

Preece's personal odyssey tracing two of his family's Iowa ancestors and their experiences through four years of some of the fiercest engagements of the war is a different and engaging approach. As Preece reads from their personal diaries, he travels to and walks readers through each battle in which his great-grandfather, Douglas Preece, and his great-grandmother's brother, Daniel Ryan, fought.

What makes this historical tour particularly interesting is that one or the other of Preece's ancestors participated in virtually every significant battle of the Civil War in the western theater, including Sherman's March to the Sea, as well as being imprisoned at Andersonville, Georgia. Preece's account is a very twenty-first-century look at the Civil War, because in a "virtual reality" way, he has the reader visiting exactly where the units camped, fought, and died. The strength of his narrative is its broad appeal: it will inform the knowledgeable professional Civil War historian, while at the same time explaining and personalizing the roles played by ordinary Iowans in that conflict.

From Iowa to the Sea is not a scholarly work. The author makes no pretense to evaluate his ancestors' overall contribution to either each battle or the war in general. This is not, nor does it pretend to be, a general history of the war. It is a personal memoir. It is Tim Preece's *Roots*. Although we learn little of Iowa from 1861 to 1865, we learn much of what Iowans were made of at that time.

Fort Robinson and the American West, 1874–1899, by Thomas R. Buecker. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1999. xxvii, 265 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$40.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY J. THOMAS MURPHY, TEMPLE COLLEGE

To quell raids by troublesome Lakotas unhappy with reservation life, the U.S. Army established Camp Robinson near the Red Cloud Agency in northwest Nebraska in 1874. From that base, soldiers assumed responsibility for policing the agency and protecting the region. Although the outpost played a nominal role in the Sioux War of 1876, it was there that Crazy Horse, the Oglala leader, was imprisoned and killed. In 1878, because of its strategic location near the Lakota reservations, the camp became a permanent army installation. That same year, Fort Robinson served as a focal point in attempts to capture the Cheyenne bands of Dull Knife and Little Wolf and return them to Indian Territory. The fort continued to expand during the next two decades, and its troops, including "buffalo soldiers" of the Ninth Cavalry, patrolled the country and maintained order.

In recounting the story of Fort Robinson, Thomas R. Buecker, curator of the fort's museum, focuses on these events by presenting a well-researched and straightforward narrative of military operations conducted from the post. This is a conventional approach that runs counter to recent scholarly trends connecting western army posts with regional economic development, but with his emphasis on Fort Robinson as a military base, Buecker enhances our understanding of Native American resistance on the northern Great Plains and the army's role in the history of the American West. It is a valuable contribution.

Clermont, Fayette County, Iowa, by Jane Jurgens. Images of America. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 1999. 128 pp. Illustrations. \$18.99 paper.

REVIEWED BY MARY E. NOBLE, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES

As the series title, *Images of America*, implies, this book is primarily a collection of photographs and other illustrations the author has compiled from her own and other private collections as well as State Historical Society of Iowa collections. The result is a historical survey of this Turkey River town, known for its association with mill owner and Iowa governor William Larrabee. Jane Jurgens has drawn on earlier histories and residents' recollections for a brief introduction and nine chapters, each consisting of one or two paragraphs of text and several pages of pictures. Captions, which lack provenance, range from a few words to a substantial paragraph. The images of buildings, monuments, townsfolk, and such date from the 1860s to the 1990s, with most from the 1890s to the 1920s. Newspaper clippings, postcards, and other materials, such as the program for the 1903 Lincoln monument dedication, are also reproduced. The Larrabees are given a chapter, but their influence on the unique aspects of Clermont's commerce and culture also figures prominently in other chapters on local industries, institutions, and events.

The book is intended for "residents and history enthusiasts" (back cover) rather than scholars. It has no index or references beyond the acknowledgments. Major historical threads are briefly but well stated. The images are appealing in their variety, and although their quality is variable, most are at least moderately clear. Multiple views of some subjects make for interesting comparisons, but many are undated or approximately dated. Evident errors include what is probably a post-1900 postcard view dated "c. 1880" (14) and the caption for a Larrabee daughter's portrait (44) giving the same date for her marriage as the death date on her gravestone (94).

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