were used for military training, compatible or incompatible recreation, and eventually as historic sites. Smith explains how the same political and social forces, including evolving race relations, affected battlefield preservation as a whole.

Smith leads the reader to a very positive conclusion—which is the emergence of the Civil War Trust, a private organization that today successfully engages and leads the public in battlefield preservation and, increasingly, education. Smith makes it clear at the end of this important book that without the emergence of private leadership in battlefield preservation our cause today would be in dire straits indeed.

This book is well researched and comprehensive. It is not without error, but given its breadth the error is minor, and it stands as an essential source for the details as well as the general processes of Civil War battlefield preservation. The weave of concurrent and historical layers in this book are essential to the story, but at times do make it a bit tedious. This does not, however, prevent me from enthusiastically recommending this book to the serious Civil War scholar, regardless of genre, and to those with a more general interest in the subject—especially those who enjoy visiting our preserved Civil War landscape.

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Prospects of Greatness: The Rise of Midwestern Cities during the Gilded Age
By Lawrence H. Larsen and Barbara J. Cottrell

From Sandusky and Terre Haute to Hannibal and Eau Claire, the urban Midwest came of age during the two decades following America’s Civil War, a saga told in a pleasant style by Lawrence H. Larsen and Barbara J. Cottrell. At the heart of Prospects of Greatness is “city building,” the process whereby settlements such as county seats can become urban centers as they gain greater purpose and larger populations. In these locations, public services such as policing and firefighting become
responsibility of evening constables and volunteer brigades to trained, full-time professionals. Citizens and local government officials no longer tolerate backyard cesspools and outhouses, as expectations for sanitary health become elevated. Sewer systems, water mains, health codes, and building regulations follow. The growing list of civic obligations requires focused, informed decision-making—sophistication that usually comes with weightier tax bills.

Using the year 1880 and its voluminous national census as centerpieces, Larsen and Cottrell provide readers with fascinating stories as small, medium, and large cities (from under ten thousand to a million) across Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri continue to grow. Everyone’s favorite Midwestern city seems to be mentioned at least once, if not more frequently. For instance, chapter two opens with a quick review of the region’s “new cities” of note, including Fort Wayne, South Bend, and Evansville, as well as Toledo, Kalamazoo, Peoria, Dubuque, and Duluth.

The authors consider and appreciate the pivotal roles played, first, by canals during the opening half of the nineteenth century (in Ohio and Indiana especially) and subsequently by crisscrossing railroad lines. Raw materials such as coal, iron ore, and timber are transformed into electricity, skyscrapers, and furniture. Midwestern factories produce foodstuffs of every flavor, wagons for every use, patent medicine for every disease, flour milling at every rapids, and an ever-expanding list of must-have household devices. Over time, these cities of tomorrow fill with Virginians and Yankee-Yorkers, as well as immigrants from Germany, Ireland, and Norway.

One of the true prizes in this fairly brief account is the amazing value of the footnotes, not usually an eye-catching section in any book. However, in this volume readers are respectfully guided to additional primary and secondary sources, some new and some a bit yellowed with time. Additional readings on every city referenced by the authors are made available, for readers who must know more about their favorite city. Seldom has this referencing been done more artfully.

Use of the term “Gilded Age” in this work may be a bit constrained, with the years leading up to 1880 (from the mid-nineteenth century) serving as the focus of the book’s chronology. The 1880s and 1890s are less central—even more so the closer events come to 1900. (For example, the city of Gary is not mentioned a single time.) Indeed,
Funding Feminism: Monied Women, Philanthropy, and the Women's Movement, 1870–1967
By Joan Marie Johnson

Joan Johnson’s Funding Feminism is a welcome addition to the literature on women and philanthropy. Many studies document women’s work as leaders and members of voluntary associations; others illuminate women as effective fundraisers for causes such as abolition, war relief, temperance, and basic human needs. Funding Feminism examines wealthy women who underwrote social movements that were acutely female issues: suffrage, higher education for women, and birth control. Johnson’s work goes beyond biography by looking at a network of women and therefore allows for a deeper understanding of women’s “money and power.”

Funding Feminism spans almost one hundred years but concentrates on the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The story begins with Sophia Smith’s bequest to Smith College in 1870 and ends with the opening of the second of Katharine McCormick’s residence halls at MIT in 1967. Chapters are tightly organized around the themes that, taken together, illustrate a feminist agenda that supported women’s independence and equality.

Johnson profiles a fascinating group of women for this study, some well-known and others who have eluded historians: Alva Belmont, Sophia Smith, Jane Stanford, Helen Scripps, Mary Elizabeth Garrett, Phoebe Hearst, and Katharine McCormick. Johnson deftly weaves their stories together into cohesive narratives of women’s issues. She acknowledges upfront that her research subjects are white women and notes other works that portray women of color.