Annotated Bibliography: What Questions are Scholars Asking in Recent Articles about the Civil War?

Alice Fahs, “The Sentimental soldier in popular Civil War literature, 1861-65” *CWH* 46 (June 2000)
Civil war literature with a focus on the “tenderness of the soldier, his attachment to home and mother, and his experience of death” was “far more popular than that on battle experiences.” What was the draw and intrigue of the “sentimental soldier?” Looking at this from a bigger picture, how does this natural inclination show “the dominant cultural preference for literary focus on the individual rather than on any organization or the war in general?”

Donald R. Shaffer, “I do not suppose that Uncle Sam looks at the skin’: African Americans and the Civil War” *Civil War History* 46 (June 2000)
To what extent did “poverty, limited knowledge of key dates, unscrupulous pension agents, and illiteracy all combined” give “blacks a more difficult time getting pensions than whites?”

Although most Missourians did not own slaves, they “began to identify explicitly with the South.” In what ways did the effects of the war cause them to change their identifications from Westerners to Southerners?

Why did Falconer’s theory that “the ongoing sectional conflicts (that would eventually lead to the Civil War) stemmed from the fact that white Northerners and Southerners were two distinct ‘races’…[that the] Southerners allegedly descended from Norman ‘Cavaliers’ and Yankees from Saxon ‘Roundheads’” fail to survive past the first two years of the war and quickly disappear? Why were theorists “attributing the best aspects of both the Cavaliers and Roundheads to white Southerners” by the end of the war?

Benjamin L. Carp, “Nations of American Rebels: Understanding Nationalism in Revolutionary North America and the Civil War South” *Civil War History* 48 (March 2002)
Considering that a “group’s nationalism was not related to whether the group won the war or to particular cultural factors” but was “produced by a common interest”, to what extent does the Confederate nationalism compare to the Patriot nationalism?

Despite their support of proslavery, why did most East Tennesseans choose to be Unionists during the Civil War? What prevented them from being “unconditional” Unionists?

Lorraine Peters, “The Impact of the American Civil War on the Local Communities of Southern Scotland” *Civil War History* 49 (June 2003)
How did “Scottish towns of Dumfresshire and Paisley, as well as Hawick and Galashiels in the Scottish Borders” respond to the Civil War? Why didn’t the economic effects they “suffered from the ‘cotton famine’ caused by the embargo and blockade and prospered because of the increased woolen trade” determine their opinions to support the North or South?

How true was Confederate governor Zebulon B. Vance’s report that “in 1863 there was a lot of disloyalty to the Confederacy in the mountainous western counties” of North Carolina?

Joan Waugh, “Pageantry of Woe: The Funeral of Ulysses S. Grant” *Civil War History* 51 (June 2005)
How did General Ulysses S. Grant’s death and funeral come to be seen as “symbols of reconciliation between the two sections, particularly focusing on the ‘magnanimous’ surrender terms Grant offered Robert E. Lee at Appomattox?”

How did the Conservatives use the commemoration of Robert E. Lee’s death as an opportunity to “glorify secession and white supremacy while lambasting Republicans, interracial cooperation, and Reconstruction?”

Yonatan Eyal, “Trade and Improvements: Young America and the Transformation of the Democratic Party” *Civil War History* 51 (September 2005)
How did Young America Democrats differ from older Democrats and how did they contribute to the development of a Democratic Party?
How did official Confederate representative and propagandist spread his belief that “there was a natural hierarchy of races that put whites above blacks” in Europe?

Lorien Foote, “Rich Man’s War, Rich Man’s Fight: Class, Ideology, and Discipline in the Union Army” Civil War History 51 (September 2005)
In Massachusetts, how did the upper class men who were officers lead the common soldiers? What kind of leadership style did most of them practice?

How did the “Reconstruction lack both a comprehensive plan and a catalyst that would make Northerners want to reconstruct the South?”

How does a creation of an effective civilian bureaucracy propose “an alternative program to reduce the effects of racism in the Reconstruction era and provide justice to freed slaves?”

Heather Cox Richardson, “A Marshall Plan for the South? The Failure of Republican and Democratic Ideology during Reconstruction” Civil War History 51 (December 2005)
Why did the Republican ideology that “cotton and hard work would solve the problem” and the Democratic ideology to oppose government aid fail to improve the Southern infrastructure and economic well-being?

