



Unidentified couple, 3rd Vermont Regiment. Courtesy Vermont Historical Society.

The Northern Civil War Home Front

VERMONT HUMANITIES COUNCIL
2007 ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

November 9–10, 2007

FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND ALL DAY SATURDAY

THE INN AT ESSEX



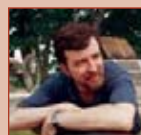
Above: Slaves at the Gaine's House by Vermont photographer George Houghton. Below: The 3rd Regiment at Camp Baxter, a Civil War training camp in St. Johnsbury, 1861, by J.D. Powers. Courtesy Vermont Historical Society.

The Civil War monuments we see today in even the smallest Vermont towns speak to the impact of the war on our state. What was life in Vermont like while the Civil War was raging to the south? How did the Civil War affect Vermont towns and individuals—soldiers, their families, widows, and orphans? A look at the Civil War home front in the North—in Vermont and

elsewhere—puts a human face on a war that is sometimes seen only in terms of clashing armies and great men, policies, and politics.



Speaker Biographies



J. Matthew Gallman

Professor of History, University of Florida

A specialist on 19th-century America, and particularly the Northern home front during the Civil War, Gallman holds a Ph.D. from Brandeis University; he is the author of four books, most recently *America's Joan of Arc: The Life of Anna Elizabeth Dickinson*, about a highly charismatic abolitionist spokeswoman.



Elizabeth D. Leonard

John J. and Cornelia V. Gibson
Professor of History, Colby College

Leonard is the author of three books dealing with the Civil War era, including *Lincoln's Avengers: Justice, Revenge, and Reunion after the Civil War*. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside, speaks frequently around the country, and has appeared on C-Span's *Book TV* and in History Channel Civil War documentaries.



Chandra Manning

Assistant Professor of History,
Georgetown University

Manning holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and is the author of *What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War*. She researches and writes about 19th-century United States history with a focus on the antebellum period, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

The Northern Civil War Home Front—Conference Schedule

VHC Annual Fall Conference • November 9–10, 2007 • FRIDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH SATURDAY • INN AT ESSEX

Friday, November 9

11:00 AM–1:00 PM Early registration, *Inn Lobby*

1:00 PM

Off-site field trips: 50 persons maximum per trip; register in advance. Trips run rain or shine, departing the *Inn at Essex* lobby at 1:00 PM, returning by 5:30 PM. Please arrive no later than 12:45 PM to secure your spot.

• **Rokeby Museum Tour**, Ferrisburgh. Rokeby Director Jane Williamson will lead a tour of this National Historic Landmark and Underground Railroad site, which provides an intimate record of two centuries of Vermont family life and agriculture. A video about the Underground Railroad will be shown.

• **St. Albans Raid Tour**. This walking-and-bus tour of St. Albans focuses on the 1864 St. Albans raid, the northernmost land action of the Civil War. Led by Vermont Civil War historian/author Howard Coffin. (Note: Participants must be prepared to walk a mile around downtown. Bring umbrellas in the event of rain.)

5:00–7:00 PM

Registration, *Inn Lobby*

7:30 PM

Evening programs: These programs are optional but there is no limit on attendance.

• **Book Discussion: *March*, by Geraldine Brooks**, with Dartmouth literature professor Suzanne Brown. Bring your own copy of the book or order a copy from VHC at 40% off the retail price (see registration form).

• **Researching Your Town's Civil War Sites.** VHC has begun an effort to identify sites throughout Vermont related to the Civil War home front. Gain research and analysis tips from those in the know. Panelists: Howard Coffin (Vermont Civil War historian/author); Grant Reynolds (Tinmouth Historical and Genealogical Society); and Sarah Rooker (director of the Flow of History, a Teaching American History grant). Moderator: Julia Lewandoski, VHC Civil War Project Coordinator.



Left: St. Albans Raiders.
Right: Company F, 4th Vermont Regiment, by George Houghton. Courtesy Vermont Historical Society. Courtesy Vermont Historical Society.

