

attack against New England. Taylor's last chapters illustrate the importance of the 1814 Ghent Treaty and suggest how its effects would become significant to American expansionist programs, to Canadian political culture, and to Britain's North American imperial policies.

The Civil War of 1812 is a fine and a fascinating study. The book, which briefly alludes to minority populations in Pennsylvania and to its congressmen, who voted overwhelmingly for the war in order to preserve unity in President Madison's party, is distinctive for devoting meticulous attention to American ethnic groups. This work, which contains extensive endnotes and a lengthy bibliography, is also a paragon for the study of borderlands history. Lastly, by stressing salient features of nation and empire building, Taylor's superbly written tome enhances our understanding of early nineteenth-century Atlantic history, surpassing the recent studies written about the 1812 war by Donald R. Hickey and by Jon Latimer.

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R. WILLIAM WEISBERGER

Border War: Fighting over Slavery before the Civil War. By STANLEY HARROLD. (Chapel Hill,: University of North Carolina Press, 2010. 312 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, index. \$30.)

With the sesquicentennial commemorations of the American Civil War well under way, enthusiasts will continue to debate the causes of the war, including the centrality of slavery to its commencement. Stanley Harrold's recent book emphasizes not only the political importance of slavery to increasing sectionalism but also the physical conflict it provoked along the margins between free and slave states. When one considers the many examples of violent confrontations between pro- and antislavery citizens along the border region, it seems surprising that a full-scale civil war did not break out much sooner. Harrold presents compelling evidence that these skirmishes caused Border South slaveowners to push for stronger federal protections of slave property while fueling the conspiracy theories of Deep South planters.

Most students of history are familiar with the major flare-ups along the border before the Civil War, such as John Brown's infamous raid, or the Margaret Garner case, which inspired Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*. But Harrold here unearths dozens of obscure or hitherto unknown instances in which tensions surrounding the institution of slavery escalated into violence. These clashes between proslavery advocates and abolitionists took place along the southern edges of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, which Harrold refers to collectively as the Lower North. These free states contained many citizens with strong anti-slavery sentiments influenced by politics, morality, or religion. In contrast, the Border South states of Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and Kentucky were home

to slaveowners and their chattel; both groups knew that the Lower North provided for slaves the opportunity to escape to freedom. The real value of Harrold's work lies in the detailed attention it pays to escape attempts, pursuits, riots, and political confrontations that were previously known only to local historians.

Harrold describes a slow but steady increase in tensions between Lower North and Border South residents during the first half of the nineteenth century. Beginning in the 1790s and continuing well into the early 1800s, slaveholders in Maryland complained to Pennsylvania authorities that abolitionists from that state were encouraging and even aiding the escape of Maryland slaves. There are also many examples of Border South citizens abducting black residents of the Lower North. Harrold reveals the existence of organized gangs of kidnappers who operated around Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Cincinnati in the decades before the Civil War. Clearly, slaveholders were not the only border folk who were growing upset by their neighbors' actions. White and black residents of the Lower North used force to resist abduction attempts and to aid fugitive slaves—even encouraging runaways to arm themselves. Harrold shows that these conflicts only intensified as slavery threatened to spread west and as Border South slaveowners insisted on a stronger fugitive slave law.

Harrold clearly demonstrates the value of looking at the decades preceding the Civil War from the border perspective, examining a zone where people with extreme positions on slavery met every day and attempted to negotiate a middle ground between slavery and freedom. While professional historians will consider Harrold's research and interpretation of great interest, any reader intrigued by the causation of the war will find Harrold's writing fluid and enjoyable. *Border War* is a captivating read and will no doubt encourage further scholarship on the border region during and before the Civil War.

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Lucretia Mott's Heresy: Abolition and Women's Rights in Nineteenth-Century America. By CAROL FAULKNER. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011. 288 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$45.)

When Sarah and Angelina Grimké began to include women's rights in their speeches, they caused tension within the antislavery movement, leading male immediatists to question their focus. When Lucretia Mott advocated women's rights, it caused no such trouble. According to Carol Faulkner, Mott was among the most radical of the Hicksites, an anti-Sabbatarian and staunch religious liberal, and a radical advocate for women's rights; and she managed to get away with her "heresy" in all cases. Indeed, while the Quakers would eventually disown the Grimkés, they found Mott's talents indispensable and never passed such a harsh