Could the federal government have done something different to have changed Reconstruction, starting with the land distribution policies for the South during 1866-67?

Michael Vorenberg, “Imagining a Different Reconstruction Constitution” Civil War History 51 (December 2005)
Was it really the interpretations of the amendments of the Supreme Court and not the Congress that was at fault for not making the “Reconstruction amendments as broad as possible and thus contributing to the failure of Reconstruction?”

Frances Clarke, “Let All Nations See: Civil War Nationalism and the Memorialization of Wartime Voluntarism” Civil War History 52 (March 2006)
In what ways were “certain Northern attitudes during the Civil War defensive responses to European criticism of the North waging an allegedly savage and immoral war?”

Why did Indiana’s governor Oliver P. Morton have to take such extreme measures and replace Union General Milo S. Hascall “through vigorous complaints to Washington about the military infringing on civil authority[?]”

Caroline E. Janney, “Written in Stone: Gender, Race, and the Heyward Shepherd Memorial” Civil War History 52 (June 2006)
When the United Daughters of the Confederacy planned to erect a monument to the “faithful slave” at Harpers Ferry in 1920, why did the black community in 1920 oppose the organization’s selection of a free black man named Heyward Shepherd?

How did the aftermath of the Civil War “transform the education of both black and white children” in Baltimore, Maryland? In what ways did “Baltimore’s postwar school system [expose] the contradictions of race, education, and
republicanism in an age when African Americans struggled to realize the ostensible freedoms gained by emancipation?

Tyler Anbinder, “Which Poor Man’s Fight? Immigrants and the Federal Conscription of 1863” Civil War History 52 (December 2006)
Did drafted men in the Union really not serve because “they could be exempted, pay a $300 commutation fee, or hire a substitute, or they simply failed to report?”

Daniel W. Hamilton, “The Confederate Sequestration Act” Civil War History 52 (December 2006)
What kind of difficulties did the Confederate Congress’s Sequestration Act bring to “Southerners who were supposed to give up jointly owned property and pay debts owed to Northerners to the Confederate government instead?”

Ryan Jordon, “The Dilemma of Quaker Pacifism in a Slaveholding Republic, 1833-1865” Civil War History 53 (March 2007)
How did the Quakers, who were antislavery but refused to involve themselves in antislavery activities in fear of provoking violence, react to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, John Brown’s raid, and the Civil War?

Robert Harrison, “An Experimental Station for Lawmaking: Congress and the District of Columbia, 1862-1878” Civil War History 53 (March 2007)
Why was Washington, D.C. the experimental station for laws dealing with emancipation, equal suffrage, and equal rights for blacks during the 1860s-70s? Why was an experimental station necessary before the laws were applied in the South or the country at large?

John M. Sacher, “A Very Disagreeable Business: Confederate Conscription in Louisiana” Civil War History 53 (June 2007)
How did variables such as wealth, ethnicity, and the proximity of the Union army affect decisions regarding the Confederate conscription legislation of April 1862 in Louisiana?

Various black Union soldiers who reacted violently for receiving unequal pay and treatment by their officers during the war were tried for mutiny. To what extent were these soldiers given fair trials?

Keith M. Harris, “Slavery, Emancipation, and Veterans of the Union Cause: Commemorating Freedom in the Era of Reconciliation, 1885-1915” Civil War History 53 (September 2007)
To what extent is it true that “many veterans, politicians, and civilians publicly claimed slavery as the cause of the war and saw the goals of the war as both restoring the Union and emancipating the slaves, not simply restoring the Union?”

Carol Reardon, “Writing Battle History: The Challenge of Memory” Civil War History 53 (September 2007)
What kind of limitations and important factors relating to what it was possible for Civil War soldiers to observe and remember about a battle should be considered by historians?

Christopher A. Luse, “Slavery’s Champions Stood at Odds: Polygenesis and the Defense of Slavery” Civil War History 53 (December 2007)
Did Southern Christians really reject the idea of “polygenesis” and instead believed “slavery was biblical, not a sin, and a proper way to organize society?”

Pearl T. Ponce, “As Dead as Julius Caesar: The Rejection of the McLane-Ocampo Treaty” Civil War History 53 (December 2007)
Why was the McLane-Ocampo Treaty rejected? How would the treaty have impacted the Civil War?

