

Civil War Book Review

Summer 2019

Article 1

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Editorial
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Amid rising tides and soaring temperatures, the *Civil War Book Review* returns for its summer issue.

This issue, military history is front and center in a trio of new books. Benjamin Franklin Cooling considers Larry J. Daniel's *Conquered: Why the Army of Tennessee Failed* valuable for reframing the Confederacy's western army as the most vital part of the rebellion's war effort. Rather than following the travails of a single army, Philip Gerard's *The Last Battleground: The Civil War Comes to North Carolina* confines itself to a single state to better understand how the war unfolded in a deeply divided region. Robert Wooster commends Gerard's approach for both its accessibility to general readers, and for its dynamic intermixing of individual experiences from military and civilian perspectives. Incorporating both scholarship and historiography, is *Upon the Fields of Battle: Essays in the Military History of America's Civil War*, a collection of essays edited by Andrew S. Bledsoe and Andrew F. Lang. Reviewer Brian Holden Reid lauds the collection for its willingness to engage with the direction of Civil War military scholarship, and its contributions to a better understanding of soldiers' war time experiences.

The Confederacy's cultural products and industrial base also receive renewed attention in two important books. Catherine Bateson reviews James A. Davis's *Maryland, My Maryland: Music and Patriotism During the American Civil War*. Bateson finds Davis's study of the popular Rebel song an important vehicle for measuring the ebb and flow of Confederate nationalism. In addition to showing how Marylander James Ryder Randall's poem entered into public consciousness, Davis pays close attention to how the average Marylanders modified the song according to their own condition as prisoners, veterans, and civilians.

Reviewed by Charles B. Dew, *Industrial Development and Manufacturing in the Antebellum Gulf South: A Reevaluation* by Michael S. Frawley exchanges a cultural analysis of the upper South with an economic study of the deep South. Combing city directories, newspapers, contemporary journals and local histories, Frawley's book convincingly reveals a host of small manufacturing concerns scattered throughout the Gulf States. Dew finds Frawley's study critical for reimagining the region as place for managerial and industrial aspirations.

Shifting from war to memory is Thomas R. Fligel's *War, Memory, and the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion*. Reviewer Brain Matthew Jordan identifies the book as unique for its emphasis on the reunion's organizers efforts and the veterans' expectations. In doing so, Fligel is able to cast the reunion as both a major performance by the event's Progressive coordinators to showcase their political agenda, and a moment where veterans sought closure in the remnants of comradeship.

This issue, I interview Caitlin Rosenthal about her book *Accounting for Slavery: Masters and Management*. Our discussion highlights the ways in which accounting information derived from slaveholders structured plantation violence and labor. For more on Dr. Rosenthal's important book, don't forget to read Joshua Rothman's review also featured in this issue.

Look at Lincoln also returns this issue. The *CWBR*'s resident Lincoln expert Frank Williams reviews *Becoming Lincoln* by William W. Freehling. Focusing on Lincoln's life before his presidency, Williams finds the study valuable for its emphasis on how the future president adapted to failure, and the values he internalized from his father. Civil War Treasures will return next issue when LSU Special Collections curator John David Miles's will look at Mary Edwards Bryan's *Wild Work: The Story of the Red River Tragedy* (1881), a Reconstruction-era novel about Louisiana's 1874 Coushatta Massacre.

As always, I want to thank the reviewers, readers, and publishers that make every issue possible. See you in November!