

make that clear. Some are military-related works, such as John Simon's comparison between Union commanders Ulysses S. Grant and Henry Halleck, and Lesley Gordon's look at bravery and cowardice in the 16th Connecticut Infantry Regiment. But the majority deal with the political and domestic aspects of the war. For example, what was Frederick Douglass's relationship with Abraham Lincoln and did he give the martyred president proper credit for what he did for African Americans? Who were Henry Tuckerman, Anna Dickinson, and Silas Weir Mitchell, and how did their writing influence public opinion and perspectives regarding the war? Was the home front experience necessarily all that different between Northern and Southern communities? While Abraham Lincoln and the federal government have been criticized for violating civil liberties in prosecuting the war, did Jefferson

Davis and the Confederate government tread any more carefully in protecting and honoring such rights? How were the rights and treatment of "virtuous" women versus prostitutes dealt with in wartime? A who's who of Civil War historians, including Gary Gallagher, Ed Ayers, Catherine Clinton, David Blight, Mark Neely, and more, explore these and other topics.

A brief introduction to each essay provides information on the historian and subject and endnotes follow it. In between are informative, insightful, and thought provoking essays. For anyone interested in the Civil War, this is a must read.

JAMES J. HOLMBERG is Curator of Special Collections at The Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky. The Civil War is one of his areas of specialty, and he writes and lectures on it.



*Andersonvilles of the North*  
*The Myths and Realities of Northern Treatment of Civil War*  
*Confederate Prisoners*

By James M. Gillispie

(Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2008. Pp. vii, 278. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95.)

James M. Gillispie's study of federal government's treatment of Confederate prisoners in prisoner-of-war camps in the North aims to dispel the hoary myths and misconceptions of intentional cruelty and retaliation that arose from the postwar Southern Lost Cause ideology. Rejecting post-war

Southern accounts of sadistic treatment at the hands of vengeful Northern captors as unreliable, Gillispie instead argues that wartime records of the administration of prison camps and diaries of Southern prisoners not only provide the best sources, but clearly demonstrate that Union Army

administrators endeavored to provide ample food, clothing, medical care, and shelter to the tens of thousands of rebel prisoners in Northern prison camps. In a series of “mini studies” (p. 5) of nine of the major prisons scattered throughout the North, Gillispie shows that at each prison, army officers made conscientious efforts to feed, clothe, and care for their prisoners under the watchful eyes of inspectors sent by the commissary general of prisoners, Colonel William Hoffman. He argues that although many prisoners died while in custody, the deaths were largely due to overcrowding after the breakdown of prisoner exchanges; rampant disease (such as pneumonia, dysentery, smallpox, malaria, typhoid, and other maladies) which was easily communicated in the crowded camps; and the lack of medical knowledge necessary to diagnose and treat these diseases.

Gillispie’s mini-study of Camp Morton in Indianapolis, Indiana will serve here as a representative for all nine prisons under examination. Established as a volunteer rendezvous camp at the beginning of the war, it became a prison camp in early 1862 in order to accommodate the thousands of Confederate prisoners captured after the battle of Fort Donelson. Though the prison camp was initially emptied later that year by exchanges, it rapidly refilled to overcrowding again. Gillispie notes that Camp Morton’s commanders came in for sharp criticism at times

by Hoffman’s medical inspectors for deficient medical care (owing to an inexperienced medical staff) and for poor sewage drainage from the camp. Inspectors reported that prisoners’ waste collected in insufficiently drained ditches and created health hazards. After Hoffman forced the replacement of medical staff and commanders, conditions improved. However, the prison barracks buildings lacked wooden floors, and became muddy in wet weather. Gillispie reviews the mortality statistics for each prison, and at Camp Morton pneumonia was the chief reported killer, followed by diarrhea/dysentery and malaria. Though Camp Morton’s death rates were worse than most of the other Northern prisons, Gillispie demonstrates that camp officials—under the watchful eyes of Hoffman’s inspectors—provided ample rations, clothing, and shelter, belying the post-war image of negligence and abuse promoted by Lost Cause apologists.

Gillispie handles each prison separately, following the same pattern (reviewing first the postwar accounts, then the secondary literature, and finally any records and surviving prisoner diaries written during the war). Though tediously repetitious, the argument that federal authorities took great pains to provide ample food, clothing, medical care, and shelter to the rebel prisoners is ultimately hammered home. Gillispie’s concluding chapter on “the omnipresent specter of disease” is most effective in showing the problems of communicable

diseases and prison camps in the nineteenth century, and medical practitioners' lack of understanding and inability to deal with them. Gillispie's focus on wartime records and Confederate prisoners' wartime diaries is important; however, his reliance on the published *Official Records* and *Medical and Surgical History of the War of Rebellion* is unfortunate. The *Official Records* represents a mere sample of the mass of records found in the National Archives. Extensive records, far more than those selected for publication in the *Official Records*, exist for each of the various prison camps.

Gillispie's argument would have been stronger had he consulted the originals. Still, his book serves as a useful corrective to the distorted picture produced by reliance on postwar Lost Cause narratives.

STEPHEN E. TOWNE is Associate University Archivist at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He is editor of *A Fierce, Wild Joy: The Civil War Letters of Colonel Edward J. Wood, 48th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment* (2007), and co-editor with Richard F. Nation of *Indiana's War: The Civil War in Documents* (2009).



*Abolitionists Remember*  
*Antislavery Autobiographies and the Unfinished Work of Emancipation*  
 By Julie Roy Jeffrey

(Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008. Pp. xii, 337. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. Clothbound, \$59.95; paperbound, \$24.95.)

Ruminating in 1935 on the meaning of emancipation, the African American historian and sociologist W.E.B. Du Bois wrote: "The slave went free; stood a brief moment in the sun; then moved back again toward slavery."

In *Abolitionists Remember* Julie Roy Jeffrey examines how, during the four decades following emancipation, white and black abolitionists memorialized and remembered their contentious and long campaign to overthrow the "peculiar institution." She defines "abolitionist" broadly, including "all who embraced the anti-slavery cause" and focuses on the broad significance of the abolition movement in late nineteenth centu-

ry America, a time when the freed-people "moved back again toward slavery" (p. 256 n.7).

Specialists will welcome Jeffrey's close reading of the autobiographical texts of such well-known abolitionists as William Still, Levi Coffin, Frederick Douglass, Parker Pillsbury, George Julian, Calvin Fairbank, and Thomas Wentworth Higginson. In addition to uncovering and analyzing obscure proceedings of abolitionists' reunions in 1875, 1884, and 1893, she also studies the recollections of lesser-known abolitionists, including former slaves John Quincy Adams and John P. Parker, as well as John Malvin, a free black southerner.