

# Vanishing Footprints: The Twenty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War

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a useful service to researchers by briefly describing the cases of many women who appeared before U.S. military justice tribunals in the course of the Civil War.

By diligently compiling the cases of so many women, Hall has certainly substantiated one of his central claims: that a substantial number of women served in the Civil War, and that while their gender in some ways modified where or how they might serve, it certainly did not stop them from serving ably. In passing, Hall also presents some interesting issues that are worth further development. For example, he observes that while women who cross dressed as soldiers were initially lauded in the press, by the end of the war such women were much more likely to be presented as being “coarse” and acting in a fashion undignified for a woman. He also argues that women who served represented a wide range of the class spectrum, while at the same time tending to serve in different capacities based on their class backgrounds. Further examination of either of these issues would give more chronological depth and social structural context to our understanding of why these women insisted on serving their country as they did.

Some historians may take issue with Hall’s claim that military service as a nurse, a spy, or even as a drummer boy, made these women into soldiers like any other. Some may also take issue with Hall’s almost total neglect of antebellum passing women as a core group and key motivation behind women’s service in the war. Finally, some may find his thin interpretation of the meaning of women’s service to be basically derivative of works already published on the subject, such as Blanton and Cook’s *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the Civil War* (2002) or Elizabeth Leonard’s *All the Daring of the Soldier: Women of the Civil War Armies* (1999).

At the end of the book, Hall calls for any researchers or descendants of the women he discusses to come forth with further information or clarification about them. It still remains a puzzle why these women were so adamant about their desire to serve, many of them as men, while the overwhelming majority of women were content to remain, even in the gender-shattering context of the Civil War, “the sex.”

*Vanishing Footprints: The Twenty-second Iowa Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War*, by Samuel D. Pryce; edited by Jeffrey C. Burden. Iowa City: Camp Pope Bookshop, 2008. xvii, 249 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$18.95 paper.

Reviewer Timothy B. Smith is lecturer of history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He has written extensively, including two articles in this journal, about national Civil War military parks.

Few Civil War units can offer a travel log equal to that of the soldiers of the Twenty-second Iowa Infantry, so it is fitting that their actions are finally enumerated on paper. Samuel D. Pryce, author of *Vanishing Footprints*, served in the regiment, and the Twenty-second Iowa Regimental Association veterans even voted his book to be their official record. The regiment began its service in Missouri before serving in the Vicksburg Campaign and later in Louisiana and then in Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley. Despite a captivating story and the veterans' endorsement, Pryce's manuscript was never published, possibly because it was 827 pages long, much of it unrelated to the war. Fortunately, editor Jeffrey C. Burden has cut away all the fluff and produced a concise and important history of the regiment.

*Vanishing Footprints* is a combination of published memoir and regimental history. As in the case of almost all postwar memoirs, however, the reader must remember that the work was written after the fact and can be tinged with the worldview of the writer. Nonetheless, Civil War historians and buffs in general, as well as Iowans in particular, will be pleased with this handsome publication. The volume should be especially interesting to Johnson County Iowans, as seven of the ten companies in the regiment hailed from that locale.

*The Battle of Shiloh and the Organizations Engaged*, by David W. Reed with a new introduction by Timothy B. Smith. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2008. xxvii, 122 pp. Illustrations, maps (PDF files on CD-ROM), notes, table, index. \$33.00 cloth.

Reviewer Brian K. McCutchen began his National Park Service career as a ranger/historian at Shiloh and now serves as National Park Superintendent of the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, Stanton, North Dakota.

Colonel David W. Reed — familiar to Iowa Civil War historians as distinguished veteran of the 12th Iowa Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and widely regarded as “father” of the Shiloh National Military Park — published *The Battle of Shiloh and the Organizations Engaged* in 1902. This small but meticulous book — constructed entirely from official records, veteran input, and a vivid familiarity with the cultural landscape of the period — quickly became the “bible” of the 1862 battle. Subsequent editions, with revisions, followed in 1909 and 1913.

The first major book about Shiloh, Reed's account served as the cornerstone for all Shiloh interpretation for almost 70 years. Although generally balanced, *The Battle of Shiloh* is not entirely without romanticism and lore. Folklore such as the “Sunken Road,” the “Hornets Nest,” and the “Bloody Pond,” as well as the idolization of General