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The NYMAS 2007 Award for Lifetime Achievement in Civil War Studies has been presented to Prof. James M. McPherson, author of *Battle Cry of Freedom* and numerous other notable works.

Feature Review

Army of the Potomac: Vol. III, McClellan's First Campaign, March-May 1862: A Wide-Ranging Study of the Army's Leaders and Their Decisions,
by Russel H. Beatie.

McClellan's First Campaign, the third volume in Russel H. Beatie's major study of the Army of the Potomac, picks up the story with McClellan poised to undertake a major, possibly war winning, offensive against the Confederacy. This period saw the beginnings of the Valley Campaign through to the movement of the Army of the Potomac to Virginia and the onset of the Peninsular Campaign.

Characterized by relatively little fighting, it was time of great debate over strategy and organization, infighting among generals and politicians, a major clash of wills between Lincoln and McClellan, inter-service disputes, and more. Beatie recounts all this in a good deal of detail, while building his case that McClellan was a much better commander than the verdict of history indicates, and arguing that Lincoln hampered the war effort. Since the focus of the work is primarily a military one, it fails to address critical political issues that necessarily had to affect military policy, and tends to avoid McClellan's contempt for the president.

As has been his style, Beatie provides numerous profiles of important military figures, and in this work makes a useful analysis of the difference between those commanders who belonged to the "Bull Run Pool" and those who did not. Although conceding that McClellan was sometimes reluctant to use the fine army that he had created, Beatie argues that his actions were dictated by what was known at the time. This gives McClellan a pass for his uncritical embrace of the unreliable information being gathered by the inept Alan Pinkerton; Beatie fails to provide an analysis of why McClellan willingly accepted Pinkerton's flawed figures, despite evidence to the contrary; a careful look

at the general's reasoning might well strengthen the case in his favor.

Despite this, the work provides an excellent look at the development of the strategic situation in the Eastern Theater on the eve of the great campaigns of the Spring and Summer of 1862. As an aside, at the rate he is going, Beatie's efforts seem likely to require six or eight volumes before the tale of the Army of the Potomac reaches its end.

Army of the Potomac: Vol. III, McClellan's First Campaign, March-May 1862: A Wide-Ranging Study of the Army's Leaders and Their Decisions, by Russel H. Beatie. New York: Savas Beatie, 2007. Pp. xxi, 723. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$45.00. ISBN: 978-1-9327-1425-8

--A.A. Nofi. CNA

Reviews

Lincolmites and Rebels: A Divided Town in the American Civil War, by Robert Tracy McKenzie. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006. Pp. 306. Illus, append, notes, biblio., index. \$35.00. ISBN -13 978-0-19-518294-1.

Lincolmites and Rebels is a valuable contribution to Civil War literature. McKenzie's complicated task was to demonstrate how Knoxville, Tennessee experienced the Civil War and how it changed as a result.

Knoxville is generally believed to have been the most important Southern Unionist center. However, the first thing McKenzie does is to dispel that notion to some degree. He details the demographics showing that the town was diverse, economically and ethnically, and its leading citizens were largely slave holders. Once the war came, however, its loyalties were split 50/50, although the surrounding rural areas were Unionist.

McKenzie makes several important points. Firstly, Knoxville was by no means as pro-Union as thought at the time, a belief largely fomented by William G. "Parson" Brownlow, the fiery editor of the *Knoxville Whig*. In addition, Lincoln's call for the militia after the firing on Fort Sumter pushed the state and town to the Confederate side, since Secessionists charged that opposition to secession was support for coercion by the federal government. Unionism revived somewhat once Confederate troops occupied the town and the draft was imposed, as the thought occurred that citizens had just traded one "tyranny" for another. Overall, the

ultimate political divide seemed to rest on old party ties, that is, the Unionists were former Whigs, and the Confederates, Democrats. After the war, the town “reconciled” through the issue of white supremacy.

Among other topics covered are military occupations by both the Confederate and Union armies, General Longstreet’s siege of the town that trapped Ambrose Burnside’s Ohio forces, the travails of African-American soldiers in the town, and the many people forced to become political refugees.

McKenzie makes one error that turns what might have been a great book into just a very good one. He is just plain wrong when he states that the Lincoln administration never considered the relief of East Tennessee to be a major military priority at the start of the war. He also somewhat fails in his purpose, since while he demonstrates that the mountain folk were real Unionists, he never investigates them in depth. What was the point of analyzing Unionism in the city of Knoxville, when the real Unionists resided outside of town? In short, McKenzie never addresses what should be the most important question, “Why was East Tennessee such a hotbed of Unionism?”

-- C. Kay Larson

Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian, by Edward H. Bonekemper III. Westport, Conn.: Praeger Publishers, 2008. Pp. xxi, 436. Maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$49.95. ISBN: 978-0-313-34971-3.

For those interested in Ulysses S. Grant or Robert E. Lee (and really, what Civil War addict isn’t?), this book is a must read. Bonekemper convincingly demonstrates that Grant was the better general and has conducted some ground breaking analyses of Lee’s performance. As outlined by Bonekemper, Lee’s major failings were: 1) a passion for the aggressive offensive with disastrous use of frontal assaults; 2) weak leadership during battles that could result in uncoordinated attacks; and 3) a Virginia-centric view of operations—continually asking for more troops from other theaters and refusing to send troops out of area. Lee is most damned by casualty figures: cumulatively he suffered a 20.2 percent casualty rate (p. 244) while he was at an overall 4:1 manpower disadvantage; Grant’s forces suffered 11 percent casualties which was sustainable. In his first 14 months of command, Lee suffered casualties as great as the number of men with whom he started (p. 130).

In terms of battlefield leadership, Grant issued precise orders, keeping up a continuous flow of information, but flexible control of operations during battles. The Vicksburg campaign especially showed Grant’s efficient, effective use of forces in a “classic surprise maneuver.” Once he became general-in-chief, Grant used the armies in tandem to defeat Confederate

forces throughout the South. Unlike Lee and Davis, Grant and Lincoln correctly conceptualized their problems and in their minds had the whole strategic picture in focus.

The only major criticism of Bonekemper’s analysis is that he undervalues the role of Union commanders, such as William S. Rosecrans, the U. S. Navy, and the support the Lincoln administration provided Grant. For example, at Forts Henry and Donelson (see nymas.org: “The Tennessee River Campaign”) and Chattanooga.

Overall, however, this is a very well thought-out work. It suggests that the most important keys to military success are critical conceptualization and decision-making; flexibility and economy of force, and bulldog determination.

