

While covering numerous activities in multiple theaters in a relatively short space, Jamieson omits no essential fact and draws many effective word pictures of important figures. The timeline runs from the capture of Fort Fisher in January 1865 through Sherman's advance through the Carolinas to Grant's success in finally prying Lee out of Petersburg and then running him to ground at Appomattox. Subsidiary operations along the Gulf coast are included. The narrative of military operations is nicely done, drawing on manuscripts and the standard primary sources as well as reputable modern analyses. President Abraham Lincoln's "unwavering focus on restoring the Union" (p. 8) is recalled, as is Confederate President Jefferson Davis's refusal to accept reality at the end; a briefing by a senior commander "failed to persuade Davis that the war was lost." (p. 179-180) The shabby treatment of Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren by Grant and Gen. Philip Sheridan in Virginia in 1865 and in ensuing years receives sympathetic treatment.

Author Jamieson is a sharp writer and analyst and tells a fascinating story well. Despite a few rookie mistakes such as confusing "imminent" and "eminent", and mistaking "casualties" for "fatalities", novices and veteran Civil War readers alike will find this book a useful tool for learning about and understanding the last months of that internecine conflict. This reviewer plans to make it a permanent part of his library.

Russell K. Brown

***William Wells and the Struggle for the Old Northwest*, by William Heath. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2015. 500 pp., \$34.95.**

Throughout history, various men have walked across the American historical stage. Some of these men are known today to the public at large, while others are remembered only by a few historians. Among these forgotten historical figures is William Wells, who during his life played a pivotal role in the shaping of the Old Northwest. Wells, a man at home in both the European and Native American cultures, found in the end that he was trusted by neither. Unlike Simon Kenton and Daniel Boone, William Wells had no one to champion his deeds during his lifetime, and thus he quickly faded from public memory. It should be noted, however, that William Wells holds center stage in the painting *Treaty of Greenville*, by Howard Chandler Christy. In this painting, William Wells, as the interpreter, stands in the center, with his father-in-law, Little Turtle, on his right holding a Wampum Belt, and General Anthony Wayne on his left, holding a copy of the treaty. William Wells thus serves as the bridge between the declining Native

American culture and the rising American state.

William Heath, in this superbly researched and written book, places William Wells back into the historic limelight he so deserves. Much of the story of William Wells's life is told within the content of events happening around him, due to lack of primary documentation. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1770, and in 1779 his family moved to the vicinity of present day Louisville, Kentucky. This area sustained numerous Indian raids. In 1782, when twelve years old, Wells along with three companions, were captured by a Miami raiding party. Adopted by the Miami tribe, Wells soon became one of its warrior. He married into the Miami but in 1791 lost his wife and child to an attack by American soldiers. Wells thereafter took up arms against the U.S. Army and participated in the battle known as St. Clair's Defeat. Yet within a short time after this battle, Wells would become a trusted scout for General Anthony Wayne and fight with the Americans at the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

Following the Battle of Fallen Timbers, William Wells and Little Turtle, leader of the Miami, traveled east twice, first to meet with President George Washington and then with President John Adams. Later, Wells would travel east to meet with President Thomas Jefferson. All of these trips failed to produce firm guarantees that white Americans would stop encroaching upon Indian land. Wells's service as Indian Agent at Fort Wayne following the Threat of Greenville was controversial. Both the Indians and the American settlers accused him of favoring the other group. During Wells's tenure as Indian Agent, he angered William Henry Harrison and was relieved from his position.

In 1812, William Wells, now married to a European woman, housed Little Turtle under his roof at Ft. Wayne, and at Little Turtle's death oversaw his burial. That same year, Wells accepted an assignment from the U.S. government that led to his death. The first year of the War of 1812 had been anything but a triumphant feat of arms for American forces. American forts in the west during that year were captured or neutralized by British troops, supported by their Canadian and Indian allies. When a message arrived at Fort Wayne that the garrison at Fort Dearborn (Chicago) was to abandon their fort and retreat to Fort Wayne, Wells was chosen to go to Fort Dearborn to negotiate its surrender to converging hostile Indians and gain safe passage for the garrison to Fort Wayne.

Wells successfully negotiated a treaty with the Indians surrounding Fort Dearborn to allow the garrison to retreat to Fort Wayne, but once the Fort Dearborn garrison was beyond the walls of the fort, the surrounding Indians fell upon the garrison. Wells was among those killed in this action.

