

Henry Van der Weyde and Danville's Civil War Prisons

An annotated bibliography

Prepared August 2026

Scope note

This is a comprehensive **working bibliography of direct and substantial treatments** located in library catalogs, scholarly publications, archives, museums, and reputable history sites. Very little has been published solely about Henry Van der Weyde's Civil War imprisonment. The key items are his surviving sketchbook, the 1999 biographical article about his later photographic career, and modern works and exhibitions that reproduce or interpret his prison drawings.

Best starting points

1. [Karen Lynn Byrne, *Danville's Civil War Prisons, 1863–1865* \(1993\)](#) — the fullest Danville-specific study and freely downloadable.
2. James I. Robertson Jr., “Houses of Horror: Danville's Civil War Prisons” (1961) — the foundational scholarly article.
3. Roger Pickenpaugh, *Captives in Blue* (2013), chapter 7 — the best modern synthesis of Confederate prisons, with a dedicated Danville chapter.
4. Evan A. Kutzler, [Living by Inches](#) (2019) — reproduces and interprets Van der Weyde's Danville drawings.
5. [Rogier van der Weyden, “Henry van der Weyde \(1839–1924\)”](#) (1999) — the principal scholarly biography of Van der Weyde.
6. Alfred S. Roe, George Haven Putnam, and William Henry Newlin — the most useful published prisoner narratives centered on Danville.

I. Henry Van der Weyde: direct sources and scholarship

Primary artifact

- **Van der Weyde, Henry.** *Danville Prison Sketchbook*, 1864–1865. Forty-six drawings made during his imprisonment in Danville and donated to the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History in 2012. This is the indispensable primary source for the exhibit. See the [Danville Museum's 2026 exhibition page](#) and the [Library of Virginia account of its digitization](#).

Biography and photographic career

- **van der Weyden, Rogier.** “Henry van der Weyde (1839–1924).” *History of Photography* 23, no. 1 (1999): 68–72. The principal scholarly biographical article. [DOI record](#).
- **National Portrait Gallery, London.** “Henry Van der Weyde (1838–1924), Photographer.” Biographical and collections record; the NPG holds more than fifty portraits by him. [Collection biography](#).
- **British Museum.** “Henry Van der Weyde.” Biographical authority record for the American-born British photographer. [Collection term record](#).

- **Victoria and Albert Museum.** “Van der Weyde, Henry.” Creator/collection record for photographs held by the V&A. [V&A collection record](#).
- **Van der Weyde, Henry.** “Photography by the Electric Light.” *Journal of the Society of Arts* 30 (24 February 1882): 370–371. Written by Van der Weyde about the photographic method that made his London studio famous. [Digitized periodical page](#).
- **Henisch, Heinz K., and Bridget A. Henisch.** *The Photographic Experience, 1839–1914: Images and Attitudes*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1994. Discusses Van der Weyde’s early use of electric light in portrait photography, especially p. 215.

Military-service and family sources

- **New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center.** “65th Infantry Regiment: 1st United States Chasseurs.” Official unit history and roster context for Van der Weyde’s regiment. [Unit history](#).
- **Clark, Emmons.** *History of the Seventh Regiment of New York, 1806–1889*. 2 vols. New York: Seventh Regiment, 1890; and *Centennial of the Seventh Regiment, National Guard, State of New York, 1806–1906*. New York, 1906. Useful for Van der Weyde’s later militia service and veteran status. [Full text of the centennial volume](#).
- **New York State Adjutant General.** *Annual Report of the Adjutant-General of the State of New York: Registers of the 65th Infantry*. Albany, 1893–1906. Official service record source.
- **Barry, Christopher.** *No Flinching from Fire: The 65th New York Volunteer Infantry in the American Civil War*. 2019. Modern regimental history giving the military context of Van der Weyde’s service. [Author’s 65th New York project](#).
- **New York Public Library.** *Peter Henri Van Der Weyde Papers, 1849–1894*. Includes family correspondence from his son Henry while serving as a Union officer, 1861–1864. [Finding aid](#).