-- C. Kay Larson

Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862, by O. Edward Cunningham, edited by Guy D. Joiner and Timothy B. Smith. New York: Savas Beattie, 2007. Pp. xxix, 476. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 978-1-932714-27-2.

Since its completion in 1966 as the late Prof. Cunningham’s doctoral dissertation, *Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862* has long held a niche in Civil War studies as an essential read for the Shiloh campaign. It is thus quite surprising that we had to wait until 2007 for a published edition to make the work available outside the scholarly community.

Dr. Cunningham’s work is a highly detailed strategic and tactical analysis of events in the Western Theater during the Henry-Donelson and Shiloh Campaigns; this is operational analysis on the grand scale. It opens with three chapters exploring the geographic, cultural, and political background, Union strategic decision making, and the capture of Forts Henry and Donelson. There follow three chapters on strategy and operations to the eve of the Battle of Shiloh, then fully eight very detailed chapters on the battle itself, and then a chapter on claiming and blaming, one analyzing the results, and a final one setting the stage for what followed. The treatment is excellent, very detailed, well-reasoned, and highly readable.

Keeping in mind that Dr. Cunningham’s research was done over 40 years ago, and that he relied rather heavily on the publications of the *Southern Historical Society*, lending the work a generally “Southern” slant not always borne out by more recent scholarship, the editors have carefully made occasional changes, well-labeled, to his text, based on documents and research unavailable at the time the work was written, and often provide little “side bars” in footnotes explaining some complex issues of fact or interpretation.

By making *Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862* available the editors and publisher have made a great contribution to Civil War studies.

--A. A. Nofi

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**The Watery Side**

*Africa Squadron: The U.S. Navy and the Slave Trade, 1842-1861*, by Donald L. Canney. Washington: Potomac Books, 2006. Pp. xiv, 276. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$27.50. ISBN: 1-574-88606-1.

Although the U.S. declared the slave trade illegal in 1808, pro-slavery interests insured that attempts at enforcement were sporadic until the early 1840s, when the Webster-Ashburton Treaty with Britain led to a permanent U.S. Navy squadron dedicated to suppressing the slave trade. From 1842 until shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War, the Navy seized over 50 ships and liberated several thousand people from slavery. This is the framework of the story told in *Africa Squadron*. The book does an excellent job of dealing with naval operations in hostile environments far from home, and gives the reader a good grasp of the nature of sea power in the period. But this book is more than just an interesting addition to *naval* history. *Africa Squadron* is also a valuable contribution to the exploration of the complexities of race, culture, economics, society, and politics in the *ante bellum* period and how these helped propel the nation into Civil War. In these pages we encounter slave owning naval officers doing their duty, often with considerable effectiveness, venal prosecutors and juries letting capital criminals off the hook (no slaver tried in an American court received more than a slap on the wrist until after the start of the Civil War), and the intricate web of money, prejudice, and self-interest that hampered American – and international – efforts to suppress the slave trade.

*Confederate Naval Forces on Western Waters*, by R. Thomas Campbell. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 2005. Pp. viii, 272. Illus., maps, appends., notes, biblio., index. \$55.00. ISBN: 0-7864-2203-3.

Studies of the Confederate Navy seem to spend most of their time on its efforts to develop ironclads capable of breaking the blockade of Southern ports and fast cruisers to raid Northern commerce. But much of the Confederacy's naval effort focused on developing a presence on the Mississippi and connected internal waterways. This is the subject of *Confederate Naval Forces on Western Waters*. The book is well written. It integrates technical naval issues such as the design, construction, and arming of riverine forces, operations on land and sea, numerous sketches of officers and others, as well as a fair number of excerpts from news stories, letters, diaries, and official reports, into a smooth narrative. The sympathies of the author are obvious, which does at times mar an otherwise excellent treatment. Thus, despite mentioning the Confederate invasion of Kentucky and occupation of

Columbus in September 1861, he refers to U.S. Grant's response, the capture of Paducah, as a "violation of Kentucky's declared neutrality." Nevertheless, a book likely to be of interest to anyone interested in the naval side of the war or of the war in the west.

*The Lost Fleet: A Yankee Whaler's Struggle Against the Confederate Navy and Arctic Disaster*, by Marc Songini. New York: St. Martin's, 2007. Pp. xiii, 432. Illus., maps, biblio., index. \$25.95. ISBN: 0-312-28648-1

*The Lost Fleet* is a very readable account of the destruction of the American whaling industry as a consequence of the Civil War. The author, who has written several earlier works focused on New England and its history, provides an interesting and often gripping account by integrating an overview of the American whaling industry, with an account of a single voyage, as seen through the experiences of a captain, his wife, their infant (who's born on the voyage), and the crew, a look at the Confederate experience with commerce raiding, and, tied them all together with a history of the cruiser *Shenandoah* and her officers and crew. There's much sea lore in *The Lost Fleet*, and Songini is surprising adept at explaining terms and concepts that might be unfamiliar to many modern readers without interrupting a smooth narrative. There's a lot here, from the now lost life and culture of the whalers to prize money; from encounters with edenic island cultures to the hard hand of war.

*Civil War Ironclads: The U.S. Navy and Industrial Mobilization*, by William H. Roberts. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. Pp. xv, 285. Illus., maps, tables, diag., append., notes, biblio., index. \$25.00 paper. ISBN: 978-0-8018-8751-2.

The U.S. Navy's ironclad program during the Civil War was the largest industrial effort hitherto in the nation's history. In the end, the fleet of ironclad vessel ran some 50 monitors, armored gunboats, and some miscellaneous vessels. While the effectiveness of the ironclads, notably the monitors and gunboats, was unquestioned, the cost ran far higher than expected, technological problems often proved insurmountable, and there was considerable confusion. The author, a retired naval officer who has written several previous works on the Navy in the Civil War, seeks to address the reasons for those problems. He attributes much of the difficulty to inexperience, ship builders overwhelmed with huge orders for the near-simultaneous construction of numerous vessels that required innovative technologies, rising costs due to inflation and manpower shortages, a lot of carelessness in contracting, and more. The book discusses the many personalities involved, tactical and strategic issues, government procurement procedures and oversight, and lots of technology, but is quite readable.

One valuable aspect of Roberts' presentation is that he makes useful comparisons with procedures in later wars, notably World War II. A valuable read for the specialist in Civil War navies.

*Ironclad Down: USS Merrimack-CSS Virginia, from Construction to Destruction*, by Carl D. Park. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2007. Pp. xvi, 238. Illus., diagr., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$45.00. ISBN: 978-1-59114-659-9.

