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A Family and Nation under Fire
The Civil War Letters and Journals
of William and Joseph Medill
Edited by Georgiann Baldino

This collection of previously unpublished diaries and correspondence between Maj. William Medill and older brother Joseph, one of the influential owners of the Chicago Tribune, illuminates the Republican politics of the Civil War era. The brothers correct newspaper coverage of the war, disagree with official military reports, and often condemn Lincoln administration policies.

Joseph’s private letters to President Lincoln reveal their exceptional relationship. A founding member of the Republican Party, Joseph was also a powerful force for moral journalism. With his partner Dr. Charles Ray, Joseph extended the Tribune’s reach until it achieved national influence. By 1860, Ray and Joseph claim to have elected Abraham Lincoln president, and Lincoln publicly agrees that their paper did more for him than any paper in the Midwest. When regional divisions escalate, Joseph issues early calls for war and lobbies fervently for emancipation. He continues to support Lincoln and the war effort but uses the Tribune to advise Washington about the conduct of the war, the draft, monetary policy, and slavery.

William began his military career as a private but was promoted to captain and then major, first serving on the front and later dealing directly with commanders. His letters rail against inept leaders, good men weakened by shortages, lives wasted, and destruction that defies understanding. His eyewitness accounts provide a fascinating perspective—part personal trauma and part social commentary.

The Medill letters and journals are poignant, private, and traumatic. Joseph’s early public calls for war turn to anxiety as the war escalates and then to grief when William is wounded. The Medills are revealed as vulnerable human beings caught up in cataclysmic events that test their moral vision and compel them to find ways to better society.

Georgiann Baldino is a technical writer, consultant, and small press owner who helps other writers pursue publishing opportunities. Her published works primarily cover nineteenth-century America and the Civil War era, including Following Lincoln as He Followed Douglas and A Soldier’s Friend, Civil War Nurse, Cornelia Hancock.
Crossing the Deadlines
Civil War Prisons Reconsidered
Edited by Michael P. Gray
Foreword by John T. Hubbell

The “deadlines” were boundaries prisoners had to stay within or risk being shot. Just as a prisoner would take the daring challenge in “crossing the deadline” to attempt escape, Crossing the Deadlines crosses those boundaries of old scholarship by taking on bold initiatives with new methodologies, filling a void in the current scholarship of Civil War prison historiography, which usually does not go beyond discussing policy, prison history, and environmental and social themes. Due to its eclectic mix of contributors—from academic and public historians to anthropologists currently excavating at specific stockade sites—the collection appeals to a variety of scholarly and popular audiences. Readers will discover how the Civil War incarceration narrative has advanced to include environmental, cultural, social, religious, retaliatory, racial, archaeological, and memory approaches.

As the historiography of Civil War captivity continues to evolve, readers of Crossing the Deadlines will discover elaboration on themes that emerged in William Hessel-tine’s classic collection, Civil War Prisons, as well as inter-connections with more recent interdisciplinary scholarship. Rather than being dominated by policy analysis, this collection examines the latest trends, methodologies, and multidisciplinary approaches in Civil War carceral studies. Unlike its predecessor, which took a micro approach on individual prisons and personal accounts, Crossing the Deadlines is a compilation of important themes that are interwoven on a broader scale by investigating many prisons North and South.

Although race played a major role in the war, its study has not been widely integrated into the prison narrative; a portion of this collection is dedicated to the role of African Americans as both prisoners and guards and to the slave culture and perceptions of race that perpetuated in prisons. Trends in environmental, societal, and cultural implications related to prisons are investigated as well as the latest finds at prison excavation sites, including the challenges and triumphs in awakening Civil War prisons’ memory at historical sites.

Michael P. Gray is professor of history at East Stroudsburg University. His The Business of Captivity: Elmira and Its Civil War Prison (Kent State University Press, 2001) was a finalist for the Seaborg Award, and a chapter of that work, published in Civil War History, earned honorable mention for the Eastern National Award. He serves as series editor of Voices of the Civil War with the University of Tennessee Press.
Penitentiaries, Punishment, and Military Prisons

Familiar Responses to an Extraordinary Crisis during the American Civil War

Angela M. Zombek

Penitentiaries, Punishment, and Military Prisons confronts the enduring claim that Civil War military prisons represented an apocalyptic and ahistorical rupture in America’s otherwise linear and progressive carceral history. Instead, it places the war years in the broader context of imprisonment in nineteenth-century America and contends that officers in charge of military prisons drew on administrative and punitive practices that existed in antebellum and wartime civilian penitentiaries to manage the war’s crisis of imprisonment. Union and Confederate officials outlined rules for military prisons, instituted punishments, implemented prison labor, and organized prisoners of war, both civilian and military, in much the same way as peacetime penitentiary officials had done, leading journalists to refer to many military prisons as “penitentiaries.”

