

Civil War Book Review

Winter 2004

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Annotations

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ANNOTATIONS

Martin, Bessie
Winter 2004

Martin, Bessie *A Rich Man's War, A Poor Man's Fight: Desertion of Alabama Troops from the Confederate Army*. The University of Alabama Press, \$24.95 ISBN 817350101

The third edition of this 1932 scholar's work features a new introduction by Mark A. Weitz that introduces readers to Martin's methodology and challenges contemporary historians to continue her study of southern desertion. The work itself is a sectional study that relies upon a combination of official government records, personal accounts of diaries and letters, and statistical analysis to draw its conclusions.

Davis, William C.
Winter 2004

Davis, William C. *A Taste for War: The Culinary History of the Blue and the Gray*. Stackpole Books, \$26.95 ISBN 811700186

Eminent historian, William C. Davis, turns his attention to the cuisine of the Civil War soldier. Each chapter looks at a different dimension of Civil War food such as the soldier's ability to cook for themselves and food in Civil War prisons. Included at the end is a list of Civil War recipes.

Packard, Jerrold M.
Winter 2004

Packard, Jerrold M. *American Nightmare: The History of Jim Crow*. St. Martin's Griffin, \$14.95 ISBN 031230241X

Jim Crow, a neglected topic, is the subject of this single volume history that covers the subject from its inception to its eventual collapse. Packard is

attempting to uncover the root causes and reality of the United States' race laws and practices of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth
Winter 2004

Higginson, Thomas Wentworth *Army Life in a Black Regiment*. Dover Publications, \$7.95 ISBN 486424820

This volume is a new edition of Higginson's classic account of his service commanding the First South Carolina Volunteers, one of the earliest Black regiments of the Union. This paperback is an excellent classroom edition of an important work in both Black and Civil War history.

Moss, Juanita Patience
Winter 2004

Moss, Juanita Patience *Battle of Plymouth: North Carolina (April 17-20), The Last Confederate Victory*. Heritage Books, Inc., \$32.00 ISBN 1585498521

This work is a book length treatment of the Battle of Plymouth which includes the sinking of the Confederate ironclad Albemarle by William B. Cushing.

Dunnavent, R. Blake
Winter 2004

Dunnavent, R. Blake *Brown Water Warfare: The U.S. Navy in Riverine Warfare and the Emergence of a Tactical Doctrine, 1775- 1970*. University Press of Florida, \$55.00 ISBN 813026148

This study covered the history of the American navy's involvement in Riverine warfare from the Revolutionary period through the Vietnam War. It includes one chapter entirely devoted to Civil War operations of this type.

Butterfield, Daniel
Winter 2004

Butterfield, Daniel *Camp and Outpost Duty for Infantry 1862*. Stackpole Books, \$11.95 ISBN 811700674

This small volume is a reproduction of a Civil War era manual written by General Butterfield of the Army of the Potomac. Outpost Duty, Standing Orders, Army Regulations, Rules for Health, Maxims on War, and the Duties of Officers are all topics covered in this reproduced manual.

Cook, Robert
Winter 2004

Cook, Robert *Civil War America: Making a Nation, 1848-1877*. Longman, \$23.40 ISBN 58238107

This book is part of a ten volume series, the *Longman History of the United States* edited by Mark White, which covers American history from the pre-colonial era to the present. This volume, on the period of the Civil War, includes the antebellum period through Reconstruction and is intended for classroom use. Also, it attempts to bridge the gap between social and political history.

Bell, Jack
Winter 2004

Bell, Jack *Civil War Heavy Explosive Ordnance: A Guide to Large Artillery Projectiles, Torpedoes, and Mines*. University of North Texas Press, \$50.00 ISBN 1574411632

This hefty volume contains over a 1000 photographs of Civil War ordinance. Bell covers both smooth bore and rifled projectiles and torpedoes. He includes a short history of the makers and designers of types of ordinances as well as providing the dimensions and provenance of surviving shells, bolts and

mines.

Casstevens, Frances H.

