



During the Civil War, Pohick became a Union observation post, with the famous "aeronaut," [Professor Thaddeus S. C. Lowe](#), looking down at Confederate movements from his balloon, which soared 1,000-2,000 feet above the Pohick Church courtyard. As Pvt. Sneden recorded in his diary, "Balloons are now used frequently at Pohick Church . . . A gas wagon is attached to the balloon with which the balloon is only one half or one third inflated, then it rises 1,000 feet or more, and is held on the ground by two or three long ropes by a lot of soldiers who are detailed for the purpose" (Feb 1). On March 5, 1862, Professor Lowe himself wrote a dispatch from Pohick to General Heintzelman, stating, "Have just made two ascensions with the balloon. It is fully inflated, and will take up two persons with all the ropes. If to-morrow is a fine day it would be a good time for the general to go up. I can see camp-fires on the Occoquan. T. S. C. LOWE,