Since imprisonment became directly associated with criminality in the antebellum period, military prison inmates internalized this same criminal stigma. One unknown prisoner expressed this sentiment succinctly when he penned, “I’m doomed a felon’s place to fill,” on the walls of Washington’s Old Capitol Prison. The penitentiary program also influenced the mindset of military prison officials who hoped that the experience of imprisonment would reform enemies into loyal citizens, just as the penitentiary program was supposed to reform criminals into productive citizens.

Angela Zombek examines the military prisons at Camp Chase, Johnson’s Island, the Old Capitol Prison, Castle Thunder, Salisbury, and Andersonville whose prisoners and administrators were profoundly impacted by their respective penitentiaries in Ohio; Washington, D.C.; Virginia; North Carolina; and Georgia. While primarily focusing on the war years, Zombek looks back to the early 1800s to explain the establishment and function of penitentiaries, discussing how military and civil punishments continuously influenced each other throughout the Civil War era.

Angela M. Zombek is assistant professor of history at St. Petersburg College in Clearwater, Florida. She has written numerous articles and book chapters on imprisonment in the Civil War era, including “Paternalism and Imprisonment at Castle Thunder: Reinforcing Gender Norms in the Confederate Capital,” which appeared in Civil War History (September 2017).
Scholars compare the experiences of Northern and Southern women in the U.S. Civil War

Women and the American Civil War
North-South Counterpoints
Edited by Judith Giesberg and Randall M. Miller

The scholarship on women’s experiences in the U.S. Civil War is rich and deep, but much of it remains regionally specific or subsumed in more general treatments of Northern and Southern peoples during the war. In a series of eight paired essays, scholars examine women’s comparable experiences across the regions, focusing particularly on women’s politics, wartime mobilization, emancipation, wartime relief, women and families, religion, reconstruction, and Civil War memory. In each pairing, historians analyze women’s lives, interests, and engagement in public issues and private concerns and think critically about what stories and questions still need attention. Among their questions are:

• What rightly counts as war mobilization, what is relief work, and what was women’s relationship to the state in each case?
• How did women’s growing suspicions about the wartime state intrude on the state’s ability to prosecute war?
• How were gender expectations in both regions riven with assumptions about race and class, what of this survived the war, and how was gender recast in the aftermath of emancipation?
• How did women define and even direct the trajectory of war and its meaning?

These and other questions emerging from this book will inform and encourage new work on women in the war and will invite scholars to look at the period with fresh perspective.


Randall M. Miller is the William Dirk Warren ’50 Sesquicentennial Chair and professor of history at Saint Joseph’s University and the author or editor of more than 25 books on a variety of subjects, including the Civil War era. Among his books are Religion and the American Civil War, coedited with Harry S. Stout and Charles Reagan Wilson, and The Northern Home Front during the Civil War, coauthored with Paul A. Cimbala.
At the Forefront of Lee’s Invasion
Retribution, Plunder, and Clashing Cultures on Richard S. Ewell’s Road to Gettysburg

Robert J. Wynstra

After clearing Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley of Federal troops, Gen. Robert E. Lee’s bold invasion into the North reached the Maryland shore of the Potomac River on June 15, 1863. A week later, the Confederate infantry crossed into lower Pennsylvania, where they had their first sustained interactions with the civilian population in a solidly pro-Union state. Most of the initial encounters with the people in the lush Cumberland Valley and the neighboring parts of the state involved the men from the Army of Northern Virginia’s famed Second Corps, commanded by Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell, who led the way as Lee’s veteran soldiers advanced north toward their eventual showdown with the Union army at the crossroads town of Gettysburg.

The move to the North lasted for nearly a month and encompassed the major battle at Winchester, Virginia, with more than 5,000 casualties; five skirmishes with more than 100 men killed, wounded, and captured in each; and several other minor actions. Civilian property losses in the North amounted to several million dollars. The interactions along the way further laid bare the enormous cultural gulf that separated the two sides in the war. As Robert Wynstra explains, Ewell and his top commanders constantly struggled to control the desire among the troops to seek retribution for what they perceived as Federal outrages in the South and to stop the plundering, working to maintain strict discipline in the army and uphold Southern honor.