Winter 2004

Casstevens, Frances H. *Edward A. Wild and the African Brigade in the Civil War.* McFarland & Company, \$49.95 ISBN 786416041

This biography recounts the life of a little known Union abolitionist general that trained and led freed slaves, took a group of North Carolinian women hostage, and was eventually court-martialed. Also, he was a part of the Freedmen's Bureau and the Roanoke Island colony.

Poyer, David

Winter 2004

Poyer, David *Fire on the Waters: A Novel of the Civil War at Sea.* Simon & Schuster, \$13.00 ISBN 671046810

In a 2002 review, William N. Still Jr. said that **Fire on the Waters** is a brilliantly written novel. David Poyer, a former naval captain and novelist, is also praised by Still, if authors of the caliber of Poyer continue to write fiction, indeed the novel will remain popular with the reading public. This novel is new to paperback.

Bercaw, Nancy D.

Winter 2004

Bercaw, Nancy D. *Gendered Freedoms: Race, Rights, and the Politics of Household in the Delta, 1861-1875.* University Press of Florida, \$55.00 ISBN 813025915

Nancy Bercaw analyzes the conception of the southern household by men and women both black and white during and immediately following the Civil War. This study seeks to understand how the southern household shaped its

members' consciousness and sense of obligation.

Martin, David G.

Winter 2004

Martin, David G. *Gettysburg July 1*. Da Capo Press, \$20.00 ISBN 306812401

Martin provides a detailed description of the action of the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg. This history reconstructs the battle in detail at the regimental level using primary, first hand descriptions of the battle.

Clasby, Robert

Winter 2004

Clasby, Robert *Gettysburg: You Are There*. Burford Books, \$24.95 ISBN 1580801110

This picture book using modern digital technology attempts to recreate images of the Battle of Gettysburg. Clasby, a photographer, had over several years taken photographs of reenactors. Using these as stock images, he took contemporary photographs of the Gettysburg battlefield, and then he superimposed the reenactors upon the background of the nationally preserved battlefield.

Taber, Thomas R.

Winter 2004

Taber, Thomas R. *Hard Breathing Days: The Civil War Letters of Cora Beach Benton Albion, New York 1862-1865*. Almeron Press, \$36.00 ISBN 97267660

This book includes the transcription of over a hundred and sixty letters from Cora Benton to her husband serving with the 17th New York Volunteer Independent Light Artillery. These letters describe her life and the life of her family in a small Erie Canal village.

Nelson, C. Burton
Winter 2004

Nelson, C. Burton *Incident at Pittston Crossing: A Civil War Adventure Novel*. Helm Literary Publishing, \$22.95 ISBN 972301100

This novel recounts an imaginary invasion of the North in which a company of well equipped Union soldiers fight off an entire 10,000 soldier strong Confederate army.

Silber, Nina
Winter 2004

Silber, Nina *Landmarks of the Civil War*. Oxford University Press, \$30.00 ISBN 195129202

This illustrated guide of the Civil War's important sites is the result of a partnership between Oxford University Press, the National Park Service, the National Register of Historic Places, the National Park Foundation and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The book includes contemporary and period photography of the sites, a brief history of the area's historical significance, and contact information for the organization presently caretaking the location.

Bowden, Scott
Ward, Bill
Winter 2004

Bowden, Scott and Ward, Bill. *Last Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign*. Da Capo Press, \$20.00 ISBN 306812614

Peeling back the layers of myth and years of conjecture, **Last Chance** offers an in-depth analysis of Lee and his officers' motives and actions during one of the most studied campaigns of the Civil War.

Carwardine, Richard J.
Winter 2004

Carwardine, Richard J. *Lincoln: Profiles in Power*. Longman, \$16.95 ISBN 582032792

This biography is a new addition to Pearson's Profiles in Power series that is edited by Keith Roberts. Carwardine follows Lincoln's life from his birth to his death and concentrates his study on uncovering the source of Lincoln's authority and cause of his successes.

Elder, III Donald C.
Winter 2004

Elder, III Donald C. *Love amid the Turmoil: The Civil War Letters of William & Mary Vermilion*. University of Iowa Press, \$39.95 ISBN 877458499

Elder has transcribed and edited the letters of a William Vermilion, a captain in the 36th Iowa Infantry, and his wife Mary Vermilion, who spent time in both Iowa and Indiana during the conflict. Both William and Mary were avid abolitionists.