This book is a detailed, highly technical history most likely to be of value for those interested in naval technology. *Ironclad Down*, an examination of the Confederacy's most famous attempt to create a blockade breaking ironclad, opens with three chapters, each devoted to one of the innovators who brought about the transformation of the ruined steam frigate *Merrimack* into the casemate ironclad *Virginia*, Confederate Secretary of War Stephen R. Mallory, naval constructor John L. Porter, and inventor and naval officer John Mercer Brooke. The next three chapters focus on the design, construction, and destruction of the *Merrimack*. There follow four chapters on the design and construction of the *Virginia*, with some excellent insights into the difficulties the Confederacy had in providing much of the materiel and equipment, and a look at some of the innovative approaches that helped solve or circumvent these problems. There is then a chapter on the Battle of Hampton Roads, another on the balance of the *Virginia's* short career, and a summary chapter. Within this framework, we learn a lot about the state of naval architecture and technology, Confederate strategy, and the personalities of a number of interesting character in addition to Mallory, Porter, and Brooke.

*Encyclopedia of Civil War Shipwrecks*, by W. Craig Gaines. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2008. Pp. xiii, 231. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 978-0-8071-3274-6

An index of more than two thousand Civil War era wrecks of American—both U.S. and C.S.—vessels and all known vessels in American waters, whether war-related or not. The work is organized regionally, with “chapters” devoted to the wrecks in a particular state or other region (e.g., Bering Sea, East Indies, Lake Erie, etc.). Entries for each ship vary in length, based on the availability of information; some are quite detailed, giving dimensions, a brief history, circumstances and place of loss, and even cargo, while others are little more than a name. References are provided, and the index permits the reader to locate a vessel starting only with her name. An invaluable reference for anyone interested in the naval side of the Civil War or in maritime history.

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Bob Rowen, Webmaster

### Personal Accounts & Regimentals

*Meade's Army: The Private Notebooks of Lt. Col. Theodore Lyman*, edited by David W. Lowe. Kent, Oh.: Kent State University Press, 2007. Pp. xviii, 518. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$45.00. ISBN: 978-0-87338-901-3.

From September of 1863, Lyman, a Harvard-trained natural scientist, served as staff officer to Maj. Gen. George Meade, who commanded the Army of the Potomac. Lyman's training as a scientific observer helped him fill several notebooks and numerous letters with an extraordinary amount of detail, often illustrated with little sketch maps. He comments on the life of the army, family affairs, operations, and more. But it is his commentary on people, particularly the many senior officers with whom he came in contact, that is often immensely valuable, including his opinions of the army and the skills of various generals, with comments on their character and habits, and more. Lyman's observations are often surprising, with much detail on little-known events in contrast to “The Big Picture.” The notebooks published here cover the entire period of his service, but focus on the events of the Overland Campaign, the Siege of Petersburg, and the final weeks of the war. The editor has added notes, to help identify some of the people Lyman mentions in passing or to clarify occasional obscure passages, and suggestions for further reading. Although there is just too much material to be of use – or interest – for the casual reader, *Meade's Army* will certainly be of value to the serious student of the war.

*Marching with the First Nebraska: A Civil War Diary*, by August Scherneckau, edited by James F. Potter and Edith Robbins, translated by Edith Robbins. Norman, Ok.: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007. Pp. xxi, 335. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 978-0-8061-3808-4.

From his enlistment, in September of 1862, to his discharge for war injuries in July of 1864, German immigrant August Scherneckau kept a diary, in his native language. Scherneckau's war was characterized not by major battles and sweeping campaigns, but by occupation and security duty, mostly in Missouri and Arkansas. This tedious, often boring duty, punctuated by rare skirmishes with Confederate guerrillas, has been captured wonderfully in Scherneckau's diary. A very good observer, Scherneckau not only gives us a look at the day-to-day life of the common soldier, in camp, on the march, on leave, performing routine duties, and, rarely, in action, but also provides a look at life in the period. He also relates numerous good

anecdotes, such as how, when serving in the provost guard, he and his comrades worked hard *not* to find AWOL buddies. A good look at the war, made better by the editors, who added material on Scherneckau's life before and after the war, and very useful clarificatory footnotes.

*77<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers: "Sojering" in the VI Corps*, by Robert F. Morrow, Jr. Shippensburg, Pa.: White Mane, 2004. Pp. xiv, 273. Illus., append., notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 1-57249-352-6.

Raised in the area of the old Saratoga battlefield, in the summer and autumn of 1861, the 77<sup>th</sup> New York was in many ways "typical" of Union volunteer regiments. But of course, like all regiments, the 77<sup>th</sup> had quite a number of unique experiences. It served from the Peninsular Campaign until Appomattox, seeing action in at least 50 battles, skirmishes, and combats, often under circumstances that caused one general to compliment it by saying it was "always in the right place." These experiences forged unbreakable bonds among the troops, who remained a tightly knit brotherhood for decades after being mustered out and returning to their homes. Drawing upon a wealth of letters, memoirs, and other writings by the veterans, to supplement official documents, newspaper accounts, and historical works, this book follows the men of the 77<sup>th</sup> through their wartime experiences, in training and camp as well as on the march and under fire, and then takes a look at their long postwar lives, as veterans and community leaders. A valuable book for anyone with an interest in the soldier in the Civil War.

*History of the 90<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the War of the Great Rebellion in the United States, 1861-1865*, by H.O. Harden, edited by Scott Cameron. Kent, Oh.: Black Squirrel/Kent State University Press, 2006. Pp. x, 341. Illus., append. \$24.95 paper. ISBN: 978-0-87338-884-4.

Originally published in 1902, this work is by no means a scholarly treatment of the 90<sup>th</sup> Ohio. Raised in mid-1862, the regiment served in the West, from Perryville, Stone's River, Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Atlanta, Franklin, Nashville, and on into North Carolina. The account of the regiment's career is simple narrative, often giving day-to-day accounts of events, with weather and other details, though lacking serious analysis, criticism, or, in fact, anything negative about the regiment at all, which is to be expected. While this material is of some interest, the book also includes numerous letters, essays, newspaper articles, poems, and much more, some written during the war and some after it, often long after. These materials provide interesting and unusual perspectives on events, amusing or serious anecdotes, profiles of outstanding personnel, and many details about life and service of the troops. This makes the work likely to be

of interest to students of the American volunteer in the war.