II. Publications and exhibitions that reproduce or interpret Van der Weyde’s Danville drawings

- **Kutzler, Evan A.** *Living by Inches: The Smells, Sounds, Tastes, and Feeling of Captivity in Civil War Prisons*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019. The cover and figures 4 and 5 reproduce and interpret Van der Weyde’s drawings “Prison Realities” and “Flanking the Enemy.” [Publisher page](#).
- **Holland, Tiffany.** “Civil War Sketches Debut at Danville Museum.” *The News & Advance*, January 11, 2013. Newspaper coverage of the sketchbook’s donation and first museum display. [Article](#).
- **Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History.** “Sketches of Prison Life: Danville in the Civil War.” Exhibition, January–March 2013. Contemporary listing in [Evince](#).
- **Library of Virginia.** “Civil War 150 Legacy Project: Danville Prison Sketchbook.” *The Library of Virginia Newsletter*, June 2013. Describes the sketchbook and its digitization. [Article](#).

- **Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History.** “A Soldier’s View: Henry Van der Weyde’s Civil War.” Exhibition page, 2026. Current museum interpretation and provenance summary. [Exhibition page](#).

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III. Danville’s Civil War prisons: dedicated scholarship and local histories

- **Robertson, James I., Jr.** “Houses of Horror: Danville’s Civil War Prisons.” *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 69, no. 3 (July 1961): 329–345. Foundational scholarly article and still essential. [JSTOR record](#).
- **Byrne, Karen Lynn.** *Danville’s Civil War Prisons, 1863–1865*. M.A. thesis, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1993. The most extensive Danville-specific study; includes administration, conditions, disease, deaths, escapes, and local response. [Record and full-text download](#).
- **Pickenpaugh, Roger.** *Captives in Blue: The Civil War Prisons of the Confederacy*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2013. Chapter 7, “‘500 Here Died. 600 Ran Away’: Danville and Beyond, 1864,” is a substantial modern synthesis; later chapters continue the Danville story through 1865 and exchange. [Publisher page](#).
- **McFall, F. Lawrence, Jr.** *Danville in the Civil War*. Lynchburg, Va.: H. E. Howard, 2001. The standard book-length local history, with prison material.
- **Brubaker, John H., III.** *The Last Capital: Danville, Virginia, and the Final Days of the Confederacy*. Danville, Va.: Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History, 1979. Broader local Civil War history with prison and wartime-city context.
- **Hairston, L. Beatrice W.** *A Brief History of Danville, Virginia, 1728–1954*. Richmond: Dietz Press, 1955. Earlier local history containing Civil War-era background.
- **Pollock, Edward.** *Illustrated Sketch Book of Danville, Virginia: Its Manufactures and Commerce*. Danville, Va.: E. R. Waddill & Brother, 1885. A postwar illustrated civic history useful for identifying the city and warehouse landscape; not a prison narrative. [Bibliographic record](#).
- **Mitchell, Patricia B.** “‘Truly Horrible’: Danville Civil War Prisons.” Historical essay on the prison buildings, disease, rations, mortality, and escapes. [Online text](#).
- **Christensen, V. R.** “Danville’s Civil War Prisons.” *Old West End*, April 18, 2023. Readable local overview with maps, images, and references. [Article](#).
- **“Warehouses to Prisons—Civil War Prisons in Danville.”** *Hycos Lake Magazine*, March 8, 2025. Recent popular-history overview. [Article](#).
- **Wright, Aerika A.** “Danville during the Civil War.” *Encyclopedia Virginia*, December 7, 2020. Scholarly reference article with prison context and a concise bibliography. [Article](#).
- **“Danville’s Darkest Days.”** WVTF, January 23, 2020. Radio feature/article about the prison period and deaths. [Article](#).
- **Gilot, Jon-Erik.** “From Monocacy to Danville: Captured Soldiers of the 87th Pennsylvania Infantry.” *Emerging Civil War*, April 13, 2022. Focuses on one group of prisoners and points to the regiment’s published history. [Article](#).
- **“George Whitman: Reluctant Danville Resident.”** *Old West End*, March 21, 2023. Local article on Walt Whitman’s brother George as a Danville prisoner. [Article](#).

