his books have been used in college courses, *An Introductory Outline of American History*, *From Frontier to Suburbia* (1976, revised in 2005), and *The Glories of War*. *An Introductory Outline* is designed as a supplementary aid for students in introductory survey courses in American history. It assists students in developing; (1) a chronological and conceptual awareness of the salient developments in American history, (2) a basic bibliographical "vocabulary" as the result of exposure to historical interpretations, and (3) the skills necessary to organize and apply the above information on subjective examinations. *From Frontier to Suburbia* has been used in a course on urbanization at George Mason University and a graduate course on Virginia offered at the University of Virginia. *The Washington Post* published a feature article on the book, which uses the history of the nation's fastest growing county as a microcosm of American history in an attempt to legitimize local history as a professional field of study while calling attention to the consequences of indiscriminate

transformation of fertile farmland into subdivisions. It deals with a central theme in our nation's domestic history, the shift from the farm to the city. Research for this book was challenging. In addition to using the state library and archives, Dr. Poland had to sit amid the presses of the Loudoun *Times Mirror* copying from bound copies of its earlier issues. For a year he daily rushed from the Annandale campus after class to the Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg (at that time, a private library) before it closed at 5:00 p.m. This facility had no duplicating facilities. So all day, each Saturday, Dr. Poland's wife and two daughters, aged seven and three, assisted him, his young daughters arguing over whom would insert the special paper or press the copy button on his slow portable copier that overheated if used extensively, producing unreadable charred copies. Their reward was lunch at McDonald's.

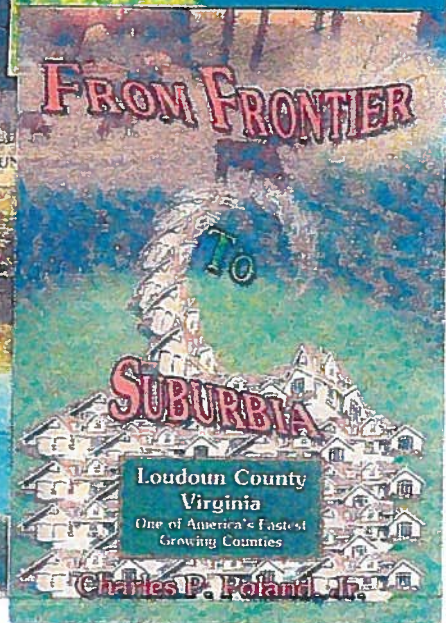
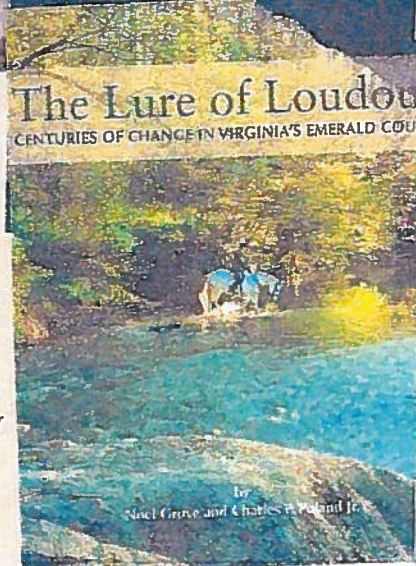
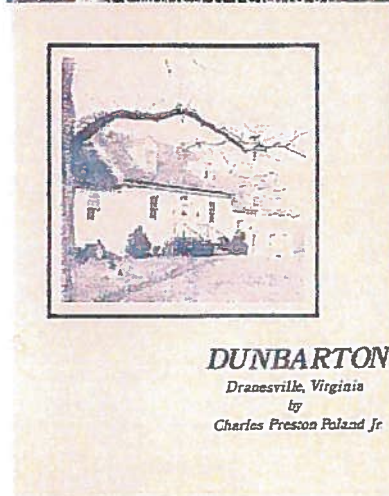
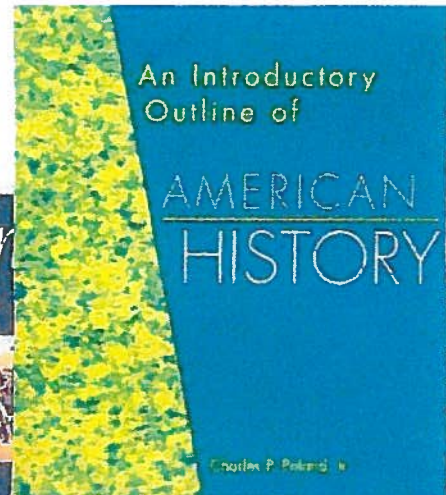
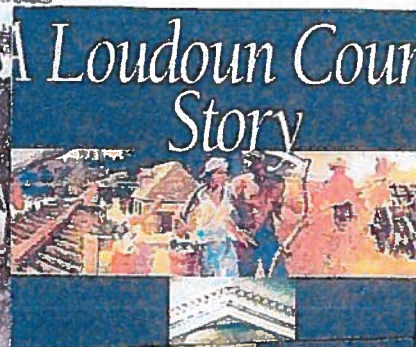
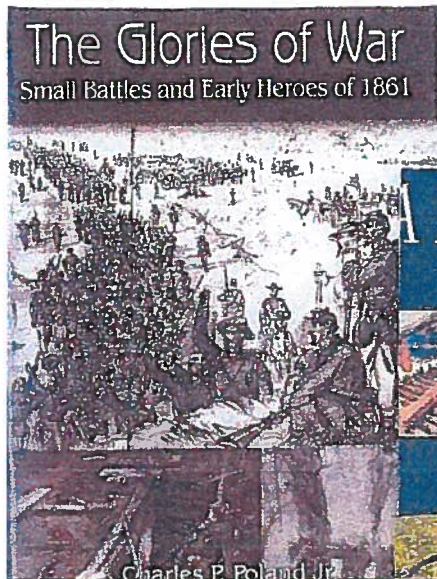
Research for *The Glories of War* was more traditional. The book tells the tales of little-known military activities and now-forgotten heroes who dominated public opinion in 1861. The book reveals citizen-soldiers' romanticized expectations of glory and their dreams shattered by the cruel realities of war. It is the first book to discuss the Union's four invasion corridors into 1861 Virginia, and it illuminates the usually ignored combat in western Virginia (now West Virginia). In the remote mountains, underfed men lacking proper clothing were exhausted by long marches and often inept leadership and sickness. Their disillusionment caused a Union soldier to lament that a man "must think a d—n sight of his country to suffer this way to defend it." As the weather grew colder, another wrote "I have seen wagons crowded with sick men with no bedding but a knapsack and old blanket and conveyed over miserably rough roads and ... put out when they could be hauled no further to drag themselves over the mountains best they could – staggering from weakness and disease ... or try to walk until their last expiring breath ... and then buried in some unknown spot, far away from home and loved ones."

