

*Land with Blood: A Biography of John Brown* (1970, 1984), a work in the tradition of Villard notable for "emphasizing the power of Calvinist Christianity in Brown's life" (156) and for demonstrating Malin "to be grossly biased against Brown" (157). Near the end of that chapter, Petersen discusses *John Brown's Holy War* (2000), a PBS documentary film that in ninety minutes barely manages to mention that John Brown ever visited Iowa.

Dorothy Schwieder has aptly characterized Iowa as "the Middle Land," and so it is as well in the life and legend of John Brown. Although he seems to have been in Iowa a half-dozen times between the fall of 1855 and the winter of 1858–59, it was the "middle land" across which he traveled from the violence of "Bleeding Kansas" to the raid on Harper's Ferry. Both contemporaries and posterity have been mesmerized by those dramatic events and have neglected the stern, Bible-quoting abolitionist who "wherever he lived . . . aided in the work of guiding fugitive slaves to freedom under the North Star" (4). Petersen's brief summary of Brown's trip across Iowa with eleven fugitive slaves (twelve, counting an infant born in Kansas) from Missouri in the winter of 1858–59 is essentially accurate, although he incorrectly locates Josiah B. Grinnell in Springdale in 1859 rather than in his namesake town of Grinnell.

Iowa readers will find in Petersen's book an elegantly written introduction to the historical, literary, and artistic impact of John Brown and his legend on his own and subsequent generations, but will need to look elsewhere for the full story of John Brown in Iowa. One classic account of a century ago, incorrectly cited by Petersen (58, n. 44), is Irving B. Richman (not "Richmond"), *John Brown among the Quakers, and Other Sketches* (1904).

*Dear Catharine, Dear Taylor: The Civil War Letters of a Union Soldier and His Wife*, edited by Richard L. Kiper. Modern War Studies. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2002. xii, 448 pp. Illustrations, maps, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewer Kenneth L. Lyftogt is a lecturer in history at the University of Northern Iowa. He is the author of *From Blue Mills to Columbia: Cedar Falls and the Civil War* (1993) and editor of *Left for Dixie: The Civil War Diary of John Rath* (1993).

The Civil War lends itself equally to history, fiction, poetry, and music. America's best writers have used their talents in service of that conflict. They can do so because they believe that they know the people of the time and understand their tragedy and their glory. They know them because so many of those involved in the war were literate people,

letter writers and keepers of diaries, and their words have been respectfully handed down through the generations.

*Dear Catherine, Dear Taylor* is a valuable addition to the many edited collections of Civil War letters. It is valuable for two reasons. First, it is one of the few collections that contain both sides of the marital correspondence. Letters from wives of Civil War soldiers are rare; those from their children are rarer still. This collection has all three, the husband/father off at war, and a wife and daughter writing to him from Iowa. Second, the soldier, Taylor Peirce, served in the 22nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry, one of the few Iowa units to serve in Virginia. Iowa readers will especially enjoy the sense of Iowa pride and western swagger expressed in a letter written aboard a Virginia steamboat (in July 1864) when the 22nd Iowa is transferred east to serve in the famous Army of the Potomac. "I am glad I do not belong to an eastern Regt. The soldiers get no better treatment than brutes. Their officers are generally pimps and Saloon keepers. . . . They had one of our men up for some trifling offense the 1st morning after we went on board and as the Iowa boys were not used to that kind of treatment we turned in and compelled them to release him. . . . So they have been quite civil to us ever since and when they see any of the Iowa boys coming they stand aside and let us pass" (242-43).

Editor Richard L. Kiper, best known for his biography of General John A. McClernand, a much maligned Civil War figure in need of a biographer, has done a thorough job of research and placing the letters in an understandable context. His introduction is so thorough that the letters almost become endnotes. (He might have let readers discover a few things for themselves.) His work, which complements the transcription by Donna B. Vaughn, helps to make this book a must for those who want the words of ordinary family members caught up in the great struggle.

*The Death of Reconstruction: Race, Labor, and Politics in the Post-Civil War North, 1865-1901*, by Heather Cox Richardson. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001. xvi, 312 pp. Notes, index. \$39.95 cloth.

Reviewer Wallace Hettle is associate professor of history at the University of Northern Iowa. He is the author of *The Peculiar Democracy: Southern Democrats in Peace and Civil War* (2001).

Heather Cox Richardson has written an engaging and important book. In *The Death of Reconstruction*, she examines sources reflecting northern public opinion in order to examine the ideological underpinnings of Reconstruction's demise. While Richardson never minimizes the im-

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