

War in Kentucky: From Shiloh to Perryville. By James Lee McDonough. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1994. Pp. xvii, 386. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$32.00.)

Civil War scholars have long debated the relative decisiveness of the war in the East and the war in the West. It is surely true that the consistent, almost invariable Federal successes in the West were a significant offset to the Confederate victories in the Virginia theater during the first two years of the war. It is also true that the western war receives less public attention than do the eastern activities of the armies. James Lee McDonough is a western war writer. He has a keen grasp of western strategy and pays needed attention to the involvement of railroads in that strategy. Having previously published books about Shiloh, Stones River, Chattanooga, and the Battle of Franklin, he now turns his attention to the Kentucky war that took place between the time of Shiloh and Perryville. The events there and then were significant and deserving of close attention.

The Confederacy was initially thrust on the defensive in the West by Grant's successes at Henry and Donelson in February, 1862, "the first turning point of the war" (p. 15). Attempting to regain the initiative, the Confederates were then defeated at Shiloh in April, 1862. Following Shiloh Buell's Army of the Ohio was dispatched to march against Chattanooga. Belabored by guerrillas and cavalry under generals Forrest and Morgan, Buell did not reach Chattanooga. Instead, Braxton Bragg arrived there and compelled Buell's withdrawal to the north. Bragg and Kirby Smith then led separate and ineffectively cooperating armies through Tennessee and into Kentucky. The Kentucky campaign, like Lee's move into Maryland, was in part motivated by a Confederate belief that Kentucky would rise for the Confederacy. The campaign represented another Confederate attempt to restore itself in the West.

Crossing the Cumberland River, Bragg moved into Kentucky toward Glasgow and Kirby Smith's army entered the state about one hundred miles east of Glasgow. The book contains good discussions of the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky, where Smith soundly defeated a smaller Federal force. McDonough also describes the interesting encounter between Bragg and a Federal force under Indiana's Colonel John Thomas Wilder at Munfordville. The book climaxes with a fine description of the Battle of Perryville on October 8, 1862. Perryville was a bloody and confused drawn battle from which Bragg and Smith retreated into Tennessee, thus ending this Confederates' effort to recover from the result of Forts Henry and Donelson. The campaign was a failure for the Confederacy for several reasons, including the absence of unified command between Smith and Bragg, their inept cooperation, and the fact that Ken-

tuckians did not rally to the Confederate banner in any significant way.

Concentrating on a relatively brief period of the war in a circumscribed area, the book informs the reader significantly about the war in the West. It contains careful evaluations of the protagonists' leadership, Halleck and Buell for the Union and Bragg and Kirby Smith for the South.

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Holding the Line: The Third Tennessee Infantry, 1861–1864. By Flavel C. Barber. Edited by Robert H. Ferrell. (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1994. Pp. viii, 281. Illustrations, maps, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$28.00.)

Civil War diaries, letters, and memoirs continue to fly as thick and fast as minie balls at Little Round Top. This latest installment introduces Major Flavel Clingan Barber, a Pennsylvanian by birth but in 1861 a staunch Confederate patriot. At the outbreak of the Civil War Barber, a thirty-one year old schoolteacher, married the daughter of a prominent Giles County, Tennessee, family and left for the front on the following day. Over the next three years Mary Barber would see precious little of her new husband, a fact that may have proved to be a matter of contention. "I know if I could get home and have a short interview with her she would not be so unreasonable as to object to my rejoining our army," Barber noted in 1862 while contemplating his imminent release from Federal prison (p. 59). Clearly, any female protestations were in vain: although Barber did return to Tennessee in October on recruiting duty, he was back six weeks later with his regiment from whose male companionship he would be rarely separated for the remainder of his short life. At Resaca, Georgia, on May 15, 1864, his third wedding anniversary, Barber died from wounds received the previous day as the Army of Tennessee attempted to resist Sherman's advance into the Confederate heartland.

Flavel Barber's narrative, begun as a memoir in captivity on Johnson's Island and continued for the most part as a daily journal following his exchange, makes a worthy publication. Ably introduced and annotated by Robert H. Ferrell, the diary provides a fascinating portrait of unit life and of the alternating tedium and terror that warfare induces in its participants. Military historians will appreciate the detailed accounts that Barber provides of the engagements in which the Third Tennessee participated, notably at the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou in December, 1862, where the regiment's actions were decisive. But the book's true value derives from