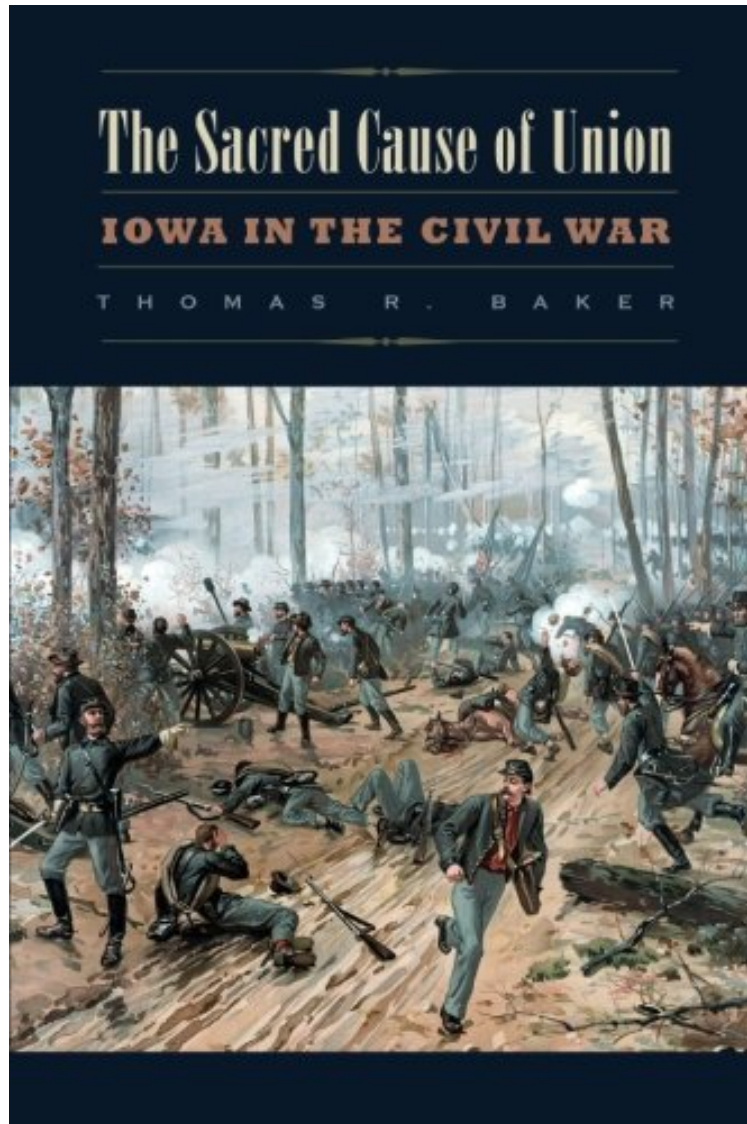


[Download pdf] The Sacred Cause of Union: Iowa in the Civil War (Iowa and the Midwest Experience)

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Thomas R. Baker

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Sacred Cause of Union: Iowa in the Civil War (Iowa and the Midwest Experience):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Insight about Iowa Soldiers and Iowa Culture During the Civil War By Karla Wright I really enjoyed reading this detailed account of soldiers from Iowa and the politics within Iowa

during the Civil War years. It helped me match the experiences of my relative, Henry Giese Ankeny, of the 4th regiment, from Adams County, Iowa as written in the book "Kiss Josey For Me" - a collection of letters. I learned a lot about Annie Wittenmyer who had tremendous impact on the health and care of sick and injured soldiers. Another heroine whose story has slipped out of the history books. Although very detailed and documented, it was pretty easy to read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. it might have been nice if the author had provided a more in-depth discussion ...By CustomerIt is a well written and researched book. It provides a broad overview of Iowa's involvement on the front lines and at home. I thought the efforts to weave the narratives of the different individuals into the narrative was generally well done. However, it might have been nice if the author had provided a more in-depth discussion on the individuals that he focused on. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I purchased this book hoping it would be a short ...By Dr. A. L. StoddardI purchased this book hoping it would be a short history of all the Iowa regiments in the Civil War and their battles etc. The author did an adequate job detailing 6 counties and their young men, but there was often no mention of many of the other regiments and their contributions in such battles as Champion Hill, Corinth, Vicksburg, and Belmont, to name a few. An O.K. book as far as it went.

The Sacred Cause of Union highlights Iowans important role in reuniting the nation when the battle over slavery tore it asunder. In this first-ever survey of the states Civil War history, Thomas Baker interweaves economics, politics, army recruitment, battlefield performance, and government administration. Scattered across more than a dozen states and territories, Iowas fighting men marched long distances and won battles against larger rebel armies despite having little food or shelter and sometimes poor equipment. On their own initiative, the states women ventured south to the battlefields to tend to the sick and injured, and farm families produced mountains of food to feed hungry federal armies. In the absence of a coordinated military supply system, womens volunteer organizations were instrumental in delivering food, clothing, medicines, and other supplies to those who needed them. All of these efforts contributed mightily to the Union victory and catapulted Iowa into the top circle of most influential states in the nation. To shed light on how individual Iowans experienced the war, the book profiles six state residents. Three were well-known. Annie Wittenmyer, a divorced woman with roots in Virginia, led the states efforts to ship clothing and food to the soldiers. Alexander Clark, a Muscatine businessman and the son of former slaves, eloquently championed the rights of African Americans. Cyrus Carpenter, a Pennsylvania-born land surveyor anxious to make his fortune, served in the army and then headed the states Radical Republican faction after the war, ultimately being elected governor. Three never became famous. Ben Stevens, a young, unemployed carpenter, fought in an Iowa regiment at Shiloh, and then transferred to a Louisiana African American regiment so that he could lead the former slaves into battle. Farm boy Abner Dunham defended the Sunken Road at the Battle of Shiloh, before spending seven grim months in Confederate prison camps. The young Charles Musser faced pressure from his neighbors to enlist and from his parents to remain at home to work on the farm. Soon after he signed on to serve the Union, he discovered that his older brother had joined the Confederate Army. Through the letters and lives of these six Iowans, Thomas Baker shows how the Civil War transformed the state at the same time that Iowans transformed the nation.

The author does a particularly good job of illustrating connections between the battlefield and home front and between events in the three main theaters of the war. He also excels in situating Iowas wartime role firmly in the context of its position as a new midwestern state. Robert Cook, author, *Troubled Commemoration: The American Civil War Centennial*, 1961 1965