Book Notices

Brackett's Battalion, Minnesota Cavalry, 1861-1866, by Kurt D. Berge-}
trations, bibliography. $12.99 paper.

REVIEWED BY JOHN Y. SIMON, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT
CARBONDALE

Three companies of Minnesota volunteer cavalry, sent to St. Louis in
1861, joined the Curtis Horse, a regiment named in honor of Iowan
Samuel R. Curtis, the departmental commander. Comprising sol-
diers from Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska Territory, and
commanded by another Iowan, William W. Lowe, the regiment was
renamed the Fifth Iowa in June 1862, despite complaints from Min-
nesotans. This regiment, roughriding and ill disciplined, served ef-
ectively in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama. In February 1864,
the Minnesota cavalrmen returned home to serve officially as
Brackett's Battalion in the campaigns against the Sioux in Dakota
Territory. A narrative of these operations provides about half of
the text. Like other Civil War units, this battalion contained a surpris-
ingly large proportion of men who kept diaries, wrote to hometown
newspapers, or penned reminiscences after the war.

Kurt D. Bergeumann, the great-great-grandson of a member of
Brackett's Battalion and an assiduous researcher, has published an
attractive and detailed history of his ancestor's unit. He has amassed
material from manuscripts and newspapers as well as books. He has
also assembled attractive illustrations. The publication would have
profited from footnotes and an index, to say nothing of a competent
copyeditor, but readers will appreciate this labor of love.

Tante Johanne: Letters of a Danish Immigrant Family, 1887-1910, edited
by John W. Nielsen. Blair, NE: Lur Publications, Danish Immigrant
$12.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY BARBARA LUND-JONES, THE DANISH IMMIGRANT MUSEUM

Tante Johanne is the first published compilation to be taken from the re-
markable Hansen-Mengers Collection, an extensive holding of immi-
grant family correspondence housed at the Danish Immigrant Archive