The title of this book is somewhat misleading because the reader is not presented with a biography of William Wells, but instead receives an enticing history of Native American and European interaction along the Indiana-Ohio state line, from 1790 to 1815. Wells is the central subject in one-quarter of the book, while the rest of it sets the stage in which he operated. The reviewer must state, however, that the book is a tour de force, covering events that took place over 25 years in an area located between Louisville, Kentucky, and Cincinnati, Ohio, in the south and Detroit, Michigan, and Chicago, Illinois, in the north. The author masterfully combines social, military, and political history, bringing to life events that shaped the United States. This book is a must read for anyone interested in our nation's formative years.

Charles H. Bogart

***A Young General and the Fall of Richmond: The Life and Career of Godfrey Weitzel*, by G. William Quatman. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2015. 338 pp. \$28.95 softcover.**

The following question has been frequently asked in recent years about the American Civil War: Are there really any topics and subjects remaining about which to write? Fortunately, the answer is yes. There remains much to be added to the historiography of the conflict by those interested enough, capable, and in the know. In this volume, author G. William Quatman has elected to write a biography of one of the lesser known, if not obscure, Union generals who left quite a wartime as well as post-bellum legacy — Godfrey Weitzel. Indeed, as the author relates in the prologue, Weitzel was “Like Forrest Gump, he was always in the right place at the right time.” (p.xiv)

Given the title, this should not be considered a full biography, as only the first forty three pages of text cover Weitzel's antebellum life and eleven pages summarize his postwar career. In between, however, the author describes in depth his subject's contributions to the Union war effort, and they were substantial for someone of his relative youth and the fact that much of his career was spent in the company of one of the country's less accomplished and political generals, Benjamin Butler. As it was, Weitzel considered Butler a mentor and the regard was reciprocal as the latter was able to protect his protégé from potential military and political consequences and complications during their association, following some of Weitzel's perceived (and Butler's real) failures on campaign.

Born in Germany in 1835, Weitzel's family moved to the United States, settling among Cincinnati's large German community, where

he and his father anglicized their first names (Gottfried becoming Godfrey). Choosing the path to a free education, Weitzel was nominated to a cadetship at the United States Military Academy at the tender (and ineligible) age of 14. The nineteen-year-old graduate's early military career found him, among other places, in New Orleans. This assignment later stood him in good stead, as he could provide immediate first hand intelligence on Forts Jackson and St. Philip during that fight and the subsequent occupation of New Orleans under Butler. Weitzel also enjoyed the esteem and respect of his men resulting from the success gained in the Lafourche and Port Hudson Campaigns, and while in Louisiana, he first commanded “colored” troops, an assignment he tried to avoid, much to Butler's dismay.

Unfortunately, Weitzel also experienced failure at the Battle of Sabine Pass, on the Texas-Louisiana border, before being ordered to the East, where he was reunited with Butler at Bermuda Hundred and commanded troops, with only rather limited success, at Drewry's Bluff and Fort Harrison. Under Butler, he was initially deemed guilty by association in the initial assault on and debacle at Fort Fisher, North Carolina, yet managed to survive his experience in front of the Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War. On his return from marrying a second time (his first wife died in an accident), Weitzel was assigned to command the XXV Corps, the Army's only such all-black formation. His troops were first into Richmond, following the breakthrough in front of Petersburg, and he became military governor and escort to Lincoln on his visit to Richmond, before becoming mired in political troubles while managing the city.

Postwar, Weitzel and the XXV Corps participated in the campaign to counter the French intervention in Mexico before he resigned and went on to a distinguished career in the Corps of Engineers. His health began declining, and after moving to Philadelphia, he died in 1884 at the relatively young age of 49.

This volume is well-written, but a few items should be noted. The book's format is somewhat unusual, as each chapter is subdivided with headings referencing the topic of that particular section. Footnote citations in the text are proper and correct but, for some reason, the author has also cited sources using page numbers and abbreviations of titles in the bibliography, e.g. (BB, 627, 628), (DFE, 360), which refer to *Butler's Book* and *Defense of Fort Fisher*. Thus, the reader is annoyingly forced to figure out the citation's meaning, and then proceed to the bibliography and a scan of the titles in order to determine the source in question. Also somewhat annoying was the author's interchangeable use of and reference to Godfrey and Weitzel.

The illustrations are generally from the Library of Congress and