Despite the yearly flood of books on Gettysburg, the Confederate advance has been largely ignored. Most books devote only a few pages or a single short chapter to that aspect of the campaign. In this new study, Wynstra draws on an array of primary sources, including rare soldiers’ letters and eyewitness accounts published in local newspapers, manuscripts and diaries in small historical societies, and a trove of postwar damage claims from the invasion to fill in this vital gap in the historiography of the campaign.

Robert J. Wynstra holds master’s degrees in history and journalism from the University of Illinois, where he worked as a writer in its News and Public Affairs Office in the College of Agricultural, Environmental, and Consumer Sciences. His book The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson won the James I. Robertson Award, the Batchelder Coddington Award, and the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table Distinguished Book Award.

The Confederate advance to Gettysburg

October 2018
Cloth, $49.95
c. 384 pp., 6⅛ x 9¼ illustrations, notes, biblio., index
An in-depth study of the Union loyalists’ secret propaganda machine

“The Most Complete Political Machine Ever Known”

The North’s Union Leagues in the American Civil War

Paul Taylor

The martial enthusiasm that engulfed the North when the American Civil War commenced in April 1861 vanished by the following summer. Repeated military defeats, economic worries, and staggering casualties prompted many civilians to question the war’s viability. Frustration exploded into anger when Republican president Abraham Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation in September.

The disgruntled voices grew louder. These anti-Lincoln Democrats, nicknamed “Copperheads,” viewed blacks with disdain and considered many of Lincoln’s legal decisions to be unconstitutional. Civilian disenchantment led to significant Republican defeats in the November Congressional elections. As 1862 ended, Northern morale was at rock bottom. Across the North, ardent pro-Lincoln men realized their country needed a patriotic stimulus, as well as an organized means of countering what they viewed as their Copperhead adversaries’ treasonous pronouncements and subversion. These men formed what became known as Union Leagues: semisecretive societies whose members had to possess unconditional loyalty to the Lincoln administration and unwavering support for all of its efforts to suppress the rebellion. Their mysterious member initiation rites were likened to a solemn religious ceremony.

In “The Most Complete Political Machine Ever Known,” Paul Taylor examines the Union League movement. Often portrayed as a mere footnote to the Civil War, the Union League’s influence on the Northern home front was far more important and consequential than previously considered. The Union League and its various offshoots spread rapidly across the North, and in this first comprehensive examination of the leagues, Taylor discusses what made them so effective, including their recruitment strategies, their use of ostracism as a way of stifling dissent, and their distribution of political propaganda in quantities unlike anything previously imagined. By the end of 1863, readers learn, it seemed as if every hamlet from Maine to California had formed its own league chapter, collectively overwhelming their Democratic foe in the 1864 presidential election.

Paul Taylor is the author of six previous books pertaining to the American Civil War. His award-winning works include “Old Slow Town”: Detroit during the Civil War and Orlando M. Poe: Civil War General and Great Lakes Engineer (Kent State University Press, 2008).
George Gordon Meade has not been treated kindly by history. Victorious at Gettysburg, the biggest battle of the American Civil War, Meade was the longest-serving commander of the Army of the Potomac, leading his army through the brutal Overland Campaign and on to the surrender of Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox. Serving alongside his new superior, Ulysses S. Grant, in the last year of the war, his role has been overshadowed by the popular Grant. This first full-length study of Meade’s two-year tenure as commander of the Army of the Potomac brings him out of Grant’s shadow and into focus as one of the top three Union generals of the war.

John G. Selby portrays a general bestride a large army he could manage well and a treacherous political environment he neither fully understood nor cared to engage. Meade’s time as commander began on a high note with the victory at Gettysburg, but when he failed to fight Lee’s retreating army that July and into the fall of 1863, the political knives came out. Meade spent the winter of 1863–64 struggling to retain his job while the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War sought to have him dismissed. Meade offered to resign, but Grant told him to keep his job. Together, they managed the Overland Campaign and the initial attacks on Petersburg and Richmond in 1864.

By basing his study on the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, original Meade letters, and the letters, diaries, journals, and reminiscences of contemporaries, Selby demonstrates that Meade was a much more active, thoughtful, and enterprising commander than has been assumed. This sensitive and reflective man accepted a position that was as political as it was military, despite knowing that the political dimensions of the job might ultimately destroy what he valued the most, his reputation.

