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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 eighth volume of the Gettysburg College Journal of the Civil War Era. This volume contains four academic essays on topics ranging from POWs' post-war experiences to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad's role in the Civil War. The journal begins with Kevin Nicholson's "After Andersonville: Survivors, Memory and the Bloody Shirt." This well-researched essay explores how Andersonville survivors capitalized on their experiences as war prisoners to gain the same recognition after the war that other soldiers received. Next, Matthew Harris takes a look at Lincoln's proposal for recolonizing African Americans to solve racial tensions in "Condemning Colonization: Abraham Lincoln's Rejected Proposal for a Central American Colony." This is followed by "Rewriting History: A Study of How the History of the Civil War Has Changed in Textbooks from 1876 to 2014" by Skyler Campbell, who looks at the evolving popular interpretations of the war in school books. Finally, Gared Dalton explores the Union's strategic uses of the railway in "A Dagger Through the Heartland: The Louisville & Nashville Railroad in the Civil War."

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: Elizabeth Hobbs ('21), Jajuan Johnson ('21), Garret Kost ('21), Savannah Labbe ('19), Brandon Peeters ('20), Benjamin Roy ('21), Nicholas Tarchis ('18), Jonathan Tracey ('19), Laura Waters ('19), and Samuel Weathers ('18). 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,

Anika N. Jensen, Gettysburg College Class of 2018
Jeffrey L. Lauck, Gettysburg College Class of 2018
Olivia J. Ortman, Gettysburg College Class of 2019
Zachary A. Wesley, Gettysburg College Class of 2020