Saturday, November 10

7:30 AM Registration and continental breakfast, *Inn Lobby*

8:30 AM

Welcome, Peter Gilbert, VHC Executive Director; Melissa Hersh, VHC Board Chair; presentation of Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator Award, *Atrium*

9:15 AM

“How a Free People Conduct a Long War”: Disagreement, Dissent, and Propaganda During the Civil War, morning plenary address, J. Matthew Gallman, Professor of History, University of Florida, *Atrium*

10:15 AM

Break with refreshments, *Atrium and Inn Lobby*

10:30 AM

Breakout sessions (see descriptions to right)

12:00 PM

Buffet luncheon, *Atrium*. Registration/bookstore open

1:15 PM

Stepping Into the Breach: Women on the New England Home Front, afternoon plenary, Elizabeth D. Leonard, John J. and Cornelia V. Gibson Professor of History and director of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at Colby College, *Atrium*

2:15 PM

Break with refreshments, *Atrium and Inn Lobby*

2:30 PM

Breakout sessions (see descriptions to right)

4:00 PM

Bringing the War Back Home: What Kind of Revolution was the Civil War? Closing plenary, Chandra Manning, Assistant Professor of History, Georgetown University, *Atrium*

5:00 PM

Conference ends

Lodging – Rooms at the Inn at Essex are \$109 single or double on a first-come, first-served basis.

For reservations, 800.727.4295 or www.vtculinaryresort.com.

Be sure to mention the conference to receive the special rate.

Conference rate is good November 8–12.

Contact – 802.262.2626 •

info@vermonthumanities.org •

www.vermonthumanities.org



Company F, 4th Vermont Regiment, by George Houghton. Courtesy Vermont Historical Society. Courtesy Vermont Historical Society.

The Northern Civil War Home Front

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About the Conference

The Vermont Humanities Council's fall conference is part of a multi-year project examining the Civil War home front in anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the war beginning in 2011. Vermont may be the ideal Northern state in which to study the Civil War home front because many buildings and sites remain from that era, and their history has been comparatively well-preserved.

Two optional field trips Friday afternoon open the conference: a tour of Ferrisburgh's **Rokeby Museum**, a National Historic Landmark and Underground Railroad site, with Rokeby director Jane Williamson; and the **St. Albans Raid tour**, a walking-and-bus tour of the site of the 1864 St. Albans Raid, with Vermont Civil War historian Howard Coffin.

Friday evening's programs include a book discussion of Geraldine Brooks' Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *March*, with Dartmouth literature professor Suzanne Brown; and a workshop and panel discussion, **Researching Your Town's Civil War Sites**.

On Saturday, University of Florida professor J. Matthew Gallman will give the morning plenary address, "**How a Free People Conduct a Long War**": **Disagreement, Dissent, and Propaganda During the Civil War**. (A copy of Dr. Gallman's book, *The North Fights the Civil War: The Home Front*, will be sent to all attendees.)

Morning and afternoon breakout sessions will explore Vermont's Civil War hospitals, recruitment methods during the war, images of the Civil War home front, the St. Albans Raid's relationship to the Lincoln assassination, and other topics.

Colby College professor Elizabeth D. Leonard will give the afternoon plenary address, **Stepping Into the Breach: Women on the New England Home Front**.

Georgetown University professor Chandra Manning will conclude the conference with her closing plenary address, **Bringing the War Back Home: What Kind of Revolution was the Civil War?**



Brady's Incidents of the War. Courtesy Vermont Historical Society.

Breakout Sessions

At Whatever Cost of Men and Treasure: The Vermont Home Front During the Civil War (afternoon only) — What was the political and social climate of Vermont in the years leading up to and during the Civil War? How did the state cope with shortages of labor, goods, and money? What is the real history of the anti-slavery movement in the state? **Facilitator:** *Michael Sherman, Academic Dean of Burlington College, former director of the Vermont Historical Society, and co-author of Freedom and Unity: A History of Vermont*

Designed to Cure: Vermont's Civil War Hospitals (morning only) — In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln established military hospitals in Brattleboro, Burlington, and Montpelier. But with the battlefields so far to the south, who actually ended up in these Vermont hospitals? What happened to the hospitals after the War's end? Numerous slides highlight this presentation.

