

ished sewing it together Mr. Sessions went to get tent poles and other things." Patty did not bother with the niceties of punctuation and referred to her husband as "Mr. Sessions." Occasionally her emotions erupted into her diary, as when she struggled to come to terms with polygamy and Mr. Sessions's participation in it.

Donna Smart's copious and well-researched notes make the diaries understandable. She identifies each of the hundreds of individuals Sessions names and explains their relationship to other persons and to the Mormon saga. The notes are written from a distinctly Mormon perspective (the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is referred to twice as a "splinter group"), and Smart mentions Mormon beliefs and practices with only limited explanations.

Barely 59 of the 367 pages of the diaries recount the difficult winter journey across Iowa through mud, snow, and freezing rain. Though much shorter in miles, this portion of the trek to Utah claimed far more lives and took much longer than did the dash from Nebraska to Utah. Patty wrote graphic details of the struggle to keep the straggling band moving and together.

This is not a book to curl up with on a winter night. Much is repetitious and tedious. Though students of the westward movement may glean useful bits and pieces, Patty's diaries will be most meaningful to Mormons who seek additional details of their epic journey—in this case from an active woman's life and perspective.

Wisconsin in the Civil War: The Home Front and the Battle Front, 1861–1865, by Frank L. Klement. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1997. ix, 141 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$30.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY LORI A. LISOWSKI, NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Wisconsin in the Civil War, with its oversized format, extensive illustrations from the collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and narrative without footnotes, is more of a coffee-table book than a scholarly treatise on the Badger State's role in the Civil War. Nevertheless, the late Frank Klement was "reluctant to concede" that his readable survey of Wisconsin's history during this pivotal period is "not 'scholarly,' if only because it represents the distillation of a lifetime spent researching, writing, and thinking about the Civil War" (v–vi). *Wisconsin in the Civil War* was first published as an essay in the 1962 *Wisconsin Blue Book*. Beginning in 1993, Klement, the author

of several books and articles about the Civil War era that focus on the Copperhead movement and other forms of dissent in the North, thoroughly revised and expanded the work, finishing the manuscript just before he died in July 1994.

The book is a largely chronological narrative of Wisconsin's military, political, economic, and social history from 1860 through 1865. Klement assumes the reader has a basic grounding in the antebellum and Civil War years at the national level and does not go into much detail on the causes of the war or events during the war that did not directly affect Wisconsin. Nor in such a slim volume does he go into great detail on any aspect of Wisconsin's history. Still, this general survey is thorough and engaging, and the bibliography directs readers to more specific works.

The bulk of the book is devoted, understandably, to military history and the actions of Wisconsin's 56 infantry and cavalry regiments and assorted other companies of artillery and sharpshooters. Unlike Iowa, which furnished regiments to only the western theater of the war, Wisconsin men fought in all of the major battles in the East and the West, highlighted by the famous Iron Brigade, for a time the only all-western brigade in the eastern theater. About 20 percent of Wisconsin's male population served in the war, but they could not best Iowa's record of recruiting enough volunteers to avoid the draft until 1864. Although Governor Alexander Randall showed foresight in early 1861 by organizing more regiments than President Lincoln initially called for, by 1862 recruiting had slowed, drafts were held in several counties, and riots broke out. The Port Washington riot had to be suppressed by companies of the 28th Wisconsin.

Although there are few direct references to Iowa, this book could be used in tandem with books and articles about Iowa's experiences in the war to draw some comparisons between Iowa and Wisconsin, particularly in terms of the states' political histories. Perhaps the book may even inspire someone to write a similar compact survey of Iowa's Civil War history.

The Minds of the West: Ethnocultural Evolution in the Rural Middle West, 1830-1917, by Jon Gjerde. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997. xiii, 426 pp. Maps, tables, figures, notes, index. \$39.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY ROBERT P. SWIERENGA, VAN RAALTE INSTITUTE, HOPE COLLEGE

Iowa and the Midwest are rich in European ethnic groups who built enclaves in the nineteenth century that persisted far longer than the

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