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# SCWH NEWSLETTER

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Society of Civil War Historians

Fall 2017

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## TEXAS IN NOVEMBER

The Society of Civil War Historians is meeting in Dallas at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel from Thursday, November 9 to Sunday, November 12. The SCWH meets each Fall in conjunction with the annual conference of the Southern Historical Society. Information about the SHA conference schedule can be found at <http://thesha.org/annual-meeting>. Information about the Sheraton Hotel, located in downtown Dallas can be found at <http://www.sheratondallashotel.com>. The Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) is located nineteen miles from the hotel; Love Field Airport (DAL) is five miles from the hotel. Transportation options from both airports can be found on the hotel website.

At the SCWH dinner on Thursday, Christopher Phillips, Professor and Department Head at the University of Cincinnati, will receive the \$50,000 Tom Watson Brown Book Award for *The Rivers Ran Backward: The Civil War and the Remaking of the American Middle Border*, which was published in 2016 by Oxford University Press. Dr. Phillips has published a number of books and essays on the South and the West. His particular interest has been the Border States: free states that were deeply divided by the Civil War and its coming as well as neighboring slave states that did not secede from the Union.

## SOCIETY OF CIVIL WAR HISTORIANS BANQUET

Friday, November 10: 5:30-8:00 PM Chaparral Room

### Presiding

Daniel Sutherland, University of Arkansas

Christopher Phillips, University of Cincinnati

“Southern Cross, North Star: Why the Middle Mattered—and Matters—to Civil War History”

The dinner is free to SCWH members. Registration is required. For more information, go to the SCWH website at [scwhistorians.org](http://scwhistorians.org).

## SCHEDULE OF CIVIL WAR SESSIONS

Friday, November 10: 2:30–4:30 PM Dallas A2

### 17. Early Indicators: Massive Data, Statistical Analysis, and the Life Cycle of Civil War Soldiers

**Presiding:** Earl J. Hess, Lincoln Memorial University

“Creating Longitudinal Data Sets of Union Army Veterans: An Overview of the Early Indicators Project,” Dora L. Costa, University of California, Los Angeles, and National Bureau of Economic Research

“The POW Experience: African Americans as Union Soldiers and Veterans,” Sven Wilson, Brigham Young

**Comments:** Kathryn Shively-Meier, Virginia Commonwealth Univ.; Lorien Foote, Texas A&M

Friday, November 10: 2:30–4:30 PM Dallas A3

### 18. The Culture of Capitalism and Slavery

**Presiding:** Gregory Downs, University of California, Davis

“The Specter of Plantation Accounting: Records and Cotton Slavery, 1845–1861,” Ian Beamish, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

“Slave Economies in the Rhetoric of Plantation Capitalism in South Carolina, 1830–1860,” Justene G. Hill, University of Virginia

“Missionary Cotton: Saving Souls in Mississippi’s Cotton Kingdom,” John Lindbeck, University of MS

**Comments:** Richard Follett, University of Sussex; Gregory Downs

Friday, November 10: 2:30–4:30 PM Dallas D2

### 19. Policing Transgressive Sexualities in the Civil War Era South

**Presiding:** LeeAnn Whites, University of Missouri and Filson Historical Society

“‘Strange Amalgamation & General Confusion’”: Party Realignment as Sexual Transgression in Antebellum Political Culture,” Joshua A. Lynn, Yale University

“A Spectacle of Humiliation: The Emasculation of Soldiers in Civil War Prisons,” Caroline Newhall, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“Strange Political Bedfellows: Policing ‘Lewd and Abandoned Women’ in Reconstruction-Era New Orleans,” Elizabeth Parish Smith, U of Central MO

**Comments:** Sharon Romeo, University of Alberta; Michele Mitchell, New York University

## BOOKS IN REVIEW

Stephen D. Engle, Book Review Editor

**Barbara Brooks Tomblin.** *The Civil War on the Mississippi: Union Sailors, Gunboat Captains, and the Campaign to Control the River.* Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2016. Pp. 370. \$50.00.

Naval histories dealing with operations in the Mississippi River valley are numerous. Barbara Brooks Tomblin's *The Civil War on the Mississippi* seeks to join these previous studies and add to them. She does so in providing new research in manuscript sources that have apparently never been utilized. There are drawbacks, however. The book that unfolds for readers is not a comprehensive history of operations afloat on the Mississippi River and its tributaries; in fact, the coverage is somewhat uneven at times. Likewise, the book ends with the capture of Vicksburg and Port Hudson in July 1863, leaving the naval action that occurred after that point untreated. Finally, there are quite a few disturbing factual errors. As a result, *The Civil War on the Mississippi* is an important addition, but by no means the last word on the subject.

