

Iowa (then Wisconsin Territory) and served in the Iowa Territorial Militia (hence “Colonel”) and Territorial Legislative Assembly. He taught himself the law and launched a family of nine children with three successive wives. He engaged in the usual suite of pioneer activities (cabin-building, friendships and altercations with native peoples, political and entrepreneurial projects), then took his family west to California in 1850. His story there, too, resembles the pioneer chronicles of the day. Settling at the southern end of California’s Great Valley, he ultimately established a home on the Kern River. “Baker’s Field” there became a way station and settlement site for later-arriving immigrants, then the name of a town—now California’s ninth-largest city, Bakersfield.

This extravagantly illustrated little book is coauthored by a newspaper columnist (Salamacha, whose daughter created the digital images that enliven the narrative) and educator (Mittelsteadt) from Bakersfield, with help from Baker’s great-great grandson Chris Brewer—also the book’s publisher. Baker’s story is told in dialogue, in chapters alternating between imagined conversations from Baker’s day and reconstructions of Brewer’s contemporary conversations with friends and family about his ancestor. An awkward formula in the best of hands, this style of storytelling, initially intended for middle-schoolers, is frustrating and unsatisfactory for a reader looking for either historical information or a good read. The dialogue is improbable and stilted, the characters impossibly wise and noble—and fundamentally boring. Jumping from made-up family discussions in early nineteenth-century Iowa to equally contrived conversations in twenty-first-century California serves no purpose other than to confuse the reader and derail the story. With the help of addenda—chapter notes summarizing history, a timeline of Baker’s life, and illustrated profiles of all the Central Valley individuals who contributed in some way to this project—a motivated reader can try to track the story. Salamacha-Hollier’s laboriously created illustrations (including photographs Photo-shopped to look like paintings and ersatz letters from pioneers that explore the different possibilities of handwriting-like fonts) are often charming and attractive, works of loving attention. And that can be said for the entire book: a great deal of time, care, and affection went into the making of *Colonel Baker’s Field*; others as passionate about Bakersfield as the authors may enjoy it.

Union Heartland: The Midwestern Home Front during the Civil War, edited by Ginette Aley and J. L. Anderson. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2013. xiv, 196 pp. Illustrations, tables, notes, index. \$39.50 hardcover.

Reviewer Donald C. Elder III is professor of history at Eastern New Mexico University. He is the editor of *Love Amid Turmoil: The Civil War Letters of William and Mary Vermilion* (2003) and *A Damned Iowa Greyhound: The Civil War Letters of William Henry Harrison Clayton* (1998).

To a casual observer, the only thing that Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa have in common is that they are generally considered to be the states that constitute a region known as the Midwest. To a Civil War historian, however, the nexus for these states is that they provided men and materiel for the Union war effort. That connection raises a question: Was the Civil War experience a similar one for the non-combatants in those states, or were there significant differences for the people living in the region? *Union Heartland*, edited by Ginette Aley and J. L. Anderson, is a noteworthy attempt to address that intriguing line of inquiry. Through its essays, the book suggests that the Civil War-era residents of those states shared much more in common than mere geographical proximity.

Union Heartland begins with a foreword by William C. Davis, who suggests that the book is important because of a lack of previous systematic studies about the Midwest. His foreword is followed by an introductory overview of the subject by the editors. The main body is made up of seven essays that examine various ways civilians on the midwestern home front were affected by the Civil War. Two of the essays treat subjects that affected citizens throughout the entire Midwest: R. Douglas Hurt examines how farmers reacted to the problems and opportunities that the Civil War presented; Ginette Aley focuses on the ways rural midwestern women accepted a new familial dynamic during the war while hoping for a return to their previous relationship patterns when peace returned. These essays suggest that, at least in these two areas, the experiences of an Iowan and an Ohioan during the Civil War would have been similar.

Rather than use the broad approach taken by Hurt and Aley, the five other contributors chose to address an issue as it pertained to one individual midwestern state. Michael Gray looks at how the prisoner-of-war camp at Johnson's Island in Ohio became a tourist attraction for excursionists on Lake Erie. The students who attended the University of Michigan during the Civil War and chose to remain in college rather than enlist in the Union Army are the focus of Julie Mujic's essay. Indiana provides the backdrop for Nicole Etcheson's essay, in which she investigates the dynamic (frequently, as it turned out, a troubled one) created when Hoosier women had to move in with their in-laws after their husbands left for military service. Married women in Iowa who chose to remain on their family farm rather than move in with relatives are the subject of the essay by J. L. Anderson. His essay

(originally published in this journal) suggests that Iowa soldiers, recognizing that they could not micromanage from a distance, instead relied on their wives to handle the affairs of the family farm by themselves. Finally, Brett Barker examines the reaction of Republicans in three southeastern Ohio counties to local newspapers that gave voice to the antiwar position held by many in the Democratic Party. Challenging popularly held assumptions about the subject, Barker asserts that the efforts of rank-and-file Republicans in Ohio to suppress dissent by subtly or overtly attacking disloyal newspapers suggest that civil liberties were more severely curtailed during the Civil War than previously believed.

Obviously, Iowans will find Anderson's essay of greatest interest, as it deals directly with the experiences of Iowa women hoping to keep their family farms functioning. The essays by Hurt and Aley will also strike a responsive chord among Iowans, as they devote a significant portion of their analyses to affairs within the Hawkeye state. With a little imagination, readers can benefit from the other chapters as well. For example, are Mujic's conclusions about the students at the University of Michigan applicable to those who attended Iowa colleges during the war? And was the fate of the *Keokuk Constitution* (whose press ended up at the bottom of the Mississippi River) a logical extension of trends Barker detected among Ohio's civilian populace? *Union Heartland* in its entirety should therefore be an interesting read for Iowans.

By way of full disclosure, I should mention that I was favorably disposed towards *Union Heartland* when I discovered that three of the authors had made excellent use of my book *Love Amid the Turmoil*. But I can honestly say that under any circumstances I would highly recommend this thought-provoking look at a region that too often has been neglected in studies of the Civil War on the Northern home front.

Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation, by Caroline Janney. The Littlefield History of the Civil War Era. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. xii, 464 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 hardcover.

Reviewer Sarah J. Purcell is professor of history at Grinnell College. She is the author of *Sealed with Blood: War, Sacrifice, and Memory in Revolutionary America* and is working on a book tentatively titled "Spectacle of Grief: The Politics of Mourning and the U.S. Civil War."

Caroline Janney's *Remembering the Civil War* is an ambitious book that makes a bold argument, taking on the dominant themes in the grow-