John G. Selby is professor of history at Roanoke College and the former holder of the John R. Turbyfill Chair in History. A Civil War scholar, Selby wrote Virginians at War: The Civil War Experiences of Seven Young Confederates and coedited Civil War Talks: Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard and His Fellow Veterans.
Antiwar love letters of a Copperhead soldier and his wife

“This Infernal War”

The Civil War Letters of William and Jane Standard

Edited by Timothy Mason Roberts

Among collections of letters written between American soldiers and their spouses, the Civil War correspondence of William and Jane Standard stands out for conveying the complexity of the motives and experiences of Union soldiers and their families. The Standards of Lewiston in Fulton County, Illinois, were antiwar Copperheads. Their attitudes toward Abraham Lincoln, “Black Republicans,” and especially African Americans are, frankly, troubling to modern readers. Scholars who argue that the bulk of Union soldiers left their families and went to war to champion republican government or to wipe out slavery will have to account for this couple’s rejection of the war’s ideals.

Yet the war changed them, in spite of themselves. Jane’s often bitter letters illuminate the alienation of women left alone and the impact on a small community of its men going to war. But she grew more independent in her husband’s absence. Enlisting in the 103rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment in October 1862, William participated in General Sherman’s Siege of Vicksburg, the Battles of Missionary Ridge and Atlanta, and the March to the Sea. At the war’s end he proudly marched in the Grand Review of the Armies in the national capital. Meanwhile, he expressed enthusiasm for stealing and foraging (a.k.a., “cramping”) and unhappiness with his service, complaints that fed Jane’s intermittent requests that he desert or be captured and paroled. William’s odyssey illustrates the Union military’s assimilation of resentful Northern men to support a long, grueling, and, after 1862, revolutionary war on the South.

The Standards’ antiwar opinions harken to modern expressions of pacifism and condemnation of government. Jane’s and William’s opposition to the war helped sustain their commitment to and dependence on each other to survive it. Their letters reveal two strong-willed people in love, remaining hopeful, passionate, loyal, and even playful as they awaited their own reunion.

Timothy Mason Roberts is associate professor of history at Western Illinois University in Macomb, about thirty miles from the Standards’ Civil War home. A teacher and scholar of antebellum and Civil War—era America and the role of America in the world, he is the author of Distant Revolutions: 1848 and the Challenge to American Exceptionalism and coeditor of American Exceptionalism (4 volumes).
On March 9, 1862, the USS Monitor and CSS Virginia met in the Battle of Hampton Roads—the first time ironclad vessels would engage each other in combat. For four hours the two ships pummeled one another as thousands of Union and Confederate soldiers and civilians watched from the shorelines. Although the battle ended in a draw, this engagement would change the nature of naval warfare.

Americans did not initially have much faith in the Monitor. Few believed that this strange little vessel could hold her own against the formidable Confederate ironclad Virginia, which had been built on the bones of the scuttled USS Merrimack in Portsmouth, Virginia. The Virginia, seemingly relentless and unstoppable, had ravaged the U.S. Navy in Hampton Roads on March 8, just before the Monitor arrived. Yet the following day, the “cheesebox on a raft” proved her Union mettle, becoming a national hero in her own right.

For the remainder of the Civil War, the Union Navy used dozens of monitor-style vessels on inland waters as well as at sea. But there would always be only one first Monitor, and she became affectionately known to many throughout the nation as “Our Little Monitor.” Her loss off Cape Hatteras on December 31, 1862, was mourned as keenly in the press as the loss of 16 of her men that night.

Using the latest archaeological finds, as well as untapped archival material, Anna Gibson Holloway and Jonathan W. White bring “Our Little Monitor” to life once more in this beautifully illustrated volume. In addition to telling her story from conception in 1861 to sinking in 1862, as well as her recent recovery and ongoing restoration, they explain how fighting in this new “machine” changed the experience of her crew and reveal how the Monitor became “the pet of the people.”

Anna Gibson Holloway is the former curator of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners’ Museum in Newport News, Virginia. Her articles have appeared in American Heritage, America’s Civil War, Civil War Times, and Naval History Magazine. She currently serves as the maritime historian for the National Park Service’s Maritime Heritage Program.

