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# NEWSLETTER

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Vol. XXII No. 4

Society of Civil War Historians

Fall 2009

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## Louisville in 2009

The Society of Civil War Historians will have a luncheon meeting at 11:45 on Friday, November 6, at the Marriott Louisville, Downtown. The cost is \$25.00 and should be paid to Steve Engle, Department of History, Box 3091, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991. The topic is "Reflections on the Lincoln Bicentennial." Presiding will be SCWH president James Marten, Marquette University, and the panelists include Vernon Burton, Coastal Carolina University, and Mark Neely, Pennsylvania State University. Comments will be from the audience.

### Other Civil War Sessions:

#### Friday, November 6: 9:30-11:30 A.M.

##### 4. *PERSPECTIVES ON CONFEDERATE POLITICAL ECONOMY*

PRESIDING: Mary A. DeCredico, U.S. Naval Academy

"Expedient Corporatism and Confederate Political Economy," Michael B. Bonner, University of Arizona

"Formulating Imagined Economies: Comparing Economic Nationalism in the American and Confederate Independence Movements," John Majewski, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara

"The Confederate Information Economy: Statism and the Creation of the Southern Professional Class," Chad Morgan, North Carolina State University

COMMENTS: Sean Adams, University of Florida; Mary A. DeCredico

#### Friday, November 6: 9:30-11:30 A.M.

##### 5. *MEMORY AND THE CIVIL WAR, PAST CONTRIBUTIONS AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES: A DISCUSSION*

PRESIDING: Gaines Foster, Louisiana State University  
PANELISTS: Robert J. Cook, University of Sussex; John Neff, University of Mississippi; Susanna Lee, North Carolina State University; Anne Marshall, Mississippi State University

#### Friday, November 6: 2:30-4:30 P.M.

##### 21. *FAITH, FORGIVENESS, AND FORGING AHEAD: BLACK AND NORTHERN-BORN PREACHERS IN THE CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION SOUTH*

PRESIDING: Donald G. Mathews, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Emeritus

"Serving for God's Glory: Northern Clergy, the U.S. Christian Commission, and Religious Space during the American Civil War," Benjamin L. Miller, University of Florida

"Forgive Us Our Debts": Religion, Amnesty, and Vengeance in South Carolina's Reconstruction," C. Scott Nesbit, Univ. of VA

"The Secular as Sacred: Post-Emancipation Black Church Leaders, Politics, and the Language of Faith," Timothy L. Wesley, Pennsylvania State University

COMMENTS: Daniel W. Stowell, The Papers of Abraham Lincoln; Donald G. Mathews

#### Saturday, November 7: 9:30-11:30 A.M.

##### 32. *SOUTHERN NOTIONS OF UNION AND DISUNION IN THE ANTEBELLUM ERA*

PRESIDING: Elizabeth Varon, Temple University

"Slavery Over Union: The Rise and Fall of a Slaveholder's Republic in the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands," Andrew Torget, University of Richmond

"The Pinch of the Union in the 1850s South," Paul Quigley, University of Edinburgh

"George Nicholas Sanders and the Paradoxes of Southern Romantic Nationalism," Yonatan Eyal, University of Toronto

"Messmates' Union: Southern Congressmen and the Politics of Compromise, 1845-1861," Rachel Shapiro, University of Virginia  
COMMENTS: Daniel W. Crofts, The College of New Jersey

#### Saturday, November 7: 2:30-4:30 P.M.

##### 48. *A RETROSPECTIVE ON BELL IRVIN WILEY'S THE LIFE OF JOHNNY REB (1943)*

PRESIDING: Susannah Ural, Sam Houston State University  
PANELISTS: Chandra Manning, Georgetown University; Kenneth W. Noe, Auburn University; Earl J. Hess, Lincoln Memorial University

#### Sunday, November 8: 9:00-11:00 A.M.

##### 58. *DAVID POTTER AND CIVIL WAR NATIONALISM: A FORTY-FIVE YEAR PERSPECTIVE ON HIS ESSAY: "THE HISTORIAN'S USE OF NATIONALISM AND VICE VERSA"*

PRESIDING: Brooks D. Simpson, University of Arizona  
PANELISTS: Susan-Mary Grant, Newcastle Univ.; Brian Dirck, Anderson Univ.; Anne Sarah Rubin, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County; Aaron Sheehan-Dean, Univ. of North Florida

## BOOKS IN REVIEW

**Battle: The Nature and Consequences of Civil War Combat.** Edited by Kent Gramm. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2008. Pp. xi, 147. \$32.50.

