Abraham Lincoln and His Wartime Leadership

The only military experience Abraham Lincoln had before being elected as President was a brief stint as Captain of a militia unit that saw no action during the Black Hawk War. He stepped into the role as Commander-in-chief when he was sworn in. Soon after he would mobilize the union army, implement a draft and manage both temperamental generals and political opponents. Professor Dwayne Beggs leads us in a conversation about Abraham Lincoln and his role as Commander in Chief during the Civil War. Please join us on Thursday, February 13 at 7 pm.

Dwayne Beggs is an Assistant Professor of History at Lourdes University in Sylvania, OH. He began his career as an associate pastor in the Church of God (Anderson, IN), serving in five different congregations over the course of 16 years. From his high school days when he served as a drummer in a Civil War Confederate re-enacting unit, Dwayne has had a passion for the study of American history. In 2003, he made a career shift and attended Bowling Green State University to begin the graduate program in American History. He completed his doctoral studies in 2010, concentrating on U.S. foreign policy with a focus on the Vietnam War. He enjoys sharing his love of history with students, seeking to foster a hunger for U.S. heritage and its contemporary impact. In his current position, he divides his time between teaching American history and serving as the director of the university’s ARCHES program. Dwayne lives in Findlay with his wife Susan; they are the proud parents of two adult children (Brent and Brigette).

Paging through the Civil War Book Club will meet Thursday, March 26 at 7 pm. This month’s book is The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson’s Epic 1863 Civil War Raid through Mississippi. Please contact Charmaine for more information or to reserve a book (734-241-5277 or charmaine.wawrzyniec@monroe.lib.mi.us).
Check out these titles from the Monroe County Library System:

**Searching for Black Confederates: The Civil War's Most Persistent Myth** by Kevin M. Levin. In addition to tracking the evolution of the black Confederate myth, Levin explores the roles that African Americans performed in the army with a particular focus on the relationship between officers and their personal body servants or camp slaves. In contrast to claims that these men served as soldiers in racially integrated regiments, Levin demonstrates that regardless of the dangers faced in camp, on the march and on the battlefield their legal status remained unchanged. Even long after the guns fell silent Confederate veterans and other writers remembered these men as former slaves and not as soldiers. Levin offers an important reminder that how the war is remembered often runs counter to history. (WorldCat)

**The Great Partnership: Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and the Fate of the Confederacy** by Christian B. Keller. *The Great Partnership* has the power to change how we think about Confederate strategic decision-making and the value of personal relationships among senior leaders responsible for organizational survival. Those relationships in the Confederate high command were particularly critical for victory, especially the one that existed between the two great Army of Northern Virginia generals. (Amazon)

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**The President’s Proclamation**

*The following was published in the Monroe Commercial on October 2, 1862.*

The Democratic papers of the country have generally arrayed themselves in opposition to the President’s Emancipation Proclamation. The *Detroit Free Press* announces that it can follow the President’s policy no longer. The Democratic press, though always claim to favor a vigorous war policy have always opposed interference in anyway with the enemy’s greatest source of strength. Fight the rebels says the *Free Press*, but do not take away his means of returning blow for blow. Everybody knows that in slavery lies the rebels greatest source of strength-that without slavery the rebellion would never have reached its present formidable dimensions. It follows then that the quickest way to quell the rebellion is to deprive the rebels of their slaves. It was the President’s place to judge whether it was expedient to do this earlier or later. But it is not the part of anyone who claims to be loyal to oppose it. The proclamation hurts no one except the rebels-it injures no loyal man.

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**Civil War Institute – 2020 Summer Conference – Gettysburg College**

Civil War Round Table Members are invited to attend the 2020 Summer Conference at Gettysburg College. Featured speakers are Harold Holzer, Jeffrey Wert, Scott Hartwig, and many more. Tours include First Manassas, a staff ride at Antietam, 2nd Fredericksburg and more. As a Civil War Round Table member, we are given a 15% discount on registration. More information can be found at [www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/](http://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/).

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**U.S. Grant’s Detroit Home**

The Michigan History Foundation is currently raising funds for the relocation of the U.S. Grant residence in Detroit. The house is being prepared to be moved to the Eastern Market garden project area. Once moved, the house will be renovated and will become an historical resource center, focused on Grant’s life. For more information about the project and how you can help, visit [granthomedetroit.org](http://granthomedetroit.org).