

community of Tabor in southwest Iowa with the Quaker settlement of Springdale in eastern Iowa.

Like most studies of John Brown, the two reviewed here focus not on Iowa but on the more dramatic events in Kansas and at Harpers Ferry. Some contributors to *Terrible Swift Sword* deal with these events directly, while others do so only in passing. After a slow 100 pages on Brown's early life, Reynolds hits his stride with his engrossing analysis of these same events. The result is a highly readable biography of John Brown in the great tradition of those by Oswald Garrison Villard and Stephen B. Oates.

Jessie Benton Frémont: Missouri's Trailblazer, by Ilene Stone and Suzanna M. Grenz. Missouri Heritage Readers. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2005. xv, 122 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$14.95 paper.

Reviewer Vernon L. Volpe is professor of history at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He is working on a biography of John Frémont.

Jessie Benton Frémont certainly deserves greater public attention. Daughter to a famous U.S. senator, Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, and wife to a renowned if flawed explorer, presidential candidate, and Civil War general, John C. Frémont, Jessie has been memorialized by several novels, biographies, and television movies. Although never an outspoken advocate of women's rights, her pioneering role as a woman involved in political campaigns and controversies has recently attracted greater scrutiny and respect. Jessie's celebrated marriage to John Frémont won great notoriety in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and certainly should not be forgotten in the twenty-first.

This slim and easy-to-read paperback seeks to make Jessie's "trail-blazing" life more accessible to today's public, perhaps especially younger readers or those new to the broad outlines of nineteenth-century American history. In this task Ilene Stone and Suzanna M. Grenz succeed nicely. The brief biography includes several appropriate illustrations and a suitable annotated bibliography suggesting further reading. The series does not allow footnote citations, but the text does cite relevant primary sources and secondary works by title and author. Making no elaborate claim to scholarly originality, the work does rely on authorities such as Donald Jackson and Pamela Herr.

Stone and Grenz sketch the highlights of Jessie's long and fruitful pioneering life. Untutored readers will learn of her family and then her celebrated elopement with the young army officer, John Frémont. Readers then follow John and Jessie's climb to national fame thanks to his well-publicized—due to Jessie's involvement—western explora-

tions. John's presidential candidacy in 1856 and his troubled command in Civil War Missouri brought less acclaim, but Jessie bore greater responsibilities in seeking to rescue her husband's fading fortunes. The authors follow others in criticizing the Frémonts' efforts to subdue war-torn Missouri and emancipate its slaves prematurely. They also regret Jessie's famous stormy meeting with President Lincoln over war policy, while noting her pioneering role as a "female politician."

Not meant for specialists, this short biography skims over details and avoids extended analysis. The authors mention the 1820 controversy and compromise over slavery in Missouri, but neglect the famous division of the remaining Louisiana Territory between free and slave areas. Similarly, discussion of John's eventual emergence as the Republicans' first presidential candidate fails to stress the role repealing the Missouri Compromise line played in the notorious 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act. However, the authors' analysis of the difficulties surrounding John's command in Missouri summarizes the basic issues well, and they effectively sketch John's decline in fame and fortune and at least hint at the couple's marital tensions. Lastly, the authors tell movingly of how Jessie passed her final years without John but defiantly defending her departed mate.

Capably highlighting Jessie's prominent role as a woman, the authors naturally focus on the Frémont couple's importance to Missouri history. The University of Missouri Press should be congratulated for producing such an attractive and affordable volume that introduces readers to a famous family connected to their state. Readers from other states can also gain easy introduction to a captivating woman who deserves a better place in our nation's history. True to her role as a devoted wife of a past century, she will always be tied to the troubled life and often clouded career of her husband. Despite such failings, John and Jessie Frémont warrant the regard of today's public. A good place to begin would be to read this handy introductory volume.

Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics, and the Pennsylvania Campaign, by Kent Masterson Brown. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005. xv, 552 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer Terry L. Beckenbaugh is senior military analyst, Dynamics Research Corporation, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. His Ph.D. dissertation was "The War of Politics: Samuel Ryan Curtis, Race, and the Political/Military Establishment."

Whoever says that there is nothing new to write about regarding the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863) obviously has not read Kent Mas-

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