

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 For example, he underutilizes the *War of the Rebellion* in his chapters on the Civil War, and his use of out-of-date and inappropriate (for his purposes) secondary accounts of Chartism and the European scene in the early nineteenth century is unsound.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

began the project, but John Vacha completed the manuscript after Van Tassel died in 2000. Vacha obviously took pains to ensure that his writing style conformed to that of the original author.

"Behind Bayonets" begins with a proud moment in Cleveland's history: the dedication in September 1860 of a monument dedicated to Oliver Hazard Perry, the victor of the War of 1812's Battle of Lake Erie. In the prologue Van Tassel and Vacha place this event in the context of the growth of the city, and show how the dedication was as much a celebration of the growing stature of the town as it was a celebration of the naval hero.

After looking back that September day to a proud moment in the nation's past, the residents of Cleveland found their attention rudely shifted to the present two months later, when voters went to the polls to select a new president. Cleveland and the surrounding area supported Abraham Lincoln, with all but two counties in northeastern Ohio giving him a majority. In the first chapter of the book, Van Tassel and Vacha explore this period, noting how incidents in the state of Ohio involving enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law had indicated the fiery emotions that would flare up during the 1860 presidential campaign. In the second chapter, the authors examine Cleveland's response to the outbreak of hostilities in 1861. In the third chapter they discuss northeastern Ohio's military contributions, and then, in the fourth, turn their attention to how the people at home supported the Union cause. Chapter five focuses on how the war affected the political and economic landscape of northeastern Ohio. The book concludes with an examination of how Cleveland chose to commemorate the contributions of the Union volunteers from the area through the construction of a Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument.

Van Tassel and Vacha write effectively, but they allow the participants—both supporters and opponents of the Union war effort—to speak for themselves whenever possible. In addition, the book includes photographs and illustrations that effectively capture Cleveland and its surroundings during the Civil War era. It is thus an interesting book just to glance through as well as to read.

That said, a few minor points of caution should be noted. First, this is essentially "top down" history, told from the vantage point of those who held, or would eventually assume, power. And the book does have an occasional error, such as having Rutherford B. Hayes writing from West Virginia in 1861, two years before it became a state. But as a whole, *"Behind Bayonets"* represents a very successful effort to depict an area that played an important part in, and found itself transformed by, the Civil War.