

A Holistic Approach

Colleen H. Fava

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Editorial

A HOLISTIC APPROACH

Fava, Colleen H.

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During my interview for the position of editor here at *Civil War Book Review*, the director, Leah Wood Jewett, described the United States Civil War Center and its publication as having the mission of promoting the multidisciplinary study of the United States Civil War. Throughout my inaugural weeks and this culminating issue, I must conclude that our goals are being duly met.

Within this issue you will find a broad spectrum of texts, authors, and reviewers offering a distinctive perspective on the War Between the States. We presented a selection of military brigade and battle histories, memoirs and biographies, historical novels and a collection of short stories written during the war, strategy and technology studies, religious and political texts, and minority issues. Well-known scholars and first-time authors, small and large presses are represented. Our reviewers include deans of colleges, park rangers, geographers, professors, bookstore managers, archaeologists, creative writers, and more. All of these forces work in conjunction to present to our readers a truly diverse and holistic approach to newly published or reprinted books on the Civil War.

Stacey D. Allen, chief park ranger at Shiloh National Military Park, considers popular social thought and battle history in his review of *A Single Grand Victory* by Ethan S. Rafuse (Scholarly Resources, ISBN 0842028757, \$60.00, hardcover, ISBN 0842028765, \$17.95 softcover). Julian Brazier, a Member of Parliament for Canterbury, England, probes an outside view of the war in the newly printed selections of British reforming commander, Field Marshal Viscount Wolseley's writings in *The American Civil War: An English View* (Stackpole, ISBN 0811700933, \$26.95, hardcover).

Margaret Clark, a Ph.D. candidate in English at Louisiana State University, explores the relationship of language and violence as presented by James Dawes in *The Language of War* (Harvard University Press, ISBN 0674006488, \$39.95, hardcover). Literature professor June Pulliam deconstructs

family values in the context of slavery found within David Anthony Durham's historical novel, *Walk Through Darkness* (Doubleday, ISBN 0385499256,\$23.95, hardcover).

In two interviews Lonnie Speer exposes the true brutality of the war with stories of POW mistreatment in his latest text, *War of Vengeance* (Stackpole, ISBN 0811713881,\$22.95), and Marly Youmans shares the insight behind her award-winning novel,*The Wolf Pit* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN0374291950, \$24.00, hardcover).

Donald Simmons, executive director of the South Dakota Humanities Council,assesses Phillip Thomas Tucker's close study of three prominent Cubans who chose to join the war in *Cubans in the Confederacy* (McFarland, ISBN0786409762, \$39.95 softcover). Lori Bogle,professor of social and cultural military history, ponders the service of African Americans in the navy during the war with her review of Steven Ramold's *Slaves, Sailors,Citizens* (Northern Illinois University,ISBN 0875802869, \$32.00, hardcover).

Dale Harter, assistant editor of *Virginia Cavalcade*, examines a fresh look at a well-covered topic when he reviews Nelson Lankford's *Richmond Burning* (Viking,ISBN 0670031178, \$27.95, hardcover).John Deppen, president of the Susquehanna Civil War Round Table, explores the historical significance of Williamsburg as presented by first-time author Carol Kettenburg Dubbs in *Defend This Old Town* (Louisiana State University, ISBN0807127809, \$49.95, hardcover).

I invite you now to peruse the pages of our publication and add that final, all important dimension to our content our its readership. In the spirit of my predecessor,Laura Ng, who bid adieu with the last issue,while warmly welcoming me, I wish her continued success. As she thanked you and said good-bye, I thank you and say hello.

Colleen H. Fava, Editor