
SCWH NEWSLETTER

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Society of Civil War Historians

Fall 2014

SCWH TO MEET IN ATLANTA

The Society of Civil War Historians and the Watson–Brown Foundation are proud to sponsor the Tom Watson Brown Book Award Dinner honoring Ari Kelman, McCabe-Greer Professor of the American Civil War Era, The Pennsylvania State University, who is the recipient of the \$50,000 Tom Watson Brown Book Award for 2014. Kelman won for his book, *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling over the Memory of Sand Creek*, which was published by Harvard University Press in 2013. The book explores how generations of Americans have struggled to come to terms with the 1864 Sand Creek massacre and its aftermath. In November 1864 Colonel John Chivington, commanding Colorado volunteers, surprised and slaughtered more than 150 Cheyenne and Arapaho people, the great majority of them women, children, and the elderly who were camped on the banks of Sand Creek in southeastern Colorado Territory. Kelman tells the stories of those who lived through the massacre as well as the succeeding generations impacted by the destruction wrought by the Civil War and the conquest of the American West. Examining competing memories of this horrific event, he deftly shows how Native Americans, Colorado residents, National Park Service employees, historians, and politicians debated how the event should be memorialized at the 2007 opening of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. In doing so, he reveals the varied ways in which different groups of Americans come to know a shared past.

Friday, November 14: 5:30-8:00 P.M.
Crystal Ballroom
SOCIETY OF CIVIL WAR HISTORIANS
BANQUET

PRESIDING: Caroline E. Janney, Purdue University
“For Liberty and Empire: Remembering Sand Creek, Rethinking the Civil War,” Ari Kelman, Pennsylvania State University

Professor Kelman is the recipient of the 2014 Tom Watson Brown Book Award for his book, *A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling over the Memory of Sand Creek* (Harvard University Press, 2013).

The dinner is open to SCWH members only.

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

Friday, November 14: 9:30-11:30 A.M. 201

4. SLAVERY, LAW, AND THE AMERICAN STATE IN THE CIVIL WAR ERA

PRESIDING: Manisha Sinha, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

“Slave Manifests and Federal Regulation of Slave Status in Antebellum America,” Gautham Rao, American University

“Dred Scott and Washington’s Legal Community in the Mid-Nineteenth Century,” Rachel Shelden, University of Oklahoma

“The Disputed Constitutionality of the Emancipation Proclamation,” Cynthia Nicoletti, University of Virginia

COMMENTS: Manisha Sinha; Gregory Downs, City University of New York

Friday, November 14: 9:30-11:30 A.M. 212

5. THE UNION, THE CONFEDERACY, AND LATIN AMERICA IN TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

PRESIDING: Adam Tuchinsky, University of Southern Maine

“Santos Benavides: Norteño Confederate,” Patrick J. Kelly, University of Texas at San Antonio

“‘Part of the Rebellion Itself’: Confederates and Kidnapped Freedpeople in Imperial Mexico, 1864-1866,” Sarah Cornell, Univ. of Mass. at Amherst

“Slavery, Emancipation, and Nation: The American Civil War and Ten Years’ War in Cuba,” Andre M. Fleche, Castleton State College

COMMENTS: Adam Tuchinsky

Saturday, November 15: 9:30-11:30 A.M.
Grand Ballroom West

34. ATLANTA’S CIVIL WAR

PRESIDING: Brian S. Wills, Kennesaw State Univ.

“‘Enlisted for the War’? Divided Loyalties among Atlanta’s White Women,” Wendy Venet, Georgia State University

“New Perspectives on John Bell Hood and the Atlanta Campaign,” Stephen Davis, Marietta, Georgia

“Slavery and Freedom during the Campaign for Atlanta,” Clarence L. Mohr, University of S. Alabama

COMMENTS: Brian S. Wills

BOOKS IN REVIEW

Stephen D. Engle, Book Review Editor

Elizabeth R. Varon. *Appomattox: Victory, Defeat, and Freedom at the End of the Civil War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. Pp. 305. \$27.95.