IV. Broader Civil War prison studies with substantial Danville coverage

- **Sanders, Charles W., Jr.** *While in the Hands of the Enemy: Military Prisons of the Civil War*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2005. Major comparative study; Danville is one of its repeatedly analyzed prisons. [WorldCat record](#).
- **Speer, Lonnie R.** *Portals to Hell: Military Prisons of the Civil War*. Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 1997. Broad survey that includes Danville.
- **Hesseltine, William B.** *Civil War Prisons: A Study in War Psychology*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1930; later reprints. Classic but dated interpretive study; use for historiography rather than local detail.
- **Zombek, Angela M.** *Penitentiaries, Punishment, and Military Prisons: Familiar Responses to an Extraordinary Crisis during the American Civil War*. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2018. Modern institutional and cultural context for wartime imprisonment.
- **Marvel, William.** *Andersonville: The Last Depot*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1994. Primarily about Andersonville, but useful for tracing transfers and the wider Confederate prison system that included Danville.

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V. Published firsthand accounts, diaries, and memoirs with Danville material

Accounts centered on Danville

- **Newlin, William Henry.** *An Account of the Escape of Six Federal Soldiers from Prison at Danville, Va.: Their Travels by Night Through the Enemy's Country to the Union Pickets at Gauley Bridge, West Virginia, in the Winter of 1863–64*. Cincinnati, 1870; revised/reprinted editions in 1881, 1886, and 1887. [HathiTrust catalog/full-view record](#).
- **Roe, Alfred S.** *In a Rebel Prison; or, Experiences in Danville, Va.* Personal Narratives of Events in the War of the Rebellion, 4th ser., no. 16. Providence: Soldiers and Sailors Historical Society of Rhode Island, 1891. [Google Books record](#); the manuscript is described in the [Alfred S. Roe papers finding aid](#).
- **Putnam, George Haven.** *A Prisoner of War in Virginia, 1864–5*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1912; 3rd ed., 1914. Memoir of imprisonment in Danville and Libby Prison. [HathiTrust catalog/full-view record](#).
- **Russell, David E.** *Seven Months in Prison*. Milwaukee, 1866. Early published prisoner narrative containing a Danville section; Robertson cites pp. 35–37.
- **Roe, Alfred S., and Charles Nutt.** *The Ninth New York Heavy Artillery*. Worcester, Mass., 1899. Contains E. P. Dunning's "Notes from a Diary Kept in Danville Prison." [Full text](#).

Multi-prison narratives and edited diaries

- **Isham, Asa B.; Henry M. Davidson; and Henry B. Furness.** *Prisoners of War and Military Prisons: Personal Narratives of Experience in the Prisons at Richmond, Danville, Macon, Andersonville, Savannah, Millen, Charleston, and Columbia*. Cincinnati: Lyman & Cushing, 1890. Major composite firsthand source.

