

Native Americans, with its clear prose and its narrative rather than analytical style, is best suited for and accessible to general readers and undergraduate students. Readers interested in the Civil War or Lincoln especially will find the book edifying.

The Bonds of War: A Story of Immigrants and Esprit de Corps in Company C, 96th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, by Diana L. Dretske. Engaging the Civil War. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2021. xii, 256 pp. Illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$26.50 paperback.

Reviewer Kristen Anderson is associate professor of history at Webster University in St. Louis. She specializes in nineteenth-century social history, with particular interest in how immigrants participated in both the Civil War and debates about slavery.

In *The Bonds of War*, Diana Dretske brings an individual approach to the study of immigrant participation in the Civil War. The book is a micro-history / collective biography of a group of five soldiers, all of them immigrants, who served with Company C of the 96th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. These men knew each other, being neighbors from Lake County, Illinois, and when they enlisted, they posed together for a photograph (which appears on the cover of the book). Three of the men (Edward Murray, James B. Murrie, and John Y. Taylor) were immigrants from Scotland, one (William B. Lewis) from England, and one (Loughlin Madden Jr.) from Ireland. Dretske argues that, through collective biographies like this one, "it is possible to recover the individuality that a traditional war narrative can suppress, and in the process highlight the service of a regiment in the Western Theater" (4).

Dretske definitely accomplishes this and is able to achieve a high level of detail in describing the lives and experiences of these five men. She draws on an impressive array of sources in doing so, including personal memoirs, letters, regimental histories, veterans' affairs records, and Grand Army of the Republic records, among others. The book starts with a brief overview of these men's lives in Europe, their decision to immigrate, and their construction of new lives in Illinois. The majority of the account focuses on the war years, including their decisions to enlist and their experiences in camp and in battle. Several suffered injuries, John Taylor died in a military hospital of wounds taken at the Battle of Chickamauga, and Louis Madden Jr. was captured and imprisoned at the Andersonville prison, where he ultimately died. For the three survivors, the book also covers their lives after the war. This provides an interesting look at how men who had suffered injuries and great privation during the war adapted to life back home. All three of them struggled

at some point to support themselves and their families, and sought to obtain war pensions to make ends meet.

This narrow focus on the lives of five men does not mean that the book is not well integrated into the literature on the Civil War, however. As Dretske explains, the methodology of microhistory involves “scaling the historical analysis to gain perspective on national events and each man’s personal identity as immigrant, soldier, and American” (2). Dretske keeps the story of these men engaged with the literature on the Civil War throughout, discussing how their experiences fit in with other studies on immigrant participation in the war, mourning practices, war commemoration, and so on. Doing so demonstrates how the experiences of these men fit into and can further illuminate our understanding of these topics.

The book makes a number of major contributions to our understanding of immigration and the Civil War. Despite the relatively large number of immigrants who served in the U.S. Army during the Civil War, there has still been relatively little scholarship about immigrant soldiers and their experiences. There was been very little about British immigrants in particular, making this study especially valuable. The book also furthers our understanding of the daily lived experience of immigrants in the military. Delving so deeply into the experiences of just a few people allows Dretske to bring them to life, returning a human face to a field that can often become dominated by statistics and demonstrating how a study with a local-history focus can illuminate national-level issues.

Iowa and the Civil War, Volume 2: From Iuka to the Red River, 1862–1864, by Kenneth L. Lyftogt. Iowa City: Camp Pope Publishing, 2020. xii, 460 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$40 hardcover.

Reviewer William B. Feis is professor of history at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. He is the author of *“Essentially American”: General Grenville M. Dodge and Family* (2017) and is editing the letters of a soldier from Des Moines who fought with the Second Iowa Volunteer Infantry.

In the second installment of his ambitious multi-volume narrative of *Iowa and the Civil War*, Kenneth L. Lyftogt follows Iowa regiments as they battled Confederate forces (as well as weather and disease) at Shiloh, Iuka, and Corinth in 1862 and at Vicksburg and Chattanooga the following year, rounding out the story with the disastrous Red River Campaign in 1864. In an engaging and fast-paced narrative, the author not only effectively recounts Iowa soldiers’ participation in some of the most important campaigns of the war, he also illuminates the human