

thing to remember. From the ground up, all wars look like work, always dangerous and always smoky. The rest is added afterwards.

Russell L. Johnson won the 2004 Benjamin F. Shambaugh Award for *Warriors Into Workers: The Civil War and the Formation of Urban-Industrial Society in a Northern City*. With this award, the State Historical Society of Iowa recognizes the most significant book on Iowa history published each year.—Ed.

*Women at the Front: Hospital Workers in Civil War America*, by Jane E. Schultz. Civil War America Series. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004. xiv, 360 pp. Illustrations, figures, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer Elizabeth D. Leonard is John J. and Cornelia V. Gibson Associate Professor (and chair) of History at Colby College. She is the author of three books on the Civil War, including *Yankee Women: Gender Battles in the Civil War* (1994) and *Lincoln's Avengers: Justice, Revenge, and Reunion after the Civil War* (2004).

Like many others in the field of Civil War history, and particularly the history of women in that war, I have known for a long time that Jane Schultz is the premier scholar of Civil War-era women hospital workers. An unusually generous scholar, Schultz has always been one to share her findings and her insights with others doing research on topics related to her own. She has also published many articles in professional journals and has given many professional talks in which she has more formally presented different aspects of her vast knowledge of the field. Now it is a great pleasure to have her excellent book, *Women at the Front*, in hand.

*Women at the Front* is a thorough and gracefully written study of the work that women of all sorts performed in Civil War hospitals both in the North and in the South, the ways their wartime experiences affected their postwar lives, and how they (and others) memorialized their wartime service. Schultz begins with a discussion of the "vast complexity of the medical world that women and men inhabited" during the war (12), and then traces the many paths by which women found their way there. Among other things, in contrast with notions that Civil War era women necessarily took their cues from men, Schultz reminds readers that "women began volunteering for hospital work before the medical departments of either section had adequately assessed the magnitude of their task" (15). Right from the start Schultz

also makes the point (based on her meticulous research in the National Archives and elsewhere) that not only did many thousands more women serve in Civil War hospitals than historians and others have traditionally recognized, but also the diversity of women hospital workers, in terms of class, racial, and even religious identity, as well as job classification (among other things), far exceeds our previous imaginings.

Indeed, it is the diversity of these women hospital workers, and the implications of their diversity, that constitute the very heart of Schultz's story. Put simply, this is not just another study of Clara Barton, or Clara Barton and a few other northeastern, middle-class, white women, although Barton and her cohort are hardly neglected here. But unlike the authors of most other studies on the subject (including myself), Schultz has placed into the foreground the contributions of black women, both free and contraband, and women of the working class. And rightly so, for as Schultz's research clearly indicates, black and working-class women represented approximately "two-thirds of the female hospital workforce" (187). Moreover, they worked side by side with white, middle-class hospital workers, though not always comfortably. As Schultz notes in her introduction, "wherever relief workers served . . . their presence created a front where gender, class, and racial identities became themselves sites of conflict" (3). Hospital workers' very diversity, she demonstrates, shaped the nature and parameters of their work as well as their relations with other women (and men) in the hospitals where they served.

Happily, Schultz's book does not stop at Appomattox. To understand how individuals' lives changed after the war as a result of their wartime service, Schultz continues her exploration beyond the war's end to the end of the nineteenth century, thoughtfully examining how women hospital workers of all sorts adjusted to the realities, demands, privileges, and challenges of their postwar lives. "What women did before the war," Schultz notes, "may have influenced their postwar choices as much as class status," racial identification, or "regional identity" (150, 152). Here, Schultz also pays close attention to the struggle of some former hospital workers for official recognition and financial reward in the form of pensions, which in the end were made available only to a select group (not surprisingly, white, middle-class women). Schultz also considers the related issues of individual as well as public memorialization of different (sorts of) women's wartime efforts: who told these female war workers' stories, and how were the stories told?

It is by no means going too far to say that *Women at the Front* is a comprehensive work. In addition to the themes identified above,

Schultz thoughtfully considers other fascinating issues, such as the bonding that took place between hospital workers and their soldier-patients, the sorts of professional insecurities that caused male hospital workers to be less welcoming of women's contributions, the ways male and female hospital workers' conflicts became manifest in their contrasting approaches to soldier care, and so forth. *Women at the Front* is destined to stand as the definitive book on Civil War women hospital workers for many years to come. Future scholars in the field will find that they simply have to consult it. Luckily for them, it will be a joy to do so.

*This Great Battlefield of Shiloh: History, Memory, and the Establishment of a Civil War National Military Park*, by Timothy B. Smith. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2004. xxi, 179 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$28.95 cloth.

Reviewer Dan Lewis is assistant professor of history at Tidewater Community College in Norfolk, Virginia. He is the director of a professional development program for public school teachers funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

In *This Great Battlefield of Shiloh*, Timothy Smith examines the efforts of Union and Confederate veterans to preserve the Shiloh Civil War battlefield in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Beginning with the establishment of a grassroots veterans' organization in 1893, he tracks the development of the site from a neglected battlefield in rural Hardin County, Tennessee, to a pristine, federally funded battle park adorned with markers and memorials in the 1930s.

Situating his analysis in the field of memory studies, Smith contends that the history of Shiloh National Military Park reveals much about the "veterans' memory of the Civil War" (xxi). In recent years readers of Civil War history have been greeted with a harvest of insightful studies that examine the conflict's historical memory, including Kirk Savage's *Standing Soldiers, Kneeling Slaves: Race, War, and Monument in Nineteenth-Century America* (1997), Carol Reardon's *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory* (1997), and David W. Blight's *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (2001). Smith's book showcases a particularly rich site of collective memory in the period of sectional reconciliation in the 1890s when the North and the South focused on memorializing the bravery of Union and Confederate soldiers. As the author suggests, sectional harmony came at a tremendous cost: "both sections ignored the issues of race and slavery that had caused them to kill one another in the 1860s" (xv).

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