Facilitator: *Nancy Boone, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and Michael Sherman (see previous description)*

Images and Methods of Recruiting (morning only) — How did Northerners stimulate recruiting during the Civil War? This multimedia session will showcase a range of recruiting posters and broadsides, as well as entertaining songs addressing aspects of recruiting. **Facilitator:** *J. Matthew Gallman, Professor of History, University of Florida*

Images of the Civil War Home Front — This slide presentation focuses on the Civil War-era work of Eastman Johnson, Winslow Homer, and Vermonters Thomas Waterman Wood and Julian Scott, plus illustrations for Currier and Ives prints, *Harper's Weekly*, and the popular press. **Facilitator:** *Patricia Hills, Professor of Art History, Boston University*

Interpreting National Park Civil War Sites— This session explores the *causes and consequences* when interpreting Vermont's home front to a national audience. Marsh-Billings Rockefeller National Historic Park was the first national park to offer a program devoted to the Civil War home front. The Woodstock walking tour visits a variety of home front sites, including several associated with the town's 19th-century free African-American community and its service in the Union Army. The tour encourages people to reflect on the issue of race and the wider causes and lasting effects of the war from a community perspective. **Facilitator:** *Rolf Diamant, Superintendent, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park*

Louisa May Alcott's Hospital Sketches: The Novelist as Nurse (afternoon only) — *Hospital Sketches* is Alcott's short autobiographical novel about her experiences as a nurse in Washington, D.C., and a window into life in a Civil War hospital ward. *Participants will receive a copy of Hospital Sketches to read in advance.* **Facilitator:** *J. Matthew Gallman, Professor of History, University of Florida*

War on the Home Front: Lincoln's Assassination in Light of the St. Albans Raid — The St. Albans Raid not only blurred the lines between "home front" and "battle front" in the Civil War North; it also helped spawn a grand conspiracy theory among key prosecutors of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. **Facilitator:** *Elizabeth D. Leonard, Professor of History, Colby College*

The Northern Civil War Home Front—Conference Registration

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Conference fee – The \$99 fee (\$69 student) includes Saturday’s programs, continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and snacks; and the conference text, *The North Fights the Civil War: The Home Front* by J. Matthew Gallman. **Friday’s optional off-site tours and evening activities carry additional fees.** Space is limited; registration is first-come, first-served. Students and teachers are encouraged to attend; certification letters are available. An on-site bookstore will be open during the day.

Registration and payment deadline is October 26; after the deadline, registrations will be accepted as space is available. **Cancellations:** refund less \$25 fee until October 26; no refund after October 26. A few scholarships are available; deadline is October 19. One person per registration form. The scholarship form and additional registration forms are available at www.vermonthumanities.org. Make checks payable to **Vermont Humanities Council** and send to 11 Loomis Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 or fax to 802.262.2620.

First name _____ Last name _____

Mailing address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ E-mail _____

Vegetarian meals? (circle) Yes No First VHC conference? (circle) Yes No

Special needs? _____

Check if applicable I am a teacher and need a participation letter for teacher recertification.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY

- **AFTERNOON:** _____ St. Albans off-site trip (\$19) OR _____ Rokeby Museum off-site trip (\$19)
- **EVENING:** _____ *March* book discussion (\$8 for book) OR _____ Researching Civil War Sites Workshop (\$6)

SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

MORNING SESSION (rank preference, 1–5)

- _____ Designed to Cure: Vermont’s Civil War Hospitals
- _____ Images of Recruiting
- _____ Interpreting National Park Civil War Sites
- _____ War on the Home Front: Lincoln’s Assassination in Light of the St. Albans Raid
- _____ Images of the Civil War Home Front

AFTERNOON SESSION (rank preference, 1–5)

- _____ At Whatever Cost of Men and Treasure: The Vermont Home Front During the Civil War
- _____ Louisa May Alcott’s *Hospital Sketches: The Novelist as Nurse*
- _____ Interpreting National Park Civil War Sites
- _____ War on the Home Front: Lincoln’s Assassination in Light of the St. Albans Raid
- _____ Images of the Civil War Home Front

REGISTRATION FEES

\$99 registration and conference book (\$69 student)	\$ _____
\$19 for Friday off-site field trip (St. Albans or Rokeby)	\$ _____
\$8 for copy of <i>March</i> (Friday evening)	\$ _____
\$6 for research workshop fee (Friday evening)	\$ _____
Conference scholarship donation	\$ _____
Subtract \$6 if you plan to share a copy of the conference book, Gallman’s <i>The North Fights the Civil War: The Home Front</i>	\$ _____
TOTAL DUE	\$ _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ OR charge to (circle) Visa MC Exp. date _____

Card no. _____ Signature _____