

Book Notices

Brackett's Battalion, Minnesota Cavalry, 1861-1866, by Kurt D. Bergemann. Minneapolis: Adeniram Publications, 1996. ix, 145 pp. Illustrations, bibliography. \$12.99 paper.

REVIEWED BY JOHN Y. SIMON, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT CARBONDALE

Three companies of Minnesota volunteer cavalry, sent to St. Louis in 1861, joined the Curtis Horse, a regiment named in honor of Iowan Samuel R. Curtis, the departmental commander. Comprising soldiers from Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska Territory, and commanded by another Iowan, William W. Lowe, the regiment was renamed the Fifth Iowa in June 1862, despite complaints from Minnesotans. This regiment, roughriding and ill disciplined, served effectively in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama. In February 1864, the Minnesota cavalymen returned home to serve officially as Brackett's Battalion in the campaigns against the Sioux in Dakota Territory. A narrative of these operations provides about half of the text. Like other Civil War units, this battalion contained a surprisingly large proportion of men who kept diaries, wrote to hometown newspapers, or penned reminiscences after the war.

Kurt D. Bergemann, the great-great-grandson of a member of Brackett's Battalion and an assiduous researcher, has published an attractive and detailed history of his ancestor's unit. He has amassed material from manuscripts and newspapers as well as books. He has also assembled attractive illustrations. The publication would have profited from footnotes and an index, to say nothing of a competent copyeditor, but readers will appreciate this labor of love.

Tante Johanne: Letters of a Danish Immigrant Family, 1887-1910, edited by John W. Nielsen. Blair, NE: Lur Publications, Danish Immigrant Archive, 1996. xiv, 118 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$12.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY BARBARA LUND-JONES, THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM

Tante Johanne is the first published compilation to be taken from the remarkable Hansen-Mengers Collection, an extensive holding of immigrant family correspondence housed at the Danish Immigrant Archive

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