
SCWH NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXVII No. 2

Society of Civil War Historians

Spring 2014

A Letter from the President

I can't believe how quickly my two years as President have gone by. It feels like our meeting in Lexington just happened, and yet our meeting in Baltimore is less than two months away. Professor Carrie Janney of Purdue University will take over as President at the conference. In a very close election, Professor Dan Sutherland of the University of Arkansas was chosen as the new President-elect (to become President in 2016). I thank both of them for their willingness to serve.

I write this letter in the few days I have at home between attending the Society for Military History Meeting in Kansas City and the OAH Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Both programs featured several Civil War-related panels, and both put me in a conference frame of mind. I actually had the privilege of participating in a panel sponsored by the SCWH at the SMH that explored the intersection of violence and memory. Our field continues to evolve and grow in intriguing directions and I am really looking forward to exploring them at our meeting in Baltimore.

The Program Committee, headed by Steve Berry and including Jim Downs, Megan Kate Nelson, Jason Phillips, and Susannah Ural, has put together an innovative slate of panels, roundtables and plenaries, promising something for everyone. As you make your travel plans, be sure to arrive in time for the opening plenary session which will feature the awarding of our second Excellence in Public History Prize and a fascinating roundtable that will challenge the ways we think about archival sources and the work of research. And don't leave before Saturday's closing session on new directions in the study of Reconstruction, a topic that will be increasingly important as the sesqui-centennial winds down. In between the conference features panels about medicine and masculinity, politics and economics, the military and material culture, slavery and geography. Friday afternoon includes a roundtable about recent depictions of slavery on film that is sure to spark lively discussion.

I also encourage you to take advantage of the many research and sightseeing opportunities that Baltimore has to offer. The Maryland Historical Society is offering free admission to their museum and library for anyone who has a conference badge.

Cont'd on page 3

Baltimore in June

The Society of Civil War Historians will host its fourth biennial academic conference at the Sheraton Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland, on June 12 through June 14. The registration form and program can be found at http://scwh.la.psu.edu/SCWH_conferences.shtml. The Sheraton Inner Harbor is located at 300 South Charles Street. Their telephone number is 410-962-8300. The conference rate is \$129 plus tax until May 12, subject to availability.

Twenty-four hour valet and self-parking is available in the hotel parking garage. Self-parking costs \$22.50-27.50 per day plus tax. The hotel is approximately ten to twelve miles from the Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI). Taxi service from the hotel to the airport is approximately \$35. The BWI Super Shuttle is \$15 one way. Light rail costs \$1.60 for a one-way fare. The hotel is located about 1/10 of a mile from the light rail station at Camden Yards.

Please remember to pay your dues before the biennial meeting. The University of North Carolina Press processes dues payments for the Society. The yearly membership fees are: \$60 for Faculty members, \$25 for Student members, \$500 for Lifetime members, \$130 for Institutional members, \$100 for Sustaining members, and \$1000 for Founders. Any members out of the US pay an additional \$32 for additional shipping charges for *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, which is part of the benefits of SCWH membership. Payments can be made online at <http://journalofthecivilwarera.com/society/> or by sending a check to UNC Press Journals, 116 South Boundary St, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Forms can be found at <http://scwh.la.psu.edu/membership.shtml>.

Your membership will start on the date of your payment and include upcoming issues of *The Journal of the Civil War Era* for one year. You can elect to start your membership at the beginning of a calendar year, but you must request this change. Renewal notices will be sent via US Mail before your membership expires.

Contact Suzi Waters in the UNC Press Journals department if you have any questions at 919-962-4201 or Suzi.Waters@unc.edu.

***More important conference information
can be found on Page 3***

BOOKS IN REVIEW

Stephen D. Engle, Book Review Editor

Michael B. Ballard. *Grant at Vicksburg: The General and the Siege.* Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern Illinois University Press, 2013. Pp. 196. \$32.95.

