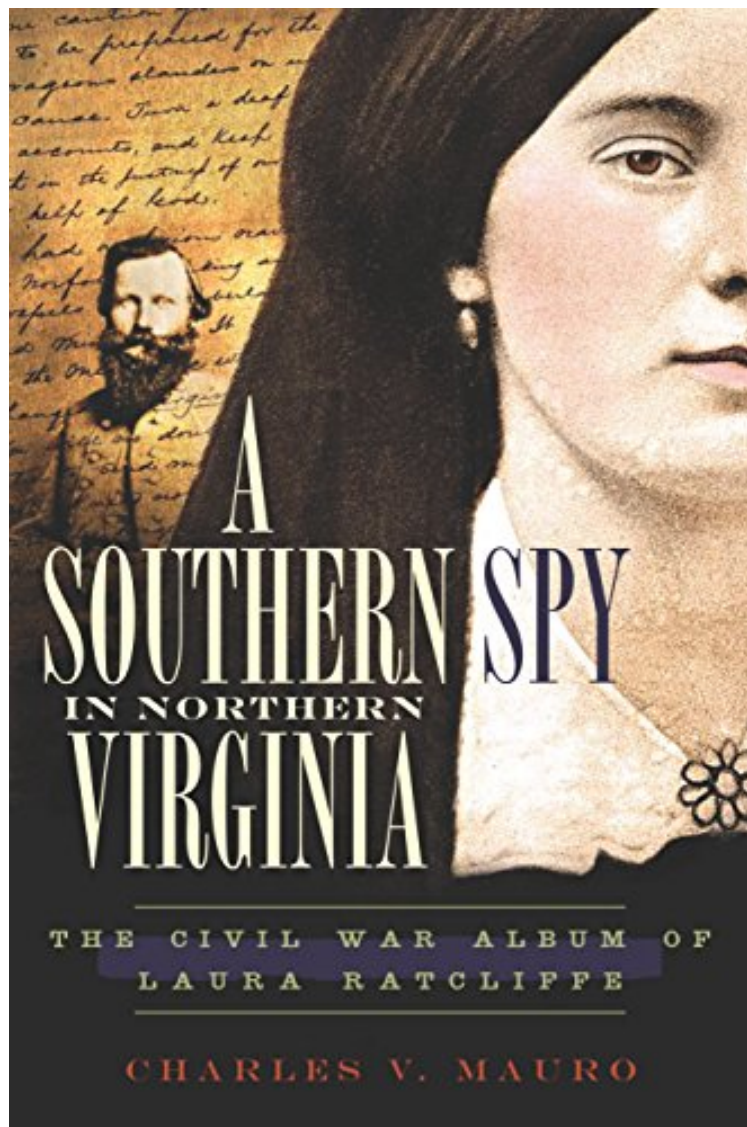


(Download) A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe (Civil War Series)

## A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe (Civil War Series)

Charles V. Mauro

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**Charles V. Mauro : A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe (Civil War Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe (Civil War Series):

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Civil War espionage, romance, and famous historical figures - all in one bookBy Jessica James, historical fiction authorThis is a well researched book that gives readers a glimpse back in

time through the signers of a secret album presented to Fairfax County resident Laura Ratcliffe by Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart "as a token of his high appreciation of her patriotism, admiration of her virtues, and pledge of his lasting esteem." The album contains four poems, two written by Stuart to Laura and two he copied. It also contains 40 signatures - 26 Confederate soldiers and 14 civilians. The author has tracked down the personal history of each one and gives possible dates as to when each may have signed the album. The signers of the album will be well known to those who follow Mosby - Willie Mosby, William Chapman, William Farley, Walter Frankland, John Edmonds and Fitzhugh Lee, to name a few. This book provides a wonderful history of Fairfax County during the War Between the States, and gives a unique glimpse into the more personal side of the life of J.E.B. Stuart. I especially enjoyed the communications written by Stuart to Ratcliffe. His poems and letters are romantic and eloquent. This is a keeper that I highly recommend to anyone who enjoys reading about life during the War Between the States. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating read! By Charles V. Mauro This book provides keen insight into covert operations between soldiers and southern women during the Civil War. It describes how Southern women depended on men in society at the beginning of the war, and how the confederate soldiers came to depend on southern women during the war. Also includes the evidence to prove this change in relationships.

As the Civil War raged, Confederate brigadier general J.E.B. Stuart entrusted a secret album to Laura Ratcliffe, a young girl in Fairfax County, "as a token of his high appreciation of her patriotism, admiration of her virtues, and pledge of his lasting esteem." A devoted Southerner, Laura provided a safe haven for Rebel forces, along with intelligence gathered from passing Union soldiers. Ratcliffe's book contains four poems and forty undated signatures: twenty-six of Confederate officers and soldiers and fourteen of loyal Confederate civilians. In *A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia*, Charles V. Mauro uncovers the mystery behind this album, identifying who the soldiers were and when they could have signed its pages. The result is a fascinating look at the covert lives and relationships of civilians and soldiers during the war, kept hidden until now.

"Mauro's detailed analysis of Ratcliffe's Civil War album distinguishes this book from prior works that dwell on her espionage activities." --Civil War Monitor About the Author Mr. Mauro is the author and photographer of *The Civil War in Fairfax County: Civilians and Soldiers*; *Herndon: A Town and Its History*; and *Herndon: A History in Images*. He received the Nan Netherton Heritage Award for his historical research, writing and photography of *The Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill)*, *A Monumental Storm*. He is also the writer and co-producer of the independent film *The Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill)*, based on his book. Chuck is a member of the Civil War Preservation Trust, the National Center for Civil War Photography and the Louisiana Historical Association Memorial Hall Foundation, Inc. He is also a member of the Bull Run and Capital Hill Civil War Round Tables; the Stuart-Mosby Society; the Friends of Fort Ward; the Historic Centreville Society, Ltd.; Historic Fairfax City, Inc.; and the Historical Society of Fairfax County. Chuck is a member and past president of the Herndon Historical Society and the Manassas Warrenton Camera Club. He has won numerous prizes for his photography. Mr. Mauro received his BA from the University of Maryland and an MA in business administration from Temple University. He is currently a manager at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He lives with his wife in Herndon, Virginia.