

Patriotism, Courage, & Sacrifice: Warren County's Response to WW II

Terrence J. Lindell
Wartburg College

ISSN 0003-4827

Copyright © 2018 State Historical Society of Iowa. This article is posted here for personal use,
not for redistribution.

Recommended Citation

Lindell, Terrence J.. "Patriotism, Courage, & Sacrifice: Warren County's Response to WW
II." *The Annals of Iowa* 77 (2018), 327-328.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.12492>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

gold standard led to a run on U.S. gold reserves and new bank failures, thus undoing most of what Hoover had accomplished.

Hoover found Americans' embrace of FDR incomprehensible. The New Deal, he would argue for the rest of his life, had failed to end the depression and at the same time made Americans "dependent on government" (541). As "an antidote to the New Deal" (557), in 1937 he called for government to confine itself to safeguarding equality of opportunity and individual enterprise. "Ideals, invention, initiative, enterprise, and leadership spring best from free men and women," he said, and "the only economic system which will not limit or destroy these forces of progress is private enterprise" (quoted, 556). That statement, Whyte declares, is the basis of "modern American conservatism" (557).

Perhaps so, but in recent years the widening gulf between the rich and poor suggests that Hoover's party has shifted its focus from maximizing opportunities for ordinary Americans to protecting the interests of the wealthiest. We may wonder whether the man who wanted the government to "stamp out predatory business practices" (205) and endorsed strong labor unions and the inheritance tax would be comfortable with his party's current policies.

Patriotism, Courage, & Sacrifice: Warren County's Response to WW II, by Jerry K. Beatty. Indianola: Warren County Historical Society, 2017. 401 pp. Illustrations, appendixes, bibliography, index. \$45.00 paperback.

Reviewer Terrence J. Lindell is professor of history at Wartburg College. His research interests include the World War II home front.

Jerry K. Beatty, former president of the Warren County Historical Society, dedicates this richly illustrated book to the county's 102 men lost in World War II and tells the story of its residents on battle front and home front. The work is divided into three chapters: the first deals with the military side of the conflict; the second recounts the home front; and the third—and by far the longest—provides biographical data on more than 3,200 service personnel who lived in Warren County, including those who attended Simpson College at some point either before or after the war. Beatty makes extensive use of local newspapers and interviews, but also relies on a variety of internet sources, including Wikipedia.

The chapter on military events is episodic because it focuses on the county's participants, especially casualties, although the inclusion of the Russian Front is odd. The section on the home front is a useful overview of the activities that took place in an Iowa county; anyone contemplating research on the Iowa home front would benefit from perusing it. The sections on relief efforts, war brides, and the repatriation of military

dead cover post-1945 events that are often neglected. The biographical portion is an extraordinary effort to tell the stories of the men and women who served in uniform. For some there is only a name and residence; for others there is considerable information on both civilian and military life, with quotations from letters or interviews. This section will appeal primarily to genealogists.

Civic Labors: Scholar Activism and Working-Class Studies, edited by Dennis Deslippe, Eric Fure-Slocum, and John W. McKerley. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2016. The Working Class in American History Series. x, 287 pp. Photograph, notes, index. \$95.00 hardcover, \$28.00 paperback.

Reviewer Gregory R. Zieren, a former interviewer with the Iowa Labor History Oral Project, is professor of history at Austin Peay State University. His research and writing have focused on Gilded Age economic and labor history.

Civic Labors is a collection of nearly two dozen articles and introductory essays written mainly by historians of the American working class. In the University of Illinois Press, the editors of the collection found the ideal publisher because the work fits perfectly in its Working Class in American History Series. No other major university press has made as enduring a commitment to labor and working-class history. As of last year, the series encompassed 125 titles with publication dates starting in the 1970s and continuing to today. *Civic Labors* belongs in the group because so many of its contributors wrote monographs for the series; the contributors' work, in turn, inspired others through their writing, teaching, and activism in labor, civil rights, and women's rights.

One clear attraction of *Civic Labors* for Iowa readers is its regional focus. Many of the contributors have careers based in midwestern universities, especially in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois. This is significant because involvement in civic labor means studying the past as historians while remaining engaged in the present locally in fights for labor representation and other social justice struggles. Peter Rachleff, for instance, taught at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and became well known in labor circles for his support for striking packing-house workers at the Hormel plant in Austin, Minnesota; Ralph Scharnau, from the University of Dubuque, devoted a career to labor and Iowa history and then became an activist defending faculty rights at the university from new management determined to make faculty submissive to their restrictive policies. H. Shelton Stromquist at the University of Iowa, James Barrett at the University of Illinois, and Stephen Meyer at