

who made Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin their home. Did Germans in Iowa not as eagerly participate in the discourse over slavery as their neighbors in Missouri? Did they not as willingly fight for the Union because they did not live in close proximity to the South? Did Germans in Iowa experience ethnic unity as Radical Republicans during the Civil War? Did they too revert to various interest groups at the end of Reconstruction? Historians should conduct such an important comparative study and find answers to these questions because discovery of differences in ideology would not only underline Garrison's argument but also substantiate the argument that German Americans were more divided than united as an ethnic group despite American perceptions to the opposite.

Living by Inches: The Smells, Sounds, Tastes, and Feeling of Captivity in Civil War Prisons, by Evan Kutzler. Civil War America Series. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2019. xii, 195 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 paperback.

Reviewer Patrick G. Bass is professor of history at Morningside College in Iowa. He specializes in European involvement with the U.S. Civil War.

Author Evan Kutzler has performed exhaustive research to put together his contribution to the relatively new field of the history of senses in his *Living by Inches: The Smells, Sounds, Tastes, and Feeling of Captivity in Civil War Prisons*. The book is, in fact, organized by these senses, as the author systematically pursues and then recounts prisoner perceptions of sight, smell, touch, hearing, and taste, in that order, during their captivity. Indeed, he pursues even greater specificity, as each chapter emphasizes but one or two aspects of the sense involved. For example, both sight and smell are explored by the limits of those senses (sight at night, and as anosmia takes over); then Kutzler explains touch through the ubiquity of lice, and the prisoners' battle against the pests, and hearing through both noise and silence (even noting the impacts of the absence of some sounds, such as church bells). The chapter on taste focuses on food as a key prisoner preoccupation and the search for wholesome food as key to survival—efforts, usually in vain, to avoid the scourges of prisons, diarrhea and dysentery.

This work is another addition to the recent renaissance in studies of Civil War prisons and prisoners of war. Unlike other works in this field, however, Kutzler's aim is to organize and record the subjective responses of both Union and Confederate prisoners of war to their sensory environment. His aim focuses on the subjective past as noted by individuals,

rather than on objective recreations of that past. For Kutzler, sources written long after the Civil War by former prisoners are just as valuable in exploring the perceptions of participants as are sources written during the war, even contemporary with the experiences described. Thus, in the end, the work is more concerned with sensory ideation than with actual conditions. So, readers looking for systematic generalized accounts of prison conditions may be disappointed by his post-structuralist approach. Yet, he asserts that the ideations that are his focus gave prisoners a way to live in prison successfully—and the question he poses is not how so many prisoners died, but how so many prisoners lived through their ordeals.

The work's epilogue explores memory study—his own included, particularly concerning the influences of his extended research stay at Andersonville—and how prisoners continued to process their own individual experiences for years after 1865. This epilogue is valuable to the reader, as it clarifies the author's more elusive goals in the earlier chapters. Thus, his prior use of pre-war works on etiquette, gender norms, and cleanliness, and their shaping of prisoner norms and expectations—and consequently, emotional impacts of prison adjustments—comes into clearer relief, as the epilogue recounts the prior norms of his own case and the extensive life-changing effects of his research.

Some of the book's more memorable elements record how prisoners sought to assert their own independence (indeed, individuality) and their defiance of the enemy by maintaining private sanitation standards (as best as possible, anyway) and by singing songs to annoy the guards. Varied (and sometimes amusing) prisoner competitions are also important aspects of the perceptions of the inmates, according to Kutzler. Parts of the work, however, are not for the faint of heart, involving the problems of living with revolting vermin and latrines. This reviewer notes that if Kutzler had infused his work throughout with the memory analysis of the epilogue, readers could more easily follow his approach, avoiding the confusion elicited by his challenging intra-chapter organizational scheme. And, almost always, the reader is left wanting more information. Additionally, this reviewer wishes that the chapters had been focused less on one or two aspects of the sense subject, and instead had included more about other facets of the sense in question. This would have made for a longer work, but perhaps an ultimately more rewarding book.

The bulk of Kutzler's research focuses on eastern prisons and their prisoners. There is little here for those particularly fascinated by midwestern or Iowa history. As part of a broader series on Civil War America put out by UNC Press, this work undoubtedly plays an irreplaceable role.

Empathetic readers will find reading this work rough sledding, however; disgust may overwhelm them. Unfortunately, given Kutzler's depth of research, outside of Civil War scholars or members of the guild pursuing history of the senses, there may not be a strong general market for *Living by Inches: The Smells, Sounds, Tastes, and Feeling of Captivity in Civil War Prisons*.

Such Anxious Hours: Wisconsin Women's Voices from the Civil War, edited by Jo Ann Daly Carr. Wisconsin Studies in Autobiography. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2019. xiv, 347 pp. Map, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Ginette Aley is visiting assistant professor of history at Kansas State University and associate editor of *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. She co-edited *Union Heartland: The Midwestern Home Front during the Civil War*, published by Southern Illinois University Press in 2013.

"I have no husband now," a despondent young wife, Belle Arnold Sleeper of rural Berlin, Wisconsin, wrote to her brother in April 1865. She continued: "I thought I was prepared for this news but the blow has nearly crushed me," (288) and she saw nothing but darkness ahead. Her letter exposes the depth of anguish upon learning of her soldier husband's death, especially his suffering as a prisoner of war at Libby Prison. It also illustrates how intimately familiar Wisconsin and midwestern women were with the Civil War.

Arnold is one of eight Wisconsin women, ranging in ages from eighteen to forty-three-years old and hailing from six different locales, whose personal writings were collected from several repositories and edited by librarian Jo Ann Daly Carr in *Such Anxious Hours: Wisconsin Women's Voices from the Civil War*. Along with their age range, their perspectives are varied. Some resided in cities and villages, and others lived on farms. They were variously employed in school teaching, sewing, farming, typesetting, and one as an aspiring artist. With a goal of using these writings to create a kind of straight-line narrative of women on the Wisconsin home front, Carr has chosen to organize them into chronological chapters rather than analyze them topically, which in effect limits a deeper understanding of commonalities and differences among them and among midwestern women (one must make constant use of the index to get at this kind of information). This is also hindered by, more problematically, Carr's failure to identify fully and engage the burgeoning regional historiography of midwestern women on the