Lewis Perry and Matthew C. Sherman, “What Disturbed the Unitarian Church in this very city?: Alton, the Slavery Conflict, and Western Unitarianism” Civil War History 54 (March 2008)
How large of a role did the slavery controversy play in the splitting of churches and denominations? In his last debate with Stephen A. Douglas, why did Abraham Lincoln refer “particularly to a disturbance in the Unitarian church in Alton?” What was so significant about the incident?

Ethan S. Rafuse, “Poor Burn? The Antietam Conspiracy That Wasn’t” Civil War History 54 (June 2008)
Was George B. McClellan, Fitz John Porter, and Joseph Hooker’s resentment really the “cause of Ambrose Burnside’s sudden demotion from command of a two corps wing to a single corps after the 14 September Battle of south Mountain during the Maryland Campaign of 1862, resulting ill-will on Burnside’s part and the poor performance of the 9th Corps at the Battle of Antietam on 17 September[?]”

Does the New Orleans merchants’ “institution of a cotton embargo and their reluctance to use Confederate currency” make them sympathizers of the Union cause?

**Joseph T. Glatthaar, “Everyman’s War: A Rich and Poor Man’s Fight in Lee’s Army” Civil War History 54 (September 2008)**

Was there a strong tendency of wealthy men fighting for the Confederacy during the Civil War?


How can the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database be used to “contrast the number of African slaves coming to United States with those going to Central and South America” and how can this be a way to “examine the areas of Africa from which slaves originated and the number of voyages originating in the United States using US-built ships or flying the US flag”?

**Paul Finkelman, “Regulating the African Slave Trade” Civil War History 54 (December 2008)**

What were the economic reasons that caused American colonies to attempt to regulate slave importation? Why methods did the American colonies use in order to participate in the African slave trade?

**Sean Kelley, “Blackbirders and Bozales: African-Born Slaves on the Lower Brazos River of Texas in the Nineteenth Century” Civil War History 54 (December 2008)**

How did the importation of Africans lead to the creation of Brazoria County in Texas and where the names “blackbirders” for people who imported or purchased the African-born slaves, “bozales” come from?


How did the American government’s settlement solution to turn over control of all the Africans captured on illegal slave ships during 1842-61 to the Liberian government impact Liberia and how did Americo-Liberian residents respond to this decision in 1860?


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**J. Brent Morris, “‘All the Truly Wise or Truly Pious Have One and the Same End in View’: Oberlin, the West, and the Abolitionist Schism” Civil War History 57 (September 2011)**

To what extent did the West, especially Oberlin, play a role in American abolitionism during the 1840s?

**J. David Hacker, “A Census-Based Count of the Civil War Dead” Civil War History 57 (December 2011)**

Does J. David Hacker’s new estimate of 750,000 civil war dead serve as a “sophisticated statistical assessment of the traditional figures given for losses in the Civil War”?

**Scott King-Owen, “Conditional Confederates: Absenteeism in Western North Carolina Soldiers, 1861-1865” Civil War History 57 (December 2011)**

Were the Civil War desertions really a reflection of a “more complex behavior of periodic absenteeism followed by a return to duty that allowed men to maintain their sense of honor and support for their families” and not a “rejection of Confederate nationalism and a regional commitment to Unionism?”

**Carol Sheriff, “Virginia’s Embattled Textbooks: Lessons (Learned and Not) from Centennial Era” Civil War History 58 (March 2012)**

In what ways did a past debate over textbook controversy that “erupted on the eve of the Civil War centennial” really intensify the “politics surrounding [future] textbook production and selection?”

**Jeremy J. Tewell, “Assuring Freedom to the Free: Jefferson’s Declaration and the Conflict over Slavery” Civil War History 58 (March 2012)**

Was Tewell’s theory that for some Republicans, “Americans’ failure to repudiate slavery also served as a repudiation of the natural rights ostensibly guaranteed by the Declaration” a true parallel between the Revolutionary document and the Republicans’ conceptions of liberty during the Civil War era?


In what ways did the Union soldiers and the guerrilla’s different beliefs on manhood influence the “tactics used by the guerrillas” and shape “the experience of combat”?

**John Matsui, “War in Earnest: The Army of Virginia and the Radicalization of the Union War Effort, 1862” Civil War History 58 (June 2012)**

In 1862, how did the “intransigent civilian population of Virginia” drive the new Army of Virginia to take extreme measures against the civilians to wrest control of the war effort?”