

THE NATIONAL
CIVIL WAR
MUSEUM[®]
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

PRESS RELEASE

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Dr. William Blair

The NCWM Welcomes Dr. William Blair as he presents “The Violent Side of Reconstruction”

(Harrisburg, PA) – [The National Civil War Museum](http://www.NationalCivilWarMuseum.org) announces Historian, Dr. William Blair, will open the Museum’s newest exhibit; *Reconstruction: The Unfinished War* on Wednesday, January 18, 2016 • 5:30pm-7:30pm. The evening will begin with refreshments, followed by a presentation “Murders and Outrages: Violence and its Impact in Reconstruction” by Historian Dr. William Blair and a tour of the new exhibit with Museum Curator Brett E. Kelley. The cost is \$10.00 per person and is free to Museum members.

About the Presentation: Dr. William Blair presents “Murders and Outrages: Violence and its Impact in Reconstruction.” Within the records of the Freedmen’s Bureau lies a collection of material with the shocking title or “Murders and Outrages.” These reports from officers of the bureau include more than 4,500 instances of atrocities—murders, assaults, knifings, sexual assaults, economic coercion, and assassinations of government agents—committed by southern whites against Republicans and black people in the post Civil War South. Yet until now scholars have not understood the reason these reports were filed or the impact that they had on northern policy against the former Confederates. This compilation of violence proved instrumental in mobilizing Republicans to visit a hard peace upon the South that included replacing all governments in the South with military rule.

About the Author: Dr. William Blair, Walter L. and Helen P. Ferree Professor of Middle American History and Director of the Richards Civil War Era Center, is a historian of the Civil War era, focusing primarily on the home front and political culture in the middle nineteenth century. His work has focused on the construction of Confederate identity during the war and the use of ceremonies such as Memorial Days and Emancipation Days after the war to reinforce and contest political identities.

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www.NationalCivilWarMuseum.org

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Dr. William Blair is currently working on a book-length project that examines the uses and misuses of treason during and after the Civil War. As director of the Richards Civil War Era Center, Dr. Blair works with student interns, sponsor symposia, and serve as the organizer for a biennial conference with the Society of Civil War Historians. He is also the founding editor of *The Journal of the Civil War Era*, published by the University of North Carolina Press.

For a complete listing of other events at the Museum, please visit the Museum website:
www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org or call 717.260.1861.

About The National Civil War Museum: Opened in February 2001, The National Civil War Museum, a member of the Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program, is a non-profit private educational institution dedicated solely to the American Civil War. It is one of the largest museums in the world which interprets the entire American Civil War from a military and civilian perspective. The Museum preserves and exhibits some of the nation's treasures, including General Robert E. Lee's personal Bible, and more than 24,000 artifacts, documents and photos. Admission to the Museum is \$12.00 for adults, \$11.00 for seniors, and \$10.00 for students with reduced rates for children and families. The Museum offers complimentary ample parking. For more information, please call 717.260.1861, or visit the Museum's website at www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org. Connect with us!

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