Bush, Bryan
Winter 2004

Bush, Bryan *My Dear Mollie: The Letters of Brig. Gen. Daniel Griffin, Commander of the 38th Indiana Volunteer Infantry*. Jona Books, \$24.95 ISBN 970672578

Bryan Bush has transcribed and annotated the letters of a regimental commander in the Army of the Cumberland. Included within this collection are reports of the important campaigns of that army including the battles of Chickamauga and Perryville as well as the campaigns for Atlanta and the March to the Sea.

Jones, D.D. Rev. J. William
Winter 2004

Jones, D.D. Rev. J. William *Personal Reminiscences of General Robert E. Lee.*
Tom Doherty Associates Books, \$27.95 ISBN 765305844

This book is a reprinting of a work originally published in 1875. J. William Jones served as Lee's chaplain throughout the course of the Civil War and was present at most of the prominent moments of Lee's service to the Confederacy.

Risjord, Norman K.
Winter 2004

Risjord, Norman K. *Representative Americans: The Civil War Generation.*
Roman & Littlefield Publishers, \$22.95 ISBN 742521699

This book is a new volume covering the era of the Civil War in Norman K. Risjord's series, *Representative Americans*. The books provide an introduction to a time period in American history through the use of a series of biographies of important and representative individuals. The biographies in this volume range from Stephen Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Stonewall Jackson, Thaddeus Stevens, to Crazy Horse. Other volumes in the *Representative Americans* series are: **The Colonist, The Revolutionary Generation, The Romantics, Populists and Progressives, and Generation of Destiny.**

Link, William A.
Winter 2004

Link, William A. *Roots of Secession: Slavery and Politics in Antebellum Virginia.* University of North Carolina Press, \$45.00 ISBN 807827711

This study analyzes the interconnections between social activity and politics that led to secession in antebellum Virginia. Link argues that the tension between an increasingly active slave population and anxious slave holders was the driving force of Virginia politics during the time period.

Reasoner, James

Winter 2004

Reasoner, James *Savannah: A Novel*. Cumberland House, \$22.95 ISBN 1581823282

Appomattox is the 10th and final installment in the series chronicling the trails of the Brannon Family of Culpepper County, Virginia. The conclusion of Reasoner's decology has the Brannon family looking west to the future with some of the Brannon sons already laying a claim on Texas. Readers witness the final days of the Confederacy and the loss of the Virginian family's ancestral abode.

Eelsey, Paula

Winter 2004

Eelsey, Paula *Stone Ground: A History of Union Mills*. Fairfax County History Commission, \$19.00 ISBN 914927345

Eelsey and four other Virginia historians have written the history of a small local community in Western Fairfax County Virginia. A significant portion of the work concentrates on how the Civil War shaped the area's history.

Ragan, Mark K.

Winter 2004

Ragan, Mark K. *Submarine Warfare in the Civil War*. Da Capo Press, \$17.95 ISBN 306811979

This work is new to paperback. Please see our review of the hardcover edition in the Summer 1999 edition of the **Civil War Book Review**.

Jewett, Clayton E.

Winter 2004

Jewett, Clayton E. *Texas in the Confederacy: An Experiment in Nation Building.* University of Missouri Press, \$44.95 ISBN 86213901

Jewett challenges that theory of a unified south around the institution of slavery in his study of Texas legislature during the antebellum period and the Civil War. The study relies heavily upon quantitative methods to offer a new interpretation of federalism in the Confederacy.

Raiford, Neil Hunter
Winter 2004

Raiford, Neil Hunter *The 4th North Carolina Cavalry in the Civil War.* McFarland & Company, Inc., \$39.95 ISBN 786414685

The 4th North Carolina Cavalry was formed out of a cross-section of soldiers from North Carolina. This volume includes both a general regimental history and brief biographies of known unit members.

Haskell, Colonel Frank A.
Winter 2004

Haskell, Colonel Frank A. *The Battle of Gettysburg: A Soldier's First-Hand Account.* Dover Publications, \$6.95 ISBN 486427617

This book is a new paperback edition of Haskell's classic account of the Battle of Gettysburg that was written in the year following the battle.

