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With Malice toward Some: Treason and Loyalty in the Civil War Era

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Bryant Stewart, Victoria. "With Malice toward Some: Treason and Loyalty in the Civil War Era." *The Annals of Iowa* 74 (2015), 193-194. Available at: https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.12196 Hosted by Iowa Research Online each letter with extensive footnotes that provide even more clarity regarding the individuals and events mentioned. Reinhart's expertly woven combination of primary and secondary sources makes this a highly recommended volume for anyone interested in the Civil War or German American immigrants in the Midwest.

With Malice toward Some: Treason and Loyalty in the Civil War Era, by William A. Blair. The Littlefield History of the Civil War Era. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014. 432 pp. Appendixes, graphs, notes, bibliography, index. \$40.00 hardcover.

Reviewer Victoria Bryant Stewart is a Ph.D. history student at Northern Illinois University and adjunct history professor at the College of DuPage.

The American Civil War fostered a sense of anxiety in the North that resulted in a desire to locate, detect, and eliminate treasonous activity. William Blair's monograph outlines the evolution of treason law and its prosecution. He explains that treason is the only crime specifically addressed in the U.S. Constitution. Despite that presence in America's foundational document, treason is difficult to prosecute.

Blair opens his discussion by addressing the treatment of treason under British rule, when treason was treated as a political and individual crime. In the United States, treason was seen as the attempt to levy war against the government of the United States or to provide aid to its enemies.

Blair focuses on the social and political ramifications of treason rather than on constitutional theory. He skillfully describes the understanding and interpretations of treason for President Abraham Lincoln's administration, the courts, and civilians and explains how the military was used to define treason and capture treasonous individuals. According to Blair, the military served as an "instigator" of the Lincoln administration's civil liberty policies. The Union's efforts, in Confederate regions and areas sympathetic to the Southern cause, consisted of maintaining loyalty as "a struggle over the security of households." Blair addresses the postwar treatment of Confederate officers and soldiers, who were granted clemency once their loyalty was certified.

For those interested in local and Iowa history, Blair addresses significant events and themes. Iowans responded enthusiastically to calls for troops, and Iowa had an extensive support network on the home front that secured supplies, operated farms in soldiers' absences, and treated sick and wounded soldiers. Blair recounts a particular event in February 1863 in Keokuk, Iowa, when approximately 75 wounded soldiers banded together to focus their displeasure on the *Keokuk Daily*

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Constitution. Upset with the newspaper's disloyal articles, they entered the office and destroyed the printing presses. The soldiers were eventually disbanded, but their actions show local efforts to punish and prevent disloyalty. Blair notes the significance of destroying printing presses to curb treason since such actions show public concern for the contents of printed materials.

Blair addresses Copperhead actions throughout the Union that were perceived as disloyal and dangerous to the U.S. government and those based on the home front. He notes the treatment of Copperheads and the responses to their actions. Iowa's history contains instances of Copperhead activity that directly confronted the authority of provost marshals. In one instance, such activity resulted in the deaths of Deputy Provost Marshal John Bashore and Special Agent Josiah Woodruff, who were murdered when attempting to arrest three draft evaders. Blair skillfully describes the duties and responsibilities of provost marshals, explaining the dangers provost marshals faced when performing their duties. These dangers included the enforcement of policies, but also rested in their duties to police and prevent treason.

Blair has constructed an impressive body of scholarship regarding the treatment and perceptions of treason among different sectors of society. He shows how civilians responded more quickly than the federal government, causing a reevaluation of legal standards regarding treason and other dangerous activities that threaten the state. Northerners, fearful of treason in their communities and displeased by the federal government's assessment and punishment of treason, showed their disapproval of disloyal activities. They sought, for example, to limit the printing of newspaper articles with questionable contents and, after the war, to prevent former Confederates from voting. Blair skillfully demonstrates how ex-Confederates were required to accept the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

The strength of this work lies in the extensiveness of the research. Government documents, court cases, and period periodicals recount instances of treason but also expose how events were connected throughout the nation. Extensive appendixes list political arrests and those courtmarshalled for treason or disloyalty. Blair's work is a welcome addition to Civil War scholarship, an excellent resource for those interested in the treatment of treason and Northern perceptions of disloyalty.

The Long Shadow of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, by Jared Peatman. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2013. xvii, 244. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$34.50 hardcover and e-book.