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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 ninth volume of the Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era. This volume contains four academic essays, on topics ranging from medical dissection to the Revolution's legacy in the Civil War, and a book review on recent scholarship. The journal begins with Jonathan Tracey's "The Utility of the Wounded: Circular No. 2 and Medical Dissection." This well-researched essay explores transition in Victorian reaction to dissection from horror to a reluctant acceptance out of necessity. Next, Bailey Covington takes a look at the differences between white and black commemoration of the Civil War in "A Cause Lost, a Story Being Written: Explaining Black and White Commemorative Difference in the Postbellum South." This is followed by "'Mulatto, Indian, Or What': The Racialization of Chinese Soldiers and The American Civil War" by Angela He, who looks at the fluid racial categorization of Chinese soldiers. Then, Amelia Ward explores the Revolutionary rhetoric used by Civil War leaders to justify their political agendas in "Ghosts of the Revolution: Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and the Legacy of the Founding Generation." Finally, Jacob Bruggeman reviews Joanna Cohen's *Luxurious Citizens: The Politics of Consumption in Nineteenth-Century America*.

Narrowing submissions down to these four final pieces was difficult, and there was much deliberation by our team over the well-researched pieces we received. The editorial process offered the editors important opportunities to work with authors and explore the field of Civil War history. Our team was able to engage a variety of topics in depth while reading and editing the submissions. We were impressed with each author's enthusiasm in studying the

Civil War Era and their commitment to their work in going the extra mile to submit to the eighth 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: Ryan D. Bilger ('19), Benjamin T. Hutchison ('21), Brandon R. Katzung Hokanson ('20), Garrett Kost ('21), Christopher T. Lough ('22), Cameron T. Sauers ('21), Erica Uszak ('22), and Julia C. Wall ('19). We would also like to thank Dr. Ian Isherwood ('00), our faculty advisor, for his constant guidance and support of student work.

We hope that this journal will offer our readers a unique view into several important issues and events of the Civil War Era. We are incredibly proud of our editorial team as well as this year's authors, who offer their brilliance in 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,

Olivia J. Ortman, Gettysburg College Class of 2019
Zachary A. Wesley, Gettysburg College Class of 2020