

## Book Notices

*A Damned Iowa Greyhound: The Civil-War Letters of William Henry Harrison Clayton*, edited by Donald C. Elder III. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1998. xiii, 231 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY WILLIAM B. FEIS, BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY

William Henry Harrison Clayton, a native of Van Buren County, Iowa, joined the Nineteenth Iowa Volunteers in 1862 "to subdue this wicked rebellion" (130). In addition to wielding a musket, Clayton also took up a pen and left behind a remarkable collection of letters describing his experiences during the war. From the long hours in camp to the sheer terror of battle, Clayton's correspondence provides a glimpse into the world of the Nineteenth Iowa as it fought bugs, hunger, and rebels in the Western Theater. During ten months as a prisoner of war, he also experienced firsthand the desperate conditions in the South late in the war. Most interesting are the letters depicting the brutality of war, especially for civilians caught in its path, and those discussing wartime politics, including the regiment's reaction to the Emancipation Proclamation and their opinion of "Copperheads." Clayton takes the reader on an eventful and sometimes terrifying journey, but one that is worth the ride.

Clayton provides many fascinating insights into the war and does so with an easy narrative style that is enhanced by Donald Elder's judicious editing. A very readable and enlightening account, *A Damned Iowa Greyhound* is a welcome addition to the growing collection of published letters and diaries from the Civil War era. Each new discovery tells us a little more about the individuals for whom the war was reality, not merely an academic pursuit. *A Damned Iowa Greyhound* will be a welcome addition to the libraries of enthusiasts and scholars alike.

*Embracing Two Worlds: The Thorvald Muller Family of Kimballton*, edited by Barbara Lund-Jones and John W. Nielsen. Blair, NE: Lur Publications, 1998. xvii, 180 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$14.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY PETER L. PETERSEN, WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Thorvald and Mette Muller were Danish immigrants who early in this century settled in the small western Iowa town of Kimballton, near the

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