Reviews of *The Glories of War* include that of E. B. Vandiver II, director of the Center for Army Analysis, who states that "based on his long experience and careful examination of the geography and terrain he [Poland] has published one of the most informative Civil War books of recent decades." The book is currently being used in planning celebrations for the Civil War sesquicentennial in Northern Virginia. Park Ranger Ted Alexander in July 2011 at the Chambersburg Civil War Seminar recommended it as "must" reading to the gathering of Civil War enthusiasts from all over the country.

Soon to be published is *A Forgotten Way of Life*. Harried commuters whiz and sputter over Northern Virginia's crowded highways on their ways to work in the nation's capital and surrounding suburbs. Preoccupied drivers travel over highways that were once farmland, unaware of the life that came before them: an agrarian way of life that most Americans experienced from colonial times to the mid-twentieth century. Unlike the urban commuters' days spent in sterile offices and cars, life on the farm has always been allied with nature. Sun, rain, storms, and freezing temperatures impact the success of cultivation and husbandry. Hard physical labor is the norm. For years, Northern Virginians lived primarily on family farms with unlocked doors. They knew their neighbors for miles around and saw them at church on Sunday mornings. Technological advances changed the scenery: the horse has been replaced with an iron horse, the tractor; and the use of farmland has shifted from tobacco to wheat to dairy farming. But the rhythm and cycle of farm work remain the same.

The Good Terrorist: John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry is a work in progress. Brown has been called America's first terrorist, and certainly he is one of her most controversial figures, whose far-reaching violent action was driven by what he deemed his duty as an agent of God to rid the nation of the sinful act of slavery. His actions inflamed Southern fears of Northerners conspiring to provoke slave revolts and muted the impact of the numerous voices of Northern moderates.

Response to his raid pointed out the inadequacies of the militia system and led to Southern mobilization that was a rehearsal for war. To the Northern abolitionists, Brown was a martyr; to Southerners, he was a murderer, traitor, and terrorist. The debate rages on today. Many see Brown's actions against slavery justified, while others question his decision to violently take the law into his own hands to right a wrong when it cost innocent lives. The book goes into greater depth than traditional accounts in analyzing the origin, nature and impact of the 36-hour raid. It also examines the motivation of each of the seventeen white and five black recruits that made up Brown's liberation army, and how their actions at the Ferry impacted the lives of their families.



KNOWLEDGE/INTEGRATION

Dr. Poland extends his teaching far beyond the classroom. He has given 162 presentations to students in public schools and to senior citizen groups, and civic and historical societies. He has spoken to countless Civil War Round Tables and to bicentennial celebrations of the American Revolution, as well as a Civil War sesquicentennial seminar sponsored by the National Park Service. He has been interviewed by television and radio stations on the Civil War and on the impact of population growth in Northern Virginia.

He was the keynote speaker at the dedication of the Loudoun County Administration Building in Leesburg and the keynote speaker at the Eighty-Ninth Annual Convention of the Virginia Daughters of the Confederacy. He delivered a lecture on slavery at a seminar sponsored by the Loudoun Farm Museum and the Virginia Foundation of Humanities and Public Policy, and he made repeated appearances on WJLA-TV (Channel 7), in Washington, DC, discussing the mini-series on the Civil War, *North/South*. NVCC-TV filmed a series of programs, "Northern Virginia in the 1860s and Today," in 2002, and WMAL-Radio of Washington, DC, broadcast a one-hour interview with Dr. Poland on "The History of Northern Virginia," as part of its Bicentennial Series.

Dr. Poland is the creator of the Northern Virginia Community College Mobile Civil War Museum, which is now installed as a permanent Civil War Museum on NOVA's Annandale Campus. He spent years traveling to Civil War shows and private collections to amass hundreds of rare artifacts, including letters, cannon balls, and medical kits, and he transformed a large truck van into a traveling museum. It houses major displays on weapons, women's lives, medicine, the everyday experience of a soldier, and the casualties of war, including a copy of a blood-stained letter from a dying Confederate soldier to his father. This extensive project required him to work for months on exhibits amid the fumes and loud noise of the truck's generator. He also spent a long period researching and writing extensive narratives explaining the exhibits. One of the most challenging jobs was getting iron steps with a railing made for the back door of the van to accommodate the exits of large numbers of visitors. Working with a welder he was able to solve the problem, but moving the nearly 200 pound steps out of the van, attaching and later putting them back in the van, required several strong backs. Beginning in 1983, he spent one day a week from March through May traveling with the mobile museum to countless public schools and nursing homes in Northern Virginia, giving lectures and tours. Previously, he had given sixty-seven 45-minute lectures on the Civil War to elementary, middle and high schools in Northern Virginia before tours of the mobile museum. At the conclusion of one of his lectures to an assembly of about 400 fourth graders he asked: Are there any questions? An inquisitive young boy asked him to list the Civil War battles in which he fought. During the spring, summer and fall, he spent at least six weekends giving tours to civic and historical groups from Northern Virginia to Pennsylvania, reaching some 14,000 persons annually. In 2004, he created a permanent location for the museum in NOVA's Annandale Campus Library, where he continues to conduct tours for classes and other groups, and has prepared an audio tour of the museum.

