Supporting Civil War battlefield preservation—even, yes, using those return address labels—is hardly tantamount to raising the Stars and Bars in your front yard. Even so, it's hard to shake a sense that there's a false equivalence being perpetuated by the way that some preservationists speak of "our brave boys in blue and grey." We can't preserve everything, so we curate our past by choosing what is to be saved, and how it is to be presented. Battlefield preservation today means something very different than it meant in the 19th century, when battlefields became littered with monuments. Today, preservationists would generally prefer to see battlefields returned to a condition as close to their pre-Civil-War status as possible. Each is remembering the war in its own way, from...
formal ceremonies to academic symposia. Search the Calendar of Events to see what's happening or head straight to Plan Your Visit to plot your route to a Civil War national park or one of our partner sites. Engraving of the Battle of Shiloh. Library of Congress. Antietam National Battlefield is planning tours, hikes, children's activities, living history, guest lecture, and memorial ceremonies, part of a regional effort to commemorate the entire Maryland Campaign of 1862. Engraving of the First Battle of Bull Run. Library of Congress. Heavy fighting swept away any notion of a quick war. 150th anniversary events took place over four days at Manassas National Battlefield Park. View Event Video. View Event Photos. The commemoration of the American Civil War is based on the memories of the Civil War that Americans have shaped according to their political, social and cultural circumstances and needs, starting with the Gettysburg Address and the dedication of the Gettysburg cemetery in 1863. Confederates, both veterans and women, were especially active in forging the myth of the Lost Cause of the Confederacy.