
SCWH NEWSLETTER

Vol. XXIX No. 4

Society of Civil War Historians

Fall 2016

ST. PETE BEACH IN NOVEMBER

The Society of Civil War Historians is meeting in Florida for the first time in more than twenty years when members gather at the Trade Winds Island Grand Resort on St. Pete Beach, Florida, from Wednesday, November 2 to Saturday, November 5. As usual, the SCWH meets each Fall in conjunction with the annual conference of the Southern Historical Society. Information about the conference schedule can be found at the SHA's new website at <http://thesha.org/annual-meeting>. Information about the Trade Winds Island Resort can be found at <https://www.tradewindsresort.com/ourresorts/tradewinds-island-grand>. The resort is located approximately thirteen to fifteen miles from Clearwater airport at St. Petersburg and the Tampa International Airport, respectively. Transportation options from the airport can be found on the SHA website. For more about activities at St. Pete Beach go to the hotel website.

At the SCWH dinner on Thursday, Earl Hess, Stewart W. McClelland Chair in History at Lincoln Memorial University, will receive the Tom Watson Brown Book Award from Tad Brown, president of the Watson-Brown Foundation, for *Civil War Infantry Tactics: Training, Combat, and Small-Unit Effectiveness* (Louisiana State University Press, 2015). Dr. Hess is the author of twenty-one books, eighteen of which deal with Civil War topics.

SOCIETY OF CIVIL WAR HISTORIANS BANQUET

Thursday, November 3: 5:30-8:00 PM Tarpon Key

Presiding

Daniel Sutherland, University of Arkansas

Earl J. Hess, Lincoln Memorial University

“Tactics, Training, and Combat: The Civil War as an Event in American and World History”

The dinner is free to SCWH members. Registration is required. For more information, go to the SCWH website at <http://scwhistorians.org/>.

SCHEDULE OF CIVIL WAR SESSIONS

Thursday, November 3: 2:30-4:30 PM Tarpon Key

Coming Out of the Shadows: New Insights into Understudied Aspects of the American Civil War

Presiding, Ari Kelman, University of California, Davis

Panelists

Judith Giesberg, Villanova University

Lesley J. Gordon, University of Alabama

Anne Sarah Rubin, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Susannah J. Ural, University of Southern Mississippi

Friday, November 4: 9:30-11:30 AM Sawyer Key

The Perennial Problem of Poor Whites during the Civil War Era

Presiding, David Gleeson, Northumbria University

Christopher Olsen, Indiana State University

“Poor Whites and the Politics of Masculinity: The Election of 1860 and Secession in the Deep South”

David Brown, Manchester, University

“The Problem of Poor Whites in the Planter Mind”

Gary T. Edwards, Arkansas State University

“Contingent Confederates: A Case Study in the Latent Unionism of a Poor White Soldier”

Comments, Susan-Mary Grant, Newcastle University and David Gleeson

Friday, November 4: 2:30-4:30 PM Bird Key

Calculating the Value of the Confederacy: Southerners Confront the Union Economy

Presiding, R. Douglas Hurt, Purdue University

David K. Thomson, Sacred Heart University

“‘Removing Prejudices and Solidifying the Nation’: Union Bond Sales in the Confederacy”

Michael T. Caires, University of Virginia

“Expanding the Greenback Zone: Union Soldiers and Greenbacks in the Confederacy”

Julie A. Mujic, Capital University

“Would Cotton or Corn Rule?: Southern Perspectives on Their Importance to the Midwestern Economy”

Comments, Joshua Rothman, University of Alabama

BOOKS IN REVIEW

Stephen D. Engle, Book Review Editor

Christopher Dickey. *Our Man in Charleston: Britain's Secret Agent in the Civil War South.* New York: Crown Publishing Group, 2015. Pp. 400. \$27.00.

This is a superb book on a little-known figure, Robert Bunch, the British consul to Charleston from 1853 to 1863. South Carolina's secessionist leaders were counting on Britain to come to their defense and therefore eager to curry favor with Bunch, whose public mask never betrayed his abhorrence of slavery and the fire eating secessionists whose goal was to protect and expand it. "Our man" takes on a double meaning as Dickey credits Bunch with playing an unappreciated but important role in saving the Union from British intervention by convincing Prime Minister Palmerston's government that the Confederacy, despite its promises to the contrary, was going to reopen the African slave trade once independence was accomplished. To recognize the South as a sovereign nation would contradict all that Britain stood for in the world, Bunch's dispatches made clear.

Don Doyle, University of South Carolina

William Marvel. *Lincoln's Autocrat: The Life of Edwin Stanton.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015. Pp. 611. \$35.00

William Marvel is the most independent-minded of independent scholars, displaying a rare combination of the finest narrative skill with indefatigable research and ascerbic skepticism toward any examples of received wisdom. But in this biography of Edwin Stanton, the skepticism shows signs of decaying into a conspiratorial Left-libertarianism of the Edward Snowden variety. Marvel is repetitive and relentless in his insistence that Stanton was insincere, hypocritical, an enemy of civil liberties, and just unrelievedly awful; and not only Stanton, but the entire Republican party suffers from a "mania" for enlisting black troops, promoting a "social-justice agenda," and demanding a "revolutionary" Civil Rights Act in 1866. So intent is Marvel on sniffing-out the various perfidies of Stanton, Joseph Holt and Francis Lieber that he fails to tell us what, exactly, the job of a Secretary of War was in 1861-65. And in only one paragraph does Marvel pause to acknowledge "the relative order" Stanton "wrung from the chaos of Simon

Cameron's tenure." If there is such a thing as a Copperhead historiography, Marvel's *Autocrat* moves easily to its first place.