SERVICE

His contributions to the college and community are extensive. Dr. Poland has served as division chair of Social Sciences at NOVA and assistant division chair for History and Sociology. He has also served on many college and campus committees, including the Steering Committee for Institutional Self-Study, the Curriculum and Instruction Committee, the Learning Resources Committee (chair), the Campus Traffic Committee, the Campus Food Service Committee (chair), the Committee for Scheduling Courses on Annandale Campus for High School Students,

thirteen full-time faculty selection committees, the Leonard J. Mills Lecture Series (chair), the Annandale Campus Lyceum Committee, the Human Resources Development Funds Committee, the Division Chair Selection Committee, the Annandale Campus Provost Search Committee, and the Professional Development Committee.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors appointed Dr. Poland to the Loudoun County Open Space Committee, and State Senator Charles Waddell appointed him to the Chesapeake and Ohio Advisory National Historical Park Commission. He has served as president of the Northern Virginia Historians Association and also as a member of the advisory board of *Northern Virginia Heritage*, the advisory board for writing *Fairfax County, Virginia: A History*, and the advisory boards for the Loudoun County Heritage Farm Museum, the Thomas Balch Library, the Loudoun County Public Library, the Bicentennial Committee for Loudoun County, and the Loudoun County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. Dr. Poland was a member of the Awards Committee of *Northern Virginia Heritage* and a reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities and for the University of Virginia Press.

When Dr. Neil Reynolds first became provost of the Loudoun Campus of NVCC, he was asked if he knew Charles Poland. He said "When I first came to Loudoun County everyone I met seemed to know him. It was like I was following his shadow."

PERSONAL STATEMENT

My early years were those of a farm boy. My family lived off the land of our ancestors, where I cultivated crops, cared for livestock, and worked on my father's large poultry farm. Later I worked in his construction business, building custom homes. Recreational activities were often affiliated with 4-H and later, with the Future Farmers of America.

At the age of twelve, my interest in history was sparked when our minister gave me a biography of Abraham Lincoln. I was impressed that despite his humble origins and lack of formal education, Lincoln achieved greatness. My next inspiration was Dr. Melvin Herndon, whose high-school American history course included visits to Civil War battlefields. I entered Bridgewater College planning to major in history and become an attorney. But during the first few weeks, homesickness nearly terminated my collegiate career. I called my parents to say I was coming home to work with Dad in his construction business, and that phone call elicited a parental visit. I remember to this day my father's clarion statement in the midst of my misery: "Son, you can always join me in building homes, but I regret not having the opportunity of obtaining a college education." I stayed put.

While earning my B.A. degree, I took some education courses, thinking I would teach history for a few years in high school before going to law school. However, once I graduated and entered the classroom, I was shocked to learn that being a public school teacher demanded more than befriending students, especially those who posed disciplinary problems. Over time, I learned my craft, gradually adjusting and finding that teaching was not only challenging but extremely rewarding. Law school was pushed aside, and part-time positions at George Mason University and the then-emerging Northern Virginia Community College strengthened my resolve to teach.

Full-time employment at NOVA was yet another turning point for me, fulfilling a long-standing ambition and giving me expanded opportunities. After several years in the classroom, I was named chair of the Social Science Division, which brought challenging administrative problems, along with enjoyable and satisfying work with faculty and students. But I found that I missed teaching. The lure of the classroom and my desire to do more research and writing led to the difficult decision to resign my administrative position and to return to full-time teaching.

That move enabled me to teach a variety of courses, both in the classroom and through distance learning at NOVA's Extended Learning Institute (ELI). I have taught courses in U.S. History and Western Civilization, the Military History of the Civil War, the History of Virginia, and graduate courses for the University of Virginia (the Civil War and Reconstruction and Life in Nineteenth-Century Virginia) and George Mason University (the Intellectual and Cultural History of the United States). I also established and then extensively traveled and lectured with the mobile Civil War Museum, and I developed and created annual field trip courses covering the eastern theater of the Civil War. These last are the most challenging to teach. The preparation and physical demands are daunting, and there are uncontrollable variables, such as weather, traffic, recent urban development, and difficulty reaching obscure sites.

One field trip involved tracing the steps of Stonewall Jackson's men in 1862 over a now long-abandoned road to Brown's Gap on Massanutten Mountain. I recall stopping my car on a narrow road to roll large rocks over the side of a blocked road and listening to their long trip to the bottom of a steep terrain. Not long after, a large black bear lumbered across the road just a few feet from me. I was miles away from a house, back in the days before cell phones, and no one knew my location. It struck me that if I had a serious mishap, I would likely not be found for a long time.

That uneasy feeling returned several years later when I was tracing the path of the 1861 failed Union flanking movement of the Confederates at Carnifex Ferry (West Virginia). I struggled on my hands and knees, clinging to any small bush I could grasp, to pull myself up a steep 400-foot ravine covered with tangles of undergrowth and huge fallen trees. I finally reached the top, relieved to look out over the beautiful Gauley River far below; but my feeling of relief disappeared when I gazed upon a small sign. I had reached "Rattlesnake Point."

