# HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

Book Notes

A Stillness at Appomattox. By Bruce Catton. (Garden City: Doubleday, Doran & Co., 1953. \$5.00.) With this volume Catton concludes his trilogy on the Army of the Potomac. The preceding volumes, Mr. Lincoln's Army (1951) and Glory Road (1952), carried the story of the war in the East through the battle of Gettysburg. This last volume, which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, begins with the coming of Grant to the East and concludes with the "stillness at Appomattox." Based on wide reading in the sources, from soldiers' diaries and letters to the ponderous Official Records, these three volumes revive the glory and the horror of America's Civil War as the participants saw and experienced it. Mr. Catton has made a new and lively contribution to the military history of the Civil War, and his books can be highly recommended to all readers.

U. S. Grant and the American Military Tradition. By Bruce Catton. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1954. \$3.00.) This is the first volume in a projected series, the Library of American Biography edited by Oscar Handlin. In some 190 pages Catton has told the story of Grant, the general and the president, and has succeeded in presenting a graphic and moving picture of one of America's greatest generals and one of her poorest presidents. For those who want a better understanding of the enigmatic U. S. Grant, the reading of this book will be a rewarding experience.

Matthew Hale Carpenter: Webster of the West. By E. Bruce Thompson. (Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1954. \$4.50.) The State Historical Society of Wisconsin has, within the past few years, published some outstanding biographies of famous Wisconsin figures. Matt Carpenter, fiery Radical Senator during the Grant and Hayes administrations, was one of the most colorful of the public figures in Washington. A constitutional lawyer of great ability and reputation, Carpenter has been almost forgotten. This biography adds to an understanding not only of Carpenter, but of the Reconstruction era as well.

Main Street on the Middle Border. By Lewis Atherton. (Bloomington:

Indiana University Press, 1954. \$6.00.) With the background of his studies of the merchant in Mid-America and the Southern country store, Lewis Atherton has now written a social and economic history of the Middle Western town from the Civil War to the present. His work is based on the newspapers, whose local columns and advertising pages are too often neglected by the historian; on literary works by such Middle Westerners as Hamlin Garland, Sherwood Anderson, Sinclair Lewis, and others; and on various diaries and papers of the residents of these small towns. From the communities of Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, and the other states of the Middle West, the author has drawn his picture of small-town life and has contributed to a knowledge of the social history of the past.

Grierson's Raid. By D. Alexander Brown. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1954. \$4.00.) Immediately following the Civil War, military histories of that great event were plentiful. Then followed a long period of neglect of all military history. Only recently a revival of interest in the Civil War has produced a number of new studies of the highly dramatic events of that conflict. This book is a day-by-day account, based on the sources, of the cavalry raid of Colonel Benjamin Grierson into Confederate Mississippi in April of 1863, a part of Grant's campaign against Vicksburg. The author has written an exciting and dramatic account of one of the famous cavalry raids of the Civil War.

# Articles

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## Civil War

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#### Documents

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