

The Colors of Courage: Gettysburg's Forgotten History: Immigrants, Women, and African Americans in the Civil War's Defining Battle. By MARGARET S. CREIGHTON. (New York: Basic Books, 2005. xxv, 321p. Maps, illustrations, notes, bibliography, acknowledgements, index. \$26.)

Historical studies of civilian life or the "home front" during wartime increased in the late twentieth century and include two on the Civil War in Pennsylvania: William G. Williams's *Days of Darkness: The Gettysburg Civilians* (1986) and J. Matthew Gallman's *Mastering Wartime: A Social History of Philadelphia during the Civil War* (1990). Now we can add Margaret S. Creighton's new book, *The Colors of Courage*. Creighton, a professor of history at Bates College, says if we "sift the evidence for what also remains of those July days in 1863, different Gettysburgs emerge" (p. vii). These "Gettysburgs" are those of people not fully acknowledged in chronicles of the battle, such as women, the Union army's Eleventh Corps, German immigrants, African Americans, and the "Louisiana Tigers" unit of the Confederate army. Creighton draws upon a wide array of primary sources like letters, memoirs, diaries, newspapers, and church records as well as secondary sources to document these groups. She also provides historical narrative and commentaries on some fifteen individual members of these groups. In *Colors of Courage* we meet, for example, German immigrant Carl Schurz who fights anti-German bias by rising to the rank of general in the Union army's Eleventh Corps. And there is nine-year-old Sadie Busman, the cabinetmaker's daughter asked by Union forces to work in a battlefield hospital. There are the African Americans Abraham and Elizabeth Brian, whose twelve-acre farm served as shelter, food source, and combat zone.

The narration of these and other Gettysburg residents' days are told in three parts: before, during, and after the Battle of Gettysburg. Creighton is not the first historian to describe the Gettysburg community before the war; indeed some of the people she discusses, such as Jennie Wade, Harriet Bayly, and Fannie Buehler, are also treated in Williams's book. But what is exciting and enlightening in *Colors of Courage* are the profiles of the African American and the German immigrant communities before the battle. The author appears to benefit from the extraordinary local history work produced about Adams County African Americans in recent years. The second part deals with the actual battle and contains more military than civilian history. The third part of the book is the longest; eighty-seven pages as compared to just fifty-two pages for part 2 and forty pages for part 1. This seems to be the least original part of the book, for other Civil War historians such as Gerald A. Patterson, George Sheldon, and Gregory A. Coco have written about the aftermath of the battle in greater detail.

Creighton, nevertheless, has created a work of scholarship through a synthesis of local Adams County history, the "new social history," and the latest scholarship about the Battle of Gettysburg. She brings a crisp, literary style to her pages, and

the text is augmented by photographs, maps, notes, bibliographies, and an index. *Colors of Courage* should interest not only Civil War history buffs but the general public too, as it incorporates changes in historical interpretation at Gettysburg and other Civil War sites. Although Creighton claims that she is telling "a story told time and time again" (p. vii), she retells it in a way that expands and enriches our understanding of the Battle of Gettysburg.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania

ERIC LEDELL SMITH

Forgotten Radicals: Communists in the Pennsylvania Anthracite, 1919–1950.

By WALTER T. HOWARD. (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2005. xiv, 268p. Bibliography, notes, index. \$38.)

For a decade Walter T. Howard has been pioneering the study of the history of the Communist Party in the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania. In conference papers and journal articles, Professor Howard has examined the efforts of Communist organizers in the region, principally in the 1920s and 1930s. He has relied primarily on local newspapers and the *Daily Worker* to reconstruct the story of party organizers' efforts to reach out to working people and provide radical left-wing leadership in this period of economic crisis and decline. Howard provides a narrative of repeated campaigns and legal repression that left the Communist Party on the margins of political life in the region.

Howard argues that Communists were significant players in struggles between workers and employers, within trade unions, and in the politics of the New Deal in the anthracite region. He outlines successive campaigns in which party leaders and organizers sought to channel discontent into a conscious political movement to challenge the dominance of the two major political parties in the region. He also outlines an ideological war of words in local newspapers in which anticommunist editorials and spirited, usually anonymous, defenses of a left-wing perspective battled for the loyalty of the region's readers. Finally, we see the power of local police and the courts arrayed against Communist efforts to reach a broader public. Authorities repeatedly denied Communists the rights of free speech and assembly, abrogating basic constitutional rights.

What is most striking about the story of Communists in the region is how marginal they were, both in the region's broader politics and within the labor radicalism that did emerge in this period. Working people forged three distinct responses to the Depression crisis: a powerful movement for equalization of work centered in the Panther Valley; a violent struggle over dual unionism in the northern anthracite field; and coal bootlegging in the southern and western middle fields. In none of these campaigns did Communists play a significant role. These strategies emerged out of workplace struggles and community life and