

*Failed Ambition The Civil War Journals and Letters of Cavalryman Homer Harris Jewett*, edited by Tom Jewett. College Station, TX: Virtualbookworm.com Publishing Inc., 2004. 284 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$14.95 paper.

Reviewer Kenneth Lyftogt is a lecturer in the department of history, University of Northern Iowa. The most recent of his several books on Iowa and the Civil War is *Iowa's Forgotten General: Matthew Mark Trumbull* (2005).

*Failed Ambition* contains a Union cavalry soldier's collected letters and journal entries, edited by his grandnephew, Tom Jewett, who also published the book. Tom Jewett grew up in Des Moines in a home where a portrait of Homer Harris Jewett was prominently displayed in the family room. He edited the book as an attempt to get to know the man in the portrait.

Homer Harris Jewett saw service in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Louisiana, and his letters give insights into the war's western theater. Tom Jewett deserves credit for his extensive research; between the actual entries, notes, and index, everything is here. The book, however, is a shambles, filled with padding and poorly edited. For example, readers must search through page after page just to find out Homer Jewett's company and regiment when such information should be in the book's title or some other obvious place. The letters and journal entries are good primary sources and are well served by the footnotes. If readers can get by the clutter, they will find much value in the book.

*Daughters of the Union: Northern Women Fight the Civil War*, by Nina Silber. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005. 332 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$29.95 cloth.

Reviewer Barbara Cutter is associate professor of history at the University of Northern Iowa. She is the author of *Domestic Devils, Battlefield Angels: The Radicalism of American Womanhood, 1830-1865* (2003).

Nina Silber's *Daughters of the Union* is an important addition to scholarship on women in the Civil War era. In this relatively recent but burgeoning field, scholars of northern women have focused almost exclusively on the experiences of women who engaged directly in war work—either those who worked for local soldiers' aid organizations, or most often those who left their homes and traveled south to become hospital workers, teachers, laundresses, spies, or soldiers, or to join male relatives in the army. Little attention has been paid to the experiences and the meanings of the war for the majority of northern women who did not leave their homes to engage in war work. *Daughters of the Union* fills much of that gap. Its author uses evidence from letters and