

specific ports and navigational aids, key technological innovations, and larger patterns of trade and economic activity. He sprinkles in a handful of stories about shipwrecks and life on the lakes—drawn from the letters and accounts of ship captains and lighthouse keepers—to keep the tone light and to do justice to any book with a picture of a lighthouse on the cover. Karamanski blends these details with a synthetic economic history of the Great Lakes region, building his case about the mutually reinforcing histories of navigation, economic development, and state formation. At times, the fine-grained detail obscures the book’s larger argument. On the other hand, the primary source research will surely benefit future scholars exploring similar subjects.

Some topics deserve more attention. For example, Karamanski convincingly proves that economic activity was spurred by the creation of a Great Lakes navigational infrastructure, but he devotes only a few pages to the environmental impact of these developments. Karamanski introduces the intriguing term “Marine Industrial Complex,” but the implications of this concept for regional economic and social organization could be spelled out in greater detail. These subjects might serve as points of departure for other scholars exploring the regional history of the Great Lakes and the Midwest, and *Mastering the Inland Seas* has charted a course for such studies.

When It Was Grand: The Radical Republican History of the Civil War, by LeeAnna Keith. New York: Hill and Wang, 2020. 352 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$30 hardcover.

Reviewer Melanie S. Gustafson is Professor of History at the University of Vermont. She is the author of *Women and the Republican Party* (2001) and most recently, the producer and co-director of the digital visual exhibit *Visualizing Votes for Women*.

In August 1856, a group of travelers preparing themselves for an anti-slavery war in Kansas set up an encampment in Tabor, Iowa. They had come overland from Massachusetts, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Iowa residents, recruited as the group crossed the state, joined them. These Kansas Filibusters were led by men dedicated to the new Republican Party. More distinctly, they were Radical Republicans and Iowa was their staging ground.

LeeAnna Keith’s *When It Was Grand: The Radical Republican History of the Civil War* has little more to say about Iowa, but the events of Bleeding Kansas are described in vivid detail in early chapters. The book is divided into two parts: “Warriors Before the War” and “The War Years.” Keith writes with flair and the book is solid in its use of established

scholarship and new research. The outlines of Keith's narrative may be well-known to *Annals of Iowa* readers familiar with Civil War history, but much material may be new because Keith shifts the focus away from well-known leaders to "a second tier of activists" that she calls "cultural warriors, committed to a nearly mystical vision of representative government based on free labor" (4). These warriors forged political ties that brought the Republican Party into power in 1860. Keith concludes: "Their attention to the problem of race relations in American life made the Radical Republicans the most courageous elected officials in our history" (6). This book is less about those officials than it is about voters who put them into office and the nonvoters who supported their causes. It is a national story about race and citizenship, resistance and war. It is also a set of detailed stories about men and women who instigated, debated, and supported Radical Republican initiatives, including the occupation of Kansas; resistance to the Fugitive Slave Act; recognizing the citizenship and rights of African Americans; supporting John Brown; favoring a "hard war" to end slavery; supporting military emancipation and black military service; and embracing the idea of the redistribution of property in the South. Each of these initiatives is explored in one or more chapters.

About a decade ago, in his article "The Long Civil War" (*Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 2011), historian Aaron Sheehan-Dean called on Civil War scholars "to write broader histories in both temporal and spatial terms" and produce "more human stories that restore a crucial sense of contingency to the past and connects the pivotal changes of the era. . . to the broader flow of human thought and action surrounding it" (106, 108). Keith's book is an example of how to realize this call. Keith gives careful attention not only to African Americans who openly supported Republican initiatives but also those who remained aloof, seeing safety in silence. Space is given to women, black and white, although the investigation of women's partisan identities may be one of the weaker aspects of Keith's study. Keith is an engaging writer with an eye for the dramatic and her stories about African Americans like Henry McNeal Turner and James Lynch, who set up schools and churches in the South during the war, and women like Jessie Frémont and Lizzie Wayt Booth, who took their causes to the White House, are skillfully described and substantively integrated into her larger narrative. Keith's book serves as a good introduction to how Radical Republicans revolutionized American politics.

Which brings us back to the warriors who met in Tabor, Iowa. The subsequent careers, indeed the very lives, of former Indiana congressman James H. Lane, English journalist Richard Hinton, and Massachusetts abolitionist Martin Stowell were shaped by their dedication to

Radical Republicanism. Lane became Senator Lane of Kansas, served as head of security in Lincoln's White House, and then returned to Kansas to initiate "one of the first campaigns to enlist black soldiers" (152). Organized as the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry, these mainly former slaves saw combat before the more famous Massachusetts 54th. Before the war, Richard Hinton went East to raise money to buy guns for the ongoing Kansas fight, and after war was declared, served with the Kansas volunteers. Hinton wrote about his experiences and his papers are on deposit at the Kansas Historical Society. Martin Stowell was forced to flee Kansas for Nebraska, where he farmed and engaged in local Republican politics until Lincoln called for volunteers. Stowell lost his life while serving with the Fifth Iowa Cavalry.

With these stories, *When It Was Grand* is a welcome addition to the always growing body of scholarship about the Civil War.

Organizing Freedom: Black Emancipation Activism in the Civil War Midwest, by Jennifer R. Harbour. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2020. xviii, 185 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$27.00 paperback.

Reviewer David Brodnax Sr. is Professor of History at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois. His article, "The brightest star under the blue dome of heaven: Civil Rights and Midwestern Black Identity in Iowa, 1839–1900," appeared in the Fall 2020 issue of *Middle West Review*.

As the Civil War raged, prominent Chicagoan Sattira Douglas opined in the *Christian Recorder* on the role of African Americans and what they expected to come from their service. "This war is to teach us, regardless of sex or complexion, hard lessons of sacrifice, of courage, and of fortitude," she argued; "Colored men have everything to gain in this conflict: liberty, honor, social and political positions are now placed within their grasp." Douglas was comparatively prosperous, lived in a state where slavery was illegal, and could not join the military, but she saw liberty as greater than freedom from slavery, the war effort as more expansive than wearing the blue uniform, and the overall emancipation effort as inclusive of the entire black community. Such is the subject of *Organizing Freedom*, which examines black community activism in Illinois and Indiana before and during the Civil War (1).

Harbour, an associate professor of black studies and of women's and gender studies at the University of Nebraska Omaha, greatly adds to the growing body of work on the nineteenth-century black Midwest. She also broadens concepts of emancipation beyond freedom from chattelhood, exploring how black midwesterners engaged in "emancipation activism" against southern slavery and their own region's antiblack laws,