

The Annals of Iowa

Volume 66, Numbers 3 & 4
Summer/Fall 2007



A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF HISTORY

In This Issue

J. L. ANDERSON analyzes the letters written between Civil War soldiers and their farm wives on the home front. In those letters, absent husbands provided advice, but the wives became managers and diplomats who negotiated relationships with kin and neighbors to provision and shelter their families and to preserve their farms.

J. L. Anderson is assistant professor of history and assistant director of the Center for Public History at the University of West Georgia.

DAVID BRODNAX SR. provides the first detailed description of the role of Iowa's African American regiment, the 60th United States Colored Infantry, in the American Civil War and in the struggle for black suffrage after the war.

David Brodnax Sr. is associate professor of history at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois.

TIMOTHY B. SMITH describes David B. Henderson's role in securing legislation to preserve Civil War battlefields during the golden age of battlefield preservation in the 1890s.

Timothy B. Smith, a veteran of the National Park Service, now teaches at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Front Cover

Milton Howard (seated, left) was born in Muscatine County in 1845, kidnapped along with his family in 1852, and sold into slavery in the South. After escaping from his Alabama master during the Civil War, he made his way north and later fought for three years in the 60th U.S. Colored Infantry. For more on Iowa's African American regiment in the Civil War, see David Brodnax Sr.'s article in this issue. Photo from Putnam Museum of History and Natural Sciences (with thanks to Craig R. Klein).

Editorial Consultants

Rebecca Conard, Middle Tennessee State University

Kathleen Neils Conzen, University of Chicago

William Cronon, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Robert R. Dykstra, State University of New York at Albany

R. David Edmunds, University of Texas at Dallas

H. Roger Grant, Clemson University
William C. Pratt, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Glenda Riley, Ball State University
Malcolm J. Rohrbough, University of Iowa
Dorothy Schwieder, Iowa State University

The Annals of Iowa

Third Series, Vol. 66, Nos. 3, 4
Summer/Fall 2007
Marvin Bergman, editor

Contents

- 241 The Vacant Chair on the Farm:
 Soldier Husbands, Farm Wives,
 and the Iowa Home Front, 1861-1865
 J. L. Anderson
- 266 “Will they Fight? Ask the Enemy”:
 Iowa’s African American Regiment
 in the Civil War
 David Brodnax Sr.
- 293 The Politics of Battlefield Preservation:
 David B. Henderson
 and the National Military Parks
 Timothy B. Smith.
- 321 Book Reviews and Notices
- 357 New on the Shelves
- 363 Index to Volume 66
-

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF HISTORY FOUNDED IN 1863
Copyright 2007 by the State Historical Society of Iowa
ISSN 0003-4827