My research and writing reflect the influence of one of my graduate professors, Dr. Arthur Ekirch. He stimulated my interest in intellectual history and showed me how to organize and synthesize information. He inspired me to write books because they needed writing, and not because they would become commercial successes. This fueled a number of books, among them, *An Introductory Outline of American History*, which assists students in organizing information and understanding our nation's history. My specific interest in the Civil War led to *The Glories of War: Small Battles and Early Heroes of 1861*, which is the first study of the Union's invasion of Virginia from four directions and tells the tales of little-known military activities and forgotten heroes who dominated public attention in 1861.

In addition to my research on traditional historical subjects, my writing reflects personal experiences, as I have witnessed Northern Virginia's transition from farm to city. I have attended meetings and spoken before zoning boards and boards of supervisors to save farm land and local historical structures, and I've interviewed longstanding residents to tell their stories. (These stories appear in *From Frontier to Suburbia: Loudoun County – One of America's Fastest Growing Counties*; *Dunbarton: Dranesville, Virginia*, and *A Forgotten Way of Life*.) Loudoun County's communities and greater Northern Virginia have gone through two frontiers since the 1700s. The first was the farming frontier of the settlers. They altered the environment and wildlife with the ax and musket. The second (and current) is the urban frontier, which is displacing the farm as bulldozers severely alter the terrain in preparation for the next tidal wave of development. This frontier has brought about a crisis of change: a demographic revolution, escalating property taxes, congested roads and more demand for schools and services. It is traumatic for wildlife, as deer, geese, hawks, skunks, possums, foxes, and groundhogs seek open land on farms, devouring vegetable and flower gardens. Our wildlife is losing habitat to subdivisions that surround our farm land. Those subdivisions are hosts to peering eyes, often far removed from farming life, who gaze upon the animals – and also upon me as I mow the fields or drive the cattle to another site. Neither fowl nor four-legged creatures want to forego their claim to the land.

Though I am conflicted about the nature of this historical change, it is my job to record it and share it with my students and with community members, all of whom find that history is part of every moment in their lives. I have had the good fortune to be able to earn a living doing something that is challenging, enjoyable and rewarding. Have I reached or changed the lives of every one of the 15,000 students I have taught, as I have attempted to expand their historical knowledge by emphasizing study techniques and writing substantive answers to essay questions? No. But I like to think that I have helped many, and I have been especially gratified to instruct strongly motivated students who come to NOVA, not only from Virginia, but from 150 countries. The reward of teaching is witnessing students' achievements, not just in my classroom, but also in their careers, whether they pursue graduate degrees in history or other achievements. A bonus has been my continued friendships with former students, from the most recent graduates to those of previous decades.

My life was significantly shaped by a special teacher and inspiring professor. I hope I have carried on their legacy.

**ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE
CHARLES P. POLAND JR.**

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in American History (1974), Western Colorado University
M.A. in History (1961), The American University
B.A. in History (1957), The American University

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor of History, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 1967-present
Chair of Social Sciences Division, NVCC, 1974-1979
Assistant Division Chair of Social Sciences Division for History and Sociology, 1969 – 1974
Adjunct Professor of History, University of Virginia, Northern Virginia Center, 1979-1985
Adjunct Professor of History, George Mason University, 1967-1968
Social Studies Teacher, Herndon high School, Fairfax County, 1963-1967
Social Studies Teacher, Loudoun County High School, 1957-1963

COURSES TAUGHT

Survey courses in United States History and History of Western Civilization, Military History of the Civil War, History of Virginia I & II, Tracing Your Civil War Ancestors, Seminar and Project: Civil War Battlefields (on-site, eastern theater), Intellectual and Cultural History of the United States (George Mason University), Civil War and Reconstruction (graduate course, University of Virginia), Life in Nineteenth-Century Virginia (graduate course, University of Virginia)

SELECTED SCHOLARSHIP

Books

An Introductory Outline of American History. Kendall/Hunt, 1971. Reprinted Ginn Press, 1989.
Dunbarton: Dranesville, Virginia. Fairfax Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1974.
From Frontier to Suburbia. Walsworth Publishing, 1976. Revised as *From Frontier to Suburbia: One of America's Fastest Growing Counties.* Heritage Press, 2005.
A Loudoun County Story. The Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, 2002.
The Glories of War: Small Battles and Early Heroes of 1861. Author/House, 2004.
The Lure of Loudoun: Centuries of Change in Virginia's Emerald County. Loudoun Museum, 2007 (co-author).
A Forgotten Way of Life. Dog Ear Press. (forthcoming)
The Good Terrorist: John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry. (work in progress)

Articles

"Architects of Freedom; Remarkable Virginians," *Northern Virginia Country*, 1972.
"Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties: A Reappraisal," *Lincoln Herald*, 1974. Reprinted in *The Landscape of American History*, 1979 and *Ekirch Festschrift*, 1984.
"Samuel M. Janney: A Quaker Crusader," *Northern Virginia Heritage*, 1981.
"The Carnage at Ball's Bluff," *Northern Virginia Heritage*, 1987.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

"The History of Northern Virginia," one-hour interview WMAL Radio, Bicentennial Series, Washington, DC, 1974.

