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## Letter From the Editors

Rebekah Oakes '13  
*Gettysburg College*

Tiffany Santulli '13  
*Gettysburg College*

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## Letter From the Editors

## Introduction

It has been an honor to serve as the editors of the Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era in our final year at Gettysburg College. We were pleased and impressed with both the quality and the number of submissions to the journal this year. Of the twenty-two pieces of scholarship submitted for publication this year, it was an extremely difficult decision to only select six of them. We would like to profusely thank our associate editors, Tricia Runzel ('13), Andrew Bothwell ('13), Valerie Merlina ('14), Katelyn Quirin ('14), Heather Clancy ('15), and Julian Weiss ('15), for their dedication, particularly when working one-on-one with the authors to prepare their essays for publication. We would also like to thank our faculty advisor, Dr. Ian Isherwood, for his invaluable guidance.

The six essays included in this issue are not only stellar examples of historical writing, but also embody a diverse representation of topics related to the Civil War Era. Our four academic essays begin with “An Apology for Confederate Poetry,” by Elizabeth Elliott ('13), an exploration of often ignored Confederate bards and their political and cultural significance. The next academic work is “Charles S. Wainwright: The Development of Loyal Dissent from 1861-1865,” by J.J. Beck ('13). This microhistory utilizes the diary of Colonel Charles Wainwright of New York to follow the development of a loyal dissenter fighting a war for a cause in which he does not believe. The third academic work is “Ole’ Zip Coon is a Mighty Learned Scholar: Blackface Minstrelsy as Reflection and Foundation of American Popular Culture,” by Cory Rosenberg ('12), which as the title suggests, traces the cultural impact of blackface minstrelsy from the antebellum

period well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Finally, the fourth academic essay, another microhistory entitled “Earning the Rank of Respect: One Woman’s Passage from Victorian Propriety to Battlefield Responsibility,” by Lauren Roedner (’13), focuses on Civil War nurse Harriet Eaton’s struggle to adjust to the new reality for Victorian women amongst the horrors of war and gender oppression. Interspersed between these longer works are a book review and a historical essay. The book review, written by Lincoln Fitch (’14), discussed the recent text by Meghan Kate Nelson, *Ruin Nation*. And the historical essay, written by Ryan Donnelly (’15), deals with a more traditional military subject, the importance of Culp’s Hill during the battle of Gettysburg.

Overall, this journey has been highly rewarding. We are honored to have been a part of this journal’s development, and are looking forward to the publication of future issues.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Oakes and Tiffany Santulli

Co-Editors