

men of the regiment engaging in operations "to win the hearts and minds" (p. 132) of southern civilians.

Blackwell has a good command of the overall military and political background in which the Twelfth Illinois Cavalry served. The unit was Illinois's only cavalry regiment to serve in three theaters during the Civil War. It was mustered into the service for three years in early 1862 and completed service as a veteran regiment in June 1866. The group's experience was, in many respects, typical of federal cavalry, although a few of the unit's exploits were extraordinary. The regiment narrowly escaped capture at Harper's Ferry in September 1862 and was with Gen. John Buford at Gettysburg when the first shots were fired. Interestingly, the Twelfth counted among its members Pvt. Fred Usher, the first Union soldier killed in the battle.

All too often, Blackwell engages in speculation. About an ammunition train that the regiment captured on September 15, 1862, he writes, "If Longstreet had been in possession of that extra ammunition, the attack would have been launched, and the Confederacy just might have been victorious that late afternoon in mid-September. A Confederate victory at Antietam would have altered the course of American history" (p. 37). Blackwell later notes that the unit detected and reported J. E. B. Stuart's column at the commencement of the Chambersburg Raid and concludes that, "If its warnings had been heeded, Stuart might have been forced to turn back and McClellan's dismissal might have been postponed" (p. 42). In yet another passage the author writes, "If the 12th Illinois or their Western brothers from Indiana [the Third Indiana Cavalry] had broke [*sic*] and run, or if they had expended their ammunition less frugally, the 3rd Division might well have been captured, and the Battle of Gettysburg would have ended differently" (p. 104). These speculative remarks are unnecessary and irregular for a scholarly regimental history. A more careful revision of the work prior to publication could have removed the speculative analysis.

In the First Line of Battle contributes very little new information to the body of scholarship for Union cavalry in the Civil War. It is a credible, though flawed, addition to the history of Illinois's Civil War regiments.

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The Rule of Justice: The People of Chicago versus Zephyr Davis. By Elizabeth Dale. (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2001. Pp. vii, 158. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth-bound, \$60.00; paperbound, \$23.95.)

This is a creative effort to demonstrate how much popular, or mass-level, pressure in late-nineteenth-century Chicago could prevail

over legal matters and judicial formalism, which were widely distrusted by both the foreign-born and native-born American working class. Although many sought social justice from the legal system, members of the city's establishment sought social order from the law, and the legal system was becoming more dependent on formalized law, which served elite interests. Chicago's industrial and financial leaders hoped the city would host the next American world's fair, and, in any event, economic prosperity depended on social order and the appearance of legal modernity.

The author selects a criminal case and verdict from 1888 that followed the Haymarket executions by only six months, and this meant that popular emotions and state-sanctioned punishment were likely to conflict. The case involved the brutal murder of a teenage worker, a fourteen-year-old Irish girl, in a sweatshop. The accused murderer was her seventeen-year-old black male supervisor, and the author attributes a rather rapid guilty verdict by an all-white jury to a combination of latent racism and determination that the accused not elude his just punishment. He was hanged, which is made in this elongated essay almost symbolically equivalent to a legal lynching that satisfied the popular will. Yet it is not clearly argued that the outcome was not also a triumph for formal law as much as it was for popular justice. Given the evidence presented at the trial, the jury would have probably arrived at the same conclusion had it taken longer to consider the validity of the defense's insanity plea along with any conflicting circumstantial evidence. As presented here, the defendant appeared guilty. This might explain why within the black community, after initial interest, there was no subsequent protest in support of the defendant. Although the case is represented as unusual in this regard, it reflected the mindset of the 14,000 predominantly working-class African Americans in Chicago, who valued respectability and morality as much as the Victorian era's WASP establishment. Their seeming lack of interest in the case paralleled that of the Irish community: a dubious relationship between the victim and the accused, ambivalence about a female's role in the workplace, and the stigma of interracial contact diminished the interest of the Irish as represented through the groups's major news outlet. The author provides an excellent analysis of the intricacies of jury selection and explores the way newspapers could exploit any type of story to create a propaganda groundswell. Elizabeth Dale also introduces a new theory of a phenomenon we still witness today, that is, mass distrust of a criminal justice system that relies more on judge-directed law than on social reality and fairness. This monograph will be most valuable to readers interested in the law, the courts, and a slice of nineteenth-century big city history.

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