Pryor, Dayton
Winter 2004

Pryor, Dayton *The Beginning and the End: The Civil War Story of Federal Surrenders Before Fort Sumter and Confederate Surrenders After Appomattox.* Heritage Books, Inc., \$23.95 ISBN 788420070

Pryor's work concentrates on military surrenders during the periods immediately before and after the Civil War. He is attempting to show how surrenders occurring before the war contributed to the Confederacy's war effort and also why Confederate armies continued to surrender after Appomattox.

Bak, Richard
Winter 2004

Bak, Richard *The CSS Hunley: The Greatest Undersea Adventure of the Civil War*. Cooper Square Press, \$18.95 ISBN 815412606

Richard Bak's history of the CSS Hunley has been updated with a description of the recent discovery of the remains of the submarine. See the *Civil War Book Review* for a review of the first edition.

Forsyth, Michael J.
Winter 2004

Forsyth, Michael J. *The Camden Expedition of 1864: And the Opportunity Lost by the Confederacy to Change the Civil War*. McFarland & Company, Inc, \$39.95 ISBN 786415541

Forsyth argues that the Confederacy lost a valuable opportunity to turn the course of the war because of hesitation of the Confederate army leadership facing the Army of the Gulf in Louisiana and how General Grant's order to Frederick Steele preserved the Union.

Carter, Alice E.
Jensen, Richard
Winter 2004

Carter, Alice E. and Jensen, Richard. *The Civil War on the Web: A Guide to the Very Best Sites*. SR Books, \$23.95 ISBN 084205135X

Alice Carter and Richard Jenson have revised, updated and expanded their guide to Civil War websites that was originally published in 2001. The new edition includes a CD-ROM with links to the sites. Each website includes a description, a review, and is rated on a five star scale for content, shetics, and navigation. The book itself is divided up into two parts, the first is made up of the reviews and ratings while the second being a topical index.

Tagg, Larry
Winter 2004

Tagg, Larry *The Generals of Gettysburg: The Leaders of America's Greatest Battle*. Da Capo Press, \$18.95 ISBN 306812428

Tagg's reference work of the Battle of Gettysburg includes biographies of the battle's leaders down to brigade commander and an assessment of that leader's performance at Gettysburg. The book originally released in 1998 and is new to paperback

Longacre, Edward G.
Winter 2004

Longacre, Edward G. *The Man Behind the Guns: A Military Biography of General Henry J. Hunt, Chief of Artillery, Army of the Potomac*. Da Capo Press, \$18.00 ISBN 306811545

The only biography of the commander of the Army of the Potomac's artillery, originally published in 1977, has been re-released.

Jackson, Rex T.
Winter 2004

Jackson, Rex T. *The Sultana Saga: The Titanic of the Mississippi*. Heritage Books, Inc, \$18.00 ISBN 788423584

This account of the sinking of the riverboat steamer Sultana recounts the incident that is estimated to cost the lives of 1,800 soldiers, most of whom had been prisoners of war at Andersonville and Cahaba. In addition to the history of the accident, the book includes a roster of those that were onboard the vessel.

Medley, Keith Weldon
Winter 2004

Medley, Keith Weldon *We as Freeman: Plessy vs. Ferguson*. Pelican, \$23.00
ISBN 1589801202

Medley narrates the struggle of Homer Plessy and the Comite des Citoyens in their attempt to overcome legal segregation in the 1890's. The group set up a test case to challenge Jim Crow laws in the Supreme Court. However, Plessy v. Ferguson shares a similar fate in memory and history as *Scott v. Stanford* (the Dread Scott Decision) rather than *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Sheldon, George
Winter 2004

Sheldon, George *When the Smoke Cleared at Gettysburg: The Tragic Aftermath of the Bloodiest Battle of the Civil War*. Cumberland House Publishing, \$16.95
ISBN 1581823436

George Sheldon teases out the story of the months that followed the Union victory at Gettysburg. Sheldon's narrative picks up after the cannons had stopped firing and concentrates on the recovery efforts by the residents of Gettysburg, as well as the trails and tribulations of the medical personnel remaining on the field.