

Work (1989). This book leaves the reader realizing that the “how” and the “why” of feminization across different regions still demand further research.

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Perryville: This Grand Havoc of Battle. By Kenneth W. Noe. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2001. Pp. xxiv, 494. Illustrations, maps, appendices, notes, works consulted, index. \$35.00.)

The Battle of Perryville, fought in Kentucky on October 8, 1862, marked the Confederate high tide in the western theater. It also served as the beginning of the end of the career of Union Major General Don Carlos Buell. Strangely, both the battle and the campaign have been understudied, even by western revisionists. Kenneth W. Noe’s *Perryville* does much to fill the void.

Exactly how Rebel General Braxton Bragg’s Army of Tennessee was able to break out of Tennessee is a story in itself. Noe places the blame where most of it lies, on Buell’s inability to commit himself to a plan. Unfortunately, Noe accepts without question Major General George Thomas’s interpretation of events, much of which was written after the fact.

The heroes of the battle in Noe’s account are, by and large, small-unit commanders, such as Colonel John C. Starkweather. Most of the generals—Buell, Thomas, Alexander McCook, and Philip Sheridan on the Union side, Bragg and Kirby Smith on the Confederate side—receive justifiable criticism, although Major General Leonidas Polk in the latter group gets a more mixed review.

The strength of the book is Noe’s ability to place the battle in the context of ongoing political and social situations, although the campaign’s impact upon the upcoming fall 1862 congressional races in the North is slighted. Noe seems more comfortable in explaining the infighting that took place within the respective high commands. Indeed, he sees high-level incompetence and intra-army bickering as the primary reasons for the campaign’s failure on both sides. The author sheds no light on whether Bragg saw the campaign as an invasion with political objectives or as a raid.

Noe’s writing style is engaging, and he avoids the grinding battle minutiae that bog down so many Civil War authors. A fascinating final chapter tells of the efforts to establish the battlefield as a park. His research is breathtaking in its scope: many new sources are uncovered. Noe’s book eclipses past works on the subject and will

likely stand as the definitive work for a generation. With this addition, Noe clearly has established himself as a significant player among national Civil War historians of the western theater.

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Working the Garden: American Writers and the Industrialization of Agriculture. By William Conlogue. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001. Pp. [ix], 230. Illustrations, table, notes, works cited, index. Clothbound, \$39.95; paperbound, \$18.95.)

"In 1860 farmers accounted for 60 per cent of the American workforce; in 1910, 30.5 percent; by 1994, there were too few to warrant a separate census category," according to William Conlogue (p. 3). The decline of the American family farm and the shift to industrial agribusiness has had enormous social, economic, and environmental consequences, but its cultural impact has been insufficiently appreciated. The agrarian pastoral myth has been perpetuated in literature long after an agricultural way of life disappeared in reality. William Conlogue's *Working the Garden* dispels this nostalgic agrarian myth by demonstrating how the antecedents of modern American industrial agriculture reach well back into the nineteenth century. Through careful readings of American farming novels, Conlogue demonstrates the inadequacy of the pastoral mode in understanding the post-Civil War transformation of American agriculture. Americans held onto the Jeffersonian myth of the yeoman farmer even as family farms were being absorbed into corporate industrial agriculture. The failure to understand such changes in American agriculture, Conlogue argues, has resulted in critical misunderstandings of a number of major American authors, whose works actually demonstrate the decline of the family farm.

In the transformation of American farming, Conlogue points to the impact of the railroads and the 1862 Homestead Act in opening up vast tracts of the Midwest to large-scale "bonanza" wheat farms, whose cheap production of commodity crops forced small eastern farmers out of business. The application of capitalist values and the factory system to American farming resulted in a new model that repudiated community values in favor of an aggressive individualism, and the yeoman farmer was gradually replaced by the capitalist entrepreneur. Conlogue demonstrates how this cultural transformation offers new interpretations of Frank Norris's *The Octopus*, Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!*, Ellen Glasgow's *Barren Ground*, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, Wendell Berry's *Remembering*, and Jane Smiley's *A Thousand Acres*. While the debate between family farming and agribusiness may be prominent only in Berry's work,