- **Marchman, Watt P., ed.** “The Journal of Sgt. Wm. J. McKell.” *Civil War History* 3 (September 1957): 320–333. McKell’s retrospective first entry and later diary material are important sources for Danville conditions.
- **Jennings, Warren A., ed.** “Prisoner of the Confederacy: Diary of a Union Artilleryman.” *West Virginia History* 36, no. 4 (July 1975): 309–323. Edited diary of Harlan Smith Howard, including extended Danville entries.
- **Hansen, Ann N., ed.** “A Southern Odyssey: The Narrative of Abram Price.” *Timeline* 6 (October–November 1989). Includes Price’s Danville prison experience.
- **Racine, Philip N., ed.** “*Unspoiled Heart*”: *The Journal of Charles Mattocks of the 17th Maine*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1994. Danville and Lynchburg passages appear around pp. 141–145.
- **Danker, Donald F., ed.** “Imprisoned at Andersonville: The Diary of Albert Harry Shatzel, May 5, 1864–September 12, 1864.” *Nebraska History* 38 (June 1957). Danville passages appear around pp. 86–89.
- **Boyer, Earl E., ed.** *Civil War Diaries of Capt. Albert Heffley and Lt. Cyrus P. Heffley*. Apollo, Pa.: Closson Press, 2000. Contains Danville material, especially around p. 109.
- **Penfield, James A.** *The 1863–1864 Diary of Captain James Penfield, 5th New York Volunteer Cavalry, Company H*. Ticonderoga, N.Y.: Press of America, 1999. Includes a Danville passage around p. 157.
- **James, Frederick Augustus.** *Civil War Diary: Sumter to Andersonville*. Rutherford, N.J.: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1973. Useful for the prisoner-transfer network that included Danville.
- **Small, Abner R.** *The Road to Richmond: The Civil War Memoirs of Major Abner R. Small of the 16th Maine Volunteers; with His Diary as a Prisoner of War*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1957. Includes imprisonment in Danville Prison No. 3. Related primary material is available through [Maine Memory Network](#).
- **Morgan, Sheila Rae Boyd, annotator.** *There Is Yet a Treasure for Me: The Actual Civil War Journal of Sergeant Cyrus Wilkinson Elliott of the 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry*. 2020. Modern annotated edition with substantial Danville journal content. [Book page](#).
- **Bush, Watson W.** “Experiences at Salisbury Prison, South [sic] Carolina and Danville, Virginia During the Civil War.” Edited by Conrad Bush. *Historical Wyoming* 44 (July 1997): 9–14. Listed in the [Wyoming Historical & Geological Society’s personal-accounts guide](#).
- **Sibley, Hiram Luther.** “The 1864 Diary of Lt. Hiram Luther Sibley while a Prisoner at Libby.” Online transcription; entries for May 7–12 cover Danville. [Transcription](#).
- **Sly, Eugene R.** *Civil War Diary, 1864*. Digitized manuscript transcription, University of Michigan; includes Confederate-prison experiences and Danville material. [Digital text](#).
- **Prowell, George R.** *History of the Eighty-Seventh Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers*. York, Pa.: Press of the York Daily, 1903. Includes accounts of captured soldiers sent to Danville.

- **Whitman, Walt.** Letter to John Swinton, February 3, 1865, seeking General Grant's help for his brother George, then held at Danville. Reproduced in Duke University's *Memory of the Civil War* exhibition. [Digital exhibition item browser](#).

VI. Official records, cemetery studies, and archival research leads

- **U.S. War Department.** *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series II, especially volumes 6, 7, and 8. These volumes contain correspondence, inspections, prisoner returns, exchange records, and official reports relating to Danville. The National Archives hosts a [guide to the Official Records](#).
- **National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 109.** War Department Collection of Confederate Records, including papers relating to Confederate prison camps and the correspondence of Danville commandant Capt. C. Morfit.
- **Library of Virginia.** "Virginia in the American Civil War: Prisons." Research guide to state and published resources. [Guide](#).
- **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.** "Danville National Cemetery." Official historical account and burial information for Union prisoners who died in Danville. [Cemetery history](#).
- **Virginia Department of Historic Resources.** "Danville National Cemetery (108-0057)." Historic-register documentation. [Register entry](#).
- **Virginia Tourism Corporation.** "Prison Number 6." Brief site history and surviving-building information. [Site record](#).

Important unpublished collections cited in the scholarship

These are not publications, but they are strong leads for exhibit research and original quotations:

- Bergun H. Brown Papers, State Historical Society of Missouri.
- William L. Tritt Diary, Wisconsin Historical Society.
- William H. Haun Diary, Missouri Historical Society.
- Edwin T. Marsh Papers, Pearce Museum at Navarro College.
- William T. Peabody Diary and Henry H. Stone Diary, Andersonville National Historic Site.
- Jacob Heffelfinger Diary and Arthur Wyman Diary, U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center.
- Byron Parsons Diary and S. J. Gibson papers, Library of Congress.
- Samuel D. Foster Letter, MS 1990-01, Virginia Tech Special Collections.
- Charles S. Young letters, South Carolina Historical Society.