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Front Matter

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By David Wemer

EDITORS

Kaitlin Reed '13 is a senior History major and Spanish minor from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She is interested in teaching English as a second language or continuing her studies at a higher level after her career at Gettysburg College. This is her third and final year with the Historical Journal and she has tremendously enjoyed her time working with the journal.

Amelia Grabowski '13 is a senior History and English double major with minors in French and Peace and Justice Studies. Interested in how to employ public humanities to promote social justice conversations, Amelia will be pursuing a Master's in Public Humanities at Brown University this coming year. In addition to editing the Historical Journal for the past three years, Amelia pursues her interest in social justice and humanities on campus as a member of a variety of honors fraternities and social justice activism groups and by volunteering through the Center for Public Service.

Angela Badore '14 is a junior History and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies double major from Bristol, Connecticut. This is her second year editing the Historical Journal, and she plans to go into law or advocacy work after graduation.

Brian Johnson '14 is a junior History major and Business minor from Saline, Michigan. Brian has served on the editorial board since his sophomore year. He also enjoys the privilege of being a Resident Assistant, working at the College's Civil War Institute, and spending time with DiscipleMakers Christian Fellowship.

Katelyn (Katie) Quirin '14 is a junior History and English double major. She has been a part of the Journal since her sophomore year, and is also an editor for the Journal of the Civil War and The Mercury. She hopes to pursue a Master's degree in Public History and Library Science after undergraduate, eventually going on to a PhD.

Katelyn Stauffer '13 is a senior History and Political Science major from Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Katelyn has served on the board since her junior year. After graduation, Katelyn plans to attend Indiana University as a doctoral student in the Political Science department.

Allie Ward '14 is a junior at Gettysburg College with a double major in History and Philosophy. She is a member of many organizations on campus including Alpha Phi Omega, the Honor Commission, and the Civil War Institute. Allie works for the Residence Life staff and has worked for the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department since her freshman year. This past fall she studied abroad in Berlin, Germany developing her language skills.

AUTHORS

Andrew Ewing '13 is a senior History major who specializes in revolutionary and colonial history, and will be pursuing his Master's in History at Binghamton University this fall. Andrew has also been a member of the Gettysburg Track and Field team for all four of his years at school, and the Bullets' Cross Country team for the past two years.

Gabriella Hornbeck '13 is a senior from Middleborough, Massachusetts pursuing a History major with minors in Civil War Era Studies, French, and Music. At Gettysburg College, she has been involved with community service, Civil War organizations, honor societies, and music ensembles. During the fall of 2011, Gabby studied abroad in Nantes, France, which inspired her to explore Breton history and culture. She has held interpretive internships with Gettysburg National Military Park as well as Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, and will spend her summer working as a seasonal historian at Governors Island National Monument. Beginning in the fall, Gabby will be earning a Master's degree at West Virginia University with a concentration in Public History and an emphasis on military history and historical memory.

Becky Oakes '13 is a senior History major and Civil War Era Studies minor at Gettysburg College. Hoping to pursue a career with the National Park Service, Becky has worked as an intern and a seasonal historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park for the past two summers. During the school year, Becky works as a student assistant at the Gettysburg National Military Park research library, serves as a co-editor of the Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era, and is a Civil War Institute Fellow. Upon graduation, Becky will pursue a Master's degree in History with a Public History concentration at West Virginia University.

Josh Poorman '13 is a senior History major, Religious Studies minor from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Josh also has deep interests in both Art History and French. After graduation, he plans to spend the summer working in Musselman Library and playing music with his band.

David Wemer '14 is a junior History major and German Studies minor. David is an Undergraduate Fellow at the Eisenhower Institute at Gettysburg College as well as the President of Gettysburg's Phi Alpha Theta Historical Honors Society. David's research on Eastern European history earned him a Mellon Foundation research grant in 2012 and was recognized by the Council of Undergraduate Research in 2013.

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

2013 has been a year marked by the plethora of national celebrations of historical memory, whether it be the sesquicentennial anniversary of the American Civil War, the fiftieth anniversary of many major events in the modern Civil Rights movement, or the bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812. Memorial walks, lectures, concerts, films and celebrations have propelled a victorious, nationalistic historical narrative to the forefront of public attention. While this narrative is important, and fun, to celebrate, when the crowds recede and the fanfare fades, we must remember that history is more than a few great men, a smattering of important dates and a handful of inspirational quotes carved into the stone of monuments. History is what happened every day. History is full of grim, crossed purposes, and confused results. History is enigmatic; it defies clear definition and neat narratives.

Gettysburg College history students require no reminder as to the ubiquitous and abstract nature of history. Rather than shy away from the complexity of the past, Gettysburg College students embrace it. They probe primary sources and popularly held opinions to better understand the complexity. In the confusion, they seek the truth.

The work of the five students published in this, the eleventh volume of the *Gettysburg Historical Journal*, exemplify Gettysburg students' eager and thorough analysis of the past, never afraid to engage with and/or challenge popularly held arguments. In each work, the author seeks to nuance his or her audience's understanding of a historical event or phenomenon. Rebekah Oakes in "To Think of the Subject Unmans Me" examines the Victorian ideal of a good and noble death when applied to soldier deaths during the Civil War. Discussing American leisure practices in the 1930s in "Escaping in the 'Tender, Blue Haze of Evening,'" Josh Poorman complicates metanarratives of *Great Gatsby*-esque lavishness and 1930's *Grapes of Wrath*-esque deprivation. Andrew Ewing seeks to assess the idolization of Lewis and Clark in "Navigating Boundaries." In his paper "Europe's Little Tiger," David Wemer challenges the popularly held narrative of economic "shock therapy" through the example of Slovakia. Gabriella Hornbeck, in her work, "La Bretagne aux Bretons?" contradicts popularly held opinions and stereotypes of French identity with the unique Breton culture.

Each of these works engages with popular historical narratives, and by delving further, endows the reader with a richer understanding of both subject matter, and the world it helps create. We, the editors of the *Gettysburg Historical Journal*, encourage you to bring this curiosity to all your historical endeavors, both formal and informal. Now, without further ado, it is with great pride that we present the eleventh volume of the *Gettysburg Historical Journal*.

-The Editors
Kate Reed
Amelia Grabowski