This book has two good essays and four that are earnest, off-putting, or exasperating—depending on the reader's reservoir of generosity. Its contributors see the Civil War as squalid and awful and believe that the rest of us see it as romantic and noble. From whence does our delusion arise? Paul Fussell considers it an extension of our ignorance about the horrors of war in general—a good thing for him, since it frees him to substantially ignore the Civil War in favor of his usual rant about World War II being a combat veteran thing you wouldn't understand. Alan T. Nolan blames the myth of the Lost Cause, which is sensible though not exactly news. Eric T. Dean blames the "New Social History." Paraphrasing Clausewitz, he writes that for the past several decades Civil War historians have viewed the war as "a continuation of social discourse by other means," and in the process have overlooked "the stark brutality of battle." This means you, Joe Glatthaar, Earl Hess, Reid Mitchell, and Catherine Clinton (among others). Surprised? Me too. Gramm attempts to sensitize us to the war's human cost by pointing out the hidden significance of several numbers—for instance, ten, as in: the present population of the United States is about ten times what it was in 1860 and therefore the 620,000 dead of the Civil War are equivalent to 6.2 million today. Enlightened? Me neither.

*Battle* is frustrating because its basic point is accurate: we sometimes do get seduced by the illusory romance of the Civil War. But most of its authors seem to think that none but they ever saw a photograph of Civil War dead, or stood on Cemetery Ridge shaking with sobs at the realization of what happened there. The two good essays—which between them comprise over half the book—eschew preaching in favor of simply showing us what Civil War combat was like. National Park Service historian D. Scott Hartwig offers a sure-footed portrayal of "The Face of Battle at Gettysburg" that vividly conveys "the stark brutality of battle" in the course of a deft analysis of the experience of combat for ordinary infantrymen, artilleryists, and cavalrymen. Physician Bruce A. Evans gives a superb overview of "The Effects of Battle: Wounds, Death, and Medical Care in the Civil War" that is guaranteed to dispel any Currier and Ives fantasies about the nature and consequences of Civil War combat. As usual, "show, don't tell," proves to be good advice for historians as well as novelists.

Mark Grimsley, U.S. Army War College

**Brian R. Dirck, ed. *Lincoln Emancipated: The President and the Politics of Race.* DeKalb, Illinois: Northern Illinois University Press, 2007. Pp. 189. \$32.00.**

Abraham Lincoln wrote and spoke about slavery, race, colonization, and emancipation in passages that can be interpreted variously, as demonstrated in this collection, which is edited and introduced by Brian R. Dirck (foreword by Allen C. Guelzo), and includes chapters by Kenneth J. Winkle, Phillip S. Paludan, Kevin R.C. Gutzman, James N. Leiker, Dirck, Michael Vorenberg, and Dennis K. Boman. Several essayists grapple with the question of whether Lincoln was a racist. Guelzo's succinct overview is ideal for students. Paludan addresses the three documents most often used to "prove" Lincoln's racism. Analyzing Thomas Jefferson and Lincoln on colonization, Gutzman is critical of Lincoln.

Winkle addresses Lincoln's views on race to 1858. Leiker considers ways that Lincoln's perspectives on civil rights differed from twenty-first century perspectives. The threat of a hostile Supreme Court probably affected Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, according to Dirck. Vorenberg examines Lincoln's ideas on colonization, education, and reparations, while Boman traces the practical politics Lincoln faced when dealing with slavery and emancipation in Missouri. It is a thought-provoking book for those interested in Lincoln and race.