Jonathan W. White is associate professor of American Studies at Christopher Newport University. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association, is vice president of the Abraham Lincoln Institute, and serves on the Ford’s Theatre Advisory Council. His recent books include Emancipation, the Union Army, and the Reelection of Abraham Lincoln and Midnight in America: Darkness, Sleep, and Dreams during the Civil War.
Oliver P. Morton and the Politics of the Civil War and Reconstruction

A. James Fuller

Remembered as the “Great War Governor” who led the state of Indiana during the Civil War, Oliver P. Morton has always been a controversial figure. His supporters praised him as a statesman who helped Abraham Lincoln save the Union, while his critics blasted him as a ruthless tyrant who abused the power of his office. Many of his contemporaries and some historians saw him as a partisan politician and an opportunist who shifted his positions to maintain power. Later generations treated Governor Morton as either a hero or a villain and generally forgot about his postwar career as a Radical Republican leader in the U.S. Senate.

In this first full biography of Morton to be published in over a century, A. James Fuller offers a groundbreaking new interpretation of Indiana’s most significant political leader in the nineteenth century. Overturning traditional views, Fuller argues that Morton’s nationalist ideology motivated him throughout his career and that he held consistently to the ideas of freedom, Union, power, and party. Those core principles drove Morton’s politics and actions, including his support for Indiana soldiers, his fight against the Democrats in the state legislature, and his 22 months of one-man rule, a period in which his opponents accused him of being a virtual dictator. His principles also framed his struggle against the disloyal Copperheads who tried to assassinate him and whose leaders he helped bring to justice in the Indianapolis Treason Trials.

Fuller also restores the historical significance of Morton’s long-neglected career as a Reconstruction senator. Seeing Reconstruction as a continuation of the Civil War, Morton became a leading Radical Republican who championed racial equality. He continually waved the bloody shirt, reminding voters that the Democrats had caused the rebellion. Morton supported the civil rights of African Americans and fought against the Democrats and the Ku Klux Klan. He enjoyed widespread support for the presidency in 1876, but when his bid for the Republican nomination came up short, he helped decide the disputed election for Rutherford B. Hayes. When Morton died in 1877, Reconstruction died with him, symbolically marking the end of an era.

A. James Fuller is professor of history at the University of Indianapolis. Primarily a historical biographer, he is the author of Chaplain to the Confederacy: Basil Manly and Baptist Life in the Old South and The Election of 1860 Reconsidered (Kent State University Press, 2013).
Phantoms of the South Fork
Captain McNeill and His Rangers
Steve French

At 3 a.m. on February 21, 1865, a band of 65 Confederate horsemen slowly made its way down Greene Street in Cumberland, Maryland. Thinking the riders were disguised Union scouts, the few Union soldiers out that bitterly cold morning paid little attention to them. In the meantime, over 3,500 Yankee soldiers peacefully slept.

Within thirty minutes McNeill’s Rangers had kidnapped Union generals George Crook and Benjamin Kelley from their hotels and spirited them out of town. Despite a determined effort by Union pursuers to intercept the kidnappers, the Rangers reached safety deep in the South Fork River Valley, over fifty miles away. Not long afterward, the generals were shipped to Richmond’s Libby Prison. Southern general John B. Gordon later called the mission “one of the most thrilling incidents of the war.”

In September 1862, John Hanson McNeill recruited a company of troopers for Col. John D. Imboden’s 1st Virginia Partisan Rangers. In early 1863, Imboden took most of his men into the regular army, but McNeill and his son Jesse offered their men an opportunity to continue in independent service; seventeen soldiers joined them. In the coming months, other young hotspurs enlisted in McNeill’s Rangers. Operating mostly in the Potomac Highlands of what is now eastern West Virginia, the Rangers bedeviled the Union troops guarding the B&O Railroad line. Favoring American Indian battle tactics, they ambushed patrols, attacked wagon trains, and heavily damaged railroad property and rolling stock.

Phantoms of the South Fork is the thrilling result of Steve French’s carefully researched study of primary source material, including diaries, memoirs, letters, and period newspaper articles. Additionally, he has traveled throughout West Virginia, western Maryland, southern Pennsylvania, and the Shenandoah Valley following the trail of Captain McNeill and his “Phantoms of the South Fork.”

Steve French is a former middle school history teacher and graduate of Shepherd College. His other works include Imboden’s Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign; Rebel Chronicles: Raiders, Scouts, and Train Robbers of the Upper-Potomac; and Four Years Along the Tilhance: The Private Diary of Elisha Manor. He has written over eighty historical articles that have appeared in numerous publications.
Memoir of practice at a D.C. hospital and the changing nature of Civil War medicine

Recollections of a Civil War Medical Cadet

Burt Green Wilder
Edited by Richard M. Reid

In July 1862, Burt Green Wilder left Boston to join Dr. Francis Brown, a surgeon working at Judiciary Square Hospital, one of the new army pavilion hospitals in Washington, D.C. Wilder had just finished his degree in comparative anatomy at Harvard, and the chance to assist Brown rather than serve as a soldier in the army was appealing. For the next ten months Wilder worked in the hospital’s wards as a medical cadet. Although he lacked formal medical training, he had aptitude, ability, and an advanced knowledge of anatomy. These qualities were increasingly valued in a medical department being reformed by the new surgeon general, William Hammond, who demanded a more scientific approach to medical care and to the creation and dissemination of medical knowledge. Forty-five years after the war ended, Wilder began to draft his recollections of an era that had transformed him personally and radically altered American medicine.

