

of congenial minglings and peaceful accommodations" was "erased" (211). Yet, with this change in focus to a bounded state, the discussion is less rich than what precedes it, perhaps in part because it moves away from the earlier emphasis on rivers. Aron also increasingly emphasizes politics and sectional negotiations and gives less consideration to the cultural interactions and negotiations on the ground than he had in previous chapters. Given this discontinuity with his earlier discussions, it is not always possible to see the full implications of the trajectory he traces.

Together, *American Confluence* and *The Boundaries Between Us* contribute to a kind of greater midwestern history for the mid-eighteenth century and into the nineteenth century. Both illustrate the importance of including and understanding the range of actors in a frontier story. Giving full consideration to that variety allows these books to illuminate the richness and possibility of frontier relations, even as neither glosses over the tensions and conflicts also to be found there.

*Forbidden Fruit: Love Stories from the Underground Railroad*, by Betty DeRamus. New York: Atria Books, 2005. xiv, 269 pp. Illustrations, bibliographies, index. \$25.00 cloth, \$14.00 paper.

Reviewer Deborah A. Lee is an independent scholar and public historian currently working with the Virginia Center for Digital History and The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership.

Among the most compelling stories of the Underground Railroad are those of enslaved people who, when faced with separation from their beloveds, daringly eloped to freedom in the northern United States and Canada. Award-winning journalist Betty DeRamus turned her investigative skills and poetic sensibilities to this neglected topic, including also biracial couples. She tells the stories for a general as well as scholarly audience. She read primary and secondary accounts, explored historic sites, and interviewed descendants and local historians. The chapters are documented by separate bibliographies.

Most of the stories take place in central North America; one, chapter eight, unfolds largely in Iowa. Henry Pyles, a free mulatto, lived with his enslaved wife, Charlotta, on the farm of her owner in Kentucky. Frances Gordon inherited Charlotta and some of her children, but Frances's brothers kidnapped and sold one child and sued for control of her assets. Frances fled with the family to Keokuk, Iowa, where she freed the enslaved Pyleses and lived close by. In the 1850s the Pyleses became Underground Railroad agents.

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