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Letter From the Editor

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Letter From the Editor

Introduction

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the second volume of the Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era. With support from our faculty advisors, this publication had the unique opportunity to solicit papers from outside institutions that dealt with topics concerning any facet of the American Civil War. Although this opportunity is a great one, it also caused the editorial board the added pressure of selecting from a wide spectrum of expertly written manuscripts. In working with the material for this volume, I became increasingly aware and appreciative of the laudable achievements of the members of this editorial board. These students spent their Tuesday or Thursday evenings gathered on the top floor of Weidensall Hall discussing and debating the content of each submission received for publication. The deliberations and comments made during our times spent together truly demonstrated their competence.

Additionally, the papers selected for publication in this volume are masterfully crafted. Shae Adams' *Cultural Distortion: The Dedication of the Thomas Stonewall Jackson Monument at Manassas National Battlefield Park*, explores the memory of the American Civil War in the 1930s, as reflected in the creation of one of the nation's most discussed tributes to the Southern Confederacy. Our second article, *Loose Party Times: The Political Crisis of the 1850s in Westchester County New York* by Zachary Baum depicts the political changes occurring in pre-Civil War society, not among those living within large cities, but rather those inhabiting a relatively small suburban area. In Evan Preston's "*All May Visit the Big Camp*": *Race and the Lessons of the Civil War at the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion*, he explains the lack of African Americans' attendance at the 1913 commemoration exercises in Gettysburg and the presence of a strong white nationalist sentiment that fostered a sense of reunion among the North and the South. And finally, Katherine Titus depicts the major problems inherent in Confederate government and society, especially concerning the South's reevaluation of its traditional identity, in her article, *The Richmond Bread Riot of 1863: Class, Race, and Gender in the Urban Confederacy*.

Those of us connected with the Gettysburg College
Journal of the Civil War Era hope you enjoy our second,
Spring 2011 volume. We believe that our audience will find
these four pieces both enlightening and inspiring.

Rachel Santose
Gettysburg, Spring 2011