Richard M. Reid’s introduction captures the ways the war dramatically reconfigured the American medical landscape. Prior to the war, the medical community was badly fragmented, and elite physicians felt undervalued by the American public. The war offered them the chance to assert their professional control and to make medicine more scientific and evidence-based. The introduction also includes an extensive historiographical analysis of Civil War medicine and situates Wilder’s recollections in the changing direction of the field.

Wilder’s manuscript, largely finished but never published, is written with humor and grace and provides a revealing eyewitness account of Civil War relief services and hospital work. The army hospitals, dramatically different from the prewar institutions, became centers of medical innovation and analytical record keeping. Even medical cadets such as Wilder conducted postmortems and were encouraged to submit specimens of combat-related injuries to Hammond’s newly created Army Medical Museum. His discussions of the day-to-day practice in the hospital, the war’s expansion of medical knowledge, the duties of medical cadets, scientific activity, and gender relations are particularly compelling.

Richard M. Reid is professor emeritus at the University of Guelph in Ontario. A historian of the Civil War, his books include Freedom for Themselves: North Carolina’s Black Soldiers in the Civil War Era, African Canadians in Union Blue (Kent State University Press, 2015), and Practicing Medicine in a Black Regiment: The Civil War Diary of Burt G. Wilder, 55th Massachusetts.
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My Gettysburg
*Meditations on History and Place*
Mark A. Snell

The Gettysburg Campaign and its culminating battle have generated more than their share of analysis and published works. In *My Gettysburg*, Civil War scholar and twenty-six-year Gettysburg resident Mark Snell goes beyond the campaign itself to explore the “culture” of the battlefield. In this fascinating collection, Snell provides an intriguing interpretation of some neglected military aspects of the battle, such as a revisionist study of Judson Kilpatrick’s decision to launch “Farnsworth’s Charge” on the southern end of the Confederate line after Pickett’s Charge and the role of Union logisticians in the Northern victory. In addition, he looks at a town east of Gettysburg—York, Pennsylvania, a community that likewise suffered invasion in the summer of 1863—as well as at the role of Union and Confederate soldiers from the new state of West Virginia who fought against each other during the campaign. Further, this collection assesses Gettysburg’s evolution as a historic place: an American shrine, an inspiration for popular music, a training ground for soldiers past and present, a mecca for reenactors, a combat zone between commercial developers and preservationists, and a home to its residents—including the author, who gives us a personal view of what the battlefield and its surrounding community have come to mean to him.

October 2016 / 240 pp.
Cloth, $29.95 / ISBN 978-1-60635-293-9

For Their Own Cause
*The 27th United States Colored Troops*
Kelly D. Mezurek

The 27th United States Colored Troops (USCT), composed largely of free black Ohio men, served in the Union army from April 1864 to September 1865 in Virginia and North Carolina. It was the first time most members of the unit had traveled so far from home. The men faced daily battles against racism and against inferior treatment, training, and supplies. They suffered from the physical difficulties of military life, the horrors of warfare, and homesickness and worried about loved ones left at home without financial support. Yet their contributions provided a tool that allowed blacks with little military experience, and their families, to demand social acceptance and acknowledgment of their citizenship.

October 2016 / 368 pp.
Pure Heart

The Faith of a Father and Son in the War for a More Perfect Union

William F. Quigley Jr.

Honorable Mention, Foreword INDIES Book Awards, War & Military

William F. Quigley Jr. presents a narrative that remarkably encapsulates much of the North’s experience of the war. Reverend Benjamin Dorr was one of the most important clergymen of the era, who strived to hold his warring parishioners intact. His efforts paralleled Lincoln’s far greater but comparable challenge to preserve the Union. “The Nation’s Church” was torn apart from within between a faction of Pennsylvania’s leading anti-emancipation Democrats and a faction of the city’s and state’s leading Republicans. Like Lincoln, Dorr invoked a temperate faith apart from the civil religion with which most Americans crusaded against each other. Dorr prayed that war might be avoided. But, when war came, he stood faithfully in support of the Union and of the war as Lincoln waged it, emancipation included, even unto the most grievous of losses.


