

Between the Lines:
Reading about the Civil War
Book Discussion Group

**A Partnership between Linebaugh Library and
the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area**

On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon (1998), by Kaye Gibbons

Questions

How does the novel evoke the time period of the Civil War era, especially the antebellum period?

How is slavery portrayed in the novel?

Does Samuel Tate have any redeeming characteristics?

What aspects of the home front that you were familiar with came through in the novel?
What seemed new or different?

Were there really southern women like Emma Garnet?

How is Reconstruction portrayed in the novel?

What caused the Civil War, in Emma's opinion?

What is her view of the war—is it realistic or romantic?

By the end of the war, what has Emma lost?

How is her loss reflective of the loss experienced by other women during the war?

How is Reconstruction portrayed in the novel?

What Civil War novels that present a woman's point of view do you recommend?