Michael Ballard's *Grant at Vicksburg* is an engaging and insightful work written by one of the foremost experts on the Vicksburg Campaign and Union General Ulysses S. Grant. *Grant at Vicksburg* succinctly delves into the forty-seven-day siege providing readers with in-depth analysis of critical details of the campaign such as Grant's Yazoo River drinking episode, bitter clashes with Union General John A. McClernand, and discreet efforts to temper racism within his command. Ballard produces a balanced examination of Grant, the man—a flawed human being who overcame enormous obstacles, personally and professionally, to win one of the most memorable campaigns in military history. Ballard convincingly argues that the confidence that Grant gained at Vicksburg transformed the commander preparing him for subsequent victories. *Grant at Vicksburg* appeals to Civil War scholars and enthusiasts alike thanks to Ballard's flowing analytical narrative filled with memorable passages that reveal much about the man that we thought we knew.

Keith S. Hebert, University of West Georgia

A. James Fuller, ed. *The Election of 1860 Reconsidered.* Kent: Kent State University Press, 2013. Pp. 271. \$49.95.

In this excellent collection of essays originating in the University of Indianapolis Civil War Study Group, seven scholars offer sharp, engaging, and novel interpretations of the Presidential election of 1860. Specific essays cover each of the four major Presidential candidates, with contributions from James Fuller on John Bell and John C. Breckinridge standing out for originality. The other essays explore the election from varying perspectives, including that of Frederick Douglass and the abolitionists, European diplomats and, more locally, the state of Indiana.

Perhaps most interesting is the essay from Thomas Rodgers on republicanism as the driver of high turnout in the Northern and Southern electorate. A concluding historiographic essay from Douglas Gardner emphasizes the persistent divide between contingency- and fundamentalist-based studies of the election. This book is a highly valuable resource for any scholar interested in

the political culture and political history of the Civil War era.

Aaron Astor, Maryville College

John R. Lundberg, *Granbury's Texas Brigade: Diehard Western Confederates.* Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2012. Pp. 321. \$39.95.

John R. Lundberg's *Granbury's Texas Brigade* is a fine example of a modern unit history that examines the motivations and socioeconomic backgrounds of common soldiers and places their story within the context of the western theater. Lundberg demonstrates that the brigade suffered high desertion rates early in the war, but he puts forth a nuanced interpretation that persuasively illustrates how the brigade *became* a dedicated unit. The men who remained in service during the second half of the war maintained high morale until the battle of Franklin in November 1864, the engagement that took the lives of popular leaders Hiram Granbury and Patrick Cleburne and decimated the Army of Tennessee. Lundberg's fine study adds to the literature that recognizes powerful Confederate identity and commitment until very late in the war. Indeed, the book concludes with a fascinating afterword that illustrates how the Confederate devotion of Granbury's Brigade outlived the Confederacy itself.

Bradley R. Clampitt, East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma

**Funding for the Newsletter is provided by
The McWhiney Foundation, Abilene Texas**

The *SCWH Newsletter* is published quarterly. Regular dues are \$60.00 and include the newsletter and a journal subscription. Dues should be forwarded to the UNC Press Journals Department, 116 South Boundary Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

President: Anne Sarah Rubin, Department of History, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250. Tel. 410-455-1661. E-mail: arubin@umbc.edu.

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

Editor: Anne J. Bailey. E-mail: scwhnewsletter@yahoo.com or scwhnewsletter@gmail.com.

Advisory Board: Anne J. Bailey, The McWhiney Foundation; William A. Blair, Pennsylvania State University; Stephen D. Engle, Florida Atlantic University; A. Wilson Greene, Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier; Caroline E. Janney, Purdue University; James Marten, Marquette University; Anne Sarah Rubin, University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Amy Murrell Taylor, University at Albany-SUNY; Joan Waugh, University of California, Los Angeles.

Railroad enthusiasts should visit the B & O Railroad Museum, and see their special exhibit: The War Came By Train. The National Park Service does an excellent job of interpreting both the War of 1812 and the Civil War at Fort McHenry. The Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture is within walking distance of the conference hotel, as is the U.S.S. *Constellation*. The Library of Congress, The National Archives, and the I know it sounds like I work for the Baltimore Convention Bureau, but I am just excited about having the conference in my own backyard!

Our Graduate Student Connection Committee has put together a luncheon for graduate students on Friday afternoon. In addition to the presentation of the Outstanding Paper by a Graduate Student award, it includes a forum on the " untenured life," an opportunity for graduate students to think about the next phase in their careers.

