

The Annals of Iowa

Volume 69, Number 1
Winter 2010



A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF HISTORY

In This Issue

WILLIAM C. LOWE, dean and professor of history at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa, recounts the events surrounding the tour taken by Governor Cummins and other Iowa officials to dedicate Iowa's new Civil War monuments at Andersonville and at the Civil War battlefield parks at Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and Shiloh. He also analyzes how the commemorations participated in prevailing ways of remembering the Civil War.

BRUCE FEHN AND ROBERT JEFFERSON describe how the Des Moines chapter of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense emerged in 1968 out of African Americans' efforts to survive and thrive under particular local conditions of racism, discrimination, and segregation. The authors conclude that the Black Panthers gave a radical shove to black politics but also drew on the support of traditional African American leaders and even some sympathetic members of the white community in Des Moines.

Front Cover

George Landers's 55th Regimental Band, from Centerville, Iowa, poses in front of the Rossville Gap monument during the Civil War monument tour in 1906. (The drum logo still carried the band's older designation as the 51st Regiment band. Iowa's National Guard regiments were renumbered after federal service in the Spanish-American War, and the 51st became the 55th.) Landers is seated in the front row, fourth from the left (without instrument). For more on the Civil War monument tour in 1906, see William Lowe's article in this issue. Photo from State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.

Editorial Consultants

Rebecca Conard, Middle Tennessee State University
Kathleen Neils Conzen, University of Chicago
William Cronon, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Robert R. Dykstra, State University of New York at Albany

R. David Edmunds, University of Texas at Dallas
H. Roger Grant, Clemson University
William C. Pratt, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Glenda Riley, Ball State University
Malcolm J. Rohrbaugh, University of Iowa
Dorothy Schwieder, Iowa State University

The Annals of Iowa

Third Series, Vol. 69, No. 1
Winter 2010

Marvin Bergman, editor

Contents

- 1 "A Grand and Patriotic Pilgrimage":
The Iowa Civil War Monuments
Dedication Tour of 1906
William C. Lowe
- 51 North Side Revolutionaries
in the Civil Rights Struggle:
The African American Community
in Des Moines and the Black Panther Party
for Self-Defense, 1948–1970
Bruce Fehn and Robert Jefferson
- 82 The "Interior Tradition in American History:
A Review Essay by *Jon Lauck*
- 94 Book Reviews and Notices
- 113 New on the Shelves
- 121 Announcement
-

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF HISTORY FOUNDED IN 1863
Copyright 2010 by the State Historical Society of Iowa
ISSN 0003-4827

Review Essay

- 82 DAVID S. BROWN, *Beyond the Frontier: The Midwestern Voice in American Historical Writing*, by Jon Lauck

Book Reviews and Notices

- 94 ZACHARY MICHAEL JACK., ED., *Iowa — The Definitive Collection: Classic and Contemporary Readings by Iowans, about Iowans*, by Tom Morain
- 96 WALTER NUGENT, *Habits of Empire: A History of American Expansion*
RICHARD KLUGER, *Seizing Destiny: The Relentless Expansion of American Territory*
by Kim M. Gruenwald
- 99 JAMES Z. SCHWARTZ, *Conflict on the Michigan Frontier: Yankee and Borderland Cultures, 1815–1840*, by Andrew Cayton
- 100 RODNEY O. DAVIS AND DOUGLAS L. WILSON, EDS., *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates*,
by Brian Dirck
- 101 ROBERT E. MCGLONE, *John Brown's War against Slavery*, by Galin Berrier
- 103 WILLIAM E. LASS, *Navigating the Missouri: Steamboating on Nature's Highway, 1819–1935*, by Annalies Corbin
- 104 REGINALD HORSMAN, *Feast or Famine: Food and Drink in American Westward Expansion*, by Lori Ann Lahlum
- 106 ROBERT C. WILLGING, *On the Hunt: The History of Deer Hunting in Wisconsin*,
by Gordon O. Hendrickson
- 108 RONALD L. LEWIS, *Welsh Americans: A History of Assimilation in the Coalfields*,
by Ron Roberts
- 109 JOHN R. MCKIVIGAN, *Forgotten Firebrand: James Redpath and the Making of Nineteenth-Century America*, by Mark Wahlgren Summers
- 111 DEAN HULSE, *Westhope: Life as a Former Farm Boy*, by Zachary Michael Jack

Editor's Perspective

THE TWO FEATURE ARTICLES in this issue may seem to represent an odd pairing: an article on an official tour in 1906 of newly placed monuments on Civil War battlefields and a Southern Civil War prisoner-of-war camp is followed by an article on Black Panthers in Des Moines in the late 1960s. It is my hope that reading both articles together may spark for some readers some reflections that go beyond what either article on its own might provoke.

As we approach the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, it is instructive (as I wrote in one of these columns for a special Civil War issue in 2007) to recall how Iowans commemorated the war a century ago. While nearly everyone agreed that the war and the soldiers who fought in it should be memorialized, there was not, as William Lowe points out in his article in this issue, universal agreement about the meaning that should be attached to the memorials. In general, however, there was a tendency — in the interest of sectional reconciliation — to minimize the issue of race when reflecting on the meaning of the war.

That failure to deal adequately with matters of race left a troubling legacy — one that continued to haunt the nation, and particularly its urban centers, throughout the remainder of the twentieth century and beyond. For most of the century, voices from African American institutions such as the NAACP and black churches had advocated for civil rights. But, as Bruce Fehn and Robert Jefferson show in their article in this issue on the Black Panther Party in Des Moines, even Iowa's cities were not exempt from the upheaval that emerged in the 1960s when more radical voices expressed impatience with the failure to make substantive progress in the struggle to address the nation's racial problems.

The election of a biracial president — an election given a significant boost by Iowa's prominent role in the presidential

campaign — has not ended America's long conversation about race, even if some think it has (while others hope that it could be the beginning of a more honest, more fruitful conversation). It is my hope that the two articles in this issue of the *Annals of Iowa* can make a small contribution to that ongoing conversation.

—Marvin Bergman, editor