"Loudoun County and the American Revolution," Bicentennial Celebration, Courthouse, Leesburg, 1976.
"Growth and the Crisis of Change," keynote speaker at the dedication of the Loudoun County Administration Building, Leesburg, Virginia, 1977.
"King Cotton," keynote speech for the 89th Annual Convention of the Virginia Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Tysons Corner, Virginia, 1984.
Repeated appearances on WJLA-TV (Channel 7), Washington, DC, October and November, 1985 discussing the mini-series on the Civil War, *North/South*.
Sixty-seven 45- minute lectures, "The Civil War," for grade, middle and high schools in Northern Virginia, prior to touring NVCC Mobile Civil War Museum, 1985-1996.
"Battle of Brandy Station," guided tour for District of Columbia Civil War Round Table, 1985.
"Life in Colonial Virginia," Lifetime Learning Institute, NVCC, Annandale, 1991.
"Slavery in Loudoun County," seminar sponsored by Loudoun Farm Museum and the Virginia Foundation of Humanities and Public Policy, Rust Library, Leesburg, 2001.
"Northern Virginia in the 1860's and Today," NVCC-TV series, 2002.
Lectures and book signings for *The Glories of War*, Borders, Fairfax, Virginia, and Barnes & Noble, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 2005.
"The Kanawha Valley Campaign of 1861," Harpers Ferry Civil War Round Table, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, 2008.
"Big Bethel and Beyond," Chambersburg Civil War Seminar on 1861, Hagerstown, Maryland, July, 2011.

SELECTED HONORS

NVCC Alumni Federation Faculty of Year, Annandale Campus, 2008.
Outstanding Faculty Member, Annandale Campus, awarded by Northern Virginia Community College, 1987.
Award for Teaching Excellence, Virginia Institute for Instructional Excellence, 1986.
Voted "Most Outstanding Faculty Member" by students, 1983.
Award for Outstanding Contributions to the History of Loudoun County, Thomas Balch Library, 1990.
Who's Who Among Scholars in American Community, Technical and Junior Colleges, 1987.
Winner of Essay Contest, "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address," Military Order of the Loyal Legion," Naval Museum, Washington, DC, 1957.

SELECTED SERVICE

Member, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, 1990-1993 (appointed by state senator Charles Waddell).
Member, Loudoun County Open Space Committee, 1975-1979.
Creator and director of the NVCC Mobile and Permanent Museums, 1985 - present
President of Northern Virginia History Association, 1985.
Advisory Board, *Northern Virginia Heritage*, 1978-1990; Awards Committee, 1986.
NVCC Steering Committee for Institutional Self-Study, 1970.
Annandale Campus Learning Resources Committee, 1970-1974.
Annandale Campus Human Resources Development Fund Committee, 1993-1997.
Annandale Campus Lyceum Committee, 1993-1998.
Member and chair of twelve faculty search committees, 1969-2005.
Member of Provost Search Committee for Annandale Campus, 2004.
Reviewer for the National Endowment for the Humanities, 1982-1986.
Reviewer for the University of Virginia Press for local history, 2007.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT (EXCERPTED)

There is always that one professor who made a difference in your undergraduate schooling. Someone who went the extra mile, who expanded your way of thinking, and who made you believe in yourself. For me, that professor was Dr. Charles Poland. I was not a "typical" undergraduate when I met him. I had already earned a bachelor's degree in journalism when I began taking history courses at Northern Virginia Community College, basically for fun. After finishing several grueling online courses with Dr. Poland, I joined his yearly Civil War field trip course. Throughout my six-year tenure, I fell more deeply in love with history and have since made it my profession. Dr. Poland did not play a small part in this life-changing decision. Trudging through obscure, unknown Civil War sites in the oppressive heat of Virginia in July, I learned that history is an event to be experienced. Never missing a beat, Dr. Poland led his students on many an adventure into the joys and hardships of the past and brought history alive in a way that many students are never fortunate enough to experience. For example, Dr. Poland taught me that you couldn't truly begin to understand the intricacies of battle until you have walked the fields, examined the terrain, felt the heat, and followed the paths of those who came before you. Dr. Poland is an unending fountain of knowledge and delights in sharing it with his students. He is kind and patient, yet nevertheless expects only the highest quality work from his students. Dr. Poland loves history, and he passes that on to his students. He is a professor who changed my life for the better, and I will always be thankful for his mentorship.
Lynn Price, Doctoral Student at George Mason University

I have known Charles for forty years. He joined the faculty of Northern Virginia Community College shortly after it began operations in the 1960s. From 1967 to 1974 Dr. Poland was the Assistant Division Chair of the Social Sciences Division of the Annandale Campus. One of his primary functions in this capacity was the initial staffing of the History department there. His recruitment policy was so effective that his historians worked together extremely well and remained at NOVA for their entire careers. In 1974 Dr. Poland was appointed Chair of the Social Sciences Division; I replaced him as Assistant Division Chair for History. When he returned to full-time teaching in 1979, I technically became his immediate supervisor until I retired in 2008. . . . He is the founder and Director of the NOVA Civil War Museum, now located in the Annandale Campus Library, and he also pioneered several Civil War distance learning courses for NOVA's Extended Learning Institute (ELI). Generations of students have taken his Civil War field trip courses over the years. The main point to be stressed is the outstanding quality of Dr. Poland's teaching. His knowledge of his subject, his respect for and caring of his students, and his unique personal characteristics have earned him several teaching awards and inspired many of his students to pursue a career in education. Some fragments from a recent "ratemyprofessor.com" entry may state it best: "There is a genuine quality about Dr. Poland...his honest wisdom... (It) is nice to hear a person who knows his stuff!"
Dr. Wallace Hutcheon, Professor Emeritus of History, Annandale Campus, NOVA

Dr. Poland's courage and dedication to education, along with his phenomenal grasp of Civil War History, led me into my selected profession as a high school history teacher. His advice guided my decision to seek my passion rather than a career choice that I only imagined would provide for my immediate needs. I commend him for his wisdom. During my years at NOVA (1983-1985), Dr. Poland gave me the unique opportunity to assist with the campus' Mobile Civil War Museum Exhibit as driver and living history interpreter, combining my needs for part-time employment and my improving skills as educator with his continuing efforts at promoting our region's wonderfully superb Civil War history. When his long-awaited volume *The Glories of War* was released in 2004, I was eager to read it. Amazed, I visualized much of his writing as vividly as I had during my years of attending his Civil War field trip classes while enrolled at NOVA. . . . His mentorship

and friendship over many years have made a greater impact on more people than he could ever imagine. I repeat his name in my classes each year as a never-tiring example of scholarship, energy, and research skills.

