

mous influence upon Lincoln in 1864 to appoint Grant as Union commander in chief. There also are detailed accounts about Stanton's dislike of General William T. Sherman and of other Union generals, about his imperious control of the war department, and about his excessive and abusive use of military tribunals.

The last four chapters reveal much about Stanton during Reconstruction. Marvel depicts Stanton's grief after the 1865 assassination of Lincoln and his swift actions in thwarting other Confederate conspirators. Marvel presents cogent explanations for Stanton's aggressive activities as a Radical Republican, for his defense of the Reconstruction Acts, and for his support of the impeachment efforts against President Andrew Johnson, who had attempted to dismiss him as war secretary. After being appointed to the Supreme Court under President Grant, the fatigued Stanton, who had suffered from asthma, died on December 24, 1869.

This biography is an illuminating study. Marvel has consulted government sources, memoirs, and autobiographies to reveal that Stanton was a cunning and effective leader. Massively detailed and gracefully written, this biography well might have had subtitles in each chapter and might have contained a glossary. This revisionist study perceives Stanton quite differently from the biography by Benjamin Thomas and Harold Hyman. Marvel's work will prove to be controversial to some scholars, but ultimately it will be recognized as a significant study of this prominent Civil War leader.

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City in a Park: A History of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park System. By JAMES MCCLELLAND and LYNN MILLER. (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2015. 375 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$39.50.)

This is a chatty and lavishly illustrated volume that will enhance anyone's coffee table. In chapters that combine a historic overview with focused accounts of such topics as recreational activities, transportation, historic houses, and public art, the authors offer helpful information about Philadelphia's incomparable park system. The three final chapters in particular provide a detailed account of the reorganization of park administration following disestablishment of the Fairmount Park Commission (FPC), as well as a survey of current sustainability and improvement projects. A list of parks in the appendix is especially useful.

Unfortunately, the book does not fulfill the promise of its title. Imprecise statements and factual errors intrude, as in the introduction—Penn's plan of Philadelphia was published in 1683, not 1688 (1). Other examples include the following: the Schuylkill is still a source for the city's water supply; Lemon Hill came "on the market" in 1843, not 1844, and the city did not buy it from an "absentee

New York owner”—Isaac Loyd was a Philadelphian (6, 20, 103). Fiske Kimball was not the “first director” of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art (incorrectly referred to as the Pennsylvania Museum of Art and Industry), renamed the Philadelphia Museum of Art (70). Ladies were not “beginning to try the sport” of ice skating in the 1860s—they were skating long before this—and children collected chestnuts on Nutting Day, not walnuts and hazelnuts (109–10). Quibbles perhaps, but these and other misstatements leave the reader unsure of the text’s overall reliability. The authors cite only secondary sources in their notes, and they often perpetuate previous errors. It’s a pity that they did not delve into some of the extensive primary sources that are still relatively untapped—beginning with the records of the FPC. They also overlooked several recent studies that might have improved the narrative.

McClelland and Miller encounter the same challenge experienced by Esther Klein, whose 1974 history of Fairmount Park is an important precedent (though nowhere mentioned in this volume). Philadelphia’s park system and its history are so extensive and so diffuse that it is difficult to write a synthetic treatment. Like Klein’s, McClelland and Miller’s “history” devolves into a sometimes disjointed compilation of (not always accurate) anecdotes and is often repetitive. Because they locate the origins of Philadelphia’s park system entirely at the Fairmount waterworks, these authors also fail to fully explain how the history of Penn’s squares affected park development, and they give only passing attention to such important non-riparian parks as Independence Square and Hunting Park.

The photographs are of high quality (thanks to a generous subvention from the William Penn Foundation) and offer a lively tour of sites and structures within the park system. Curiously, however, there are no maps that might document the park system’s evolution, making it difficult for anyone who is not familiar with Philadelphia to understand the spatial context of places the authors celebrate. Readers may also be confused by the book’s title, since, as McClelland and Miller point out, the new Parks and Recreation Department has officially retired the term “Fairmount Park system.” The authors’ love of their subject is nonetheless palpable, and we can only hope that the optimistic tone with which they wrote this volume bodes well for the future of Philadelphia’s green spaces.

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