

often initiated by regimental, brigade, and division officers and, on occasion, by the rank and file. But even during the early years of the war, Hess notes, fortifications were used more often and in more advanced ways than has previously been understood.

One of the most important issues Hess addresses is the cause-and-effect relationship between the widespread use of the rifled musket and the proliferation of field fortifications. He argues that "continuous contact between opposing armies" had more to do with making the dirt fly than spinning projectiles. That assertion rests not only on his longtime study of fieldworks but is also grounded in his earlier research on the nature of Civil War combat. Although his conclusions are cogently argued and persuasive, they will undoubtedly generate debate over a question many believed was answered long ago.

Based on personal observations of surviving earthworks and a careful reading of battle reports, memoirs, and other primary sources, Hess succeeds in his goal of merging discussions of the construction of fieldworks with how officers and armies incorporated them into their battle plans. After 15 years of studying these issues and visiting hundreds of sites, Hess has produced an admirable, insightful, and important study that fills a critical gap in understanding the conduct of military operations during the war. It will likely whet the appetite of many scholars and buffs as they await the future volumes.

The John Deere Story: A Biography of Plowmakers John and Charles Deere, by Neil and Jeremy Dahlstrom. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2005. xix, 204 pp. Illustrations, timeline, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.00 cloth.

Reviewer Leo Landis is director of interpretation at Living History Farms.

No single plowmaker dominates American history like the name of John Deere. A Vermont blacksmith often credited in textbooks with developing the steel plow, Deere is a mythical figure in American agricultural history. Neil and Jeremy Dahlstrom seek to provide a more thorough and humanizing view of John and Charles Deere, the father and son responsible for the creation of Deere & Company.

Relying largely on resources in the Deere & Company Archives in Moline, Illinois, the Dahlstroms shed light on the personal characteristics of John and Charles Deere. According to the authors, John's ingenuity and Charles's business savvy, among other traits, fostered the growth of the company and established it as one of the major suppliers of agricultural machinery in the United States.

The authors explain that the project began as a biography of Charles Deere. They originally intended to steer clear of his father's story, but realized that "the story of one could not be told apart from that of the other" (ix). Thus what was first designed to be the story of Charles became a review of father and son that offers glimpses into both men's public lives and their efforts to expand the company and to protect it from competitors, disgruntled employees, and labor strife.

Preceding the review of the Deeres' lives is an overview of American agriculture and industrialism in the nineteenth century by David Vaught, a historian at Texas A&M University. After Vaught's introduction, the book consists of ten chapters. The first two recount John Deere's early life and his beginnings as a blacksmith, and include a summary of early failures in Vermont, his frustrating partnership with Leonard Andrus in Grand Detour, Illinois, and his ultimate removal to Moline. Next, readers learn of John Deere's multiple partnerships and restructuring of the business and his grooming of Charles to enter the family business. The authors argue that although John was able to learn from other plowmakers and create a successful plow, his impatience created disappointment and annoyance with a number of partners.

The Dahlstroms suggest that John's frustration with partners stemmed primarily from the partners' lack of vision. Deere looked forward and constantly sought to improve the company's products, while men such as John Tate argued that the customers "have to take what we make" (27). Charles is represented as a man of great acumen who worked as a tireless salesman, established a solid foundation for the company, and designed and organized the branch house system.

The work certainly provides an intriguing look at the lives of John and Charles Deere and the formative years of their company. But where the Dahlstroms might have demonstrated more critical analysis, they fail to follow up on their assertions or discuss the complexities of the post-Civil War Midwest. They fail to explain the partisan nature of the newspapers of the mid-1800s, or why Republicans such as John Deere would be subject to Democratic slurs. In addition, the text at times lacks broadmindedness and specificity and is without detailed documentation backing positions. For example, the chapter exploring John Deere's life as a politician asserts that Charles likely tried to "join the army on several occasions" (51) during the Civil War, but that his father's political connections and Charles's own role as a businessman protected him from an enlistment. This is a puzzling statement, and if any anecdotal material supports such a claim, it is not referenced in the notes. In an instance of a significant factual error, the Dahlstroms write that "International Harvester merged into Min-

neapolis-Moline Power Implement Company in 1929" (177). In fact, International Harvester remained in business as an independent company and the nation's largest tractor manufacturer into the 1970s.

The John Deere Story provides an excellent and concise overview of the lives of John and Charles Deere. It furnishes insight into the development of Moline and its relationship to Rock Island and Davenport, which along with Bettendorf formed the Quad Cities of Illinois and Iowa. Readers seeking a general understanding of the early history of John Deere and Company can now avoid the larger monograph by Wayne Broehl, *John Deere's Company*. However, those who are interested in a precise accounting of the details of the company's emergence and development should still consult Broehl's work.

Midwestern Landscape Architecture, edited by William H. Tishler. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2000. 256 pages. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$37.50 cloth, \$19.95 paper.

Reviewer Brian K. McCutchen is a historian/architectural historian for the Midwest Region of the National Park Service, headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska. He resides in Avoca, Iowa, with his wife and young son.

For generations, millions of Americans have visited the plethora of midwestern parks, gardens, cemeteries, planned communities, public spaces, and decorative, private landscapes of gentry, but perhaps few have given much thought to the heritage, science, and landscape architects that influenced and designed the Midwest's planned landscape. Contrary to popular stereotyping, great landscapes and landscape designers were not limited to the eastern United States and the older, cultured nations of Europe. The Midwest, too, was host to nationally, if not internationally, significant contributors to the field of landscape architecture. Thus, a volume such as *Midwestern Landscape Architecture* is long overdue, and noted professor of historic landscape architecture William H. Tishler has filled the void with an abundantly illustrated book with chapters written by some of the nation's foremost authorities on the topic.

Of the 13 featured designers, a few are nationally known, although their work is most often associated with East Coast landscapes. The other featured landscape architects are less well known, yet their contributions will prove fully recognizable, if not iconic, to many. Stylists of landscape philosophy and design such as Jens Jensen, Frederick Law Olmstead, Horace Cleveland, Elbert Peets, Ossian C. Simmonds, and William Le Baron Jenney (better known for introducing the skyscraper to America's built environment) share midwestern

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.