Glenna R. Schroeder-Lein, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

**A. Wilson Greene. *Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War.* Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006. 363 pp. \$34.95.**

In the east, the most critical geographic objective for the Union was naturally the Confederate capital of Richmond. Second in importance was Petersburg. A nodal point for the Confederate road and rail net in the east and a port, possession of Petersburg would inevitably bring about Richmond's fall. Greene has written a study of Petersburg during the Civil War and the immediate aftermath. After a detailed description of the city's layout, Greene provides a chronological and thematic study of Petersburg and its population. Greene covers military events and their impact on the city's population. Of interest here is the fact that Petersburg had the largest free African-American population in the South, and Greene devotes appropriate attention to their plight. Greene covers the siege of Petersburg, its eventual fall, and the immediate aftermath of its occupation. Perhaps the most notable omission by Greene here is the suicide of one of the most notable personalities in the book, Edmund Ruffin. This minor flaw aside, students of both the Civil War and urban history will find much to gain from reading this book.

Richard L. DiNardo, USMC Command and Staff College, Quantico, Virginia

The *SCWH Newsletter* is published quarterly. Regular dues are \$50.00 and include the newsletter and a subscription to *Civil War History*.

Dues should be forwarded to the Executive Secretary, Stephen D. Engle, Department of History, Box 3091, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991. Tel. 561-297-2444. E-mail: engle@fau.edu.

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## Other Sessions of Interest

### Friday, November 6: 11:45 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

#### 16. *WORKSHOP II—THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF SOUTHERN AGRICULTURE*

PRESIDING: Gerard J. Fitzgerald, New York University  
“The South Will Come Into Its Own When Fields Are Green in Winter”: The Agrarian Vision of Hugh MacRae,” J. Vincent Lowery, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

“Plantation as Laboratory: Pesticides and the Industrialization of Cotton Farming in the Rural New South,” James C. Giesen, Mississippi State University  
“From Industrialization to Conservation Along Tennessee’s Caney Fork River,” Lynn A. Nelson, Middle Tennessee State University

COMMENTS: Pete Daniel, Smithsonian Institution  
The Business Meeting of the Southern Industrialization Project will immediately follow the workshop at 1:30 P.M.

### Friday, November 6: 2:30-4:30 P.M.

#### 19. *THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI: ANTEBELLUM LABOR, RACE, AND RELATIONSHIPS ALONG THE GREAT RIVER*

PRESIDING: Leslie A. Schwalm, University of Iowa  
“A Season in the South: Travel, Family, and the Mississippi River,” Samantha Holtkamp Gervase, University of California, Los Angeles  
“Slavery on the River: The Importance of the Mississippi River in Slaves’ Suits for Freedom,” Kelly Kennington, Duke University  
“Between Servitude and Freedom: Maritime Labor Regulation along the Antebellum Mississippi,” Gautham Rao, Library Company of Philadelphia

COMMENTS: Christopher C. Morris, University of Texas, Arlington; Leslie A. Schwalm

### Friday, November 6: 2:30-4:30 P.M.

#### 20. *READERS AND READING IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH*

PRESIDING: John Mayfield, Samford University  
“Reading Makes the Man”: The Literary Socialization of Male College Students in the American South, 1820-1861,” Timothy J. Williams, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
“‘It is Not So Much that Literature Confuses as that the Easily Confused are Able to Read’: Reviewers, Readers, and Southern Literature,” Sarah E. Gardner, Mercer University

“Creating Alternative Images and Resources During Jim Crow: Helen Adele Whiting and Annie L. McPheeters,” Valinda W. Littlefield, University of South Carolina  
COMMENTS: Stephen Berry, University of Georgia; Anya Jabour, University of Montana

### Saturday, November 7: 9:30-11:30 A.M.

#### 33. *AFTER THE BORDER DISSOLVED: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION IN KENTUCKY*

PRESIDING: James C. Klotter, Georgetown College  
“‘The Constitution Will Save Us’: The Fourteenth Amendment and the Politics of Equal Protection in Postbellum Kentucky,” Helen LaCroix, University of Wisconsin, Madison

“No Gun, No Vote: Violence and Voting in Kentucky’s First Interracial Elections,” Aaron Astor, Maryville College

