

reminder of the social and racial stratification of American society and of bitter sectional divisions that have continued to fester into the twenty-first century. Schultz's comprehensive study is essential reading for an understanding of women's contributions to the Civil War and to our nation.

PEGGY SEIGEL'S articles published in the *Indiana Magazine of History* include "Industrial 'Girls' in an Early Twentieth Century Boomtown: Traditions and Change in Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1900–1920" (September 2003) and "She Went to War: Indiana Women Nurses in the Civil War" (March 1990).



### *The Civil War Soldier* *A Historical Reader*

Edited by Michael Barton and Larry M. Logue

(New York: New York University Press, 2002. Pp. xi, 515. Notes, tables, index. Paperbound, \$24.95.)

One of Michael Barton's and Larry Logue's primary goals in assembling these twenty-seven articles and chapters is to introduce the non-professional reader to the past twenty-five years of Civil War research. Some earlier writings are also included by way of points of departure or foils for the newer scholarship. The focus is entirely on the ordinary soldier, and rarely are generals or politicians mentioned. The editors summarize their five-fold organization of the volume under the headings: "Who the soldiers were, how they lived, how they fought, how they felt, and what they believed" (p. 2).

In the introduction, the editors articulate their own scholarly predisposition. "In our own research we have been deeply interested in one overarching question: What were the essential social, cultural, and even psychological differences between

Union and Confederate soldiers?" (p. 3). To bring out some of these differences, they include Logue's own contribution on the efforts to recruit young men in Mississippi. Unlike Northerners, these Mississippians were overwhelmingly preoccupied with "society's racial equilibrium: the fear of life with the bottom rail on top echoes through soldiers' explanations of why they were in the army" (p. 44). Logue also makes us aware of the reluctance of Southern youth who lived in the counties along the Mississippi River to sign up for military service. As often as not, they would disappear west of the River.

Reinforcing the notion of distinctiveness within the Confederate Army is an older (1957) but most welcome article by David Donald. "The distinctive thing about the Confederate army," he writes, "is that Southern soldiers never truly accept-

ed the idea that discipline is necessary to the effective functioning of a fighting force" (p. 176). Donald describes the prewar lives of many young Southern farmers, craftsmen, and gentry who were set in their ways, acted independently, and were ardent individualists.

In contrast to these articles which stress distinctions between Union and Confederate soldiers, however, there are as many pieces in this collection which argue the opposite point: that Northern and Southern troops had much in common. This approach is contained in several items by Bell Irvin Wiley. Although writing about the life of the common soldier in the North, what Fred A. Shannon says could equally be applied to the South: "The soldier, especially in the first year of the war, was the victim of ignorant officers, of swindling contractors, and of unscrupulous Federal inspectors of provisions" (p. 93). Time and again, within the various articles, the shared plight of soldiers is brought out. They had to slog through mud, become soaked with rain, witness their ill-made uniforms fall apart, and experience chronic hunger, to mention only a few common hardships.

Union and Confederate troops also shared common reactions to combat. Fear often overcame them, but many still managed to keep fighting. They continued to ask themselves why they joined the army, and in their more thoughtful moments fell back on traditional values of patriot-

ism, love of home and family, and religious fervor. As content analysis is applied to soldiers' diaries and letters to see the emerging patterns, readers are exposed here, as elsewhere in this volume, to recent quantitative approaches to the war.

This is a fine collection which lends itself to classroom use and to the edification of non-specialists. Somewhat puzzling is why the editors included all the notes from each article, thus lengthening an already long book by many pages. Only two articles deal with the experience of black soldiers, and though these are valuable, one might have wished for a few more. The clandestine military service of women is nicely incorporated, but perhaps the many roles of women near the battlefield and at home might have found a place. To be sure, the focus is on soldiers and battles, but many men went on furlough whenever they could, and some of them just faded away. With an estimated 200,000 deserters from the Union Army and a substantial number from the Confederate, the editors might have paid more attention to the multiplicity of reasons why this phenomenon occurred.

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