

# Civil War Book Review

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## Letter From Your Editor

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## Editorial

### LETTER FROM YOUR EDITOR

Novak, Neal  
Childers, Christopher

Fall 2006

#### The Many Facets of Civil War History

The fall 2006 issue of the *Civil War Book Review* is as informative as it is eclectic. Chad Vanderford reviews the latest study by Eugene D. Genovese and Elizabeth Fox Genovese, **The Mind of the Master Class: History and Faith in the Southern Slaveholders' Worldview**, offering much insight onto the work of two of the most celebrated historians of the antebellum South. Here, the Genoveses delve into the psyche of slaveholders in an attempt to flesh out the ways in which Southerners conceived of themselves and their world. Also in this issue is William Robert's review of **Industrializing American Shipbuilding: The Transformation of Ship Design and Construction, 1820-1920**. Written by William H. Theisen, this work focuses on the development of the United States navy before, during, and after the Civil War. Similarly, Tiwana Simpson offers a fresh perspective on gender, family, and identity in her review of Thulani Davis's **My Confederate Kinfolk**. Jill Ogline reviews **Father Abraham: Lincoln's Relentless Struggle to end Slavery** by Richard Striner. This study reveals the moral impetus that carried Lincoln through the darkest days of the war and, ultimately, convinced him of the need to abolish slavery.

Also featured in the fall issue is an interview with historian Adam Rothman, as well as several absorbing columns authored by Leah Wood Jewett, and David Madden. Rothman, an assistant professor of history at Georgetown University, discusses his latest work, **Slave Country**, and sheds new light on the beginnings of slavery in the Deep South. Jewett also touches on the topic of slavery in her article, *Civil War Treasures*. She announces the acquisition of the letters of Edwin Benedict, a member of the 23rd Connecticut Infantry during the Civil War, by the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections at Louisiana State University. Madden looks at the almost-famous life and work of Hamlin Garland in his column, *Rediscovering Civil War Classics*. He reveals how war and life on the frontier influenced one the less appreciated writers of the late

nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Sadly, my last days as editor of the *Civil War Book Review* have already arrived. A sincere thank you goes out to the reviewers, contributors, and readers who assist the *CWBR* in its efforts to advance knowledge of the Civil War era. I would also like to thank Christopher Freeman, my predecessor, Alice Richards, my editorial assistant, and Faye Phillips, the Associate Dean of Libraries for Special Collections at LSU, for their help, support, and well wishes. They have indeed made this experience enjoyable and rewarding. Christopher Childers assumed the editor's duties as this issue approached publication.