

*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

ignores the larger picture of the war itself, and Meyer is guilty of much overwriting, but each crucial source is addressed and explained. The book suffers from an amateurish layout, but anyone with a few facts, such as the name and regiment number of their particular subject, should achieve satisfactory results following Meyer's guidelines.

The book is of particular interest to Iowans, but the methodology is so basic and understandable that readers from other states will find it easy to adapt Meyer's advice to their own resources.

*Nineteenth Century Home Architecture of Iowa City*, by Margaret N. Keyes. Silver Anniversary Edition. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1993. xix, 171 pp. Illustrations, map, bibliography, indexes. \$12.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY JAN NASH, TALLGRASS HISTORIANS L.C.

The reissue of Margaret Keyes's 1967 book on nineteenth-century residential architecture in Iowa City is welcomed by all whose copies of the original edition are worn and dog-eared. This "silver anniversary edition" expands the text of the original book with research taken from Keyes's dissertation on an additional nineteen houses, and provides new information on several more. Keyes includes a new chapter devoted to current preservation efforts in Iowa City and her own concerns about the survival of historic architecture. She has updated photographs of houses demolished since 1967, and a town map and indexes have been added, immensely improving navigation through both the book and the town. Hang onto the original edition, however, because its photographs are far superior to the muddy images in the new edition. The original edition also contained a chapter on ecclesiastical architecture that has been eliminated from the new edition.

*Nineteenth Century Home Architecture of Iowa City* is a valuable reference tool for those interested in Iowa City's historic buildings. Impeccable original research and a clear analytical framework, plus excellent photographs, have made the book useful well beyond Iowa City. It serves as a model for the study of domestic architecture in other Iowa communities, and invites comparison of architecture between midwestern towns. Unfortunately, the revision missed the opportunity to bring the study more in line with now well-accepted American architectural classifications. Also, a short discussion of architectural *style* versus *vernacular* construction would have deepened the reader's understanding of these houses. Still, this work will undoubtedly remain the benchmark for the analysis of Iowa City's historic nineteenth-century residences. Now we need a similar study of its twentieth-century architecture.

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