

The Passing of the Prairie by a Fossil: Biographical Sketches of Central Iowa Pioneers and Civil War Veterans, by Nehemias Tjernagel; edited by Margaret Harstad Matzke with an introduction by Peter Tjernagel Harstad. LaVerne, TN: Author House in cooperation with the Story City Historical Society, 2009. xix, 248 pp. Illustrations, appendix, index. \$18.00 cloth, \$12.00 paper.

Reviewer Lori Ann Lahlum is associate professor of history at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She is the author of "‘Everything Was Changed and Looked Strange’: Norwegian Women in South Dakota" in *South Dakota History* (2005).

In the early twentieth century, Nehemias Tjernagel, the son of Norwegian immigrants, began collecting stories about the early pioneers (many of them Norwegians) who settled in Iowa's Hamilton and Story counties before 1865. These settlers, according to Tjernagel, quickly transitioned from poor immigrants to successful Americans. To tell their stories, Tjernagel wrote biographical sketches. In the sketches, Tjernagel documents the transition of frontier Iowa to settled place. He places a premium on interesting stories, especially those involving American Indians. He also sought out Union veterans of the Civil War, and some engaging Civil War stories are included. The appendix of pioneers and Civil War soldiers is especially useful. Written in Norwegian and translated by a number of people, the book remained unpublished at the time of Tjernagel's death in 1958. A copy of the original manuscript is at the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City.

People interested in Iowa history will find *The Passing of the Prairie* an interesting read. It may be most useful to genealogists because Tjernagel details family connections and provides information on settlers' backgrounds. In the introduction, Peter Tjernagel Harstad teases out "three major themes — immigration, pioneering, and preservation of the Union" (xv). He also notes that although the biographies appear to be about men, Tjernagel did not ignore the role of women. In many of the biographies, however, women exist largely as married to or the daughters of the men profiled. The last section, "Pioneer Pictures," provides an interesting discussion of "the role of women" in the Euro-American settling of Iowa.

Race and Radicalism in the Union Army, by Mark A. Lause. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2009. vii, 208 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$45.00 cloth.

Reviewer Terry L. Beckenbaugh is assistant professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

His dissertation (University of Arkansas, 2001) was "The War of Politics: Samuel Ryan Curtis, Race, and the Political/Military Establishment."

The historiography of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi is littered with yawning gaps. Mark Lause's *Race and Radicalism in the Union Army* fills a large historiographical gap of not only the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi but in Civil War studies in general.

Lause focuses on the cadre of radicals who sided with John Brown in the Bleeding Kansas period and follows them through the Civil War and postbellum periods. During Bleeding Kansas the federal government hunted many of these radicals but increasingly turned to them as allies as the war against the Confederacy grew more desperate and the eastern and western theaters required more of the Union's ever shrinking resources. That participation as soldiers came at a cost as the radicals attempted to implement their vision of a triracial society in which all people on the western frontier would be treated as equals. The story of how that attempt at a radical society failed a hundred years before it was accepted by the rest of white America forms the narrative of *Race and Radicalism in the Union Army*.

Lause concludes that Lost Cause adherents used historical jujitsu to argue that the Confederacy was an inclusive entity. Lost Cause historiography maintained that Rebel Indians such as Stand Watie and John Jumper were the "real 'rebels,' fighting the injustices of the white power structure alongside Douglas Cooper, Jefferson Davis, and others" (131). Lause walks a tightrope here because he admits that the Federals treated Indians unjustly during and after the Civil War. Yet the U.S. government's poor treatment of Indians does not mean that the Confederacy was automatically sympathetic to their plight. Lause convincingly argues that the Confederacy was not an inclusive entity and that "mythologies about the Indians became integrated into the Lost Cause long before those about 'black Confederates'" (131). In this sense, *Race and Radicalism in the Union Army* joins Bruce Levine's *Confederate Emancipation: Southern Plans to Free and Arm the Slaves during the Civil War* (2007) as a significant historiographical work in debunking neo-Confederate myths about the alleged inclusiveness of the Confederacy.

Perhaps the single biggest problem with *Race and Radicalism in the Union Army* is its misleading title, which the author may not have chosen. Readers expecting an analysis of race and radicalism in the *entire* Federal Army will be surprised to find that Lause focuses on the Federal Army of the Frontier, which in the grand scheme of things is a small force in a tangential theater of conflict. There were radicals who fought in the western theater as well as the eastern theater. The title should have reflected the narrower focus of the study.

Nonetheless, *Race and Radicalism* fills a large historiographical gap in its examination of race and radicalism in the Federal military in the Trans-Mississippi. It does not focus on Iowa, but prominent Iowa figures are mentioned: Major General Samuel Ryan Curtis of Keokuk is the most noteworthy of these. Lause's examination of American Indians and how they, the radicals, and African Americans attempted to fulfill a revolutionary vision of what America could be is a significant addition to Civil War studies.

The Shiloh Campaign, edited by Steven E. Woodworth. Civil War Campaigns in the Heartland Series. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2009. vii, 167 pp. Maps, notes, index. \$24.95 cloth.

Reviewer Brian K. McCutchen began his National Park Service career at Shiloh and served as a senior historian for the agency for several years. He presently serves as National Park superintendent of the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in southwestern Indiana.

Early April of 1862 erupted in "Armageddon" for an inconspicuous area surrounding a Methodist chapel in southern Tennessee. The engagement introduced new realities in the mindset of Americans regarding battle size and an unprecedented casualty count from American combat; many Americans came to associate the biblical word *Shiloh* with tragedy and sacrifice. Long-held legends of the battle — many almost a century-and-a-half old — leave the story wide open for reanalysis and fresh interpretation for scholars of the engagement. Taking advantage of such opportunity, historian Steven Woodworth provides eight well-presented essays addressing various battle-specific topics.

Each chapter is well constructed, providing background and setting in introducing each topic. Aside from a few minor inaccuracies in detail, the presentations are thorough, and analyses that stray from the traditional Shiloh story are thought provoking and well supported. In the first essay John Lundberg examines the actions and mindset of Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston in the months leading up to his surprise attack on Grant's Army of the Tennessee and his subsequent death on the field. Alexander Mendoza provides a detailed, albeit sometimes difficult to follow, analysis of the Union's isolated, far right flank. Former Shiloh staff ranger/historian Timothy B. Smith successfully challenges the legend of the "Hornet's Nest," presenting an interpretation that counters what has been Shiloh staple for 148 years. Editor Steven Woodworth addresses General Lew Wallace's long, wandering approach to the battle and the possible reasoning behind it. Gary Joiner discusses the importance of the two supporting