

Iowans Called To Valor, by Steve Meyer, Garrison, IA: Meyer Publishing, 1993. 128 pp. Illustrations, chronology, notes, references, index. \$13.60 paper.

REVIEWED BY JOHN VANDELLO, INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Steve Meyer's treatment of Iowa's commitment to the American Civil War is obviously born of a deep sense of pride in the 76,000 Iowans who were in uniform. He has given us a window through which we can view the everyday life of the common Iowa soldier.

The use of primary sources, such as letters, diaries, journals, and newspaper accounts, allows us to follow the less dramatic and more mundane day-to-day military operations of our ancestors. By following the enlistment and mustering process, the rigorous camp life, the never-ending drilling regimen, and finally the battlefield involvement, we are taken back to that time of loyalty and dedication that tested all Iowans. We are able to come face-to-face with the obstacles and pains that shook the idealism from those Iowa clerks and farmboys. And yet, through all the pain of war, the author continually elevates the reader to a sense of pride in the sacrifices reaped by Iowa's soldiers.

This easily read text is not a scholarly treatise on Iowa's Civil War involvement. And yet, because of the author's extensive research, we can glimpse the ordinary and the extraordinary Iowans who contributed to the valor that beckoned Iowans to the conflict. It is impossible to read this book without feeling a sense of kinship with the Iowa soldier. By taking us to the many Iowa sites of mustering, training, and marching, the author helps us feel Iowa's pride and fierce loyalty to the war effort.

Discovering Your Iowa Civil War Ancestry, by Steve Meyer. Garrison: Meyer Publishing, 1993. 63 pp. References, appendixes. \$10.50 paper.

REVIEWED BY KENNETH LYFTOCT, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

The front cover of Steve Meyer's book describes it as a "how to" book: a guide to finding one's Iowa Civil War ancestors. The description is accurate, providing one is seeking ancestors who were soldiers, not civilians. This is not a book about the Civil War, though there are several interesting anecdotal segments; it is a study guide. There are many reasons to find the Civil War interesting: some are drawn to its military history, others to its sociological importance, and many are lured by family history. Meyer acknowledges that family interest and leads his readers through a basic lesson in methodology. The approach

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