

Book Notices

who knows bibliography and the research needs of students, teachers of historical reference courses should consider the inexpensive paper-bound edition for required reading.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

GAROLD L. COLE

Civil War Eyewitnesses: An Annotated Bibliography of Books and Articles, 1955-1986, by Garold L. Cole. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1988. viii, 351 pp. Index. \$29.95 cloth.

This is a reference work of great promise. Garold Cole has scoured library collections and journals to produce a bibliography of almost 1,400 published firsthand accounts of the Civil War. Included are accounts by Union and Confederate soldiers, civilians of both sides, and foreign observers. Particularly valuable are the annotations for each source which describe the writer, the type of account (letter, diary, memoir), and the content. This bibliography surveys publications from 1955, when interest in the Civil War centennial accelerated, to 1986, a period which has not been covered adequately by other bibliographies, annotated or otherwise.

This work will facilitate serious research as well as reveal to even casual readers the great complexity of the Civil War in America. The annotations provide a glimpse of the diversity of the Civil War experience and remind us that the war involved more than famous generals. The firsthand accounts document the rigors of army life, the true horror of battle, the plight of the pathetic wounded in inadequate hospitals, the struggles of families left behind, and the often inhumane conditions endured by prisoners of war.

Iowa's contribution to the war is represented by more than forty accounts from thirty different regiments which encompass almost every major and minor campaign from the Dakotas to Sherman's March to the Sea. The bibliography contains entries for letters and memoirs of soldiers' wives who reported on conditions in Iowa.

One problem with this work is that the annotations are uneven in length and sometimes in quality. Books usually receive longer descriptions, but there are perplexing exceptions. Article annotations suffer the same difficulty. More serious, this bibliography is plagued by literally dozens of embarrassing misspellings and typographical errors, including errors in the index. Three accounts were garbled when portions of the titles or annotations were lopped off. The author and the publisher deserve considerable blame for marring what otherwise is a valuable reference work.

CORNELL COLLEGE

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