

clusions about the long-term political legacy of this era would benefit from additional explanation, especially since this is how he chooses to conclude his work.

Minor concerns aside, *The Children's Civil War* is an engaging, thought-provoking book. Marten sees the Civil War experience through fresh eyes, and adds significantly to our knowledge of the social history of that conflict. It is a useful accompaniment to the other available histories of the home front, and extends beyond the discussion of children's responses to, and experiences of, the war to include those of both fathers and mothers. As such, it is a book that will appeal to a wide audience. The book will interest academic and non-academic readers alike, and should be a treasure-trove for history teachers at all levels. Even those not well-versed in the Civil War's history will find the book quite accessible. It is also broad in geographic scope. The book is not specific to any region of the country, but includes material from throughout the United States. I highly recommend it.

*With Ballot and Bayonet: The Political Socialization of American Civil War Soldiers*, by Joseph Allan Frank. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1998. ix, 304 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$40.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY WALLACE HETTLE, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

In *With Ballot and Bayonet*, political scientist Joseph Allan Frank attempts to answer a central question for historians of the Civil War: why did men fight? Frank argues that Civil War soldiers participated with a high degree of political motivation in "people's armies." Although his thesis resembles that of James McPherson's recent *For Cause and Comrades*, the resemblance between the books is otherwise scant.

The unique contribution made by this book is in its strong comparative framework. Frank is well-versed in European military history and draws analogies between the American Civil War and the Napoleonic Wars. American soldiers, the author writes, brought with them the strengths and weaknesses of popular armies. Among the strengths was a degree of genuine enthusiasm on the part of the common soldier motivated by political conviction. But the popular, voluntary, nature of the troops also brought potential weaknesses, as troops on both sides sprang from an individualistic political culture that encouraged soldiers to question authority.

Frank has used an enormous number of letters—more than a thousand collections. To his credit, he goes beyond the large number of published letters and concentrates his energy on archival collections.

His wide reading of primary sources, some of them little used, allows him to provide vivid anecdotes. Included are many references to letters from highly motivated Iowa troops.

Nevertheless, this book is flawed in several important ways. First, Frank lumps all soldiers together, whether from the Union or Confederacy, and without much regard to region within the separate armies. The depth of confusion possible with this approach is evident when Frank uses the terms "Northerner" and "Unionist" interchangeably (34). Not all northerners supported the Union, and hundreds of thousands of white southerners did.

Most importantly, Frank seems insensitive to the very stuff of history: change and continuity over time. Inexplicably, the book draws primarily on letters written after 1863 to conclude, for example, that "more than 70 percent of my sample Union soldiers supported arming the black population" (54). This static percentage likely glosses over the sea change in Union opinion toward black troops as the war progressed. Reflection on how soldiers' ideas changed in the crucible of war would have improved this book immensely.

Finally, readers should be wary of the book's statistics on soldiers' opinions and motivations. Frank notes in his preface that he excluded from his samples soldiers who did not explicitly reflect on politics. Since, as Frank concedes, the majority of Civil War soldiers did not write about politics, the argument for strong political motivation and statistics on political opinion must be taken with a grain of salt.

Like *With Ballot and Bayonet*, McPherson's *With Cause and Comrades* and Gerald Linderman's *Embattled Courage* also draw heavily on soldiers' correspondence. Yet those books are more sensitive to the nuances of soldiers' letters and the transformations in soldiers' ideas as the war progressed. They remain the most important recent works on Civil War soldiers.

*The Graybeards: The Family of Major Lyman Allen during the American Civil War*, edited by Harriet Stevens. Iowa City: Press of Camp Pope Bookshop, 1998. 127 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, index. \$12.00 paper.

REVIEWED BY KENNETH LYFTOGT, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Iowa has its share of Civil War legends. One of them is the 37th Volunteer Infantry, known as the Iowa Graybeards, a regiment made up of men over 45 years old. The regiment was formed in 1862 as a means of relieving younger men from guard and garrison duty and making them available for combat. Beyond that brief description little is known

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