I'd like to give some special recognition to our Outreach and Social Media Committee, co-chaired by Amy Murrell Taylor and Eric Walther, with Aaron Astor, John Barr, John Coski, Anne Marshall, and Jim Marten. They, along with our tweeter Maggie Yancy, have helped to maintain our active social media presence, and are currently in the midst of a membership drive. This seems like a good point to remind you that one of the benefits of membership in the Society is attending the Tom Watson Brown Book Award dinner, and receiving a copy of the winning book. Society members also receive the quarterly *Journal of the Civil War Era*. If you aren't sure about the status of your membership, feel free to check with UNC Press to renew, or have friends and colleagues who are interested in joining, please direct them to our webpage: <http://scwh.la.psu.edu/membership.shtml> And a membership might make a lovely gift for a graduating student.

Speaking of the Tom Watson Brown Book Prize Dinner, I enjoyed seeing so many of you at the event honoring Dr. Witt for his terrific *Lincoln's Code: The Laws of War in American History*. The setting, on the roof of the hotel, was certainly the most glamorous we've ever enjoyed, but as always the real treat was the company and the conversation.

I hope many of you will attend the Baltimore conference, and I look forward to reconnecting with you there. Until then, enjoy your spring.

Anne Rubin

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN BALTIMORE

WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2014, Chesapeake Ballrooms I & II (third level)

4:00 P.M.: WELCOME: **Anne Sarah Rubin**,
President, Society of Civil War Historians

PRESENTATION OF THE EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HISTORY AWARD

INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS

4:30 P.M.: PLENARY SESSION: *Dwelling in the Archives* (a roundtable discussion), Chesapeake Ballrooms I & II

PRESIDING: **Stephen Berry**, The University of Georgia

PANELISTS: **Jennifer I. Morgan**, New York University

Seth Rockman, Brown University

Bonnie Smith, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Yael A. Sternhell, Tel Aviv University

6:00 P.M.: DINNER, Chesapeake Ballrooms I & II
Sponsored by the Society of Civil War Historians.
(pre-registration by June 1 required; cash bar available)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Maryland Historical Society, located at 201 West Monument Street in Baltimore, has graciously offered free admission to the museum and library for anyone with the Society of Civil War Historians conference badge.

SATURDAY RECEPTION

4:30 P.M. (Foyer outside Harborview Ballrooms)

RECEPTION: Sponsored by Richard T. and Angela Clark and the George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center for all Society members. (pre-registration required; cash bar available)

PLEASE NOTE

For a full program and any changes in the schedule, go to the SCWH website for the biennial meeting at http://scwh.la.psu.edu/SCWH_conferences.shtml

GRADY McWHINEY AWARD GOES TO FRANK O'REILLY

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

The Civil War Round Table of Dallas presented the 2013 Grady McWhiney Award of Merit to Frank O'Reilly, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, at its March meeting. O'Reilly, the permanent historian for the Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall Jackson" shrine, is the author of *The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock* (Louisiana State University Press, 2006). The award is given annually to an individual for significant contributions to the scholarship and preservation of Civil War history.

Grady McWhiney (1928-2006), a founder of the SCWH, was presented the inaugural award in 1998 by the Dallas CWRT and it has since been given every year to honor his memory and an individual who has made a noteworthy contribution to the study of the Civil War. For information on the Dallas CWRT, go to www.cwrtdallas.org.

Go to <http://scwh.la.psu.edu/journals.shtml> for
online issues of the SCWH Newsletter

ALLEN C. GUELZO WINS \$50,000 MILITARY HISTORY BOOK PRIZE

Historian and professor Allen C. Guelzo is the winner of the inaugural Guggenheim-Lehrman Prize in Military History, which carries a purse of \$50,000. Guelzo won the prize for his book *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion* which was released in hardcover by A.A. Knopf in 2013, and in paperback by Vintage last month. "Guelzo's book exemplifies the qualities the judging panel was seeking in a winning title for the prize," said the chairman of the judging committee, Dr. Andrew Roberts. "*Gettysburg* will stand out as a lasting and important work in the military history genre."

Guelzo is the Henry R. Luce Professor of the Civil War Era and Director of Civil War Era Studies at Gettysburg College. He is the author of *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America* and *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President*, both winners of the Lincoln Prize.

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 can be found at
<http://www.uga.edu/~sha>**

***Funding for the Newsletter is provided by
The McWhiney Foundation, Abilene,
Texas***