

dition of his oxen, the accuracy of guidebooks, and the availability of potable water. Cholera posed the greatest danger for emigrants in 1849, and Howell witnessed its devastating effects as an epidemic followed wagons westward. Because of such dangers and the weariness of trail life, Howell expressed relief upon reaching California, but remarked that overland travel was "not so bad as we had anticipated" (157).

In presenting Howell's diaries, the editors wisely juxtaposed each entry so readers could compare his original version with the rewritten one. As a result, the parallel entries present a complete picture of his trail experience and offer a glimpse of Howell's memory of events after twenty-three years. On June 21, 1849, for example, he seemed distressed that his company of emigrants had decided to separate, but in retrospect, the breakup assumed an expression of independence that he represented as "every man his own Captain" (32).

Howell was a thorough and thoughtful chronicler of life on the trail, and anyone interested in the overland experience will be fascinated by his narrative. The diaries also supply information about other emigrant companies and locations of various cut-offs. To enhance Howell's story, the editors provide an introduction, maps showing each segment of his trip, and helpful footnotes that demonstrate a superb knowledge of trail lore and western history. If subsequent volumes published by the Oregon-California Trails Association are done as well as this one, the Emigrant Trails series will be a success.

To Appomattox and Beyond: The Civil War Soldier in War and Peace, by Larry M. Logue. American Way Series. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 1996. xiv, 168 pp. Bibliographical essay, index. \$22.50 cloth.

Soldier Boy: The Civil War Letters of Charles O. Musser, 29th Iowa, edited by Barry Popchock. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1995. 260 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY KENNETH LYFTOGT, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Larry M. Logue's *To Appomattox and Beyond* and Barry Popchock's *Soldier Boy* represent two methods of understanding the people of an earlier time: the analysis of events and characters within their historical context and the presentation of primary sources.

To Appomattox and Beyond is a bold attempt to explain just about everything about the Civil War soldier from enlistment to life in the old-age military hospitals. Such an attempt carries with it a certain futility. Is it possible to explain everything from motivation to conduct? Obviously not. All one can do is present and defend certain key theses. This Logue does very well, hitting the reader with one

issue after another, each one worthy of a treatise of its own. For example, Union troops, according to Logue, were motivated by a culture that emphasized self-control, in the home and especially on the job. Military service became an extension of the northern work ethic. "The concern with self-control that was so prominent a feature of northern society appears repeatedly in the writings of Union soldiers. They longed to achieve self-discipline" (13). Southern soldiers, on the other hand, represented a "society that prepared white men to give orders, not take them" and reserved for themselves "the right of private judgment" (59). This made southern troops less disciplined than northern soldiers.

Anyone familiar with the standard bibliography on the subject will recognize Logue's reliance on theses and evidence advanced by previous scholars. Logue does not attempt to present the arguments in his book as totally original; he is, in fact, very generous and professional in letting readers know what ideas were originally offered by which authors.

The strength of Logue's work is not its originality, but its breadth. He manages to advance and defend dozens of key points concerning the most important aspects of soldiers' lives, not only in the war but also in the years after the war. Logue's work reflects a thorough knowledge of the scholarship on his subject and should be appreciated by both students of the Civil War and general readers.

There are certain limitations to the book. Those looking for something unique to Iowa will be disappointed. Logue defines his subjects as northern or southern soldiers, but there is no analysis of regional differences within the two categories. Further, his many theses are too lightly defended to be accepted without consulting the sources he used in preparing the book. Such necessary follow-up is a bit difficult using the bibliographical essay included here; readers would have been better served with a traditional alphabetical bibliography.

To Appomattox and Beyond is an example of scholarly analysis. *Soldier Boy* is an example of the presentation of a primary source, the edited letters of an Iowa soldier. The strength of any such publication relies on two things: the quality of the original documents themselves, and the quality of the editing. *Soldier Boy* ranks near the top on both counts. Barry Popchock has done a first-class job as editor. He has provided the necessary personal biographical information on his subject, Charles O. Musser of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and on the man's regiment, the 29th Iowa Volunteer Infantry. There may not be as many notes as some might prefer, but most necessary research has been done: readers are not left totally on their own.

Musser's service with the 29th Iowa Infantry represents an aspect of the Civil War that receives too little attention, that of the Trans-Mississippi. The war is all too often seen as happening in the eastern theater, or with General William Sherman in the West, with the valuable contributions of soldiers in other theaters being ignored. *Soldier Boy* does much to rectify this. The hardships, deprivations, danger, and loneliness of the Civil War soldier existed as much in the Trans-Mississippi as anywhere else, and Musser's letters are an invaluable source to document such experiences.

Musser is a good example of an Iowa volunteer—proud of his cause, loyal to his comrades, and hostile to those he believes have not supported the cause or the soldiers. He also carries with him the negative aspects of many Union soldiers who fought against slavery but found it difficult to see African Americans as equals: "i never did like the darky, and you may believe i do not now" (25). In spite of his prejudice, Musser was forced to acknowledge that the war was the African Americans' war, too. On the then controversial subject of arming African Americans, Musser wrote, "The arming of Negroes for Soldiers is now considered by all or a large majority of the boys as a necessity, and they go in Strong for it. for my part i say arm every nigger of them and let them fight, for they need no force . . . to make them fight. I know they will fight and like demons, too. they know their fate if taken as prisoners" (58).

Soldier Boy is a first-rate addition to both the Iowa bibliography of the Civil War and the nation's. It is exactly the kind of firsthand account that scholars such as Larry M. Logue will be using for their analytical studies for years to come.

Fire Within: A Civil War Narrative from Wisconsin, by Kerry A. Trask. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1995. xii, 279 pp. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, notes, index. \$30.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY KENNETH LYFTOGT, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Civil War scholarship has gradually shifted from a major emphasis on generals and strategy to a merging of military and social history. The home front has become as important as the campaign tent. It is a natural combination, for the story of the nation's greatest tragedy took place in local communities as well as on the battlefield. Each soldier who marched to war left family, friends, and a home behind.

Kerry A. Trask has bridged the gap between military and social history in this fine account of the soldiers and civilians of the small town of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Trask knew very little of either the

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