
SCWH NEWSLETTER

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Society of Civil War Historians

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Christopher Phillips Wins Tom Watson Brown Book Award

The Society of Civil War Historians and the Watson-Brown Foundation are proud to announce that Christopher Phillips is the recipient of the Tom Watson Brown Book Award. Dr. Phillips, Professor and Department Head at the University of Cincinnati, earned the award for *The Rivers Ran Backward: The Civil War and the Remaking of the American Middle Border*, which was published in 2016 by Oxford University Press. The \$50,000 award is funded by the Watson-Brown Foundation in honor of the broadcaster, philanthropist, and Civil War enthusiast Tom Watson Brown. In making its selection, the prize committee praised Phillips for weaving together “discussions of geography, politics, culture, religion, economy, and racial attitudes” to craft a “complex, fully realized, and provocative depiction of the ‘middle border’ states” in the Civil War era. Redirecting our view from the simplistic North vs. South binary, *The Rivers Ran Backward* traces the rise of regionalism as a postwar political force and offers “a deeper understanding of the failure of the Reconstruction (and beyond) to realize emancipationist goals while preserving a country still divided by race, class, and region.”

Raised in the Midwest, and educated there and in the South, Dr. Phillips has a particular interest in regionalism, and has published a number of books and essays on the South and the West. His particular interest has been in the Border States: free states that were deeply divided by the Civil War and its coming as well as neighboring slave states that did not secede from the Union.

Dr. Phillips’s books have focused variously upon slavery and freedom, emancipation, war, race, politics, and memory during and after the Civil War era. They include *Damned Yankee: The Life of General Nathaniel Lyon*, a study of the military and political events in the border slave state of Missouri through the life of a controversial military commander there; *Freedom’s Port: The African*

American Community of Baltimore, 1790-1860, a social history of the African Americans in Baltimore, Maryland, in the early national and antebellum periods; *Missouri’s Confederate: Claiborne Fox Jackson and the Creation of Southern Identity in the Border West*, the life and political career of a controversial Missouri Civil War governor as a lens into the development of southern identity in the border West; *The Union on Trial: The Political Journals of Judge William Barclay Napton, 1829-1883*, and *The Making of a Southerner: William Barclay Napton’s Private Civil War*, the edited political journals (and classroom-length companion biography) of a northern-born Missouri supreme court justice in the mid-nineteenth century that together assess the development of white proslavery ideology in the American West; and *The Civil War in the Border South*, a brief social and cultural history of the Civil War and its aftermath in the border slave states.

The Watson Brown Book Award jury consisted of Lesley Gordon, Charles G. Summersell Chair in Southern History, University of Alabama; John David Smith, Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History, University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Joan Waugh, Professor & Vice Chair for Academic Personnel, University of California, Los Angeles; and Tad Brown, President of the Watson-Brown Foundation, Inc. Tad Brown will present the award to Dr. Phillips at the Tom Watson Brown Book Award dinner, which will be held on November 10 at the Southern Historical Association’s annual meeting in Dallas, Texas.

The Watson-Brown Foundation awards more than \$2.4 annually in merit and need-based scholarships from an eighteen county region of Georgia and South Carolina. The foundation also owns and operates three historic sites in Georgia. In addition, the foundation has a grant program that encourages responsible scholarship on the South and supports historic preservation. The foundation is based in Thomson, Georgia. For more information, go to www.watson-brown.org.

BOOKS IN REVIEW

Stephen D. Engle, Book Review Editor

Steven E. Woodworth and Charles D. Grear, Eds. *The Tennessee Campaign of 1864*. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2016. Pp. 280. \$34.50.

Few military campaigns ended as decisively as Hood's invasion of Middle Tennessee in late 1864, which culminated in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. Historians have paid increasing attention to these and other Western Theater battles in recent years, but they remain understudied compared to the campaigns of the East. The essays in *The Tennessee Campaign of 1864* go a long way toward filling in our understanding of this last desperate Confederate raid and in mapping out new interpretative terrain. The essays address new published sources and interpretations of command decisions from Patrick Cleburne, Ulysses Grant, and George Thomas; reflections on death in the officer corps and the psychology of killing; previously unheralded efforts of black soldiers at Nashville; and commentary on preserving the Franklin and Nashville battlefields. This is a fine collection of essays.

