

Although DeRamus's prose is somewhat overdone, *Forbidden Fruit* puts flesh on enslaved peoples' bones and acknowledges their hearts and minds as well. It gives them the central role they deserve in the Underground Railroad's genesis and development. It shows the value of accessing black communities for historical research. Finally, by depicting loving relationships and aid that resisted unjust laws and crossed the color line, DeRamus helps document the history of a better world.

*Iowa's Forgotten General: Matthew Mark Trumbull*, by Kenneth L. Lyftogt. Iowa City: Press of the Camp Pope Bookshop, 2005. xi, 127 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$10.00 paper.

Reviewer Patrick G. Bass is professor of history at Morningside College. He is the author of "The American Civil War and the Idea of Civil Supremacy over the Military" (*Proteus*, 2000).

Local history is often a labor of love, particularly when biographical in nature. *Iowa's Forgotten General: Matthew Mark Trumbull*, by Kenneth L. Lyftogt, is no exception. This work provides a short overview of the life of English radical immigrant, early Iowa attorney, and Civil War officer M. M. Trumbull, an important figure in Iowa's Cedar Valley in the mid-nineteenth century. Lyftogt's study primarily concerns Trumbull's career as a Union officer, tracing his rise from the volunteer captain who raised his own company in Butler County in 1861 to his mustering out of the service in 1866 as a brevet major general of volunteers.

Trumbull's story is most engaging when Lyftogt narrates his roles in the battles of Blue Mills Landing, Shiloh, and Corinth in 1861 and 1862; the writing at those points is energetic, and the images are vivid. The account is also enlightening about partisanship, individual political ambitions, and the stakes of command and placement for Union volunteer officers. Lyftogt's account of the infighting and vicious personal rivalries among company and field grade officers, particularly in his discussion of Trumbull's early days in the Third Iowa Volunteer Infantry regiment, for example, is a fine case study of a recognized but understudied issue of the war. His brief analysis of the major roles of local loyalties and their effects on unit function and command, as those operated in the Third Iowa Infantry and the Ninth Iowa Cavalry, is also interesting.

Other interesting tidbits about Iowa and prominent Iowans in the 1850s and 1860s emerge in the narrative, including revealing observations about Dubuque, Cedar Falls, Samuel Kirkwood, William Stone, William B. Allison, and John Scott, demonstrating Lyftogt's mastery of the inner workings of the spoils-oriented politics of the late Jacksonian

era. The author, as in his other works on Iowa during this era, also shows just how much can be gleaned from avid research into local newspaper archives and local memoir collections, particularly when combined with forays into larger national archival materials.

Despite its many virtues, *Iowa's Forgotten General* has flaws that detract from the value of the work. Importantly, readers never really get to know the protagonist. Trumbull's overall egalitarian radicalism is mentioned often, but not clearly analyzed, particularly in terms of its effects on his military leadership effectiveness and style; his personal life, and its broader effects, remains mysterious; and his motivations and personality remain hidden. Lyftogt is too dependent on Trumbull's own autobiography, without independent corroboration, for much of the book's content. His research, beyond the local, is not thorough; neither does it display sound source criticism. For example, he underutilizes the *War of the Rebellion* in his chapters on the Civil War, and his use of out-of-date and inappropriate (for his purposes) secondary accounts of Chartism and the European scene in the early nineteenth century is unsound. The author's prose style is uneven in clarity and quality. Lastly, there are annoying spelling errors and minor errors of fact, such as the misspelling of Max Lerner's name in the bibliography (120) and the mistaken name assigned to Elmer (not Ephraim) Ellsworth (38).

Kenneth Lyftogt's *Iowa's Forgotten General* is admirable in many ways and always interesting, but its subject awaits a better treatment.

*"Behind Bayonets": The Civil War in Northern Ohio*, by David D. Van Tassel, with John Vacha. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2006. x, 125 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth.

Reviewer Donald C. Elder III is professor of history at Eastern New Mexico University. His latest book is *Love Amid Turmoil: The Civil War Letters of William and Mary Vermilion* (2003).

About 40 years ago, the city of Cleveland began to experience problems that tarnished its image. That denigration is unfortunate, because Cleveland has played an important role in the development of the United States, especially in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Indeed, Cleveland and its surrounding environs helped shape the sectional debate in the decade preceding the Civil War, contributed mightily to the Union war effort during the conflict, and experienced profound change as a result in the postwar period.

*"Behind Bayonets."* *The Civil War in Northern Ohio* helps to put this crucial aspect of Cleveland's history in perspective. David Van Tassel