

# Editorial: Winter 2018

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## Editorial

### EDITORIAL: WINTER 2018

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This issue military history, its tactics and its combatants, organizes our featured reviews. Benjamin F. Cooling reviews Gordon Rhea's *On to Petersburg: Grant and Lee, June 4-15, 1864*. Cooling finds Rhea's book important for highlighting how Grant adapted to warfare on the Union's eastern front. Covering the same period, but with different aims is Steven E. Sodergren's *The Army of the Potomac in the Overland and Petersburg Campaigns: Union Soldiers and Trench Warfare, 1864-1865* reviewed by Charles Bowery. Here Sodergren examines how trench warfare impacted the morale of Union forces in the east. Turning from east to west is Thomas W. Cutrer's *Theater of a Separate War: The Civil War West of the Mississippi River, 1861-1865*. Reviewers John T. Becker and Robert Welch consider Cutrer's work an important survey of the western theater, but also a flawed book for its uneven coverage and editorial oversights. Our final review focuses on the conflict's deaf participants. Sarah Handley-Cousins recommends Harry G. Lang's *Fighting in the Shadows: Untold Stories of Deaf People in the Civil War* for its expansive survey of how deafness shaped individual outlooks, reform movements, military struggles, and national policies.

In our author interview Jimmy L. Bryan Jr. discusses his latest book *The American Elsewhere: Adventure and Manliness in the Age of Expansion*. In the interview we discuss how literature about lands west of the Mississippi imprinted race and masculinity on the politics of territorial expansion.

Frank Williams returns with his quarterly column: Look at Lincoln. This issue he reviews Walter Stahr's *Stanton: Lincoln's War Secretary*. Williams considers the book a useful corrective to the conventional wisdom that regularly deprives Stanton's actions of their original context in order to caricaturize him as an autocrat.

Finishing out our ongoing series about the poor, white electorate before and after the Civil War is an essay from Michael Fitzgerald, author of *Reconstruction*

*in Alabama* (reviewed recently by the CWBR here).

Civil War Treasures returns this issue with eyewitness descriptions of New York's 1863 draft riots. LSU Special Collections librarians Han Rasmussen and Nickolas Skaggs describe the correspondence of George H. Suydam, a second lieutenant stationed in New Orleans, who received several accounts of the riots from family living in New York.

This issue also introduces Civil War Obscura, a new column by writer Meg Groeling. In this column Meg focuses on popular, but lesser known books of the Civil War era. No printed text is off limits; fiction, non-fiction, personal memoirs, and virtually all other printed materials are all welcome here. She begins this project with a look at Henry Villard's *Lincoln on the Eve of '61*. The purpose of this column, we hope, is to introduce both lay readers, independent scholars, and academics to historical voices beyond their usual interests or specializations. In doing so, we hope to create and encourage more conversation between these communities.

Finally, the *CWBR* is a communal project sustained through generous donations of time and energy. I want to thank this issue's readers, reviewers, authors, and publishers for their continued support.