Charles T. Harrell, U.S. History Teacher, Spotsylvania High School, and Author of History's Moments Revealed: American Historical Tableaus (2006)

Dr. Charles Poland's professional career actively continues after more than fifty years of teaching, research, and community service. He is a singular scholar in his commitment to students, his contributions to the discipline of history, and his engagement with public and private institutions in Virginia. His educational experience includes teaching at the secondary, college, university, undergraduate, and graduate levels. He emphasizes the foundation principles of learning: study techniques, how to organize and write essay examinations, book reports, and term papers thereby facilitating a student's ability to understand and convey major developments in American history. He assists individuals of all ethnic backgrounds to research the history of immigration to America and encourages recent immigrants to investigate their own family history. Dr. Poland once expressed his philosophy of teaching by saying "you have to be on the side of students and let them know you want them to do well." He is the author of seven books and has also been the featured speaker at hundreds of presentations to educational and community associations including the Virginia Foundation of Humanities and Public Policy, the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Alexandria Historical Society, the Civil War Round Tables of Harpers Ferry, Front Royal, Ashburn, and Loudoun County, the American University Institute for Learning in Retirement, the NOVA Lifetime Learning Institute, Leesburg's Thomas Batch Library, the Manassas City Museum, and many primary and secondary schools throughout Northern Virginia. In the words of Dr. Poland, "Professionals owe it to the residents of local areas to enrich their awareness of life there and to verify the details of their history." His research and publications have markedly enhanced the historiography of local history and the Civil War. His book *From Frontier to Suburbia: Loudoun County, Virginia* offers a microcosm analysis of trends occurring throughout the United States as urbanization encroaches on rural farmlands. *The Glories of War: Small Battles and Early Heroes of 1861* emphasizes the sacrifice of life which war inevitably inflicts on all participants, civilian and military. Students, colleagues, and a vast public audience are indebted to a very modest Virginia gentleman whose life is devoted to so many grateful constituents.

Dr. William Kinsella, Assistant Dean of History, Annandale Campus, NOVA

Dr. Poland has a reputation as not only an excellent instructor but also a highly respected scholar of the Civil War. While faculty at four-year institutions are known for their research, the combination of teaching excellence and research at the community college, where the emphasis is placed on instruction, is not an easy accomplishment. Before taking on the role as Provost of the Annandale Campus, I was Division Chair of Liberal Arts. It was in this role that I became aware of Dr. Poland's expertise. What first stood out was his involvement in offering field trip courses to major and minor Civil War battle sites in the eastern theater of the war. Since 1977, Dr. Poland has traveled more than 120,000 miles to battlefields from Alexandria to the Ohio River and from Gettysburg to Appomattox giving on-site lectures. It is not surprising that over the years Dr. Poland has received numerous awards, including the coveted NVCC Alumni Federation Faculty of Year in 2008, which requires nomination by students. This award indicates that even though Dr. Poland has been teaching more than five decades, he has never lost his love for teaching and that his students recognize this. When I became Liberal Arts Division Chair, I soon learned about the Northern Virginia Community College Mobile Civil War Museum that Dr. Poland had created and that the trailer he used to visit public schools and nursing homes in Northern Virginia giving lectures and tours was no longer useable. Leaving the extensive materials that Dr. Poland had collected as part of his Museum in a non-functioning van

and not available for public view was not an option. As we developed a space in the campus library to exhibit his materials, I was struck by Dr. Poland's sensitivity to this era of American history evident in his displays. . . . One might think that having taught for so many years, he would lose energy for the classroom and/or scholarly pursuits. Instead, Dr. Poland's commitment to his students and his love of his discipline stay strong.

Dr. Barbara Saperstone, Provost, Annandale Campus, NOVA

I have known Dr. Poland for more than 20 years through my time as Director of the Fort Ward Civil War Museum and Historic Site and as Vice President of the Civil War Round Table of Alexandria. During this time I became well aware of his passion, dedication and tireless efforts to bring history to the public. His positive attitude is infectious, not only to the students in his classroom, but in his presentations to many historical and community groups. I was always impressed with his effort to ensure that his audience left with a deeper appreciation of the lecture subject. While many historians focus on major Civil War events, Dr. Poland enriched us with his presentations on little-known, or often overlooked events, which have given us all a much broader view of the facts. Dr. Poland was also an early advocate of bringing history to the public through his creation of a mobile Civil War museum that went throughout the Northern Virginia area. It is indeed an honor to recommend such a fine educator. . . .

Wanda S. Dowell, Director (Retired) of the Fort Ward Civil War Museum, Alexandria

For over two decades, I have been enrolled in Dr. Poland's Civil War Advanced Seminar, learning not only the *where* and *when* of the many battles in this conflict, but more important, the *why*. We have journeyed many thousands of miles to historic sites – no skirmish too insignificant. Dr. Poland's book, *The Glories of War*, covers the events leading up to secession in Virginia as well as the early battles of 1861. Many historical groups planning for the sesquicentennial are using his book as a guide in finalizing their own events. Dr. Poland's assistance and advanced research have been most helpful to me in pinpointing the participation of my own ancestors, seven in all – five Confederate and two Union.