Cloth, $39.95 / ISBN 978-1-60635-286-1

Democracy and the American Civil War

Race and African Americans in the Nineteenth Century

Edited by Kevin Adams and Leonne M. Hudson

The essays in this volume—by Adams and Hudson along with Stanley Harrold, John David Smith, Mitchell Snay, and Fay Yarbrough—represent an exemplary collection on the importance of democracy and race during and after America’s most devastating conflict. Ranging from a consideration of antebellum abolitionists to the racial policies adopted by Native American tribes that had allied with the Confederacy to the ambiguous legacies of Reconstruction, these chapters are thoroughly researched, persuasively argued, and beautifully crafted. Democracy and the American Civil War is a compelling examination of black Americans and their quest for citizenship rights in the face of violence and ostracism.

October 2016 / 120 pp.

Bushwhackers
Guerrilla Warfare, Manhood, and the Household in Civil War Missouri
Joseph M. Beilein Jr.

Bushwhackers adds to the growing body of literature that examines the various irregular conflicts that took place during the American Civil War. Author Joseph M. Beilein Jr. looks at the ways in which several different bands of guerrillas across Missouri conducted their war in concert with their households and their female kin who provided logistical support in many forms. Whether noted fighters like Frank James, William Clarke Quantrill, and “Bloody Bill” Anderson, or less well-known figures such as Clifton Holtzclaw and Jim Jackson, Beilein provides a close examination of how these warriors imagined themselves as fighters, offering a new interpretation that gets us closer to seeing how the men and women who participated in the war in Missouri must have understood it.

June 2016 / 304 pp.
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Lincoln’s Generals’ Wives
Four Women Who Influenced the Civil War—for Better and for Worse
Candice Shy Hooper

Winner of the 2017 Bronze IPPY (Independent Publisher Book Awards), US History

Winner of the 2017 Silver IBPA (Independent Book Publishers Association) Ben Franklin Award, History

Winner of the 2017 Sarton Women’s Book Awards, Biography

The story of the American Civil War is not complete without examining the extraordinary and influential lives of Jessie Frémont, Nelly McClellan, Ellen Sherman, and Julia Grant, the wives of Abraham Lincoln’s top generals. They were their husbands’ closest confidantes and had a profound impact on the generals’ ambitions and actions. Most important, the women’s own attitudes toward and relationships with Lincoln had major historical significance.

Candice Shy Hooper’s lively account covers the early lives of her subjects, as well as their families, their education, their political attitudes, and their personal beliefs. Once shots were fired on Fort Sumter, the women were launched out of their private spheres into a wholly different universe, where their relationships with their husbands and their personal opinions of the president of the United States had national and historical consequences.

May 2016 / 432 pp.
Cloth, $39.95 / ISBN 978-1-60635-278-6
Johnson’s Island
*A Prison for Confederate Officers*
Roger Pickenpaugh

In 1861, Lt. Col. William Hoffman was appointed to the post of commissary general of prisoners and urged to find a suitable site for the construction of what was expected to be the Union’s sole military prison. After inspecting four islands in Lake Erie, Hoffman came upon one in Sandusky Bay known as Johnson’s Island. With a large amount of fallen timber, forty acres of cleared land, and its proximity to Sandusky, Ohio, Johnson’s Island seemed the ideal location for the Union’s purpose. By the following spring, Johnson’s Island prison was born.

*Johnson’s Island* tells the story of the camp from its planning stages until the end of the war. Because the facility housed only officers, several literate diary keepers were on hand; author Roger Pickenpaugh draws on their accounts, along with prison records, to provide a fascinating depiction of day-to-day life. Hunger, boredom, harsh conditions, and few luxuries were all the prisoners knew until the end of the war, when at last parts of Johnson’s Island were auctioned off, the post was ordered abandoned, and the island was mustered out of service.


Interpreting American History: Reconstruction

Edited by John David Smith

Writing in 1935 in his brilliant and brooding *Black Reconstruction*, W. E. B. Du Bois lamented America’s post–Civil War era as a missed opportunity to reconstruct the war-torn nation in deed as well as in word. “If the Reconstruction of the Southern states, from slavery to free labor, and from aristocracy to industrial democracy, had been conceived as a major national program of America, whose accomplishment at any price was well worth the effort,” wrote Du Bois, “we should be living today in a different world.”

