

Fort Wayne, and South Bend to minister to the growing Irish community. As the nation moved into the industrial age, Irish blue-collar factory workers became a common sight in these cities.

Irish immigrants were also active politically, serving in the General Assembly and in city and town offices. As was true elsewhere, they supported the Democratic party. Irish Hoosiers fought in the Civil War alongside other Irish regiments from the Northern states. Like other Irish they founded their own ethnic organizations such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Ardent nationalists, they supported the cause of Irish independence throughout the nineteenth century, contributing thousands of dollars toward this effort.

In the twentieth century, especially after the Second World War, Indiana's Irish began to move up economically. They became more Amer-

ican than Irish, loyal patriots as well as proud Catholics. Their Irish identity began to fade as they grew further removed from Ireland and their immigrant roots. Then, in the late 1960s, an ethnic revival captured the imagination of millions of Americans. Among the Irish, music and dance enjoyed a revival as city after city in Indiana and elsewhere sponsored heritage festivals. Being Irish was "in" among a new generation of American-born Hoosiers who claimed Irish ancestry. By 1990 they numbered almost one million, or about 18 percent of the state's population. Giffin has added a discussion of this cultural awakening to his original essay. A number of illustrations and a useful index further enhance the value of this new edition.

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Den of Misery *Indiana's Civil War Prison*

By James R. Hall

(Gretna, La.: Pelican Publishing Company, 2006. Pp. 159. Photographs, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$25.00.)

In 1859, the State Board of Agriculture ordered the construction of a state fairground on thirty-six acres of land on the north edge of Indianapolis. Barns and sheds would hold the livestock, and a few administrative buildings were erected. In April 1861, this site became Camp Morton, where

thousands of new volunteers, answering President Lincoln's call to arms, camped and drilled.

Not until early 1862, after the fall of Forts Henry and Donalson in Tennessee, did Camp Morton become the repository of more than 3,000 Confederate prisoners of war. In *Den of*

Misery, James R. Hall reminds us that during the Civil War, the North was as capable of inflicting degradation and humiliation on its captive combatants in places like Camp Morton, as was the South at sites such as Andersonville.

The author is a career journalist and freelance writer, interested primarily in resurrecting the controversy surrounding wartime conditions at Camp Morton. He dismisses as “a scholarly undertaking . . . no more, no less,” the 1940 *Camp Morton, 1861-1865*, written by Indianapolis school teachers Hattie Lou Winslow and Joseph R. H. Moore.

I would have preferred Hall to have used the eight-volume document collection devoted to prisoner of war camps—*The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (1894-1899)—together with other primary sources available at the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana State Library, in order to present a more balanced assessment of the facts underlying the controversy.

Hall does make extensive use of the testimony of Dr. John A. Wyeth, a survivor of Camp Morton, who published an article in the April 1891 issue of *Century Monthly Magazine*, recalling the dreadful conditions and treatment meted out to inmates. Wyeth was serving in the 4th Alabama Cavalry when he was taken prisoner by Union troops in October 1863, and was not released until February 1865.

Hall neatly summarizes Wyeth's allegations as “a firsthand and often shocking and explicit account of starvation, exposure to extreme cold and heat, beatings by prison guards, and even cold-blooded murder of innocent prisoners within the confines of this Northern prison complex” (p. 17). In a September 1891 article in *Century Monthly*, officials and members of the Indiana Grand Army of the Republic disputed these charges, but Hall dismisses the defense as “generally sarcastic and condescending, often downright arrogant” (p. 66), and maintains that since 1891 no one has taken Wyeth's claims seriously.

Few historians would dispute that conditions at Camp Morton grew progressively worse from late 1863 on, due in large part to the prison's coming under the jurisdiction of the federal Commissary General of Prisons, which tightened regulations and decreased provisions in retaliation for cruel treatment of Union troops at Andersonville and elsewhere in the South.

When it comes to evaluating the charges of Wyeth and other prisoners, however, one must also acknowledge that officials at Camp Morton, as well as federal inspectors, apparently tried to make conditions tolerable. Reports by honorable men from both the Confederacy and the Union contain conflicting evidence of how the camp was run and of how much the inmates suffered.

Hall provides a substantial service to Civil War historians by listing in an appendix all of the Confederates who

died at Camp Morton. Official figures put their number at 1,763 out of the entire prison population of 12,082. They were eventually laid to rest in a special section of Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. The photographs used in the book, some taken by the author, add immediacy to this sorry story.

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August Willich's Gallant Dutchmen
Civil War Letters from the 32nd Indiana Infantry

Translated and edited by Joseph R. Reinhart

(Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2006. Pp. xi, 262. Illustrations, notes, bibliographic essay, index. \$35.00.)

Joseph Reinhart has done an impressive job of translating, editing, and annotating sixty letters written by members of the 32nd Indiana Infantry, the state's "only German regiment" (p. 2) in the Civil War. Part of the Army of the Ohio, the 32nd fought at Rowlett's Station in Kentucky; Shiloh, Stones River, and Missionary Ridge in Tennessee; and Chickamauga in Georgia. Reinhart discovered these letters, most of them written between August 1861 and December 1863, in the German-language newspapers the *Louisville Anzeiger*, the *Cincinnati Volksfreund*, and the Indianapolis *Freie Presse von Indiana*. Reinhart also includes notices by the editors of the newspapers; chapter introductions with maps and photographs; an epilogue summarizing the life and death of the officers following the war; appendices on the "Original Officers and Color Sergeants"; a descriptive history of the 32nd Indiana Monu-

ment; a list of books containing Civil War letters and diaries by "Native Germans"; and a bibliographic essay. In his chapter introductions and fifty-two pages of detailed notes, Reinhart provides information on battles, skirmishes, and marches; qualifies and corrects accounts of the numbers killed and injured on both sides; and gives an ongoing overview of the war as seen from the perspective of the men of the 32nd.

The most interesting letters, seventeen in all, were written by an infantryman who called himself "Artaxerxes." Highly literate, poetic in his description of landscapes, self-possessed, and sometimes speaking with a sarcastic edge, this unidentified author from Cincinnati emerges as an authoritative voice. Another dozen letters were written by Carl Schmitt of Evansville, a native of Bavaria who had fought in Germany during the revolutionary uprisings of