John Briar III, Retired Insurance Executive

On our field trips, Dr. Poland showed the class empty fields and helped us see marching, fighting soldiers in blue and gray. He took us to sites of great battles -- Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg -- and explained how they changed history. He took us to [the sites of] lesser known battles and helped us understand why they, too, were important. His class sometimes laughed about the funny diagrams [he created] to make complicated battles seem simple, but we also learned why commanders sought simple goals with complicated tactics. My son was so impressed by Dr. Poland that he took two of his classroom American History courses. Dr. Poland wants his classes to read, and read I did. I learned not only of armies and war, but of an America just industrializing, tying itself together by telegraph and railroads, of sections uniting by beliefs and then tearing the country apart. Perhaps lessons we should learn from again today. A teacher like this impacts lives. I am seventy-three years old. Dr. Poland showed me how much I still need to learn.

Frank Clover

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Responses to questions about Dr. Poland by NVCC students on the 2010-11 evaluation forms

"Great atmosphere and wonderful teacher."

"He taught the class as if he was telling a story, not actually teaching."

"Very knowledgeable."

"A great teacher. . . . Very respectful."

"He really cares about his students."

"Thank you for helping me learn more about our nation's history."

"Very good teacher and really tries to get you to understand"

"Great work, Dr. Poland!"

"Organized everything well [which] allows a better understanding of the material."

"I like that the teacher tried to teach us not just history. He also tried to teach us how to retain a lot of information."

"Very informative and passionate; examined details that other U.S. history classes leave out."

"The best teacher I have had at NOVA."

"I came into this class with no expectations. It was a course I needed to take; however, I have absorbed so much about American history. I am fascinated and look forward to continuing my next history class with enthusiasm."

"Amazing!"

"This was a terrific class that will be very useful [to me] in teaching high school students the importance of Civil War history. I wanted to learn something more than just the basics in our SOL curriculum. . . . very fair, challenging, and encourages independent discovery. This class was the highlight of the summer."

"He's pretty awesome."

"I very much enjoyed the class. This was the first college course I had taken in almost 20 years and the first one ever online. Professor Poland was extremely helpful and understanding. . . and he responded quickly. I enjoyed the text, and the assignments were specific and directed to the important events of the Civil War."

"Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

Comments assembled by Dr. Bruce Mann, Liberal Arts Division Dean, from 2010-2011 student evaluation forms for History 121 and 122 (U.S. History I and II), HIS 266 (Military History of the Civil War), HIS 269 (Civil War and Reconstruction), and HIS 281 (History of Virginia I)

Anyone who has studied with Dr. Poland will tell you that he is an outstanding teacher of history, one who has the rare ability to bring the subject to life with both humor and intellectual rigor. . . . For me, Dr. Poland was not just a great teacher (though he was that to be sure) but one of the truly pivotal individuals in my life, for it was while taking classes with him and watching him work both inside and outside the classroom that I was inspired to make history the focus of my studies with an eye on pursuing a career in teaching. Dr. Poland was generous with wise counsel and encouragement as I then successfully pursued bachelor's and master's degrees in history at George Mason University and a doctorate at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He has continued to serve as both a mentor and role model during my career as a teacher of history, which has taken me from Johnson County Community College to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to my current position at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College – and seen me shamelessly flatter him with more than a little (admittedly pale) imitation in the classroom. Indeed, it was with great delight that I got to once again watch him work and receive the benefit of his teaching at a recent Civil War symposium in Maryland. Not surprisingly, during his presentation, one of the program's organizers leaned over to me and told me how lucky I was to have had the opportunity to study under him – as if I needed a reminder.

Dr. Ethan S. Rafuse, Professor of Military History, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and author of McClellan's War (2005) and Robert E. Lee and the Fall of the Confederacy (2008)

Dr. Charles Poland is my mentor and has been since I first attended his lectures many years ago. He took the time to listen to me and to provide direction. I am indebted to Dr. Poland because he encouraged my choice to attend graduate school and to become a teacher. . . . Dr. Poland's annual Civil War field trip course was an event for me, not just a class. I signed up every year for twelve years, even after graduating from Northern Virginia Community College and while attending George Mason University as an undergraduate and then as a graduate. I moved to the Atlanta area in 2002, but still took a flight to Washington just to attend the Gettysburg portion of his field trip series. . . . I recall one field trip to Chancellorsville, Virginia, the site where Grant began the final campaign of the war in the Eastern Theater during the spring of 1864. At one of the stops there was an interpretive display that described this particular location. Its text discussed the woman who farmed the land while her husband fought with the Army of Northern Virginia. There was an image of the woman as well, and it portrayed someone who had lived a hard life, and one of the newer students made a comment about her looks. . . . The comment was made while Dr. Poland was concluding his remarks relating to the result of a Union assault. At this point, Dr. Poland "expanded" his lecture. He noted the woman's picture and then described the farming techniques utilized in 1864. He discussed the process involved in cultivating the land without horses or mules. He explained that many yeoman farmers, like this woman, could not afford to feed livestock. Dr. Poland also went into great detail describing the human toll this type of work exacted and why this woman looked the way she did. . . . Dr. Poland [had] utilized the [student's] comment as a teachable opportunity. *Alan McClarnand, Doctoral Student in History at the University of West Georgia*

I have taken history classes taught by Dr. Poland for many years, in particular "Advanced Civil War," which I repeated many times in order to study the entire Civil War. This course took us to numerous Civil War sites, following the course of the war chronologically. Dr. Poland showed us the routes of the armies, often following the actual roads that they used. He pointed out landmarks and geographical features that influenced the outcomes of military campaigns. An enthusiastic scholar, he has thoroughly researched the battles and related actions, but instead of overwhelming students with detail, he focuses on the overall scope of each campaign and adds interesting stories to enrich the experience. . . . The trips can be challenging, covering many miles in a day. Dr. Poland supplies a hand-drawn map showing the route and the various stops. I have used the field trips as a basis for a website, www.CivilWarFieldTrips.com, which contains hundreds of photos of historic sites. Also the classes have inspired me to continue researching the Civil War on my own. Charles Poland is a very dedicated teacher who spends tremendous time preparing for classes. He is friendly and encouraging and makes learning history an enjoyable experience.