Allen C. Guelzo, Gettysburg College

Martha Hodes. *Mourning Lincoln.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015. Pp. 408. \$30.00.

Martha Hodes's *Mourning Lincoln* provides fresh insight into a familiar episode. While previous histories of Lincoln's assassination have emphasized unity amidst national mourning, Hodes's analysis of unpublished sources, such as diaries and letters, reveals a moment of animosity and anxiety. Drawing on the diverse voices of freedpeople, abolitionists, Copperheads, and Confederates, Hodes illustrates the social and political fissures prevalent throughout the United States in the wake of Lincoln's murder. Chapters focus on commonly expressed emotions, such as shock or glee, as well as issues of concern across the political spectrum: the place of the assassination in God's plan, for example, or the demands of everyday life amidst cataclysm. Brief "interludes" cover minor themes, such as the novelty of men weeping and the popularity of consumer items related to Lincoln. The result is a complex yet accessible portrait of the social, political, and emotional condition of the United States in 1865.

Patrick Mulford O'Connor, University of Montana

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Schedule of Sessions, Cont'd from page 1

Friday, November 4: 4:45 PM Jasmine

Phi Alpha Theta 2: Political and Military Leadership in the Nineteenth-Century South

Presiding

Graydon Tunstall, University of South Florida

“The Gray Ghost - John Singleton Mosby”

Kevin R. Youngberg, University of South Florida

“Running Against Himself: Henry Clay’s Two Decades of Presidential Campaigns”

Jacob Wood, University of South Florida

Comments

Graydon Tunstall

Friday, November 4: 2:30-4:30 PM Banyan

Of Cities and Women: Stories from Charleston, Mobile, and Richmond in the Slaveholding South

Presiding

Connie Lester, University of Central Florida

“Young and Old, Town and Country: Expectation and Urban Space in Eighteenth-Century Charleston”

Anne Lindsay, California State University, Sacramento

“In the Salon of Madame Le Vert Was There a Salonnière? Women and Intellectual Life in the Antebellum Urban South”

Marise Bachand, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

“‘The Last Confederate Christmas’: Slaveholding Women’s Rituals of Cultural Authority in the Confederate Capital”

Ashley Whitehead Luskey, Independent Scholar and Historical Consultant

Comments

Catherine Kerrison, Villanova University

Saturday, November 5: 9:30-11:30 AM Tarpon Key

The Cost of Freedom: African-American Experiences in Emancipation

Presiding

Carole Emberton, University at Buffalo, SUNY

“The Impact of War and Emancipation on African-American Population and Family Structure”

J. David Hacker, University of Minnesota

“‘Somethin’ went hard agin her mind’: Suffering, Suicide and Emancipated Slaves”

Diane Miller Sommerville, Binghamton University, SUNY

“Finding Shelter, Finding Freedom: Migration in the Occupied South”

Amy Murrell Taylor, University of Kentucky

“Deserting Freedom: African American Runaways in the Union Army”

Jonathan Lande, Brown University

Comments

Chandra Manning, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

2017 CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE SUMMER CONFERENCE

For over 35 years, the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College has hosted an annual summer conference bringing leading historians and public audiences together for small group discussions, battlefield tours, lectures, and roundtables & panel conversations about the Civil War era. Sessions, lodging, and meals are held on the 200-acre college campus.

From June 9 until June 14, 2017, the summer conference will move away from its traditional thematic organization and reorient itself around exploring new developments and questions in the field. This reorganization will allow for a broader program that will provide attendees with the opportunity to hear from speakers who have recently published new works that will undoubtedly shape the field in important ways. Some of the topics to be explored include: Lincoln as a War President; Debating William Tecumseh Sherman; Myths & Realities of Civil War; Battle Tactics; The Confederate Flag; and Unionism in the Confederacy

The CWI conference is noted for offering fresh perspectives and new angles on the Civil War as part of an exciting and engaging dialogue between experts and general audiences. Experts for our 2017 conference include: Brooks Simpson; Harold Holzer; Carol Reardon; Susannah Ural; Earl Hess; and Kenneth Noe.

For more information and the registration form, go to <http://www.gettysburg.edu/cwi/conference/>

Epps Named *Journal of the Civil War Era* Digital Media Editor

Kristen Epps, assistant professor of history at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, has been named digital media editor of the *Journal of the Civil War Era*. Her book, *Slavery on the Periphery: The Kansas-Missouri Border in the Antebellum and Civil War Eras*, will be published by the University of Georgia Press in 2016. Her research interests include race relations in the Trans-Mississippi, abolitionism, Bleeding Kansas, and religious reform movements. Her work has appeared in *Bleeding Kansas*, *Bleeding Missouri: The Long Civil War on the Border* (University Press of Kansas, 2013), and she is currently working on additional projects concerning the sectional crisis, focusing particularly on abolitionism and the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.

Submissions for publication in the SCWH Newsletter should be emailed to Dr. Anne J. Bailey at:

scwhnewsletter@yahoo.com

or

scwhnewsletter@gmail.com

For a short history of the SCWH

or

For back issues of the newsletter

go to

<http://scwhistorians.org>

Tom Watson Brown Book Prize Deadline Nears

January 31, 2017, is the deadline for nominations for the Tom Watson Brown book Award of \$50,000. For information on how to submit an entry, go to:

<http://scwhistorians.org>

Meeting Dates of the SCWH and SHA

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

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

2019 - November 7-10
Galt House Hotel
Louisville, Kentucky

2020 - November 19-22
Sheraton Memphis Downtown
Memphis, Tennessee

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