Book Reviews and Notices

- 321 CAROLYN PODRUCHNY, *Making the Voyageur World: Travelers and Traders in the North American Fur Trade*, by Patrick J. Jung
- 322 SABINE FREITAG, *Friedrich Hecker: Two Lives for Liberty*, by Alison Clark Efford
- 324 BRIAN R. DIRCK, ED., *Lincoln Emancipated: The President and the Politics of Race*, by Stacy Pratt McDermott
- 325 JENNIFER L. WEBER, *Copperheads: The Rise and Fall of Lincoln's Opponents in the North*, by Terry A. Barnhart
- 327 ROBERT K. DEARMENT, *Ballots and Bullets: The Bloody County Seat Wars of Kansas*, by John von Tersch
- 329 STEVEN R. KINSELLA, *900 Miles from Nowhere: Voices from the Homestead Frontier*, by Lori Ann Lahlum
- 331 DONNA R. GABACCIA AND VICKI L. RUIZ, EDS., *American Dreaming, Global Realities: Rethinking U.S. Immigration History*, by Terrence J. Lindell
- 333 MARK ALDRICH, *Death Rode the Rails: American Railroad Accidents and Safety, 1828–1965*, by John Williams-Searle
- 335 CARLA YANNI, *The Architecture of Madness: Insane Asylums in the United States*, by Jane Simonsen
- 336 RICHARD L. LAEL ET AL., *Evolution of a Missouri Asylum: Fulton State Hospital, 1851–2006*, by Matthew Gambino
- 338 T. LINDSAY BAKER, *American Windmills: An Album of Historic Photographs*, by James R. Shortridge
- 340 JOHN J. FRY, *The Farm Press, Reform, and Rural Change, 1895–1920*, by Kurt E. Leichtle
- 341 LUCIAN NIEMEYER, ED., *Images of a Vanished Era, 1898–1924: The Photographs of Walter C. Schneider*, by Shirley Teresa Wajda
- 343 ROSEMARY FEURER, *Radical Unionism in the Midwest, 1900–1950*, by David M. Anderson
- 345 JONATHAN KASPAREK, *Fighting Son: A Biography of Philip F. La Follette*, by John D. Buenker
- 347 PENELOPE A. LEFEW-BLAKE, *Fort Des Moines*, by Michael W. Vogt
- 348 CATHERINE E. RYMPH, *Republican Women: Feminism and Conservatism from Suffrage through the Rise of the New Right*, by Linda Van Ingen
- 350 GREGORY A. BARNES, *A Biography of Lillian and George Willoughby, Twentieth Century Quaker Peace Activists*, by Bill Douglas
- 351 SANFORD D. HORWITT, *Feingold: A New Democratic Party*, by Glen Jeansonne and David Lührssen
- 353 DAVID MENDELL, *Obama: From Promise to Power*, by Glen Jeansonne and David Lührssen
- 354 KATHERINE FISCHER, *Dreaming the Mississippi*, by Patrick Nunnally
- 355 KEN ZONTEK, *Buffalo Nation: American Indian Efforts to Restore the Bison*, by Gregory J. Dehler
- 356 JOHN BELDON SCOTT AND RODNEY P. LEHNERTZ, *The University of Iowa Guide to Campus Architecture*, by Loren N. Horton

Editor's Perspective

THE THREE FEATURE ARTICLES in this issue anticipate an important anniversary that is fast approaching: The year 2011 will mark the beginning of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. At a time when understanding how Americans remember their past in public commemorations and at public sites is a rich topic in historical scholarship, we can anticipate some lively discussion of how we will commemorate this significant historical milestone.

Already, in 2007, the 82nd Iowa General Assembly appropriated funds to enable the State Historical Society of Iowa to begin planning for the Civil War sesquicentennial. And a preliminary planning committee, representing a variety of interest groups and academic institutions from across the state, has met to discuss possible activities. In broad terms, the committee proposed to make education a primary focus of sesquicentennial activities; to care for existing Civil War monuments, including the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Des Moines, and to establish additional Civil War Heritage Sites; to preserve endangered Civil War records, such as muster rolls, manuscripts, out-of-print books, and photographs; and to publish some lasting products that will increase the public's knowledge of Iowa's history and participation in the Civil War.

It is my hope that the three articles in this issue will mark a headstart on that last goal. Additional articles in upcoming issues promise further analysis of Iowa's earlier efforts to commemorate the Civil War. During the centennial of the Civil War, a half-century ago, scholarly work focused on providing detailed accounts of various Civil War battles in which Iowans were involved. It appears likely that today's scholars will give greater attention to the effect of the war on groups largely overlooked the last time the war was commemorated, such as women, African Americans, and dissenters (Copperheads). They will also take note of how earlier generations commemo-

rated the war. Is it too much to hope that some of the analysis of the issues those earlier generations addressed (or neglected) might inform the deliberations of those who are assigned the task of devising appropriate ways to encourage the present generation to remember the Civil War?

Curator William Johnson of the State Historical Society of Iowa is spearheading the society's efforts to commemorate the war. To seek information about those plans or to provide input, contact him via e-mail at Bill.Johnson@iowa.gov.

—Marvin Bergman, editor