Soldiers When They Go: The Story of Camp Randall, 1861-1865, by Carolyn J. Mattern. Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin for the Department of History, University of Wisconsin, 1981. pp. xi, 135. Notes, bibliography, index. $7.95.

Soldiers When They Go is a detailed chronological history of Camp Randall, a Civil War training camp located a mile and a half west of Madison, Wisconsin. Named after Wisconsin's first Civil War governor, Alexander W. Randall, it processed, equipped, and trained 70,000 Wisconsin troops from 1861 to the end of the war.

Because the Union War Department was unable to cope with the task of harnessing a massive war machine in the early years of the war, Northern war governors were forced to assume federal responsibility to expedite the recruitment, supply, and training of available manpower in their respective states. The history of Camp Randall from the recruitment of the 1st Wisconsin Regiment to the 52nd portrays the military evolution of men from civilian naivete to military realism. Camp Randall's first two years is a story of waste, mismanagement, excusable ignorance, and justifiable civilian pride. This, in turn, clashed with war-time military necessity and the unbounded patriotic enthusiasm of eager young men being drained away by chronic camp boredom, loneliness, discomfort, and the harsh realities of battle told to them by returning veterans.

By the middle of 1862 the organizational expertise of the state officials, coupled with the War Department assuming more responsibility, resulted in better training of the troops and management of the camp. As the war progressed the training periods became shorter in order to supply the constant demand for soldiers in all theaters of operation.

Carolyn J. Mattern's history of Camp Randall is reminiscent of Bell Irwin Wiley's two classics, *The Life of Billy Yank* and *The Life of Johnny Reb*. It is a daily routine of a Civil War soldier's basic training: what he wore, ate, thought, liked, disliked, his comforts, discomforts, his entertainments, religion, and the ingenuity he employed to solve the problems of camp life. Particularly interesting is the typical inter-relationships between the civilian population of Madison and the soldiers. The townspeople's early enthusiasm gave way to tolerance and finally settled with the "intruder in our midst" syndrome. There were some soldiers who found a home-away-from-home with a few Madison families,

however, the brawls, confrontations, and the soldier's hell-raising mirrored what was happening between other camps and towns in both the North and the South.

All training camps had their ethnic regiments but of particular interest in the Camp Randall story are the Scandinavian regiments and the disapproval their inherited life-style drew from the recruits whose social and cultural backgrounds were more commonplace and acceptable.

Camp Randall differed from typical training camps in that it was used for a short period of time as a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp. The attitudes of the trainees and the people of Madison are very enlightening and interesting.

The well-written and scholarly treatment coupled with a discerning use of primary sources makes *Soldiers When They Go* an exceptionally fine work in the area of local history. Furthermore, Mattern's timely referrals to the national scene give Camp Randall a deserved significance beyond the unwarranted provincialism which too often dominates local history.

LORAS COLLEGE THOMAS W. HURM

We Have All Gone Away, by Curtis Harnack. Ames: Iowa State University Press, 1981. pp. 188. Photographs. $6.95.

The title, *We Have All Gone Away*, reveals the theme Curtis Harnack, head of the Saratoga Falls, New York-based Yaddo foundation for the arts, develops in this story of his Iowa boyhood. His family, namely his widowed mother, saw education as the apparent key to future success and happiness. As Harnack remembers, "She understood that we must seek out like-minded individuals, who were to be found in larger towns and cities. . . . " The author understandably did not choose the life of a Hawkeye agrarian.

Harnack's autobiography revolves around a relatively prosperous farm near Remsen in Plymouth County during the New Deal years. The writer's experiences differed little from those of most other bright, hard-working lads who grew up on the rural Middle Border. Life offered the cycle of farm chores and a few special events—a summer fishing outing and a Christmas pagent. Included, too, are Harnack's sketches of his clan. His own immediate family lived with an aunt and uncle and their children. And an assortment of other relatives inhabited the immediate area. Their joys and sorrows are duly chronicled.