*Chicago's Battery Boys: The Chicago Mercantile Battery in the Civil War's Western Theater*, by Richard Brady Williams. New York: Savas Beattie, 2007. . Pp. xxviii, 596. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$22.95 paper. ISBN: 978-1-932714-38-8.

Among the most interesting volunteer artillery units in the war, the Chicago Mercantile Battery was raised in mid-1862, and served in the West until the end of the war. *Chicago's Battery Boys* follows the battery as it distinguished itself during the Vicksburg Campaign, earning six Medals of Honor, and then served in Louisiana and Texas, where it suffered a devastating reverse at Sabine Crossroads. It then details how, even as some senior officers attempted to disparage their record, the men of the battery called upon powerful political and business supporters to preserve and rebuild their unit, which continued to serve until the end of the war. The author has drawn upon numerous previously untapped documents and letters, some of which he has included in the text, providing first-hand accounts of a number of notable actions, and the life of the army, military politics, and American society.

### ~~~~~ Two Recent Books on Women Spies

A number of women were active as intelligence agents during the Civil War, though it is often difficult to evaluate their contributions. Some generals, such as William S. Rosecrans used their own private networks of spies, with few records being kept, while many memoirs have been fictionalized in part. Moreover, some women, such as Elizabeth Van Lew, never said much about their activities, and soon faded from memory until relatively recently (see Elizabeth Varon's, *Southern Lady, Yankee Spy. The True Story of Elizabeth Van Lew, a Union Agent in the Heart of the Confederacy*). Others, such as Belle Boyd, produced self-serving memoirs, and ended up with inflated reputations. Recent work on the subject had helped clarify the roles of these women, and, as can be seen from the books reviewed below, others as well.

- *Pauline Cushman: Spy of the Cumberland*, by William J. Christen. Roseville, Minn.: Edinborough Press, 2006. Pp. 436. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN 978-1-889020-11-2.
- *Wild Rose: Rose O'Neale Greenhow, Civil War Spy*, by Ann Blackman. New York: Random House, 2005. Pp. 377 pp. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$14.95 paper. ISBN 978-0-8129-7045-6

Christen's *Pauline Cushman* is the first scholarly work on the legendary scout's life. Born Harriet Wood, prior to the Civil War, Cushman enjoyed a somewhat successful acting career in the Midwest. During the war, her husband, a soldier in the 41<sup>st</sup> Ohio

Volunteers, died from illness incurred in while in the service. After his death, Cushman took to the stage in Louisville, and was there recruited as an agent by Union intelligence. In mid-1863 she was sent behind Confederate lines in Tennessee to locate Braxton Bragg's headquarters, but was turned in to Confederate authorities by a smuggler. Following weeks of imprisonment at Bragg's headquarters, during which time Cushman became severely ill, she was tried and sentenced to hang. As Union forces were advancing, however, and she was left with some Unionists in Shelbyville, and was soon liberated. Later William S. Rosecrans testified as to Cushman's service at a Sanitary Fair in Cincinnati. After the war Pauline Cushman regaled P. T. Barnum's audiences with her tales of derring-do. She remarried twice and led a frontier life in Arizona Territory. In 1893 "Miss Major" Pauline Cushman died in San Francisco. Her funeral was attended by hundreds of Union veterans, and she is buried in the Officers' Circle in the Presidio National Park.

Christen's extensive research is very much to be complimented. Although the book is uneven, it's a good read, providing views of the Civil War era rarely seen and allows readers to get to know the real Pauline Cushman.

Blackman's biography of the infamous Confederate agent Rose O'Neale Greenhow, features a woman who should get credit for more than just being a spy. In the years before the war, Greenhow was a close confidante of John C. Calhoun and James Buchanan, serving as an informal advisor to the latter during his 1856 bid for the presidency. Over the years, as the wife and widow of a high-ranking State Department official, Greenhow cultivated the stars of Washington society. When the Civil War broke out, she was well positioned to weave her spy web. Her role in providing information on Union troop movements prior to the First Bull Run helped throw the battle to the Confederate side, assuring a protracted conflict. Greenhow was jailed, but finally exiled South. In 1863, as part of the attempt to secure European recognition, President Jefferson Davis dispatched Greenhow to London as an official Confederate envoy, suggesting the high political regard in which she was held. Her demise was as dramatic as her life. Returning from Europe, Greenhow's blockade runner grounded off Fort Fisher; while attempting to make shore in breaking water, her lifeboat capsized; she was found drowned on the beach, perhaps weighed down by the gold proceeds from the sale of her memoirs. Though in general Greenhow represented the "upper tendons" of Southern society at its worst, her life offers proof that, like the men of the *ante bellum* era, women, too, were wildly swept up in politics: as moral crusaders, election campaigners, legislative spectators, filibusters, writers.

Blackman's book is well written and composed, with tantalizing descriptions of *ante bellum* American social and political life which range from Washington to San Francisco, as well as Greenhow's own exploits. Thus, the book is not only of value for anyone interested in espionage during the war, but for its insights into mid-century American society and culture.

--C. Kay Larson

### ~~~~~ Biographies

*Randall Lee Gibson of Louisiana: Confederate General and New South Reformer*, by Mary Gorton McBride, with Ann Mathison McLaurie. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2007. Pp. xiii, 320. Illus., notes, index. \$45.00. ISBN: 0-8071-3234-9.

Unlike most biographies of Civil War figures, in this work the great issues that brought about the war and the war itself take up only about third of the volume. Despite this, the account of Randall Lee Gibson's wartime service to the Confederacy is quite good, succinct yet often detailed. It opens with a look at the formation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Louisiana (of which Gibson served as colonel, and was succeeded by Anatole Avengo, father of the subject of John Singer Sargent's "Madam X"), which spent much of the war in the West, from Shiloh to Atlanta and beyond. The account the authors give of the frequently contentious relations between Army of Tennessee commander Braxton Bragg and his subordinates is excellent, if only because Gibson was one of those who ran afoul of the general's ill temper. This kept him unemployed at times, but there is certainly enough fight in here for anyone. The book continues with Gibson's post-war activities, as a politician and reformer with a relatively enlightened view of race relations. A useful addition to the body of biographical literature on the war.

*A Soldier to the Last: Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler in Blue and Gray*, by Edward Longacre. Washington: Potomac Books, 2007. Pp. xvi, 287. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 1-574-88591-X.