“Against Abolitionist Heresy: Religious and Racial Orthodoxy and the Forging of Confederate Identity in White Kentucky,” Luke Harlow, Oakland University

COMMENTS: W. Fitzhugh Brundage, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

### Saturday, November 7: 11:45 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

#### 41. *WORKSHOP IV—THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF SLAVERY AND SLAVE RESISTANCE: A DISCUSSION*

PRESIDING: Gary Gallagher, University of Virginia  
PANELISTS:

Carol Ely, Executive Director, Historic Locust Grove; Dan Jordan, Former Executive Director, Monticello; John Latschar, President, Gettysburg Foundation; Keith Griffler, University of Buffalo

### Saturday, November 7: 2:30-4:30 P.M.

#### 47. *GEOGRAPHIES OF POWER: SPACE, PLACE, AND VIOLENCE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY SOUTH*

PRESIDING: Joan E. Cashin, Ohio State University  
“Scale and the Problem of Slave Rebellion: The Nat Turner Revolt,” Anthony E. Kaye, Pennsylvania State University, University Park

“Expanses of Hope: Southern Spaces and the Dreams of Confederate Victory,” Yael A. Sternhell, Tel Aviv University

“Black Political Geography and White Liner Attacks: Place and Space in the Overthrow of Reconstruction,” Justin Behrend, State University of New York, Genesco  
COMMENTS: Walter Johnson, Harvard University; Joan E. Cashin

## Gettysburg Semester Set for 2010

The Gettysburg Semester invites applications for Fall 2010 from undergraduate juniors and seniors to spend an entire semester immersed in Civil War Era Studies at Gettysburg College. Students are given the opportunity to spend a semester away, not in another country but another century! Coursework offered includes Civil War Era culture, politics, military campaigns, Reconstruction, even the Civil War on film. Students tour the major Eastern battlefields with expert interpreters and guides, taking the learning beyond the classroom walls. Visit the web [www.gettysburg.edu/Civilwar/gettysburg\\_semester/](http://www.gettysburg.edu/Civilwar/gettysburg_semester/) to follow current students on our Battlefield Blog, see sample student-created regimental histories or submit an e-application.

### Professional Notices

The Society of Civil War Surgeons, Inc., will hold its 17th National Convention at the historical Thayer Hotel at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, on April 9-11, 2010. For information, contact Peter J. D'Onofrio, SCWS, 539 Bristol Dr., SW, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

The Society of Civil War Historians will host a conference from June 17-19, 2010, at the Marriott Richmond in Richmond, Virginia. For information, check the website at <http://scwh.la.psu.edu>.

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**The Society of Civil War Historians annual meeting will be held from 11:45 until 1:30 in Kentucky B-C on Friday, November 6, at the Marriott Downtown. The cost is \$25.00 and should be mailed to:**

**Steve Engle  
Department of History  
Box 3091  
Florida Atlantic University  
Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991**

**Deadline is October 30**

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### Tom Watson Brown Book Award

The SCWH is pleased to announce the First Annual Tom Watson Brown Book Award. The inaugural Tom Watson Brown Book Award will recognize an outstanding scholarly book published in 2009 on the causes, conduct, and effects, broadly defined, of the Civil War with a \$50,000 prize to be awarded at the November 2010 Southern Historical Association meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. All genres of scholarship within the field will be eligible, including, but not exclusive to, monographs, synthetic works presenting original interpretations, and biographies. Works of fiction, poetry, and textbooks will not be considered. Jurors will consider nominated works' scholarly and literary merit as well as the extent to which they make original contributions to our understanding of the period. This annual award is sponsored by the Watson-Brown Foundation, which funds undergraduate scholarships, historic preservation, and grants for southern studies.

**The deadline is December 31. Instructions are at: [http://scwh.la.psu.edu/book\\_award.shtml](http://scwh.la.psu.edu/book_award.shtml)**

### Future Meeting Sites and Dates:

2010	November 4-7	Charlotte
2011	October 27-30	Baltimore
2012	November 1-4	Mobile
2013	Oct. 31-Nov. 3	St. Louis
2014	November 13-16	Atlanta