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Letter from the Editors

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Letter from the Editors

A Letter from Editors

This year has certainly been filled with twists and turns for the editors of this tenth volume of the Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era. The strains on both authors and editors this year are unlike anything in this journal's history. We would, therefore, like to extend a hearty thanks to all of the hard work of our editors and authors in ensuring that this issue of the journal proceeds to publication. It is no small feat to do so at the best of times, nevermind during a global pandemic. We may take this volume as evidence of the high caliber of young historians at Gettysburg College and beyond. We are pleased to bring you this excellent collection of five academic essays, beginning with Hans Myers "Some Personal Coloring: Examining the Falsehoods of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain at Gettysburg."

Myers challenges the popular narrative of the role of the 20th Maine on July 2, 1863, arguing that mythmaking has muddied history and legend. William Donaldson's "Robert Smalls and the steamship Planter: Turning the Tides for the Union Military in the Civil War," charts the daring escape of Robert Smalls, an enslaved inhabitant of Charleston, South Carolina, to the federal blockade, considering the tactical advantages afforded the Union navy by Smalls's journey to freedom. Sarah

Eiland's "The Unspoken Demands of Slavery: The Exploitation of Female Slaves in the Memphis Slave Trade" exploring the values assigned to the bodies of younger female slaves. Eiland argues that these women were assigned value primarily based on their reproductive potential, highlighted in slave auctions and the presence of mixed-race children of prominent white men in antebellum Memphis.

Erica Uzsak's "Frances Peter: A Loyal Woman of Kentucky," analyzes the diary of Frances Peter of Lexington, Kentucky. Peter actively recorded her Unionist sentiments, including wrestling with questions of unionism and emancipation nuanced by daily life in a border state. Finally, Sophie Hammond's "When This Cruel War Is Over": The Blurring of the Confederate Battlefield and Homefront During the Civil War," rounds out the collection. Hammond argues that the close links between the battlefield and the homefront in Confederate society, though initially a strength of the young nation, ultimately eroded in the face of the persistent class divides of Southern society.

We owe a substantial debt of gratitude to all of our associate editors for their hard work this year. We couldn't have brought this journal to you without their dedication! We, therefore, acknowledge the following: Wesley Cline ('23),

Carolyn Hauk ('21), Jaeger R. Held ('23), Brandon R. Katzung Hokanson ('20), Marissa Honeycutt ('23) Garrett Kost ('21), RJ Lehal ('23), Christopher T. Lough ('22), Brandon R. Neely ('23) Pierce Susco ('23). Thank you all for your dedication to the editorial process! We would like to thank Dr. Ian Isherwood ('00), our faculty advisor, for his constant guidance and support of student work. We would also like to thank Sarah Appedu (18'), whose technical support and editorial advice has been an invaluable component of the publishing process for this tenth volume.

And, on a final note to our readers, we hope you enjoy this collection! It is always our pleasure to share excellent student work with you, and we look forward to delivering our eleventh volume to you next year. Stay curious and

Sincerely,

Cameron Sauers, Gettysburg College Class of 2021
Zachary Wesley, Gettysburg College Class of 2020