

## THE ANNALS OF IOWA

cumstances. Thus active opposition to the war for the Union by deed or word became actual disloyalty or a grand delusion and probably both. Finally the author makes clear that for a generation after 1865 Iowa Democrats paid a heavy price for their failure to realize that during a great national crisis disloyalty can be a cardinal political sin. Anyone wishing to understand the delicate nature of loyalty in America during wartime will find Wubben's concluding chapter both illuminating and interesting.

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*Your Affectionate Husband, J. F. Culver*, edited by Leslie W. Dunlap.  
Iowa City, Iowa: Friends of the University of Iowa Libraries, 1979.  
pp. 466. \$15.00.

This book offers Americanists valuable insights into the Victorian mind in the Midwest. Captain Joseph F. Culver was only twenty-eight years old. He left his wife in Pontiac, Illinois while fighting for the Union cause during the Civil War. His great-grandson, Senator John Culver, has rendered a very valuable service in donating 233 wartime letters of Captain Culver to the University of Iowa libraries.

Leslie W. Dunlap, dean of library administration at the University of Iowa, has judiciously annotated the key concepts of Captain Culver's letters. His religious and moral convictions sustained him through many campaigns. The careful reader can follow war change since Culver marched under General Sherman. The letters selected were written between August 1862 and June 1865. The letters are quite detailed, revealing Culver's political outlook (he came around to supporting Lincoln's views) and essentially Victorian convictions. The editor's footnotes greatly aid the reader in evaluating the primary documents.

*Your Affectionate Husband* includes an introductory essay, extensive annotation, and a reliable index. It should provide a stimulating source of documentation. Soldiers in the Union cause wanted to win the war; Culver's self-revealing letters show how he articulated that winning desire.

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