

Attie's thought-provoking and analytical study is based on a rich collection of individual and organizational papers and is a welcome addition to the far too scanty literature examining the contributions of women to the conflict and the wartime work of nationwide philanthropic organizations. Most studies of women in the Sanitary Commission have focused on its leaders. This study, on the other hand, provides a glimpse into the thoughts and circumstances of the thousands of ordinary women who donated to the cause. While demonstrating the importance of their contributions, Attie also shows that women acted intelligently to maintain control over the products of their domestic work.

Attie does an excellent job of analyzing what occurred in a Union-wide organization with a nationalist agenda, but such conflicts also occurred on the state level. Iowa is a case in point. Older studies as well as Elizabeth Leonard's recent *Yankee Women* (1994) have discussed the tensions that arose when the state's male sanitary leaders attempted to seize control of the fruits of soldiers' aid societies led by Annie Wittenmyer and other women. Their story is interesting and complex, and more could be done with this important aspect of Iowa history. Attie's well-reasoned and highly readable book could provide a useful analytical framework for such study.

The Children's Civil War, by James Marten. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. xi, 365 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY PAMELA RINEY-KEHRBERG, ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

The Children's Civil War, by James Marten, takes a new look at a conflict that has had more written about it than any other event in American history. Marten's approach to the Civil War is fresh and innovative, and serves to remind the reader that the conflict was experienced not just by soldiers on battlefields, but by all who lived through its four long years. It is not the story of drummer boys and underage soldiers, but of the millions of children who experienced the war as civilians. Using letters, diaries, reminiscences, and children's books, Marten brings together an impressive array of material to illuminate what had been a hidden corner of the war's history.

In six chapters, Marten discusses the many ways the Civil War affected children's lives. The war saturated the atmosphere, making it impossible for children to avoid the topic even if they had wanted to do so. It appeared in their textbooks and literature, even becoming a

part of their arithmetic problems. A southern textbook posed the question, "If one Confederate soldier can whip 7 yankees, how many soldiers can whip 49 yankees?" (57)

The war came to children by way of fathers, brothers, and uncles who went away to fight. In their letters, they told children of the progress of the war. Some fathers went so far as to tell their children that their actions were, in part, responsible for whether their father lived or died. Fathers were known to write home that misbehavior on their children's part brought the rebel bullets ever closer to them.

The war was present in small deprivations, such as straitened wartime birthday and Christmas celebrations. A slave on one plantation told the children that Santa would not be coming because the Yankees had shot him. The war came even closer, particularly in the South, by way of battles fought in backyards, troop movements that turned some into refugees, and the lack of food and supplies that left children hungry and without adequate clothing.

Children responded to war by way of fund-raising efforts, military drill, and later lives that reflected the concerns they absorbed while growing up at the edge of a life-changing conflict.

Marten does an admirable job of balancing his book between the North and the South, and between the experiences of white and African-American children. He points out that most northern children experienced the war from a distance, since most of the fighting and attendant deprivations focused on the South. In the North, the most common experience was of the family carrying on as best it could without adult male aid. Southern white children experienced a war that ranged from moderately to extremely uncomfortable, with many suffering terribly from hunger and cold and the perils of flight. For them, the painful realities of war often continued far into the succeeding decade. Those children facing the worst conditions were enslaved or newly freed African Americans. Many lived out the war as contrabands, moving with the troops and having very little in the way of either food, clothing, or shelter. For many African-American children, the war meant being newly freed, but without the resources that would allow their parents to provide for them.

Less convincing and less useful is Marten's assessment of the impact of the children's Civil War on the politics of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While it is easy to see that the experience of the Civil War and Reconstruction would have an important formative impact on the racial attitudes of southern politicians such as "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman and Tom Watson, it is more difficult to see how the Civil War years led to progressivism in others. Marten's con-

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.

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