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Letter from the Editors

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Letter from the Editors

A Letter from the Editors

It is our pleasure to present the seventh volume of the *Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era* following an extended period of deliberation. This year's editorial process offered the editors and associate editors tremendous opportunities to explore the field of Civil War history through the many submissions we received. It was extremely difficult to narrow thirteen submissions down to four, but each piece offered our team a unique experience to dive deep into a specific area of the Civil War. We were very impressed with each author's enthusiasm in studying the Civil War and their commitment to their work in going the extra mile to submit to the seventh volume of our journal.

It is necessary to acknowledge and thank our dedicated associate editors whose hard work and diligence were vital to the ultimate publication of this journal: Gregory Dachille ('17), Luke Frigon ('18), Cameron Kinard ('18), Juliette Sebock ('18), Nicholas Tarchis ('18), Samuel Weathers ('18), Ryan Bilger ('19), Savannah Labbe ('19), Olivia Ortman ('19), and Jonathan Tracey ('19). We would also like to thank Dr. Ian Isherwood ('00), our faculty advisor, for his constant guidance and support for student work.

This volume contains four academic essays ranging from post-war murder on the Civil War's first major battlefield to the little-known conference of Union state governors that convened in Altoona, Pennsylvania in the fall of 1862. The journal begins with Kaylyn Sawyer's

“‘With Nothing Left but Reputation’: Reconstructing the Virginia Military Institute.” This well-researched essay explores how the military school recovered following its destruction during Hunter’s Raid in 1864. Next, Emily Hawk takes a look at New Jersey’s off relationship with Unionism during the war in “An Anomalous Case of Southern Sympathy: New Jersey’s Civil War Stance.” This is followed by “Murder in Manassas: Mental Illness and Psychological Trauma after the Civil War” by Savannah Rose in which she uses a post-war incident in Manassas as a case study in trauma that many experienced during the war. Finally, Kees Thompson explores the 1862 governors’ conference in Altoona, Pennsylvania in “‘Altoona Was His, and Fairly Won’: President Lincoln and the Altoona Governors’ Conference, September 1862.”

We hope that this journal will offer our readers a unique view into several important issues and events in the Civil War Era. We are incredibly proud of our editorial team as well as this year’s authors, who offered their brilliance on the pages of this volume. We look forward to their future contributions to the Civil War field. Please enjoy this volume of the *Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era*.

Sincerely,

Annika N. Jensen, Gettysburg College Class of 2018

Jeffrey L. Lauck, Gettysburg College Class of 2018