

woman, or bondspersons. This takes a bit of getting used to, although his meaning is perfectly clear. Morgans misses no opportunity to express his outrage at the cruelty and inhumanity of American slavery, but his repeated use of the nineteenth-century abolitionist label *slaver* to describe both slaveholders and slave catchers — and almost anyone else who supported the “peculiar institution” — is perhaps a little harsh.

Morgans has written a good book, but it could have been even better had it been submitted to peer review and rigorous editing prior to publication. This would, for example, have saved him from referring to “the slave ship *Armistad*” (178) when he clearly means *Amistad*, and from consistently misspelling Fredrick Douglass’s surname with a single “s” (136–37, 196, 219). This is not a minor detail; Douglass is known to have added that second “s” to distinguish himself from his former master.

Despite these and other flaws, Morgans has produced a useful work based on wide research. Chapter four, “Iowa-Nebraska” (90–118) is the best brief yet comprehensive account of the Underground Railroad in Iowa yet published. It goes a long way toward redressing the omission of the story of the Underground Railroad in the Trans-Mississippi West from the otherwise excellent *Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America* (2005), by Ferguson Bordewich, and from other recent accounts. It is a commendable effort.

Yankee Warhorse: A Biography of Major General Peter Osterhaus, by Mary Bobbitt Townsend. Shades of Blue and Gray Series. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2010. xiii, 270 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95 cloth.

Reviewer Robert Wooster is Regents Professor of History at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi. His most recent book is *The American Military Frontiers: The United States Army in the West, 1783–1900* (2009).

Born in Koblenz in 1823, Peter J. Osterhaus moved to Baden following his mandatory service in the Prussian army. There he joined the short-lived liberal revolution, barely escaping with other Forty-Eighters to America. Settling with his family in Belleville, Illinois, he made and lost a fortune; the secession crisis found him working as a clerk in St. Louis. Like many of his fellow immigrants, Osterhaus, a staunch Unionist, volunteered in April 1861 for Federal service. Elected as a major in the Second Missouri Volunteer Infantry, the approachable, dependable Osterhaus went on to become the most able German American general officer of the Civil War, serving in early contests for

control of Missouri, the Vicksburg (during which he was wounded in the leg), Chattanooga, and Atlanta campaigns, Sherman's March to the Sea, and the final capture of Mobile, Alabama. Following the war, he commanded troops occupying parts of Mississippi until January 1866, leaving the army as a major general of volunteers. He held a post as U.S. consul in Lyon from 1866 to 1877, retiring to private life in his native Germany, his health nearly shattered by the aftereffects of his wound and wartime bout with malaria.

Using translated works documenting Osterhaus's early life in the Germanies, a smattering of surviving personal papers, the *Official Records*, the *Supplement to the Official Records*, the normal array of Civil War-era diaries, letters, reminiscences, and recollections, and State Department records of his overseas service, author Mary Bobbitt has written a biography befitting this capable Union officer. Although Townsend is Osterhaus's great-great-granddaughter, her portrayal, while sympathetic, never lapses into hagiography. Skilled in deploying his artillery, adamant about training his men, and dependable at gathering reliable information, Osterhaus emerges as a good, careful tactician. When he made mistakes, as he did when he blundered into a trap at Ringgold Gap laid by one of the Confederacy's best generals, Patrick R. Cleburne, Townsend acknowledges those errors.

Generally well regarded in Union military circles, Osterhaus never achieved the recognition he probably deserved during his lifetime, which has translated into his having remained largely unknown except to the most devout students of the war. Townsend attributes this to his German heritage and, relying heavily on the recent work of Thomas J. Goss, the tangled politics of the Lincoln administration. Indeed, Osterhaus seemed to perpetually draw the short straw, having the misfortune to serve under a spate of generals of mixed competence — John C. Frémont, Franz Sigel, John McClelland, Joseph Hooker, and E. R. S. Canby.

Those particularly interested in the history of Iowa will be especially interested to find that a number of Iowa regiments served under Osterhaus's commands. Moreover, Townsend does admirable work in detailing the complexities of dealing with the powerful political bloc represented by midwestern immigrants, especially Germans, in the Civil War. Finally, it is always refreshing to see that the field of history remains open to committed independent scholars such as Townsend, whose biography of Osterhaus will stand tall among those of second-echelon Civil War generals.