Getting to the 'Real War': Racial Atrocities, Reprisals, and the Civil War

A Talk with Dr. Gregory J.W. Urwin

Gregory J. W. Urwin is a professor of history and associate director of the Center for the Study of Force and Diplomacy at Temple University. Professor Urwin earned his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame and is the author or editor of eight books, including Custer Victorious: The Civil War Battles of General George Armstrong Custer, Facing Fearful Odds: The Siege of Wake Island, and the recently released Black Flag over Dixie: Racial Atrocities and Reprisals in the Civil War. Urwin is now writing the sequel to Facing Fearful Odds called “Victory in Defeat: The Defenders of Wake Island as Prisoners of War, 1941-1945.” His publications have won the General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Award from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and the Harold L. Peterson Award from the Eastern National Park and Monuments Association. He has lectured at the U.S. Academy, American Philosophical Society, David Library of the American Revolution, and U.S. Army War College. Urwin is a Fellow of the Company of Military Historians, the general editor for the Campaigns and Commanders Series from University of Oklahoma Press, and associate editor of Military Chronicles magazine. He has appeared in numerous documentaries on the History Channel, A&E, PBS, and commercial television. He also worked as a troop trainer and a company commander in the Civil War epic film, Glory, which tells the story of the black 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Urwin lives with his wife and son in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

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