Proving that *nothing* about the Civil War is ever quite settled, Elizabeth Varon now tells us that Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House was not all it has been cracked up to be. After skillfully reconstructing the immediate military and political circumstances that brought Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee to Wilmer McLean's front parlor, Varon explains why the peace settlement made that April day meant different things to different people. Soldiers and civilians, blacks and whites, journalists and politicians across the supposedly reunited nation expressed a variety of opinions on what had been offered and accepted, what had been promised, and what was understood to have been promised. Varon demonstrates that the so-called "gentleman's agreement" between Grant and Lee, far from pointing the way toward a harmonious reconciliation of North and South, only served to embitter the battle over Reconstruction and the legacy of the war.

Daniel E. Sutherland, University of Arkansas

Earl J. Hess. *Kennesaw Mountain: Sherman, Johnston, and the Atlanta Campaign*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. Pp. 322. \$35.00.

Kennesaw Mountain represented Sherman's only significant setback during the Atlanta Campaign, and even that proved short-lived. In this outstanding book, Earl Hess tells the story of the battle and the maneuvering that led up to it and developed afterward. Throughout, Hess astutely assesses the generals who took part in the campaign. He brilliantly illuminates Sherman's intense loyalty, in this case directed toward Grant. Oliver O. Howard is competent and aggressive, McPherson quick and eager to please, Thomas solid but slow and unaggressive. On the Confederate side, Hood seems more slow in thought than in movement. A chapter analyzing the Kennesaw earthworks is a wonderful bonus, and the book is nicely rounded out with an epilogue on the preservation of the battlefield in the decades since the war. Overall, this is an outstanding battle and campaign book by one of Civil War history's most prolific and proficient authors.

Steven E. Woodworth, Texas Christian University

Kathryn Shively Meier. *Nature's Civil War: Common Soldiers and the Environment in 1862 Virginia*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. Pp. 240. \$39.95.

Nature's Civil War examines common soldiers' efforts to prevent illness through what Meier calls "self-care" during the Peninsula and Shenandoah Valley campaigns. Locating itself at the intersection of environmental and military history, this slim volume draws from Union and Confederate soldier correspondence, memoirs, and diaries to document how soldiers used pre-war knowledge of the environmental origins of disease in an attempt to stay healthy in camp and on the march. Meier argues that learning self-care techniques such as eradicating pests, locating clean drinking water, and supplementing rations was a crucial part of the "seasoning" process that usually occurred outside the formal medical bureaucracy. Despite Meier's expert framing of the social issues within Civil War medicine and the environmental constraints on soldier's health, most of the narrative and its conclusions will seem familiar to scholars. The last chapter makes the most innovative contribution by recasting "straggling" as a deliberate self-care adaptation.

Erin Stewart Mauldin, Samford University

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Schedule of Sessions, Cont'd.

Saturday, November 15: 2:30-4:30 P.M. 202

48. THE CIVIL WAR'S LEGACY AND THE SHAPING OF THE NEW SOUTH

PRESIDING: Stephanie McCurry, University of Pennsylvania

PANELISTS: William A. Blair, Pennsylvania State University; Robert Cook, University of Sussex; William A. Link, University of Florida; Kidada Williams, Wayne State University; Anne Marshall, Mississippi State University

Saturday, November 15: 8:00 P.M. Margaret Mitchell House

56. "BEEN IN THE STORM SO LONG": REMEMBERING 1864 AND 1964 IN 2014

Sponsored by the Atlanta History Center, the University of Georgia's History Department and Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, and the Woodruff Library at Emory University.

Georgia Public Broadcasting's Rickey Bevington hosts a stellar line-up of local scholars, poets, artists, and musicians in a far-reaching roundtable discussion of the coincidental anniversaries of the 1864 Battles of Atlanta and 1964 Civil Rights Act. Panelists include Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey; artist Robert Morris; singer-songwriter Caroline Herring; and historians Robert Pratt, Brett Gadsden, and Joseph Crespino. Come join this important public forum on how our divisive past can be transformed into collective meaning.

A cocktail reception will follow. This session will be held at the Margaret Mitchell House, located at 990 Peachtree Street NE. Robert Morris's "Slavery by Another Name" exhibit will be on display. Transportation will be provided. Reserve a bus seat at the SHA registration table when you arrive in Atlanta.

