

**TITLE:** *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby, Vol. 2: 1863*

**AUTHOR:** Marek Bennett

**DETAILS:** 5"x7" / 540 pages / color cover / b&w interior

**FEATURES:** maps + appendices + reference images etc.

**ISBN:** 978-0-9824153-7-5 / **LC#:** TBA

**PRICE:** [ Paperback = \$24.95 ] [ hardcover = TBA ]

**PUBLISHED BY:**

COMICS WORKSHOP

93 Bennett Road, Henniker, NH, 03242

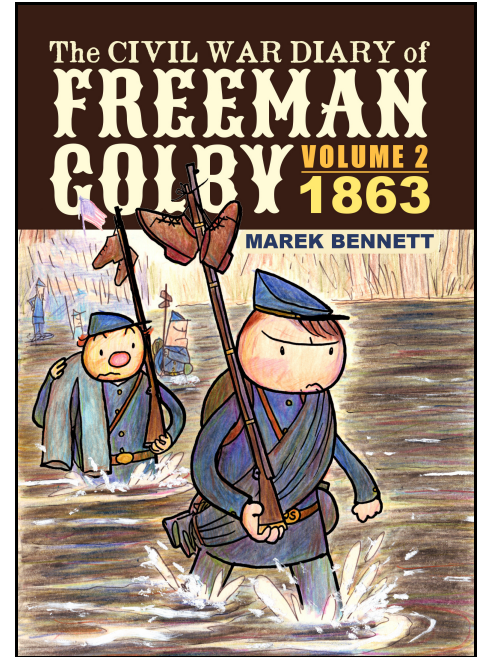
(603)-428-7049 / [marek@marekbennett.com](mailto:marek@marekbennett.com)

**DISTRIBUTION:** Ingram, Birdcage Bottom Books

**DATE OF PUBLICATION:** May 2019

**PRE-ORDERING BY KICKSTARTER:** Feb-Mar 2019

**MORE INFO @:** [www.MarekBennett.com](http://www.MarekBennett.com)



**ABOUT:**

A young union soldier encounters a diverse cast of historical characters as the Civil War widens around him... Drawn entirely from primary source texts and period images, this graphic novel brings the American Civil War to life in stark, lively artwork and the vivid voices of actual participants.

**BACK COVER DESCRIPTION:**

**The continuing saga of a Yankee school teacher in the Union Army...**

Young Freeman Colby joined the 39th Massachusetts Regiment in search of “better returns,” but now he just wants to survive the war and return home to his friends & family in New England! Marching deeper into the war-torn heart of Virginia, he crosses paths with countless fellow survivors — widows, poets, volunteer nurses, refugee children, ragged soldiers, brave mothers striving to deliver their families from slavery... **This wide-ranging graphic novel weaves together their stories with Colby’s actual letters home, laying bare the day-to-day human struggles that shaped one of the most consequential years in American history.**

**KEY WORDS:**

Civil War, soldier, nurse, slave, refugee, hospital, diary, memoir, Union, Virginia, Washington, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, graphic novel

**INTENDED AUDIENCES:**

YA, educational settings, history survey courses

**MAIN CHARACTERS:**

- **Freeman Colby** = a young school teacher from New Hampshire, now a private in the Union Army.
- **Jonas Bacon** = Colby's childhood neighbor & friend, also a private.
- **Walt Whitman** = A reporter and poet, volunteering to help patients in Union hospitals.
- **Fannie Dawson** = An enslaved woman from Fredericksburg who chooses to confront her masters.
- **Sarah Low** = A volunteer nurse running a ward at Washington's Armory Square Hospital.
- **Abraham Tuckson** = An enslaved man who returns south to find his family.

### **VISUAL ELEMENTS, PLACES, &c.:**

- Virginia (Rappahannock & Rapidan Rivers, farmland & towns)
- Maryland (Harper's Ferry, Poolesville)
- Washington D.C. (US Capitol Building, Armory Square Hospital)
- Union Army Camps (Virginia)
- Battlefields (Mine Run, various)

### **WHY THIS BOOK NOW?**

This graphic narrative presents authentic Civil War voices in dramatic visual context. It pairs faces and actions with the eloquent language of carefully sourced accounts, supplemented with appendices that encourage further reading in the author's sources. Marek bases his artwork on his extensive experience drawing local history and travel comics, as well as teaching and presenting the folk music and stories of the Civil War. Drawn during current events such as Charlottesville, domestic (and international) refugee crises, and urgent debates about police violence and voting rights, this graphic novel resonates with our ongoing national interest in definitions of citizenship, social justice, and the vital roles of individuals in larger historical movements.

### **AUTHOR QUOTE:**

*"After I finished drawing Freeman Colby's original 1862 diary, I couldn't stop wondering what happened to Colby and his comrades over the next few years of their adventures. In **Volume 2**, I've combined Colby's last surviving letters with the letters, diaries, and accounts of several other people to flesh out what life was like in a Union regiment over the course of 1863. As it turns out, the lack of a complete diary by Colby has caused me to dig deeper into my research, resulting in a more complete, complicated, and many-sided story from a diverse cast of characters."* ~ Marek Bennett

### **AUTHOR BIO:**

NH-based cartoonist, musician, and educator Marek Bennett leads discovery-based Comics Workshops for all ages throughout New England and the world beyond! His comics work includes *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby (Volume 1)*, the local history webcomic *LIVE FREE AND DRAW!*, the graphic novel travel memoir, *SLOVAKIA: Fall in the Heart of Europe*, and more.

Marek has spent the past six years researching and drawing comics based on Civil War diaries and letters. His teaching degree (M.Ed.) and school residencies help him align his graphic novels with curricular standards to suit the needs of teachers and students in many subjects.

Marek is also an award-winning performer of Civil War era folk music.

[www.MarekBennett.com](http://www.MarekBennett.com)

### **AUTHOR HOMETOWN / REGION:**

Marek Bennett lives in Freeman Colby's hometown in central New Hampshire.

### **PREVIOUS AWARDS:**

This is *Volume 2* in the ongoing Freeman Colby series.

*Volume 2* was featured in a full-length graphic article (and cover image) in *Historical New Hampshire Magazine* (Vol. 71 #1 / Spring 2018).

The previous volume, *The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby (Volume 1)* (Comics Workshop, 2016), was named a "Great Graphic Novel for Teens" by ALA's Y.A.L.S.A.