Aaron Astor, Maryville College

Bruce M. Venter. *Kill Jeff Davis: The Union Raid on Richmond, 1864*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2016. Pp. 384. \$29.95.

In *Kill Jeff Davis*, Bruce M. Venter presents the most complete account yet written about the ill-fated Kilpatrick-Dahlgren raid of February-March, 1864. The raid aimed at freeing thousands of federal prisoners held at Confederate POW camps near Richmond, and capturing (or possibly killing) Confederate president Jefferson Davis.

Although not in uncharted territory, Venter utilizes voluminous secondary and primary sources—including some newly found documents—to illuminate several previously neglected facets of the operation. These include Benjamin Butler's botched raid on Richmond a few weeks before, George Armstrong Custer's similarly botched diversionary offensive toward Charlottesville, and the status of Richmond's Local Defense Troops, which Venter judges better prepared than previously thought. Venter also unravels the tragic fate of "Martin," the black guide whom the expedition's second-in-command, Colonel Ulrich Dahlgren, mistakenly hung for treachery. Historians and casual readers alike will find this narrowly focused volume essential to their

understanding this oft-neglected episode of the war.

Matthew J. Hernando, Ozark Technical Community College.

The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Volume 14, 1880-1889. Edited by Lynda Lasswell Crist and Suzanne Scott Gibbs. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2015. Pp. 688. \$150.00.

After forty-four years of scholarship, the publication of *The Papers of Jefferson Davis* has concluded with the appearance of the final volume. It contains around 1,500 items written by, to, or about Davis during the final nine years of his life. Only fifty-eight documents are included fully with annotation; the remainder are either summarized or published in full without annotation.

While some content in this volume relates to Davis's family, his health, and personal matters; other material concerns Davis's defense of the Confederacy and of his actions as president. Also included are an introduction by William C. Davis; an appendix discussing the U.S. government's post-Civil War legal case against him; an addenda summarizing items located after the publication of the volumes where they would otherwise have been placed; and an epilogue outlining the subsequent lives of Davis's widow and surviving children, as well as of his homes Beauvoir and Brierfield. Lynda Crist and the other editors of *The Papers of Jefferson Davis* deserve the thanks and appreciation of all students of the Civil War era for their persistence in completing one of the standard documentary editions of the time period.

David Coles, Longwood University

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Dallas in November

The Dallas Sheraton Hotel, located at 400 North Olive Street in downtown Dallas, will serve as the site of the meeting of the Southern Historical Association on November 9-12 and the Tom Watson Brown Award dinner on Friday, November 10. Located in the heart of Dallas, there are a number of attractions for SCWH members to enjoy.

For information on Special Events and Excursions sponsored by the SHA and ticket information:

http://thesha.org/content/pdf/Sites_of_Interest_Current.pdf

Touring on Your Own:

Big D Fun Tours, 411 Elm Street, about a mile from the hotel (<http://dallasfuntours.com/>), offers two tours of interest. Check the website for places you can hop on the trolley.

The JFK Trolley tour will take you back to November 22, 1863, as if you were there. Travel the presidential motorcade route and the timeline of Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Dallas Trolley tour stops at Dealey Plaza, the Omni Hotel, Reunion Tower, Dallas Museum of Art, the Perot Museum, Hooters, American Airlines Center, Klyde Warren Park, Thanksgiving Square, Deep Ellum, Farmers' Market, Neiman Marcus, Pioneer Plaza, and the Dallas West End.

Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

Located just over a mile from the Dallas Sheraton Hotel is the former Texas School Book Depository Building, which chronicles events leading to the assassination of John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1863 (<http://www.jfk.org/the-museum>). Site of the SHA reception on Saturday, November 11. See the website.