A solid biography of one of the more colorful characters to come out of the Civil War, a West Point graduate who "went South" in 1861 to become one of the Confederacy's more noted cavalymen, and later once more donned Uncle Sam's uniform, to fight in the Spanish-American War. Although Longacre tends to display some sympathy for the South, the book is by no means a hagiography of Wheeler. The general appears in all his glory, but also with all his flaws. So we are given detailed accounts of several notable operations, such as Wheeler's raids into the Union rear in 1862 and 1863. And we get a look at Wheeler's frequent impulsive desire to get into combat, with at times near-disastrous consequences, such as his ill-considered advance against the Spanish lines at Las

Guasimas in Cuba in 1898. And Wheeler also seems to have been a relatively poor disciplinarian, so that his troops were often ill-disciplined, and during operations in Georgia and the Carolinas in 1864 and 1865 proved so unruly that they turned many Confederate civilians against them. Longacre is also critical of Wheeler's sometimes creative approach to the details of events in his memoirs and other writings. An interesting and informative addition to the literature of the war.

*George Thomas: Virginian for the Union*, by Christopher J. Einolf. Norma, Ok.: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007. Pp. xi, 413. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 78-0-8061-3867-1

Certainly the least remembered of the senior Civil War generals, George Thomas was nevertheless one of the most effective commanders on either side in the war, with a solid record of success marred by very few failures. In this readable biography, Prof. Einolf gives us a comprehensive look at Thomas' life, focused, naturally on his military career, and specifically on his role in the Civil War. Of nineteen chapters, three cover Thomas' career before the war, one deals with the secession crisis, and three postwar events. If somewhat neglectful of Thomas' private life, the work does provide us with a detailed look at Thomas the soldier, a man of enormous professional skill. The final chapter, "Thomas in Historical Memory," is of particular value.

*Brigadier General John D. Imboden: Confederate Commander in the Shenandoah*, by Spencer C. Tucker. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 2003. Pp. xiii, 372. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$32.00. ISBN: 0-8131-2266-X

John Imboden commanded partisan rangers in the Shenandoah and adjacent regions, in support of Confederate operations in Virginia. Though reflecting some traditional interpretations and attitudes (e.g., Ben Butler is "inept"), Prof. Tucker has provided a good critical military biography of the man, fitting his career into the wider framework of operations. The treatment of the early months of war in north-western Virginia and of the Valley Campaigns of 1862 and 1864 are of particular interest, as is the account of Imboden's short tenure as commissioner of prisoners of war toward the end of the war, an overlooked yet interesting aspect of his military service. Tucker provides some good word portraits of several people, among them Stonewall Jackson, and fits his account of events within the framework of the military practice of the times, a matter of considerable importance. For example, he explains the differences between "partisan rangers" and cavalry, and how the one cannot necessarily substitute for the other. This work is likely to be of value to anyone interested in operations in Virginia, particularly the campaigns in the Shenandoah Valley,

prisoners of war during the conflict, and the military practice of the times.

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Reminder Annual dues are \$35.00 payable in September
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The Confederacy

Inside the Confederate Nation, edited by Lesley J. Gordon and John C. Inscoe. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, 2007. Pp. xi, 381. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$19.95 paper. ISBN: 978-0-8071-3231-9.

This *festschrift* honors Emory M. Thomas, one of the most notable scholars of the Civil War on the occasion of his retirement from academe. In putting it together, the editors took a cue from a comment by Thomas that Civil War studies are so "plethoric" because they address issues with which we still wrestle, "race, community, and identity." So, wrapped between two introductory essays and a concluding one, *Inside the Confederate Nation* has 18 essays grouped under the broad topics of "Nationalism and Identity," "Family and Gender," "Race," and "Memory and Legacy." Most of the essays deal with political and social matters, such as the Georgia congressional races of 1863, public assistance to soldiers' families, the failure of foreign recognition. A few focus on military matters, such as the Confederate debate over arming slaves, re-enlistment in the Army of Tennessee. The essays are all well-written, and provide unusual, and often valuable, insights into the Confederacy behind the lines.

Virginia at War, 1862, edited by William C. Davis and James I. Robertson, Jr. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 2007. Pp. x, 243. Illus, biblio., index. \$35.00. ISBN: 978-0-8131-2428-5

This is the second of what will be a five volume series that will provide a comprehensive look at the Old Dominion in the Civil War, the first, *Virginia at War, 1861*, was reviewed in these pages in issue No. 38, in the summer of 2006. *Virginia at War, 1862*, is an anthology consisting of a useful introductory preface, eight essays on various aspects of Virginia in the war during 1862, and, as in the first volume, the year as seen by a young Virginia woman. Two of the essays deal directly with military matters, one on operations in the state and one on the rebuilding of Lee's army after the heavy losses incurred during them. Three essays deal with civilians in the war, daily life, the experience of occupation, and views on the war, one with internal politics and Unionism, and one with the development of the state's industry and

infrastructure. The essays, which tend to take a reasonable “Southern” view of events, are well written and of considerable value for anyone interested in the war as a whole, not merely for events in Virginia.

Diehard Rebels: The Confederate Culture of Invincibility, by Jason Phillips. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 2007. Pp. x, 256. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 978-0-8203-2836-2

In *Diehard Rebels*, Prof. Phillips, of Mississippi State University, attempts to answer a simple question. But it is not the obvious one, “what did they fight for?” As he puts it, “Instead of asking what they fought for, we must explain why they fought on?” He then goes on to examine the factors that helped sustain the faith in victory that remained remarkably strong not only up to Appomattox, but in some cases even after it. Phillips identifies four major factors that supported this sense of invincibility; a deeply religious devotion to the cause, a strong sense of Southern superiority over Northerners, the seemingly miraculous success of Confederate arms in the first half of the war, and the influence of rumor and misinformation in holding out hope for victory even in the final moments. The work concludes with a look at how Confederates coped with the reality of surrender and the origins of what would become the myth of the “Lost Cause.” A valuable contribution to understanding why the war lasted as long as it did.

A South Divided: Portraits of Dissent in the Confederacy, by David C. Downing. Nashville: Cumberland House, 2007. Pp. 240. Illus., maps, notes, biblio., index. \$22.95. ISBN: 978-1-58182-587-9.

There are many analytical treatments of the internal problems of the *soi disant* Confederate States of America. *A South Divided* takes a somewhat different perspective on the subject. Rather than paint in broad strokes, the book focuses on the actions of a scattering of representative individuals, groups, and areas to illustrate the patterns of opposition to the Confederacy. An opening chapter discusses the “clash of values” in many areas of the South, with many citizens, and in some cases whole districts, opposed or indifferent to the political, economic, and social issues that motivated most southerners toward secession, principally slavery. It then looks at the numerous Southerners who very openly “went North” – and the handful of Northerners who “went South” – as well as the “secession” of West Virginia from Virginia, rooted in a series of long festering issues, “Toryism” in Tennessee, disloyalty in the ranks, the civil war among various Indian nations, Union recruiting in the south, notably among African Americans, as well as the experiences of dissenters, and the role of women. These subjects are dealt with in a series of profiles or anecdotes that illustrate the issues and the impact of

these on the overall Confederate war effort. A good book for anyone interested in the Home Front or the background to the war.

Beleaguered Winchester: A Virginia Community at War, 1861-1865, by Richard R. Duncan. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2007. Pp. xix, 380. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$40.00. ISBN: 90-8071-3217-9.

No place in America experienced the Civil War quite the way Winchester did. Located in the fertile lower Shenandoah Valley, the crossroads town of fewer than 4,400 people is estimated to have changed hands over 90 times in the course of the war, while subject to the depredations of troops from both sides, a number of battles in its vicinity that left it overflowing with wounded, and, of course, a populace divided over issues of secession and loyalty. In *Beleaguered Winchester*, Prof. Duncan, formerly of Georgetown, tells the story of his home town by combining the memoirs, letters, and diaries of about a dozen citizens, various soldiers just passing through, and, of course, a wealth of documentary material. He does this well, and the reader can get a very good picture of what life was like under extraordinarily trying conditions, the “new” military history, as well as some excellent coverage of the often complex military situation. The only flaw in the work is that it might have been better illustrated, and certainly needed better maps.

Texas Terror: The Slave Insurrection Panic of 1860 and the Secession of the Lower South, by Donald E. Reynolds. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, 2007. Pp. xii, 237. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$45.00 ISBN: 978-0-8071-3283-8.

In July of 1860, fires destroyed central Dallas and portions of two nearby towns. In the aftermath of John Brown’s “Raid” on Harper’s Ferry, and in the midst of a ferocious presidential campaign, the disaster was immediately blamed on an abolitionist conspiracy to instigate a slave rebellion. Some slaves were subject to brutal interrogations, and “evidence” was soon available to confirm this conspiracy theory. There followed widespread persecution of anyone suspected of “abolitionist” sympathies and of “rebellious” slaves, leading to several executions. This “insurrection panic” led to widespread unease across a large swathe of the slave states, and directly fueled the rush to secession of Texas and other states in early 1861. The author, a specialist in Texas history, provides an excellent analysis of these events, noting, for example that the fires seem to have started when temperatures soaring to 114° F caused the spontaneous ignition of unstable matches. He is quite even-handed, and concludes that while pro-slavery advocates and apologists seized upon this incident, and presumably others, to “prove” that slave unrest was being caused

by “outsiders,” anti-slavery advocates and historians, have also treated the events as “evidence” of systematic slave rebellion. A very good read for anyone interested in American slavery and the causes of the Civil War.

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**General**

*Stealing Lincoln's Body*, by Thomas J. Craughwell. Cambridge, Ma.: Belknap Harvard, 2007. Pp. xi, 250. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$24.95. ISBN: 978-0-674-02458-8.

Ostensibly, *Stealing Lincoln's Body* is about the curious incident in 1876 in which a group of career criminals attempted to do just that, grab the corpse of the martyred President and hold it for ransom. It is that, of course, but it's also much more. Wrapped around the tale of this macabre caper the author gives us a look at mid-nineteenth century American death and funeral rites, the creation of the Secret Service (the body snatchers were sometime counterfeiter), social and political issues that revolved around the funeral of President Lincoln, Irish immigration, the election of 1876, a brief history of grave robbery, a short history of the Pullman car, and more, including the funerals of earlier presidents and a look at Joseph Lindley, the last person to gaze upon the actual face of Lincoln. A good read for anyone interested in the Civil War or American society in the mid-nineteenth century.

*“Friends in Peace and War”*: *The Russian Navy's Landmark Visit to Civil War San Francisco*, by C. Douglas Kroll. Washington: Potomac Books, 2007. Pp. xvi, 188. Illus., maps, append., notes, biblio., index. \$22.95. ISBN: 978-1-59797-054-9.

The sojourn of the Russian Fleet in New York and San Francisco over the winter of 1863-1864 is both one of the most curious and one of the most controversial footnotes to the Civil War. In *“Friends in Peace and War,”* maritime historian Kroll uses the Russian fleet that wintered at San Francisco to look at the reasons for the two visits, their political implications, and their impact on the local community. Often viewed by as an overt expression of Russian support for the Union, the wintering of the Russian fleet had more to do with the state of relations between Russia and Britain, in the aftermath of the Crimean War and recent unrest in Poland. But Kroll does not dismiss the effect of the visit on American domestic affairs, for contemporary perception of the events did have important political influence, especially in California, where there a handful of pro-Confederate sympathizers were active. While discussing these developments, Kroll also gives us an excellent human interest story, including Russian sailors suffering casualties while helping battle a devastating fire, and

an amusing not-quite “love triangle” with a happy ending. An excellent book.

*Intensely Human: The Health of the Black Soldier in the American Civil War*, by Margaret Humphreys. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008. Pp. xx, 197. Illus., map, tables, notes, index. \$40.00. ISBN: 978-0-8018-8696-6.

An inquiry into the reasons for the great disparity in the rate of deaths from disease between black and white troops during the Civil War. At the time, most white authorities attributed the disparity in disease rates to the physical, mental, and moral “inferiority” of persons of African descent. Prof. Humphreys, who teaches the history of medicine at Duke University, notes that, based on admittedly fragmentary records, African-American recruits, most of whom were newly freed slaves, were generally less healthy than white recruits, due to poor diet, medical care, and living conditions in childhood, as well as lax recruiting standards. Once in the service, black troops were usually less-well provided with medical care, and, although usually kept from combat (on the assumption that they would not fight well), were frequently assigned to occupation duties in some of the most unhealthy areas of the South. The work fails to note that some problems of black troops were common to all soldiers. She asserts, for example, that African-American troops were often provided with “worm-infested” rations and shoddy uniforms, conditions about which white troops often complained as well. Prof. Humphreys also fails to consider whether the effective ban on using black troops in combat may have resulted in a seemingly higher disease rate; only three black regiments are in “Fox's 300,” the classic list of the most heavily engaged Union units. Despite this, *Intensely Human* is a well written, valuable work.

*The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage: An Illustrated Compendium of the Everyday Language of Soldiers and Civilians*, by Webb Garrison, with Cheryl Garrison. Nashville: Cumberland House, 2001. Pp. x, 274. Illus., biblio. \$27.95. ISBN: 1-58182-186-7.

An immensely useful reference for serious scholars, *The Encyclopedia of Civil War Usage* is also a work that can be used and enjoyed by “buffs” and others. It provides explanations of civil and military slang and colloquialisms (“good earnest,” “crib,” “dance,” “slow bear,” *etc.*) and now-obsolete military and naval terms (“caponniere,” “sap roller,” “artificer,” *etc.*), many of which are often misused or misunderstood even by professional historians. It also includes definitions or explanations for the nicknames of many regiments and individuals, and gives short sketches of many political and organizations or movements, and has entries for many commanders, politicians, and other people of

some note, as well as regiments, ships, political and civil organizations, newspapers, and more.

*The Civil War and the Limits of Destruction*, by Mark E. Neely, Jr. Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard University Press, 2007. Pp. iii, 277. Illus., notes, biblio., index. \$27.95. ISBN: 978-0-674-02658-6.

In this work, Prof. Neely, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning, *The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992) takes a look at how “hard” the Civil War actually was, as war. In this, he builds upon the work of Joseph T. Glatthaar and others who have questioned the degree to which the image of a post war “Prostrate South” was accurate or mythic. The book, however, does more than examine occupation policies and troop behavior toward prisoners, civilians, and property in the Civil War. Neely alternates case studies of the American occupation of Mexico (1846-1848), Stirling Prices’ 1863 raid in Missouri and the Union response, French occupation policies during the intervention in Mexico (1862-1867), Phil Sheridan’s 1864 campaign in the Shenandoah, the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864, and Union reactions to the opening of Andersonville at the end of the war. He concludes that, although terrible atrocities and serious devastation did occur during the Civil War, they were uncommon (though inflated post war as part of the “Lost Cause”), often committed by marginal elements in the armies, and not generally the result of policy decisions. The key element was that in Mexico and at Sand Creek the a combination of racial and religious bigotry led to great brutality, whereas during the Civil War shared racial and religious heritage, as well as the common experiences of the Early Republic, contributed to a much less severe war. Oddly, while Neely cites the incidents of atrocities committed against black troops, such as Fort Pillow, noting the influence of racism, he fails to consider the frequent depredations by white troops on both sides against black civilians, free or slave. Despite this, an important work on nature of the war.

### ~~~~~ Gettysburg

*The Maps of Gettysburg: An Atlas of the Gettysburg Campaign, June 3-July 13, 1863*, by Bradley Gottfried. New York: Savas Beatie, 2007. Pp. xx, 364. Maps., append., notes, biblio., index. \$39.95. ISBN: 1-93271-430-2.

An impressive treatment using over 140 maps (if our count is correct) to accompany the text, in order to provide as clear a picture as possible of “ground truth” at every notable moment in the Campaign and Battle of Gettysburg, and not a few of less famous incidents as well. The maps are organized into 29 “sets.” Each consists of between two and twenty separate strategic, operational, or tactical maps. The maps provide

extensive detail appropriate to the subject. The strategic and operational maps show terrain vital to understanding the army’s movements, such as mountains, rivers, roads, rail lines, and towns. In contrast, tactical maps, which generally show the positions of individual regiments, include types of crops, critical buildings, fences, and the like. The maps start with the Army of Northern Virginia shift northwestwards from Rappahannock line on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, shortly followed by the Army of the Potomac, and ends with when Lee slips back across the Potomac on July 13<sup>th</sup>. *The Maps of Gettysburg* is well written and easy to read. Although analysis is somewhat thin, this is a minor failing, given that the books’ great strength is that its maps convey a very clear picture of how events unfolded, and is a “must” for anyone with a serious interest in this campaign.

*One Continuous Fight: The Retreat from Gettysburg and the Pursuit of Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, July 4-14, 1863*, by Eric J. Wittenberg, J. David Peruzzi, and Michael F. Nugent. New York: Savas Beatie, 2008. Pp. xvi, 517. Illus., maps., append., notes, biblio., index. \$34.95. ISBN: 978-1-932714-43-2.

As the authors note, most accounts of Gettysburg Campaign focus some attention on the events leading up to the battle, then deal with the fighting on July 1-3, 1863 in great depth, and then give only a cursory look at the ten days that followed. *One Continuous Fight* is focused on this period. The book opens on July 4<sup>th</sup>, with the armies resting on the field, neither willing to resume the battle. There is a good analysis of why both Robert E. Lee and George G. Meade chose not to fight on the 4<sup>th</sup>, with a look at their options. With Lee’s decision to pull out on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the events that follow fall into two main threads, the movement of Lee’s “Wagon Train of the Wounded” and the retreat of *The Army of Northern Virginia*. These are woven together with the efforts of Meade’s Army of he Potomac to prevent the Confederates from returning south of the Potomac to the security of Virginia. A surprisingly complex series of maneuvers followed, punctuated by numerous skirmishes and small battles. These are discussed on the basis of what was known at the time, and compared to what is understood about their circumstances today (the footnotes are rich in detail in this regard), which helps explain why events unfolded as they did. Altogether an excellent addition to the literature on Gettysburg, *One Continuous Fight* is of particular value to the well-grounded student of the battle.

*The Artillery of Gettysburg*, by Bradley M. Gottfried. Nashville: Cumberland House, 2008. Pp. 332. Illus., maps., append., notes, biblio., index. \$24.95. ISBN: 978-1-58182-623-4

The role of the artillery in the Civil War is generally neglected. But in *The Artillery of Gettysburg*, Prof. Bradley, of the College of Southern Maryland, who has written often on the battle, gives us exactly what the title promises, a very readable, comprehensive look at what artillerymen, North and South, did during the battle. There are numerous very clear descriptions of artillery in action, with very detailed maps, that help clarify complex tactical situations. Along the way the reader learns a good deal about the technical, tactical, and logistical aspects of artillery, not to mention glimpses of gunners at work in often very trying circumstances. Because the book is focused on the artillery, this work most useful if the reader a good grounding in the circumstances and events of the battle. Nevertheless, it is indispensable for any student of Gettysburg or of military practice during the Civil War.

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Other

The Battle of Olustee, 1864: The Final Union Attempt to Seize Florida, by Robert P. Broadwater. Jefferson, NC: MacFarland & Co, 2006. Pp. v, 218. Illus., maps., append., notes, biblio., index. \$35.00 paper. ISBN: 0-7864-2541-5.

