

History 322

Re: Notes w/ Kemp & Mitchell essays

Source: Vinovskis, SH of Civil War

With both Kemp & Mitchell the most important thing is the kinds of questions they ask of their subject.

Thomas Kemp: He establishes the voluntary nature of the communities and societies in two New Hampshire towns. Make point to class that pre-Civil War America was rooted in localism. The only contact that the average citizen had w/ the federal power was via the Post Office. The use of the term United States of America was rarely used prior to the Civil War.

Kemp keeps faithful to the flow of the Civil War on the battlefield and the politics of at the national level. But his main task is to show the close relationship between the battlefield and the home front.

- the news from the battlefield
- battlefield and morale and election returns
- national elections and the homefront

He raises good questions:

Who fought for the Union? And why did they fight?

Compare and contrast Kemp's answer to the "Whys" with Reid Mitchell. Kemp leans in the direction of ideology while Mitchell leans very heavily toward community and family ties.

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Reid Mitchell: Emphasis on community values and the Northern soldier. He makes argument that these values may have hindered discipline in the ranks, at least in the beginning but overall he argues that these values make the northern Soldier a better soldier.

Mitchell is interesting in terms of the question of Why did the Union soldiers stay the war. What motivated them? Mitchell answer different from Kemp's. Perhaps they are both right--ideology and community ties.

[Add story of the Grand Review in WDC after the war. Only a republic with great trust in its volunteer army might change inviting that army to the nation's capitol. Trust that it would break up after the war and the men go home. Not become conspirators in any military overthrow of the govt.

Make comment on the reuping of the three year enlistees in 1864. Part of the reason may have been more than deep dedication to the republic of Mr. Lincoln. It was to get a 30 day furlough. Men believing that the way the war was going, especially in the East under Grant, that they may not live to see their family and community again.