

William Freehling's landmark work, *The Road to Disunion* [2007], referred to by Barney as "the last major work on secession" [3]). If there are any quibbles, one would be that reiteration of arguments. Barney contends that the older generation of white planters was more conservative and cautious in its views of secession and so some of the blame thus lay at the feet of younger slaveholders. This was decisively argued in Peter Carmichael's *The Last Generation* (2009); however, Carmichael only examined planters and their families in Virginia. So, while Barney's findings are not radical, the success of this book is that it unites the experiences of all Southerners, so that similarities, such as the generational argument, can be understood to have existed across state lines.

To those who may have a more regional focus on the Midwest, this book is helpful in providing context to the beginning of a war that had huge ramifications for midwesterners. Understanding secession is integral to understanding the Civil War, and while state and local histories are immensely important for the focus and detail they provide, equally useful are the works that consolidate those studies and allow for larger conclusions to be drawn. Barney has shown that once again there is still something new to be learned about the Civil War.

A Thousand May Fall: Life, Death, and Survival in the Union Army, by Brian Matthew Jordan. New York: Liveright, 2021. x, 368 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$28.95 hardcover.

Reviewer James Marten is Professor of History at Marquette University. He is a historian of the Civil War era, and the author of numerous books, including *Sing Not of War: The Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America* (2011) and *America's Corporal: James Tanner in War and Peace* (2014).

The study of almost any Civil War regiment can reveal useful insights about the conflict and about the men who fought it. From the hundreds of nineteenth-century accounts written by survivors to modern efforts by historians to make sense out of the war experience, unit histories offer the opportunity to tackle issues related to politics, community, ethnicity, and other social and cultural issues that traditional military histories often avoid.

A Thousand May Fall is the history of the 107th Ohio, which was representative of many Union regiments recruited in 1862, and one of the thirty or so other regiments that were "ethnic"—70 percent of its soldiers were immigrants, most from Germany. It fought in two of the most violent clashes of the war, but also spent much of the war in desultory garrison and picket duty in the deep South. Rightfully or wrongly, they, along with other units in the Eleventh Corps—and particularly the other

ethnic German regiments—were blamed for the collapse of the Union Army’s right flanks at both Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Although not purporting to be a book about the “Midwest,” as such, its introduction of common elements of the midwestern Civil War experience—ethnicity and Democratic politics in particular—certainly helps to flesh out the narrative for the region in general.

The chronologically organized chapters take readers through fairly familiar descriptions of training and discipline, homesickness and illness, and combat and boredom. The regiment was introduced to the war’s carnage with a vengeance in the early summer of 1863 when Stonewall Jackson’s famous flank attack crashed into them at Chancellorsville and they lost over two hundred men; two months later the regiment made a desperate stand on Gettysburg’s first day, but ended up retreating once again. They served in the Carolinas and Florida for the rest of the war, rarely fighting, but suffering from disease, boredom, and a bit of regret all the same.

Jordan intends to make larger points about ethnicity and trauma, but aside from brief references to individual soldiers’ experiences, and a few sections covering the men’s response to the criticism for their alleged failures at Chancellorsville and on the first day at Gettysburg, there is little analysis of either topic. A nice description of an angry meeting of German citizens back home that addressed the unfair nature of those criticisms goes nowhere. The regiment also served alongside black troops while in Florida; there is a hint that this was meaningful, but nothing comes of that comment.

The focus is almost entirely on military operations; indeed, the regiment occasionally is left behind as the narrative goes into great detail about strategies and movements at the army or even national level. Although the jacket blurb by David Blight declares that this is “the deepest probing ever of the experience of soldiers” in the Civil War, Jordan’s own description of the book as “a messy tale of pride and pain, courage and cowardice, loyalty and betrayal, life and death” (19) comes much closer to capturing the book’s actual character. This is, at its heart, a straightforward narrative. The battle scenes are riveting, and Jordan effectively captures the frustrations of garrison life and picket duty in the war’s backwaters. The last thirty or forty pages movingly—if anecdotally—capture the aftermaths of the war for a few of the men who survived it.

Jordan is limited, as he admits, by the paucity of sources left by members of the regiment. He fills in with accounts by members of other units; unfortunately, that means that in a few places his interpretation of battlefield events often depends on the words of men who served in

other regiments. He also consulted many sources from the National Archives, but, especially in the case of veterans' pension files, uses them sparingly.

This book won't change the conversation among historians about how soldiers experienced combat or dealt with trauma, and does not shed new light on the sometimes controversial discourse over the "dark turn" in Civil War historiography. But it is a thoughtful and deeply researched examination of a hard luck unit that deserves to have its story told.

The Scourge of War: The Life of William Tecumseh Sherman, by Brian Holden Reid. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. vii, 621 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$34.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Jennifer M. Murray is Teaching Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University. She is the author of *On a Great Battlefield: The Making, Management, and Memory of Gettysburg National Military Park, 1933–2013* (2014) and is currently completing a biography of Union general George Gordon Meade.

Civil War enthusiasts and scholars have not lacked for a plethora of biographies on the war's most important and famed individuals, namely Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, or William T. Sherman. In *The Scourge of War: The Life of William Tecumseh Sherman*, Brian Holden Reid, professor of American History and Military Institutions at King's College London, delivers the latest biographical treatment of William T. Sherman. Reid provides a life-to-death exploration of Sherman focusing mostly on Sherman's Civil War career and narrating the development and maturation of a battlefield commander. In doing so, Reid offers a "reappraisal" of the general's military campaigns, the efficacy of his leadership, and an assessment of Sherman's place in the pantheon of those responsible for the preservation of the Union.

Born in Lancaster, Ohio, in 1820, Sherman was a son of the Midwest and would return to the region at various points in his life. Although his brother, John Sherman, an Ohio Senator, campaigned to get his brother command of Ohio's volunteers (a position that eventually went to George McClellan), Sherman's Civil War career began on June 30, 1861, as a brigade commander in Irvin McDowell's army.

This reappraisal includes questioning some of the most popular interpretations, or canards, associated with Sherman's Civil War career. In August 1861, Sherman arrived in Louisville, Kentucky, to the Department of the Cumberland, an entity he would ultimately come to command upon the resignation of Robert Anderson. Three months later, after repeated complaints to Washington about the quality of his troops and the