**Timothy B. Smith, University of Tennessee, Martin**

**Dan Lee.** *Wolford's Cavalry: The Colonel, the War in the West, and the Emancipation Question.* Lincoln: Potomac Books, an imprint of the University of Nebraska Press, 2016. Pp. 289. \$34.95.

Problematic people populated the era of the United States Civil War and Colonel Frank Wolford of the First Kentucky Cavalry (Union) makes the list as a difficult person and officer to understand. A Kentuckian, Wolford could not conceive of a world that did not link slavery and Union. His political views and lack of judgment of when to speak on political topics ran him afoul of the Lincoln administration's policy of emancipation. As a result, the Army relieved him of command, convicted him of undermining the war effort, and banished him to southern lines. Ironically, the target of his ire, Lincoln, commuted Wolford's sentence and allowed him to go free. Yet Wolford's bravery and military leadership skills and even his commitment to the Union (the pre-1861 Union) cannot be doubted. This effort seeks to rehabilitate Wolford in a biography and "drum and trumpet" recounting of him and his regiment.

**Thomas C. Mackey, University of Louisville**

**Michael Brem Bonner.** *Confederate Political Economy: Creating and Managing a Southern Corporatist Nation.* Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2016. Pp. 260. \$48.00

Augmenting the literature on the revolutionary nature of the Confederacy, Bonner characterizes the Confederacy's political economy as "expedient" corporatism (11), by analyzing Confederate partnership with key private industries such as iron making and railroading, creation of key enterprises such as the Augusta Powder Works, and interaction with citizens through the draft and the internal passport system. Acknowledging the challenge of such a construct because of obvious differences between the Confederate experience and that of twentieth century European states—especially the labor systems, he finds the similarities more compelling. Wartime forced new interaction between private and public interests. The Confederate Constitution empowered executive authority over the Congress, which never actuated the Confederate judicial branch. Ironically and without programmatic intent, the Confederacy fought modernizing change through robust state authority which Bonner contends both informed and better describes the relationship of the Wilson administration with the draft and industry during World War I.

**Edward R. Crowther, Adams State University**

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## **Schedule of Sessions, Cont'd from page 1**

*Friday, November 10: 9:30–11:30 AM Dallas D2*

### **6. For the South and from the South: Regional Print Media and the Framing of Political Discourses**

**Presiding:** Bob Jackson, University of Tulsa

“Dying Hogs and Thieving Freedmen: Print Culture and Racial Control on Southern Plantations, 1860–1880,”

Erin Stewart Mauldin, Samford University

“Les Cenelles and the Politics of Art in 1940s

Louisiana,” Derek Wood, Tulane University

“Sorry about that, Gloria’: *Southern Living* Encounters the Women’s Movement,” Melissa E. Blair, Auburn

**Comments:** Bob Jackson

*Friday, November 10: 2:30–4:30 PM Dallas A1*

### **16. New Perspectives on Southern Evangelical**

#### **Antislavery Activism**

**Presiding:** Stacey Robertson, State University of New York, Geneseo

“White Southern Evangelicals and the Antislavery Politics of Salvation,” Ben Wright, University of Texas at Dallas

“In Search of the Land of Liberty: Southern Methodism, Migration, and the Politics of Slavery,” Christopher Cannon Jones, Brigham Young University

“Strategic Silence: Richard Furman, Antislavery Debate, and the Closing of the International Slave Trade in South Carolina,” Kimberly Kellison, Baylor Univ.

**Comments:** Richard S. Newman, Rochester Institute of Technology

*Saturday, November 11: 9:30–11:30 AM Dallas A1*

### **29. Policing Slavery in the Antebellum Era**

**Presiding:** Kate Masur, Northwestern University

“The Border South’s ‘Quack Nostrum’: Federal Police Power, Slavery, and the Secession Crisis,” Michael Robinson, University of Mobile

“The Trouble with Policing: How Fugitive Slaves, Worried Officials, and Frustrated Slaveholders Upset the System,” Adam Malka, University at Buffalo

“Slavery, Politics, and the Problem of Legal Flexibility in Antebellum Washington, D.C.,” Rachel Shelden, University of Oklahoma

**Comments:** Frank Towers, U. of Calgary; Kate Masur

*Saturday, November 11: 9:30–11:30 AM Dallas A3*

### **31. The Value of Family: Capital, Credit, and Care in Antebellum Southern Families**

**Presiding:** Kirsten Wood, Florida International Univ.

“Washington Family Fortune: Lineage and Social Capital in the Antebellum South,” Cassandra Good, Marymount University

“Creating an Affectionate Family: Family, Credit, and Nation Building in the Nineteenth-Century South,” Mandy Cooper, Duke University

“Who by the ties of kindredship I ought to look for help & comfort’: Debt and Kinship Relations in the Early American South,” Ivy Farr McIntyre, The Citadel