Dallas Arts District

The hotel is located in the heart of the Arts District (<http://www.dallasartsdistrict.org>), near the Dallas Museum of Art (<https://www.dma.org/>), Klyde Warren Park (<http://www.klydewarrenpark.org>), and Meyerson Symphony Center (<http://meyerson.dallasculture.org/>).

American Airlines Center

A little over a mile away at the AAC in Victory Park you can cheer on the Mavericks at this 20,000-seat venue. Check <https://www.mavs.com/schedule/> to see if the Mavs will be in town.

George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Less than five miles from the hotel, directly north on US 75, is the nation's 13th Presidential Library. Located on the campus of Southern Methodist University, the Bush Library and Museum is open daily (<http://www.georgewbushlibrary.smu.edu/>). The SHA will sponsor a tour on Sunday, November 12.

Winspear Opera House

Just a ten-minute walk away is a 21st century reinterpretation of a traditional opera house. Indulge yourself in classics in the evening, and treat yourself to family-friendly performances during the day (<http://dallasopera.org/about/winspear/>).

AT&T Performing Arts Center

Immerse yourself in an evening of musical theater, live music or contemporary dance at the AT&T Performing Arts Center, one of downtown Dallas' premier event venues. Witness everything from legendary singers to avant-garde dance troupes (<http://www.attpac.org/>).

Dallas World Aquarium and Rainforest

A short mile from the hotel, discover this fascinating aquarium and zoo, which boasts of incredible aquatic exhibits, as well as an artificial rainforest (www.dwazoo.com).

Perot Museum of Nature and Science

The Perot Museum brings science to life, with eleven exhibit halls featuring state-of-the-art video equipment, interactive kiosks, and educational games (<http://www.perotmuseum.org/>)

The Hard Rock Cafe

Located about a mile from the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, the cafe anchors the southern end of the Victory Park development center. The convenient location is just miles from the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, and a short walk from the Dallas Museum of Art and the Perot Museum. The restaurant features 265 seats, outdoor dining, and a living museum of music history on the walls.

Dallas Holocaust Museum

Located at 211 N. Record Street not far from the hotel. This fall there will be a special exhibit on loan from The National World War II Museum, "Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II. Admission \$2 off with conference badge.

For more to do and places to eat, go to:

<http://www.visitdallas.com/>

<http://www.dallas.com/attractions>

Biennial Conference Call for Papers

The SCWH will host its biennial conference at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh from May 31 through June 2, 2018. The SCWH welcomes panel proposals or individual papers on the Civil War era. The goal of the conference is to promote the integration of social, military, political, and other forms of history of the Civil War era among historians, graduate students, and professionals who interpret history in museum, national parks, archives, and other public facilities. The deadline for receipt for proposals is **September 15**.

Please complete a submission form:

Panel proposal:

<http://richardscenter.la.psu.edu/conference-papers/panel-submission-form>

Single paper proposal:

<http://richardscenter.la.psu.edu/conference-papers/single-paper-submission/>

Proposals should include a title and abstract for the papers (approximately 250-300 words) and a short CV from each participant. Panel submissions should have an overall title and state the thrust of the session. For more information, go to <http://scwhistorians.org/>, or contact the Richards Center at 814-863-0151. Final decisions will be made at the Southern Historical meeting in Dallas in November.

Be sure to visit the SCWH on Facebook for the latest information.

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McWhiney History Education Group
McMurry University

For more information, go to:
www.mcwhiney.org

Journal of the Civil War Era Website

The Journal of the Civil War Era is thrilled to announce the launch of a new website—same address, brand new look:

journalofthecivilwarera.org

As before, you can access information on how to subscribe to the journal, view tables of contents for each issue, learn more about our awards, read forums on the future of Civil War and Reconstruction studies, find out how to submit your work for consideration, and read and subscribe to our blog, Muster, which brings a historical perspective to popular culture and contemporary topics. Also, follow the journal on Twitter.

Future Meeting Dates of the SCWH and SHA

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

2021 – November 3-6
Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana