

generally justified by the expectation that the system would be so profitable upon opening that it would support higher future maintenance costs and the eventual replacement of wooden structures with masonry ones. In the meantime, the cheapness of wood would allow the system to get up and running more quickly. In most cases, revenue never met projections, and the cheaply built infrastructure became a drag on the system's operation and finances. It's not that these chronological and analytical threads are absent from Kapsch's work, but the geographical structure of the book makes their treatment repetitive and less deeply explored than they otherwise might be.

The level of detail evident Kapsch's research, as well as the high quality of *Over the Alleghenies's* production, make this book valuable for readers interested in early national transportation and nineteenth-century Pennsylvania, though the book gets frustratingly close to some very interesting arguments about the successes and failures of the commonwealth's internal improvements program, which a different organizational structure might have allowed to shine.

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WILL B. MACKINTOSH

*Keystone State in Crisis: The Civil War in Pennsylvania.* By JUDITH GIESBERG. (Mansfield, PA: Pennsylvania Historical Association, 2013. 96 pp. Illustrations, notes. Paper, \$14.95.)

This short study attempts something unusual by essentially ignoring the Gettysburg campaign and almost anything to do with actual combat in a concise analysis of Civil War-era Pennsylvania. It would seem to be almost self-defeating to write about the conflict in a key Northern state and yet to slight the war's biggest battle (fought within its borders, no less) and spend only a minimal amount of space conveying the actual experiences of hundreds of thousands of its residents in uniform. Yet Giesberg's compact volume does offer real value for anyone teaching or studying this period. It succeeds in rendering some of the excellent social and political scholarship on the wartime North (including the author's own notable work) into an easily digestible format.

The study follows a broad chronology, but the five main chapters are essentially topical in nature and jump around quite liberally. Chapter 1 focuses on antebellum politics and the election of 1860. Giesberg uses a variety of evidence to argue that the Republican hold on the Keystone State was surprisingly precarious and always bitterly contested by Democrats. The second chapter casts the classic subject of "Mobilizing for War" in creative terms by focusing on some of the persistent debates about that mobilization. In this vein, Giesberg begins by highlighting Quaker abolitionist Lucretia Mott's pacifistic ambivalence about the brutal conflict. She also explores wartime labor strife, draft resistance, and the

Altoona governor's conference in 1862, providing a helpful corrective to many who seem to downplay arguments about war aims and wartime management from within loyal states such as Pennsylvania.

Chapter 3 draws back from the war itself to frame the conflict as one primarily over slavery and, later, civil rights. Giesberg offers concise summaries of the Underground Railroad and the famous Christiana resistance of 1851 before leaping forward into a careful discussion of the hotly contested recruitment and training of black soldiers at Camp William Penn in Cheltenham.

Chapters 4 and 5 cover the second half of the war, focusing briefly on Gettysburg (the battle and the address), before exploring in greater depth some leading political issues of the period, such as draft resistance, equal pay for black soldiers, and reconstruction. The purpose here is to show how bitter partisan debate affected the state's mindset, especially during pivotal elections in 1863 and 1864. The surprising results by 1865, according to Giesberg, were "deepening ideological divisions in the state" rather than any kind of unionist or emancipationist consensus (70). She offers sharp profiles of congressmen Thaddeus Stevens and William D. Kelley, as well as of lesser-known figures, such as labor leader Jonathan Fincher, to help bring to life some of the fierce debates in Pennsylvania that erupted as the war ended and continued for decades afterward. This is not the popular story of the state's Civil War-era experience, but it does provide helpful detail for anyone who aspires to create a multidimensional account of the crisis that swept through Pennsylvania and the nation during the 1860s.

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*Philadelphia Spiritualism: The Curious Case of Katie King.* By STEPHANIE HOOVER. (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2013. 128 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index. Paper, \$19.99.)

*Philadelphia Spiritualism* investigates a short-lived episode involving a presumed spirit summoned by late nineteenth-century mediums in London and Philadelphia. Author Stephanie Hoover uses the case study, written in the style of a true-crime tale, to expose the fraud and fakery of the spiritualists of that era. The "curious case" of Katie King is situated within a long line of charlatanism dating back to the late 1850s, when the spiritualism movement arose in Hydesville, New York. It was there that the Fox sisters discovered that they could crack their toe joints to make a rapping sound. They perfected the ability and used it to convince the nation that the sound was being made by spirits who had come back to talk to the living. The Fox sisters set into motion a mass transatlantic movement that inspired millions of believers.