

few noteworthy lapses include the misspelling of Thomas Wentworth Higginson's name and L'Ouverture Hospital as "L'Overture." Miller confuses Major General David B. Birney with his brother Brigadier General William Birney. A map of the battlefield at Petersburg described in the cutline as "drawn by a participant, showing Ledlie's division and lines at the crater" and bearing an original title, "Position of the 1st Brig. 1st Div. 9th Corps. Before Petersburg Va.," in fact shows the deployment of the First Brigade, First Division in early 1865, long after Ledlie had been cashiered for misconduct at the Battle of the Crater (p. 144).

Without exaggerating their contribution on the field of battle, Miller has written an informed and respectful tribute to the men of the 29th USCT, concluding that "they did their duty. This is the best compliment one can pay to a soldier" (p. xi).

GEORGE P. CLARK, professor emeritus of English, Hanover College, edited *Into the Old Northwest: Journeys with Charles H. Titus, 1841-1846* (1994). With Shirley E. Clark, he contributed "Heroes Carved in Ebony: Indiana's Black Civil War Regiment" to *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History* (Summer 1995).

As If It Were Glory: Robert Beecham's Civil War from the Iron Brigade to the Black Regiments. Edited by Michael E. Stevens. (Madison, Wis.: Madison House Publishers, Inc., 1998. Pp. xx, 236. Illustrations, notes, index. \$28.95.)

Memoirs of the Civil War are a well-known genre. Their value inevitably depends on the significance of the writers' experiences, the sophistication of the writers' insights, and their literary talent. On all three counts, Beecham's account is absolutely first rate.

Beecham's war is highly dramatic, beginning with his enlistment as a private in the distinguished Second Wisconsin Volunteers of the Iron Brigade. Although absent from the field on several occasions because of illness, he participated in Burnside's Mud March and the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He was captured in the latter battle and imprisoned in the Confederate prison camp at Belle Isle. Once exchanged, he volunteered to become an officer in a black regiment, and became a first lieutenant in the 23rd U.S. Colored Troops, serving despite the Confederacy's threat to execute captured officers of black regiments. Having trained his soldiers, he led them into the bloody fiasco at the Crater, where he was wounded and again captured. Imprisoned in Columbia, South Carolina, he escaped but later surrendered in order to take advantage of an expected prisoner exchange. Resigning after Appomattox, he returned to his wife. The family lived in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, and the state of Washington. He was a lawyer, insurance agent, and public employee and was always civically involved.

This colorful career serves as the outline of Beecham's story. To it he brings an unusual political and social sophistication, a will-

ingness to speak candidly, and a writer's gift. Thus he flatly rejects the Lost Cause myth: that the Confederacy was noble, the war romantic, and that slavery was not the underlying cause of the war. Believing that the war was about freedom, Beecham was contemptuous of the southern cause for which "Davis planned, Lee fought and Jackson prayed" (p. xiv). He rejected the national glorification of Lee, "a man who deserted the nation that educated him in the art wherein he was gifted, and turned the strength of his genius against the sword of God and the might of his truth" (p. xiv). Beecham believed wholeheartedly in "the universal brotherhood of the human race" and was an admirer of the black soldier who "came forward cheerfully and volunteered his strength, brawn, and his heart's blood to save the honor of the flag that to his race had been a symbol of every dishonor" (p. xvi). He regarded the black soldiers of his regiment as "the bravest and best soldiers that ever lived" (p. 168).

ALAN T. NOLAN is the author of *The Iron Brigade* (1961), and *Lee Considered* (1991) and coeditor of *Giants in their Tall Black Hats* (1998). He is currently at work on a book about the Lost Cause myth.

River Jordan: African American Urban Life in the Ohio Valley. By Joe William Trotter, Jr. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1998. Pp. xvi, 200. Maps, tables, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$29.00; paperbound, \$17.00.)

In *River Jordan*, the eighth in an ongoing series of books published by the University Press of Kentucky that is a legacy of the early 1990s project, *Always a River: The Ohio River and the American Experience*, Joe William Trotter, Jr., summarizes most of the existing scholarship on four African American cities: Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Evansville. He argues that "though class, gender, and cultural issues require much more research, the existing scholarship [on African American urban history] provides the intellectual foundation for a new African American urban synthesis. The Ohio valley is an excellent place to start because it holds great symbolic significance in African American history" (p. xiii). The Ohio divided slave and free labor and later the Jim Crow South from the North. It was a "river Jordan" promising passage to a better life.

This work comprises three subdivisions of about fifty pages each—the expansion of commercial and early industrial capitalism (1790–1860); emancipation, race, and industrialization (1861–1914); and the industrial age (1914–1945). Trotter covers late twentieth-century experiences in just ten pages. His previous research on Pittsburgh and the relatively large amount of scholarship on black Cincinnati help explain why he treats those two cities more extensively than the other two.

Trotter underscores the role of black workers in the transformation of black urban life, documents the emergence of the black middle