

Battles, Skirmishes, Events and Scenes: The Letters and Memorandum of Ambrose Remley. Edited by Dale Edward Linvill. (Crawfordsville, Ind.: Montgomery County Historical Society, Inc., 1997. Pp. vii, 190. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, appendices. \$23.00.)

Civil War historians have been blessed in the past ten years with the publication of numerous diaries, letters, and reminiscences penned by Union and Confederate enlisted men or company officers. Now added to this collection is Sergeant Ambrose Remley's letters and "memorandum," published by the Montgomery County Historical Society, Crawfordsville, Indiana. Remley served throughout the war in Company E, 72nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry, a regiment that formed part of Colonel John Thomas Wilder's legendary "Lightning Brigade." Armed with Spencer repeating rifles and serving as mounted infantry, Wilder's men became famous for seizing strategic Hoover's Gap during the Tullahoma Campaign of 1863 and making a tenacious stand when part of the Union Army of the Cumberland was routed at the Battle of Chickamauga the same year. The 72nd Indiana also participated in the Atlanta Campaign and, after Wilder resigned, General James Wilson's cavalry raid to capture Selma, Alabama, and Macon, Georgia. The brigade was thus one of the most singular and, until recently, most unrecognized organizations in the Union Army.

Remley's letters and memorandum contain useful information for anyone studying the life of the common soldier in the Union's western armies. Remley often commented on his health, rations, and officers and on the battles and skirmishes in which he participated, the activities at home, and the living conditions in camp and on the march. He was obviously anxious to keep those in Indiana informed of the regiment's service and the ways in which the men from Montgomery County were coping with life "at the front." For the most part his writings make interesting reading, especially if a student of the period has not delved into many published "common soldier" letter collections from the Midwest.

Unfortunately, some of the letters contain simply a brief recounting of Remley's activities without extraordinary detail regarding the activities of his regiment or the Lightning Brigade. A reader expecting extensive information and anecdotes about the fight at Hoover's Gap or the Battle of Chickamauga, the operations of the brigade, or other aspects of its unusual service as mounted infantry will lament that Remley wrote so sparingly.

The notes and explanatory text by Dale Edward Linvill are largely adequate and accurate but do contain a few spelling and factual errors. For instance, a photograph of Remley's postwar Grand Army of the Republic canteen (p. 62) is instead identified as the one

he carried during his service. To Linvill's credit, however, two very helpful sections are included in the work, namely, Remley's biography and a family genealogy, which enable the reader to follow Remley's civilian life and trace the persons referred to in his writings. The maps included in the book were taken from the atlas accompanying the *Official Records*, and while some are clearly reproduced, others are not so readable.

Overall, the Montgomery County Historical Society should be commended for publishing this work. It is a solid collection of Civil War material by an articulate Hoosier soldier, and although Remley did not provide all the details one might hope for, any accounts by a member of Wilder's Brigade are certainly worth reading.

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An Army of Women: Gender and Politics in Gilded Age Kansas. By Michael Lewis Goldberg. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997. Pp. x, 313. Illustrations, notes, note on sources, index. \$39.95.)

After providing a brief historical perspective contrasting myths with the realities of Kansas communities during the Gilded Age, Michael Lewis Goldberg analyzes the importance of gender as it affected political and social circles. Initially the author focuses on the rise of the Woman Movement in Kansas, but later he broadens his scope to include the connections of the Woman Movement with other groups such as the Farmers' Alliance and the Populist party, which shared an interest in women's rights. Considerable attention is given to strategies employed by these groups to influence the ruling Republican leaders and in some cases also the Democrats.

The Woman Movement in Kansas provided a political platform for urban, Anglo, middle-class women. Members of the movement intended to infuse the major political parties with respectable values, to banish chicanery and patronage, and to attack voter apathy and ignorance. Two organizations, the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and Kansas Equal Suffrage Association (KESA) made up the major components of the movement. The author compares and contrasts the membership of these organizations. A particularly interesting part of the analysis deals with the context in which many members held nativist, racist, and classist beliefs that shaped the formation of their ideology and affected the selection of political strategies and tactics. The author explains how these narrow views made outreach to other constituencies such as rural women and black women difficult and often led to innovative strategies that allowed members to retain their views and still support the cause.