**Comments:** Honor Sachs, Western Carolina University; Kirsten Wood

*Saturday, November 11: 2:30–4:30 PM Dallas A2*

### **45. Loyalty Under Pressure: Allegiance, Class, and Gender in the Civil War South**

**Presiding:** George C. Rable, University of Alabama

“The Presence of a Lady’: The Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association and Confederate Loyalty in the Civil War,” Kristen Brill, Keele University

“It Will Take a Man Person with You to ... Keep the Place Up’: Common White Households and the Problem of Confederate Loyalty,” Patrick J. Doyle, Royal Holloway, University of London

“I Have Given a Citizen to the Republic’: Confederate Soldiers’ Wives and the Meaning of Sacrifice in the Civil War South,” Brian Langley, Northumbria University

**Comments:** Paul Quigley, Virginia Tech; Jacqueline Glass Campbell, Francis Marion University

*Sunday, November 12: 9:00–11:00 AM State Room 2*

### **61. Europeans and the Post–Civil War United States, 1865–1872**

**Presiding:** Patrick J. Kelly, University of Texas at San Antonio

“From Revolution to Reconstruction,” David Prior, University of New Mexico

“Daniel Sickles’s Republic?: The Civil War and the Spanish Republic,” Gregory P. Downs, University of California, Davis

“German Americans and U.S. Arms Sales to the French, 1870–1872,” Alison Clark Efford, Marquette Univ.

**Comments:** Enrico Dal Lago, National University of Ireland, Galway

*Sunday, November 12: 9:00–11:00 AM State Room 3*

### **62. The Social History of Ideological Networks: Slavery and Abolition in Europe and the Plantation Americas**

**Presiding:** Maurice Jackson, Georgetown University

“Learning to Fear Slave Rebellion: How Personal Experience and Intercolonial News Fostered Expectations of Violence in the Eighteenth Century,” Jason T. Sharples, Florida Atlantic University

“Trafficking in Personal Experiences and Quaker Thought: Clapham’s West Atlantic Roots, 1750s–1780s,” Ryan J. Butler, Baylor University

“Zealously Exonerating Emancipation’: The British and American Fact Finding Missions in the West Indies, 1836–1838,” William E. Skidmore II, Rice University

**Comments:** Kate Carté Engel, Southern Methodist University; Maurice Jacks

## **SCWH 2018 Biennial Conference to be in Pittsburgh**

The Society of Civil War Historians will hold its biennial conference from May 31 to June 2 at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Since opening the doors in 1916, the hotel has played a major role in the city of Pittsburgh, hosting movie stars, politicians, heads of state, and leaders of business and industry. A recent multi-million dollar renovation has enhanced the beauty of this luxury hotel to ensure that generations to come will enjoy the outstanding service, guest room accommodations, and award-winning cuisine that have defined Omni William Penn Hotel for decades. The hotel is just eighteen miles from Pittsburgh International Airport and eleven miles from the Allegheny County Airport.

The goal of the conference is to promote the integration of social, military, political, and other forms of history on the Civil War era among historians, graduate students, and professionals who interpret history in museums, national parks, archives, and other public facilities. More information about the conference will be added to the website as it becomes available at <http://scwhistorians.org> or contact the Richards Center at 814-863-0151.

***Be sure to check out the SCWH on  
Facebook for the latest information.***

**Funding for the Newsletter is provided by the  
McWhiney History Education Group  
McMurry University**

**For more information, go to:  
[www.mcwhiney.org](http://www.mcwhiney.org)**

## ***Journal of the Civil War Era*** [journalofthecivilwarera.org](http://journalofthecivilwarera.org)

SCWH members receive the journal as part of their membership. The journal is published by the UNC Press in association with the George and Ann Richards Civil War Era Center. The journal publishes the most creative new work on the many issues raised by the sectional crisis, war, Reconstruction, and memory of the country's signal conflict, while bringing fresh understanding to the struggles that defined the period, and by extension, the course of American history in the nineteenth century. Also, follow the journal on Twitter.

Judith Giesberg of Villanova University is the editor. Associate editors include Rachel Sheldon of the University of Oklahoma, who coordinates book reviews, Greg Downs, University of California-Davis, and Stacey Smith, Oregon State University. Matthew Isham, Pennsylvania State University, is the managing editor. The digital media editor is Kristen Epps, University of Central Arkansas.

The editors invite interested scholars of all fields, methods, and orientation to submit manuscripts, proposals, and the names of other scholars who might contribute to the journal.

### ***Future Meeting Dates of the SCWH and SHA***

**2018** – November 8-11  
Sheraton Birmingham Hotel  
Birmingham, Alabama

**2019** – November 7-10  
Galt House Hotel  
Louisville, Kentucky

**2020** – November 19-22  
Sheraton Memphis Downtown  
Memphis, Tennessee

**2021** – November 3-6  
Astor Crowne Plaza Hotel  
New Orleans, Louisiana