Sunday, November 16: 9:00-11:00 A.M. 203
59. EXCAVATING THE CULTURAL ECONOMY OF THE CIVIL WAR SOUTH

PRESIDING: Stephen Berry, University of Georgia

"Bonds Burst Asunder? The Transformation of Internal Economy in Confederate Richmond," Kathleen Hilliard, Iowa State University

"Union Soldiers, Military Occupation, and the Market Revolution: The Problem of Informal Economies in the Civil War South." Andrew Lang, Mississippi State University

"Genres of the Panic Economy in Confederate Richmond," Brian Luskey, West Virginia University

COMMENTS: Rosanne Currarino, Queen's University

TENNESSEE OBSERVES 150 YEARS

The international impact of the Civil War in Tennessee will take center stage on Nov. 14, when "conflict archaeologist," historian, and 2014 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Event keynote speaker Damian Shiels presents "Patrick Cleburne at the Battle of Franklin" at The Factory in Franklin. Confederate Major General Patrick Cleburne was an Irishman who fought for the South and died in the fighting in Franklin on November 30, 1864.

People from around the world are expected to attend the four-day events surrounding the 2014 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event, "The Last Campaign in Tennessee," November 13-16, in Franklin. The commemoration marks the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Franklin.

Special exhibits will be on display at the Tennessee State Museum, as well as the Fleming Center at Carnton Plantation. Franklin's many historic sites: the Carter House, Lotz House, Eastern Flank Battle Park, Winstead Hill Park, and Fort Granger will also be open.

The 2014 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event is jointly sponsored by the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Tennessee Historical Society, Franklin 150 and the Williamson County Convention & Visitors Bureau

To learn more about Tennessee's Civil War story, you can download a complimentary app at <http://tnvacation.com/civil-war/> or call 615-532-7520. You may also email tn.civilwar150@tn.gov.

Injury, Death, and Healing in Civil War Philadelphia

The Mütter Museum of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia announces a permanent exhibition on the medical Civil War, “Broken Bodies, Suffering Spirits: Injury, Death, and Healing in Civil War Philadelphia. Broken Bodies,” which examines how soldiers, nurses, and physicians—those who put their bodies on the line—actually experienced fighting, hurting, dying, and healing. Two themes shape the exhibition: how the war forced soldiers, healers, and family members to manage injury, recovery, and death in new ways; and how the lasting effects of the conflict forever changed soldiers’ relationships with their own minds and bodies. The exhibition uses the stories of real people told in their own words wherever possible. These people, selected to present a range of experiences and different perspectives, include white and African-American Union soldiers; a Union Army physician; and a female volunteer nurse. Original artifacts on display, most from the college’s own collections, include anatomical specimens from the period, medical tools and instruments, letters and manuscripts, prints and photographs, and personal memorabilia. Ten online lesson plans for high school students and undergraduates that complement the exhibit can be found <http://muttermuseum.org/education/civil-war-lesson-plans/> and a video series can be found at: <http://muttermuseum.org/videos/broken-bodies-suffering-spirits-archive/>.

Founded in 1787, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia is one of the oldest professional organizations in the country. This exhibition was made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Groff Family Memorial Trust, and private donations. For further information about the exhibition, you may email Emily Yates at eyates@collegeofphysicians.org. An information packet is available containing a virtual tour, lesson plans for high school students and undergraduates, and background information.

Future SCWH meeting sites:

November 13-16, 2014
Hilton Atlanta
Atlanta, Georgia

November 11-14, 2015
Little Rock Marriott
Little Rock, Arkansas

November 2-5, 2016
Trade Winds Island Resort
St. Pete Beach, Florida

November 9-12, 2017
Sheraton Dallas Hotel
Dallas, Texas

November 8-11, 2018
Sheraton Birmingham Hotel
Birmingham, Alabama

Additional information about the meetings of the Southern Historical Association can be found at <http://www.uga.edu/~sha>

Go to <http://scwh.la.psu.edu/about.shtml> for information and a history of the Society

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