

cases seems to mire her discussion in excessive medical detail.

Devine also concentrates on research with microscopes and microphotography of diseased body parts, which led to new perspectives on the causes, courses, and effects of disease. In addition, she discusses the research opportunities afforded by the availability of actual bodies as well as the moderating attitudes that permitted and encouraged such research. Among her postwar examples is a study of the application of wartime research methods to cholera epidemics in 1866, 1867, and 1873. Devine also traces the development of specialized hospitals for particular conditions, such as Philadelphia's Turner's Lane Hospital, which cared for patients with neurological problems. Although most physicians were generalists before the war, a number became specialists in several newly developing fields as a result of their wartime experiences.

Devine explicitly focuses on the work and records of Union doctors—a reasonable choice given

the large amount of remaining material. Nevertheless, she shortchanges the Confederate medical men who, despite their meager resources and fewer records, had the same training as Union doctors and faced the same problems in combatting wounds and disease, often with more success and scientific perspective than she gives them credit for. The Confederates also had at least one specialty hospital (ophthalmic in Georgia) and a medical journal (which the Union forces did not have) to spread case studies of treatments and other medical news.

Researchers who want to know what medical advancements resulted from the Civil War will find extensive and useful answers in this book.

GLENN R. SCHROEDER-LEIN is the author of *Confederate Hospitals on the Move: Samuel H. Stout and the Army of Tennessee* (1994), *The Encyclopedia of Civil War Medicine* (2008), and *Lincoln and Medicine* (2012). She was an assistant editor for *The Papers of Andrew Johnson* for ten years.



### *African Canadians in Union Blue: Volunteering for the Cause in the Civil War*

By Richard M. Reid

(Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2014. Pp. 3, 212. Illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. Paperbound, \$28.95.)

Richard M. Reid's *African Canadians in Union Blue*, as its title suggests, examines the Canadian men of African descent who served in the American

Civil War. Reid finds that about 2,500 black men residing in what was then still British Canada—some natives and others migrants from the United

States—crossed the border to volunteer for the Union army and navy. “Sympathy for the emancipation struggle was widespread in British North American black American communities,” he writes, especially in Canada West (present-day Ontario), where thousands of African Americans had found refuge before the war (p. 209). Hence, although ideology was not the only factor that motivated black men in Canada to serve in the Civil War, they nonetheless identified strongly with their racial compatriots in the United States—to the point of defying British law that forbade them from joining a foreign military. In fact, given the small population of blacks in Canada in the 1860s, the author finds that their participation rate in the Civil War “was not much lower” (p. 209) than that of African Americans in the Northern states.

*African Canadians in Union Blue* is a well-organized book, although at times it reads like a general study of black men in the Union military. Reid emphasizes units recruited in the North—hardly surprising given that most of the Canadian residents whom he identifies served in northern-based regiments, although a small number did somehow join black Union regiments raised in the South. Reid starts by describing Canada’s black communities on the eve of the Civil War, then moves on to discuss the degree to which these communities engaged in the war and how many black men in Canada

ended up serving (the latter question being complicated by Union military records that reveal little about the prewar residence of army recruits and the race of navy recruits). He then goes on to study the black Canadians who joined the Union navy, finding that they were part of a long international tradition of seamen serving on foreign vessels—both civilian and military. Reid follows with chapters on discrimination against blacks in the Union army—which for a time discouraged the recruitment of Canadian-based black men—and the improving conditions over the course of the war, which encouraged more black men from north of the border to come south for military service. The author finishes with a chapter on black Canadian physicians who made notable contributions as Union army surgeons, and another chapter on the postwar lives of these men. Reid finds that many of these black men stayed in the United States after the Civil War, not only encouraged by the improved racial climate for African Americans afterward, but also following a larger historical pattern of Canadians emigrating to take advantage of the better opportunities south of the border.

While Richard Reid addresses an admittedly obscure Civil War topic, he does so in a cogent and discerning fashion. *African Canadians in Union Blue* will no doubt be the standard work on this topic for some time to come, and deservedly so. It also stands as a worthwhile contribution

to the growing literature examining the international manifestations of this conflict.

DONALD R. SHAFFER is the author of *After the Glory: The Struggles of Black Civil War Veterans* (2004) and

a co-author of *Voices of Emancipation: Understanding Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction through the U.S. Pension Bureau Files* (2008). He teaches college-level history online and maintains a regular blog at: [cwe-mancipation.wordpress.com/](http://cwe-mancipation.wordpress.com/).



## *Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad*

By Eric Foner

(New York: W. W. Norton and Company, Inc., 2015. Pp. 1, 230. Illustrations, notes, index. \$26.95.)

This illuminating book is poorly served by its misleading subtitle. Although the history of the Underground Railroad was long ignored by established scholars, it is no longer “hidden,” thanks to the enterprising work of many local historians and others who have documented its operation in many parts of the North. Nor is *Gateway to Freedom* a history of the Underground Railroad as a whole, but rather of just one of its corridors: the path from Philadelphia through New York City toward points north. Foner barely mentions underground activity west of the Appalachian Mountains, where probably the largest number of fugitive slaves en route to safe havens in the North and Canada passed through western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois. Nationally significant Indiana activists, such as Levi Coffin and George de Baptiste, also go unmentioned.

Foner also seems to believe that the Underground Railroad—as a definable system—came into being only after the founding of the American Antislavery Society in the 1830s. Although traveling AASS agents facilitated the expansion of the underground, its roots stretch back to systematic collaboration between Quaker activists and African Americans in and around Philadelphia at the turn of the nineteenth century, if not before.

In New York City, however, Foner is on much firmer and very interesting ground. New York was then a hotbed of antiblack sentiment, and probably the most dangerous large city in which the underground operated. Foner acknowledges the work of David Ruggles, the bold Connecticut-born founder of the New York Vigilance Committee whose activities have been detailed in Graham Russell Gao Hodges’s excellent biography,