

*The Union Must Stand: The Civil War Diary of John Quincy Adams Campbell, Fifth Iowa Volunteer Infantry*, edited by Mark Grimsley and Todd D. Miller. Voices of the Civil War Series. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2000. xxiii, 267 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, index. \$38.00 cloth.

Reviewer Terry L. Beckenbaugh is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. His dissertation focuses on Civil War General Samuel Ryan Curtis and the military/political establishment.

Scholars of the American Civil War have a distinct advantage over historians of other eras. The past decade witnessed the publication of a number of diaries and journals by Civil War participants. The best of these accounts are valuable not just to Civil War historians but to cultural historians and lay readers as well. *The Union Must Stand* fits into this category. Campbell's extremely detailed journal follows him from his enrollment in July 1861 to his mustering out in November 1864, and it includes many letters to his hometown newspaper, the *Ripley Bee*, in Ripley, Ohio where he lived before moving to Jasper County, Iowa, in 1860.

The diary provides detailed descriptions of key western battles and campaigns, including New Madrid, Iuka, Corinth, the Vicksburg campaign, and Missionary Ridge. However, the life of a soldier is not all fighting. Campbell paints a vivid portrait of day-to-day army life, in which tedium was punctuated occasionally by the sheer terror of combat. Why the soldiers fought is a current topic of debate among Civil War historians. Campbell leaves no doubt why he fought: to preserve the Union by crushing the rebellion and to end slavery. By itself, his diary does not prove or disprove any historiographical theory, but it does give ammunition for those who argue that Civil War soldiers were not ignorant of political conditions. Campbell's antislavery and prohibitionist moralism did not win him friends in the Fifth Iowa, but it did keep him grounded amid the chaos of war. Although his views regarding the contrabands would be considered racist today—Campbell uses derogatory stereotypes common at the time to describe African Americans—he was an antislavery zealot. Campbell says that the war effort was not being prosecuted with enough vigor, and he theorizes that slavery degraded both the slaves and southern society as a whole.

*The Union Must Stand* is well edited, and the endnotes are copious. Amid a sea of published diaries and journals, this volume is distinguished by the clarity of Campbell's prose and the wealth of detail he provides. Iowa's many significant contributions to the war effort have given the state a rich Civil War history. *The Union Must Stand* enriches that history in a wonderful piece of bottom-up history.

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