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In This Issue

TONY KLEIN, a high school social studies teacher at Estherville-Lincoln Central High School, compares and contrasts Civil War commemorations – Memorial Day observances, GAR encampments, and monuments – in Keokuk and Sioux City. He argues that Keokuk’s commemorations, based on the significant role that community played in the Civil War, followed national patterns of Civil War commemoration as its citizens remembered and mourned the dead, honored surviving veterans, and celebrated the city’s Civil War history. Sioux City, with little direct experience of the Civil War, commemorated the war as a means to celebrate westward expansion; it enabled liberty-seeking and patriotic people to move west to places like Sioux City and prosper.

BRIAN EDWARD DONOVAN, a Ph.D. candidate in American history at the University of Iowa, describes how the Iowa Soldiers’ home secured the political support from the Iowa legislature that it needed to survive financially by requiring the veterans it cared for to display themselves as wounded warriors – that is, to perform their disability by marching in uniform and living under military discipline.

Front Cover

The National Cemetery in Keokuk (established in 1862 but pictured here in about 1940) is Iowa’s only National Cemetery. It is an important part of Keokuk’s Civil War legacy. For the impact of Keokuk’s Civil War legacy on the ways it commemorated the Civil War – and for the ways its commemorations contrasted with those in Sioux City – see Tony Klein’s article in this issue. Photo from State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.

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Contents

- 291 Memorializing Soldiers
 or Celebrating Westward Expansion:
 Civil War Commemoration
 in Sioux City and Keokuk, 1868–1938
 Tony Klein
- 323 Like “Monkeys at the Zoo”:
 Politics and the Performance of Disability
 at the Iowa Soldiers’ Home, 1887–1910
 Brian Edward Donovan
- 347 Slavery, Emancipation, and Reconstruction
 in the Midwest: A Review Essay
 Leslie Schwalm
- 352 Book Reviews and Notices
- 371 New on the Shelves
- 373 Index
-

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF HISTORY FOUNDED IN 1863
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Review Essay

- 347 CHRISTOPHER P. LEHMAN, *Slavery in the Upper Mississippi Valley, 1787–1865: A History of Human Bondage in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin*
HUGH DAVIS, “We Will Be Satisfied with Nothing Less”: *The African American Struggle for Equal Rights in the North during Reconstruction*
by Leslie Schwalm

Book Reviews and Notices

- 352 ROBERT MORGAN, *Lions of the West, Heroes and Villains of the Westward Expansion*, by David A. Walker
- 354 JAMES JOSEPH BUSS, *Winning the West with Words: Language and Conquest in the Lower Great Lakes*, by Stephen Warren
- 356 MICHAEL DICKEY, *The People of the River’s Mouth: In Search of the Missouri Indians*, by Thomas J. Lappas
- 357 COLETTE A. HYMAN, *Dakota Women’s Work: Creativity, Culture, and Exile*, by Catherine J. Denial
- 359 TOM JONES ET AL., *People of the Big Voice: Photographs of Ho-Chunk Families by Charles Van Schaick, 1879–1942*, by Jane Simonsen
- 360 NICOLE ETCHESON, *A Generation at War: The Civil War Era in a Northern Community*, by Kenneth L. Lyftogt
- 362 JON K. LAUCK ET AL., EDS., *The Plains Political Tradition: Essays on South Dakota Political Culture*, by Michael Schuyler
- 364 CYRIL ROBINSON, *Marching with Dr. King: Ralph Helstein and the United Packinghouse Workers of America*, by Bruce Fehn
- 366 JOHN A. JAKLE AND KEITH A. SCULLE, *Remembering Roadside America: Preserving the Recent Past as Landscape and Place*, by Mary Anne Beecher
- 368 CALLIE MARSH, *A Lively Faith: Reflections on the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conseroative)*; and DON AND LOIS LAUGHLIN, *Friends for a Lifetime: The Saga of a Sixty-Three Year Quaker Love Affair*, by Bill R. Douglas
- 369 CHRISTOPHER R. ROSSI, ED., *David Plowden’s Iowa*, by Mary Noble