*Interpreting American History: Reconstruction* provides a primer on the often-contentious historical literature on Reconstruction, the period in American history from 1865 to 1877. As Du Bois noted, this critical period in U.S. history held much promise for African Americans transitioning from slavery to freedom and in redefining American nationality for all citizens.

July 2016 / 256 pp.
African Canadians in Union Blue
Volunteering for the Cause in the Civil War
Richard M. Reid

C.P. Stacey Prize, Canadian Historical Association

“This significant book helps us better understand the Civil War in a transnational context, as Richard M. Reid reveals the fascinating and compelling story of nearly 2,500 African Canadians who chose to leave the safety of British North America to cross the border and help fight for the Union and the end of slavery.”

—Christian G. Samito, author of Becoming American under Fire: Irish Americans, African Americans, and the Politics of Citizenship during the Civil War Era

January 2015 / 308 pp.

“My Greatest Quarrel with Fortune”
Major General Lew Wallace in the West, 1861–1862
Charles G. Beemer

Finalist, Foreword INDIES Book Awards, Biography

“Lew Wallace was a model civilian-soldier, until his absence on the first day of the Battle of Shiloh undermined his career. In ‘My Greatest Quarrel with Fortune,’ Charles Beemer has reassessed Wallace’s legacy in ways that challenge our assumptions about the famed soldier/author. His prodigious research and new analysis will prompt scholars and general readers to rethink their understanding of not only the man but also his lifelong struggle to rehabilitate his reputation for being cast as the scapegoat of the famed battle.”

—Stephen D. Engle, Florida Atlantic University

October 2015 / 344 pp.
Cloth, $39.95 / ISBN 978-1-60635-236-6

Work for Giants
The Campaign and Battle of Tupelo/Harrisburg, Mississippi, June–July 1864
Thomas E. Parson

“The focus of Work for Giants is on the Union effort by Major General Andrew Jackson Smith to threaten the ‘breadbasket’ region of Mississippi, defeat any opposition, and divert Confederate attentions from larger operations taking place elsewhere. Smith’s command confronts the usually able leadership of Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest and Lieutenant General Stephen Dill Lee as they move to block Smith’s advance and thwart his intentions. Parson has produced an outstanding assessment of the operations associated with that summer campaign in an engaging and insightful narrative.”

—Brian S. Wills, editor, Civil War Soldiers and Strategies series

Cloth, $39.95 / ISBN 978-1-60635-222-9
Conspicuous Gallantry
The Civil War and Reconstruction Letters of James W. King, 11th Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Edited by Eric R. Faust

“In this wonderfully edited collection, Eric Faust has provided us with a captivating glimpse into the life of James W. King, a member of the Eleventh Michigan, who chronicled his war experience in eloquent letters to his sweetheart, Jenny. At the same time, King detailed the social ramifications of Reconstruction during his time in the South after the fighting halted. This volume is a welcomed and needed exploration of one man’s life dramatically altered by the defining hour in our nation’s history.”

—Brian Craig Miller, editor of “A Punishment on the Nation”: An Iowa Soldier Endures the Civil War (Kent State University Press, 2012)

October 2015 / 304 pp.
Cloth, $45.00 / ISBN 978-1-60635-243-4

The Printer’s Kiss
The Life and Letters of a Civil War Newspaperman and His Family
Edited by Patricia A. Donohoe

“This intriguing collection of letters, enhanced by Patricia Donohoe’s illuminating commentary, reveals in the most personal ways how one Ohio family confronted the chaos of secession and civil war. Besides the usual anxieties endemic to the North’s home front, the story of Will and Eliza Tomlinson exposes multiple layers of political intrigue, racial tensions, emotional suffering, family conflict, community turmoil, and, ultimately, murder. It is a penetrating human story of war’s dark corners.”

—Daniel E. Sutherland, University of Arkansas

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Yankee Dutchmen under Fire
Civil War Letters from the 82nd Illinois Infantry
Translated and Edited by Joseph R. Reinhart

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—Terrence J. Winschel, Historian (ret.), Vicksburg National Military Park


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—William Blair, Professor of U.S. History and Director of the George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center, The Pennsylvania State University


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Southern Slavery and the Threat to American Freedom

Jeremy Tewell

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—Michael S. Green, College of Southern Nevada

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September 2013
Paper, $29.95 / 336 pp

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—Joan Waugh, author of U.S. Grant: American Hero, American Myth

November 2015 / 360 pp

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 Images of the Civil War at the Western Reserve Historical Society
Christine Dee

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