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Letter from the Editors

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Letter from the Editors

A Letter from the Editors

We are thrilled to present you with the fifth volume of the Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era. It has been our pleasure to select the best of the submissions we received for this year's issue. Although we could not accept every submission, the opportunity to read through a fine array of undergraduate work allowed us new insights into the Civil War Era and the way in which it is being interpreted by budding young scholars.

We owe a great breadth of gratitude to our devoted team of associate editors: Heather Clancy ('15), Brianna Kirk ('15), Bobby Novak ('15), Steven Semmel ('16), Thomas Nank ('16), Anika Jensen ('18), and Julia Sippel ('18). In addition, we would like to extend our thanks to our advisor, Dr. Peter Carmichael, for providing guidance and support throughout the editorial process. Naturally, we are also indebted to our predecessors who served on the editorial board in years past and who blazed a trail for us to follow as we prepared this year's issue for publication.

This volume is comprised of three academic essays, our first-ever battle narrative, and a book review. Together, these pieces span the breadth of the field – from traditional and cultural military history to social and cultural history. The issue opens with “‘Servants, Obey Your Masters’: Southern Representations of the Religious Lives of Slaves” by Lindsey K. D. Wedow, who argues that the Southern justification of slavery relied in no small part upon contradictory assumptions about slaves’ dependence on their masters for access to Christianity. In “Men and

Machines: The Psychological Impact of Gunboats on the Fort Henry and Donelson Campaign,” S. Marianne Johnson examines how the fear and awe inspired by ironclad gunboats was disproportionate to their efficacy in brown-water warfare. In his piece, Peter Bautz refutes the notion that Union veterans were passive or complicit in allowing the memory of the Civil War to be hijacked by reconciliationists in “The Memory of Battle Surrounds You Once Again: Iowa Grand Army of the Republic Reunions and the Formation of a Pro-Union Nationalism, 1886-1949.” In the first battle narrative ever published in our journal, Ryan T. Quint traces Ambrose Burnside’s return to the Army of the Potomac and discusses the role played by the Ninth Army Corps during the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House. We close with associate editor Brianna Kirk’s review of William A. Blair’s 2014 monograph *With Malice Toward Some: Treason and Loyalty in the Civil War Era*.

It is our hope that this journal will provide you, our reader, with a sense of the great work being produced by the undergraduate students who represent the future of the field. We are thus incredibly proud of the 2015 volume of the Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era and hope you enjoy the outstanding work within.

Sincerely,

Bryan G. Caswell, Gettysburg College Class of 2015
Kevin P. Lavery, Gettysburg College Class of 2016