A very readable, comprehensive look at the 1864 Florida campaign, which proved a disaster for the Union, yet brought only marginal benefits to the South. It begins with the origins of the campaign, which were partially logistical (Florida provided an enormous amount of rations to the Confederate armies in the southeast), and also political, as Lincoln believed there was sufficient pro-Union sentiment in the state to permit the establishment of a "restored" government, which might also deliver the state's electoral votes come November. The work goes on to profile the principal commanders, notably U.S. Brig. Gen. Thomas Seymour and C.S. Brig. Gen. Joseph Finegan, the forces they commanded (with some excellent coverage of Union black troops), and their respective plans. The resulting battle, one of the most sanguinary of the war, was a disaster for the Union, as the army barely escaped intact, and the action was an object lesson in the role of the fog of war, friction, and chance. The book then examines the results of the campaign, including the surprising lack of credit to Finegan. A good account of a largely overlooked battle.

Three Days in the Shenandoah Valley: Stonewall Jackson at Front Royal and Winchester, by Gary Ecelbarger. Norman, Ok.: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008. Pp. 273. Illus., maps., append., notes, biblio., index. \$29.95. ISBN: 978-0-80613886-2.

An account of the operations around Front Royal and Winchester on May 23-25, 1862, in which a

Confederate Arm under Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson inflicted a severe reverse on Union forces under Nathaniel Banks, initiating the most brilliant strategic diversion of the Civil War, the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862. By tapping hitherto unused or underused letters, diaries, and official documents, while avoiding reliance on the large mass of memoirs and secondary accounts that have been published since the battle, the author, who has previously written solid treatments of John "Black Jack" Logan and the battle of Kernstown, reveals the reality behind what he calls the numerous myths and legends that have surrounded them. So we hear little of Belle Boyd, who apparently had no impact on the campaign at all, and a clear refutation of the notion that Jackson stared at a fire all night while meditating upon his plans. What emerges is an account, in considerable detail, of how the campaign unfolded, within the context of the larger concerns of the Eastern Theater. Ecelbarger gives us a look at some brilliant tactical performances by several officers, mostly Union, with excellent maps to help further our understanding of events. He also recounts a number of bad decisions and several good ones by commanders at all levels, demonstrating how the fog, friction, and fortune of war played a role in operations that which could easily have had a different outcome. Ecelbarger credits Jackson's drive and vision for the Confederate success, and surprisingly gives Banks some very high marks, arguing that despite a number of initial errors, he reacted well and efficiently pulled his army out of a potentially disastrous situation. A good book for anyone interested in the war in the east, command, or tactics, though marred by some poor English usage (e.g., "one-year anniversary," "time frame").

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**Membership News**

Former Executive Director *Kathleen Broome Williams*, will be in the United Kingdom for three weeks from July 20<sup>th</sup>, for research in the National Archives in Kew and at the Naval Historical Branch in Portsmouth. She will visit with Don Bittner and his family while there. An article about her father recently appeared in the *Marine Corps Times*, and another is to appear in *The Fighting Fourth*, the newsletter of the Fourth Marine Division.

A commentary by board member *Jim Dingeman* on Mark Moyar's book *Triumph Forsaken: The Vietnam War*, appeared recently in *Historically Speaking*, the journal of the Historical Association.

Board member *Al Nofi's* manuscript, *Naval Experimentation the Old Fashioned Way: The U.S. Navy Fleet Problems, 1922-1940*, about which he spoke at NYMAS in 2006, is currently being read for comment and if all goes well should be published in about a

year. With the May issue of *North & South*, Al's column, "Knapsack" has run in the magazine for ten years. In addition, June 16<sup>th</sup> saw the 200<sup>th</sup> appearance of "CIC," Al's column for *StrategyPage*.

Boardmember *Ted Cook* will be Visiting Research Fellow at Nichbunken (The International Research

Centre for Japanese Studies) in Kyoto, Japan from December through next August. His research topic is "Culture in the Midst of Total War," and he intends to apply "culture" very broadly and really enjoy Kyoto.

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### NYMAS Fall-Winter 2008 Schedule

Sept. 5 - "Thieves of Baghdad: Rescuing Iraq's Stolen Antiquities during Operation Iraqi Freedom," Col. Matt Bogdanos, USMCR.

Sept. 12 - "The Roman Navy: Its Development from Oxymoron to Ruler of the Mediterranean," Mark Wilson, Brooklyn College

Sept. 19 - "Hitler's Gift to France," Robert Miller, Enigma Books

Sept. 26 - "Transformative Military Innovation: Why Only Some Military Organizations, Some of the Time?" Wayne A. Thornton, Harvard University

Oct. 3 - "Failed States, Revolution, and Democracy: Progressive Rationales for Military Intervention, 1914 to 1918," Jacob Kramer, BMCC/CUNY Graduate Center

Oct. 10 - Yom Kippur – no lecture

Oct. 17 & 18 - The NYMAS Fall Conference, "A History of U.S. Occupation Policy" – see NYMAS website

Oct. 24 - "Nurses in the Crimean War," Moira Egan, CUNY Graduate Center

Oct. 31 - "The Use of Force to Prevent Nuclear Proliferation," Tim Bakken, Dept. of Law, USMA-West Point

Nov. 7 - "The 14th USAAF in China, 1944-45," Paul R. Martin, Independent scholar

Nov. 14 - "Scottish, Scots-Irish, Irish, African Americans, and Jews in the Battle of Baltimore,

September 1814, Christopher George, The War of 1812 Symposium

Nov. 21 - "The 2<sup>nd</sup> Massachusetts in the American Civil War," Maj. Matt Hardman, USMA-West Point

Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving – no lecture

Dec. 5 - "U.S. Military Government in Mexico, 1847-1848," Maj. Tom Spahr, USMA-West Point

Dec. 12 - "African American USMA Graduates in the Nineteenth Century," Maj. Jeremy James, USMA-West Point

Dec. 19 - "America's Captives: American POW Policy from the Revolution to the War on Terror," Paul Springer, USMA- West Point

NYMAS talks are open to the public and free. They are normally held on Friday evenings at the City University of New York Graduate Center, at 365 Fifth Avenue between 34th and 35th Streets from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Friday lectures are usually held on the 6th floor in Room 6-495, but confirmation should be obtained from the security desk in the lobby.

These talks are sponsored by the New York Military Affairs Symposium in conjunction with CUNY's Conference on History and Politics, Dr. George D. Schwab, Director. NYMAS is associated with the Society for Military History, Region 2.

Speakers and subjects may be subject to change without notice. A current schedule is available at the NYMAS website at <http://nymas.org>.

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