Linda Walcroft, Internet Specialist, Photographer, and History Buff

Dr. Poland often jokes that. . . his seminar students would follow him to hell and back. The truth is we would and we have. We have not just visited battle sites, seen the lay of the land, [and] imagined the battle movements. . . we have envisioned the smoke, the fire, the burning flesh from battles as well as the hunger, the bare, bloody feet, [and] the desperation and human emotion. . . . We have experienced our ancestors' and countrymen's courage, determination, beliefs, disappointments, and their will to live another day – all because of one man's desire that the past shall not be forgotten.

Pamela Ungar, Member of The Bull Run Civil War Round Table

Excerpts about Dr. Poland's Books

Of all his publications, three stand out to me. *From Frontier to Suburbia*, his history of Loudoun County, Virginia, has been recognized as a model of local/county history. His recent *The Glories of War* examines four major Civil War campaigns in the Virginia of 1861, ironically stressing not the "glories," but the terrible human costs of war. Dr. Poland has used his *An Introductory Outline of American History* as a uniquely effective teaching aid for his NOVA courses in United States History. This book has proven especially useful in conveying the subject to students from other countries.

Dr. Wallace Hutcheon, Professor Emeritus of History, Annandale Campus, NOVA

. . . this book brings together a wealth of material concerning Loudoun County and its past. In a single volume which local residents will be consulting for generations, one has a large helping of anecdotes, statistical information, and history. If all of the Old Dominion's counties and cities had similar compendiums, the task of interpreting the state's past and present would be simplified considerably.

John Hammond Moore, Historian/Author, reviewing From Frontier to Suburbia in The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography

. . . admirable work. . . [A]ny serious student of local history should read this book. Poland brings out an impressive amount of information about local history and local people in the Loudoun County area. The broadest possible coverage is given to cultural, educational, social, and agricultural history with an appropriate mixture of colorful personalities. Once an entirely rural area west of Washington, DC, Loudoun County has become in more recent decades a suburb of the national capital. In his final chapter Poland reviews the strains which urbanization has brought to the county [since World War II].

Ronald E. Shibley, Author and former Executive Director of the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, reviewing From Frontier to Suburbia in The Journal of Southern History

. . . exhaustively researched and more than amply documented. It is a careful and serious work, of use to those interested in the history of northern Virginia. . . . Loudoun County, located just up the Potomac from Washington. . . was an agricultural area for almost all of its existence – shaped by the cereal and tobacco economy of the eighteenth century, touched by the politics and fervor of the Jacksonian era, scourged and torn by the Civil War. . . and – finally – victimized by the relentless suburban boom after 1960. In the category of "county histories" this book is a worthy addition. . . a book Loudoun County residents are fortunate to have.

Blaine A. Brownell, Historian and Former President of Ball State University, reviewing From Frontier to Suburbia in The Journal of American History

On April 14 I must return to the library with your book [*Dunbarton: Dranesville, Virginia*] – with tears, as it has been a guide in reference and brought pleasure to so many people. I do not know how the society will be able to function without it! I believe that you offered a copy as background for our research. Would one be available to the society for its library? You can see from our working inventory for research and documentation how much it means to us. . . .

Letter from Mrs. John B. Bazuin, Chair of the Seneca Road Historical Society, Great Falls, VA

The War Between the States started with lots of little skirmishes, "affairs," encounters and minor engagements, many of them forgotten or downplayed in light of the major bloodlettings to come. In Virginia, the major battles of 1861 were First Manassas and Ball's Bluff. How many of us know much about the Union cavalry raid at Fairfax Court House on June 1, 1861, or what happened later at Pohick Church or Munson's Hill? The present work tries to correct such shortcomings in

our educations. Charles P. Poland Jr.'s *The Glories of War* is a narrative of battles great and small that took place in Virginia in the first calendar year of the war. . . . Poland's narrative ably sets forth the events surrounding the Federal invasion of western Virginia in June, including the action at Philippi on June 3, which some have called the first battle of the war. His book provides a succinct explanation of the Confederate defeats at Rich Mountain and Carrick's Ford in early July, followed by the Federal occupation of Charleston. . . . *The Glories of War* contains many useful maps and illustrations. Poland writes well, and his book is well-conceptualized.
Dane Hartgrove, reviewing The Glories of War in The Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star

"News of their fates [Union officer Col. Elmer Ellsworth and Confederate James Jackson] rocketed throughout the North and the South, and they were seen as exemplars of boldness and bravery in war," author Charles P. Poland Jr. wrote in *The Glories of War: Small Battles and Early Heroes of 1861*. "They became a rallying point, the martyred sacrifices of war. Their fate was a prelude of things to come." The incident put the city [Alexandria] in the national spotlight.
Excerpt from Washington Post article on the federal occupation of Alexandria by Brady Dennis in a special section on April 12, 2011, about the Civil War Sesquicentennial