

sections of illustrations offer contemporary views of recruiting stations and officials, their clientele, bounty jumpers, and other players in the deadly game.

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*Toward a Social History of the American Civil War: Exploratory Essays.* Edited by Maris A. Vinovskis. (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1990. Pp. xii, 201. Notes, figures, tables, index. Clothbound, \$34.50; paperbound, \$9.95.)

Seven essays on social developments in the North during and after the Civil War comprise the contents of this slender volume. Maris A. Vinovskis's central purpose is to provide examples of work "that can and should be done" (p. vii). Of the seven pieces, only his "Have Social Historians Lost the Civil War? Some Preliminary Demographic Speculations" has appeared previously. The substance of the remaining essays are derived from master theses and dissertations by "scholars in their twenties and thirties" (p. vii). He finds that this age factor is important because it "suggests that the next generation of scholars will pay more attention to the social history of the Civil War than have their predecessors" (p. vii).

Vinovskis's call for more emphasis on social history is hardly new. Almost two decades ago, Eric Foner in an essay in *Civil War History* admonished both political and social historians of the era to give more attention to each other's area of interest. Among those who have done so are Iver Bernstein, Joseph T. Glatthaar, Randall C. Jimerson, Philip Shaw Paludan, Judith Lee Hallock, and Emily J. Harris.

Vinovskis's splendid and provocative article on demography definitely warrants reading. Among the remaining essays that contain major findings are Amy Holmes's study of Union widows and Stuart McConnell's analysis of Union veterans who joined the Grand Army of the Republic in the postwar era. Some of the other case studies are not as important or relevant. For example, Reid Mitchell's discussion of the influence that home had on the discipline and bravery of Union soldiers and the difficulties that officers experienced in maintaining distance between themselves and enlisted men who were their neighbors at home are subjects that have been treated earlier by Gerald F. Linderman. One wonders too why the editor chose to include Robin Einhorn's, "The Civil War and Municipal Government in Chicago" in a work on social history when Harris's excellent article on Deerfield, Massachusetts, would have been more in keeping with the volume's spirit and intent. Finally, none of the essays treats significantly the

war's effect on African Americans, a surprising omission given the war's far-reaching social impact on this particular group.

The main value of *Toward a Social History of the Civil War* lies in providing additional information about the war through more case studies. Although Vinovskis provides an excellent point of departure for stimulating further interest with his "Preliminary Demographic Speculations," this same level of thought-provoking inquiry is not sustained in the rest of the volume. Rather the book is more a compilation of case studies than exploratory essays. Only Civil War historians who specialize in social history will find it of interest. Had this work contained at least a bibliographical essay, which discussed the major works on the war's social history and identified areas for further study, its value and utility for undergraduate classes and the general reader would have been enhanced greatly.

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*Black Towns and Profit: Promotion and Development in the Trans-Appalachian West, 1877-1915.* By Kenneth Marvin Hamilton. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1991. Pp. xii, 185. Notes, illustrations, appendixes, selected bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Kenneth Marvin Hamilton relates the history of five of sixty-four documented black towns in the trans-Appalachian West between 1877 and 1915. While the book's sub-title implies broader coverage, the five towns he studies were located in the trans-Mississippi West. They are Nicodemus, Kansas; Mound Bayou, Mississippi; Langston City and Boley, Oklahoma; and Allensworth, California. A chapter is devoted to each town.

Hamilton discusses black town development as an entrepreneurial enterprise. This is in contrast to the traditional literature which largely deals with the ideological aspects of the subject. Hamilton concludes that the patterns of founding and developing black towns were essentially similar to those of white towns during the period. The developers of black town sites were primarily motivated by an interest in profit. The activities used to promote black towns paralleled those used to promote white towns. Promoters of black towns used newspaper advertisements, round-trip railroad excursions to the development site, promotional literature, and other techniques commonly used in town development at the time. Likewise, the typical black town developer tried to obtain vital railroad connections to the town site, investments in local business and industry, and support for the town's educational and community institutions.