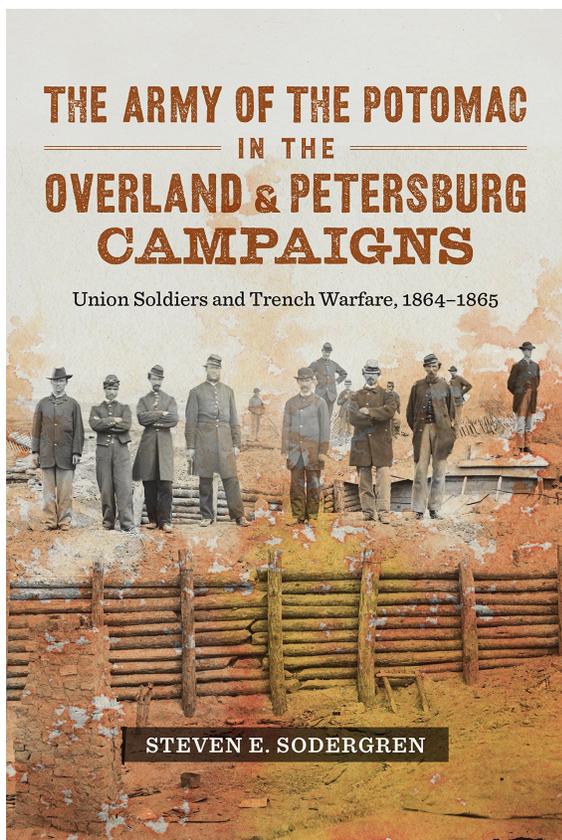


The U.S. Military History Group is pleased to announce *The Army of the Potomac in the Overland and Petersburg Campaigns* by Steven E. Sodergren as the winner of the inaugural Colonel Richard W. Ulbrich Memorial Book Award for 2017.

A committee of award-winning historians selected *The Army of the Potomac* to receive the 2017 Ulbrich Book Award, which recognizes the outstanding book published between January 2016 and July 2017, that covers any topic in U.S. Military History from 1775 to 1897.

*The Army of the Potomac* was published by Louisiana State University Press and also won the 2018 William E. Colby Award.

Steven Sodergren is Associate Professor and Chair of the History and Political Science Department at Norwich University.



Praise from the Selection Committee members:

“Steven Sodergren has written a significant book. In some ways, it’s a little bit of a throwback to the 1970s-80s ‘social history of warfare’ school inaugurated by Keegan’s *Face of Battle*. Sodergren has done a great job in identifying and extracting a wide range of primary source material to provide the broad picture of morale in Grant’s army leading up to and including Richmond and Petersburg, so much so that it should change the course of scholarship on the CW during that period. I think Sodergren has done as thorough and objective a job as humanly possible. His research is prodigious, and he writes and organizes it (never easy with this kind of thing) very well.”

-- Edward Lengel, author of *First Entrepreneur: How George Washington Built His – and the Nation’s – Prosperity*

“Historians have typically regarded the Overland and Petersburg campaigns as separate and distinct events. Dr. Steven E. Sodergren combined the two campaigns in his study and revealed important links between the two. Significantly, Sodergren argued that the Petersburg campaign was a morale builder for the Army of Potomac as its men recovered in the trenches from the traumas of the Overland campaign. Using an array of primary sources, Sodergren convincingly argued that regular supplies, mail from home, the reelection of Abraham Lincoln, and the growing certainty that the Army of Northern Virginia was weakened strengthened the men’s resolve and their morale. By the spring of 1865, the

rebuilt and rejuvenated Army of Potomac captured Petersburg and Richmond, and then forced the Army of Northern Virginia to surrender at Appomattox.”

-- Jane Johansson, author of *Albert Ellithorpe, the First Indian Home Guards, and the Civil War on the Trans-Mississippi Frontier*

"Stephen Sodergren explores something that everyone asks about--what happened to the Army of the Potomac during its decisive campaigns, how did it recover from the carnage of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor and continue forward to victory--more explicitly and comprehensively than anyone else. This is the best study of US Army morale during the Civil War in 20 years, since the wave of combat motivation studies in the 1990s--none of which focused on a specific force in a specific campaign, much less the largest Union army in its most decisive campaigns. With Sodergren the debate over the role of the East vs. that of the West, which the Westerners have carried for a generation, may well be revived. Subtle, incisive, and persuasive."

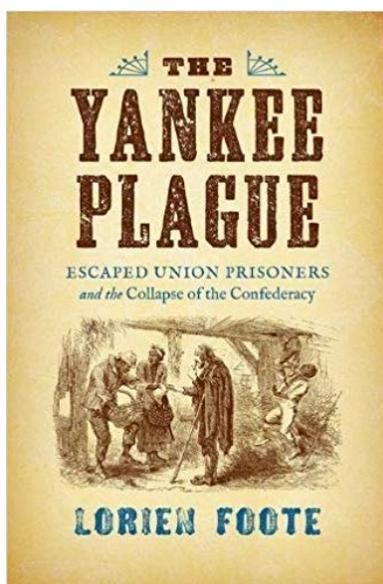
-- Samuel Watson, author of *Peacekeepers and Conquerors: The Army Officer Corps on the American Frontier, 1821-1846*

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The Selection also deemed *Yankee Plague: Escaped Union Prisoners and the Collapse of the Confederacy* by Lorien Foote worthy of an honorable mention for the 2017 Ulbrich Prize.

*Yankee Plague* was published by University of North Carolina Press.

Lorien Foote the Patricia & Bookman Peters Professor in History at Texas A&M University.



Praise from the Selection Committee members:

“Most accounts of the collapse of the Confederacy begin with the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia and then track the Confederacy’s fall southward to the Carolinas and then westward. Dr. Lorien Foote took the overlooked accounts of escaped Union POWs in early 1865 and used them to show that the Confederacy, at least in the Carolinas, was collapsing several months before the surrender of any armies. This “inside” view of the closing months of the Confederacy is a revealing and creative social and cultural history of both Union POWs, slaves, southern Unionists, and staunch Confederate supporters.”

-- Jane Johansson, author of *Albert Ellithorpe, the First Indian Home Guards, and the Civil War on the Trans-Mississippi Frontier*

“Lorien Foote’s *Yankee Plague* presents a well-researched, original interpretation of an entirely understudied aspect of Civil War, and Southern history. It points the way to a significant new field of study that may redefine the waning months of slavery and of the Confederacy.”

-- Edward Lengel, author of *First Entrepreneur: How George Washington Built His – and the Nation’s – Prosperity*

“Lorien Foote follows her innovative book *The Gentlemen and the Roughs* with another tour de force on war and society, this time linking the Union and the Confederacy. The first book to examine U.S. prisoners who escaped and roamed the Confederacy, *The Yankee Plague* adds to our picture of chaos and collapse in the rebel states, as pressure from all sides led to comprehensive disorder. What may appear a narrow topic turns out to be intimately connected to the collapse of slavery, the Confederate state, and the homefront. Multifaceted yet concise, *The Yankee Plague* is a model of Civil War history that weaves together war, state, and society to see far more than the sum of its parts.”

-- Samuel Watson, author of *Peacekeepers and Conquerors: The Army Officer Corps on the American Frontier, 1821-1846*