

The Lyon Campaign in Missouri: Being a History of the First Iowa Infantry, by Eugene F. Ware. 1907. Reprint. Iowa City: Press of The Camp Pope Bookshop, 1991. xxxv, 383 pp. Illustrations, maps, appendixes, index. \$24.95 cloth.

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In 1907 Eugene F. Ware wrote *The Lyon Campaign in Missouri*, a memoir of his time in the First Iowa Infantry. This reprint marks the 130th anniversary of the regiment's sole battle, the Battle of Wilson's Creek. The book is a welcome readdition to Civil War source material. Its information about life in the army and its lively prose constitute its primary virtues. Its faults include those common to many memoirs: unevenness and sketchiness of material and occasional irrelevancies. One also suspects that Ware's 1907 ideas color his remembrances of the Civil War era.

In the book's first seven chapters, Ware describes conditions in Iowa, specifically in Burlington, during the 1840s and 1850s. This is the weakest section of the book and a real disappointment to the reader interested in Iowa history. The real strength of *The Lyon Campaign* begins in chapter eight, when Ware starts to cover the First Iowa's military service. These chapters draw their strength from the fact that they are based on a diary kept at the time; indeed, lengthy passages are simply copied verbatim from the diary. Most interesting is the uncommonly frank chronicle of a near collapse of the regiment's morale due to frustration over the incompetence of its senior officers, the boredom of army life, and the lack of military action. The ebb and flow of morale seen in this account is an aspect of military service that historians, in their zeal to understand military life, should give more consideration. Less valuable is Ware's preoccupation with the since discredited claim that the Battle of Wilson's Creek occurred after the regiment's term of service had expired.

The Lyon Campaign also includes discussions of money and banking before the Civil War, food in the army, and the Missourians' reactions to the Union army. Genealogists and others will appreciate the inclusion of a complete roster of the First Iowa Infantry. This new edition also has a useful index, a feature most memoirs lack. Unfortunately, the new introduction, which is very defensive in tone, makes no attempt to place Ware's memoir within current historiographical trends in the use of Civil War memoirs and diaries. In general, then, *The Lyon Campaign in Missouri* offers much to the historian interested in military service during the Civil War but significantly less to historians of Iowa.

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