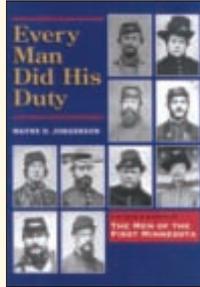


## Every Man Did His Duty: Pictures and Stories of the Men of the First Minnesota

Wayne D. Jorgenson

(*Minneapolis: Tasora Books, 2012. 304 p. Cloth, \$59.95.*)



Of all the Minnesota units to serve in the Civil War, none is better known—or more written about—than the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. The regiment’s claim to be the first unit offered for service, its fighting reputation in the Army of the Potomac and, particularly, its sacrificial charge at a crucial point in the Battle of Gettysburg have made it the symbol of the state’s service in the war. Several histories of the regiment have been published, along with personal accounts of its veterans and at least one careful analysis of the First Minnesota’s role at Gettysburg. So, one might wonder, what more could be said or done to tell the story of this illustrious body of men? Wayne Jorgenson’s *Every Man Did His Duty* answers that question admirably.

This is an unusual book in a number of respects. While the author includes a general overview of the regiment’s history, his focus is not so much on the unit as a whole as on the individuals that comprised it. Organized by company, the book might be seen as a wildly augmented muster roll and an “inside out” history of the regiment. The work is also remarkable in being a book based on a web site. Drawing from letters, diaries, reminiscences, and official records such as pension applications and muster rolls, Jorgenson and his colleagues at *Istminnesota.net* have created an impressive set of biographies of hundreds of soldiers who served in the First Minnesota. Many of these biographies are included in *Every Man Did His Duty*, and some seem to have been amplified with new material and personal accounts of the soldiers’ experiences as members of the regiment. Among these are the wrenching story of George Buckman and his 20-man detail working in the field hospital at Gettysburg and the brief history of Joseph Garrison, a Hamline student who was wounded at Bull Run and died as a prisoner of war in Richmond. Other biographies include postwar careers, such as the remarkable story of Albert Sieber, a German immigrant who survived a traumatic head wound at Gettysburg and went on to have a colorful career as a miner and Indian scout in Arizona.

Augmenting the individual stories is a rich compilation of images. Most of these are portraits, as might be expected, but also included are color photographs of “the things they carried”—objects associated with the men and their stories. Photos of belts, hats, canteens, and the very diaries quoted

in the text add another, deeper dimension to the book. This remarkable trove of materials came from many public and private sources, including the author’s extensive collection of memorabilia and photographs.

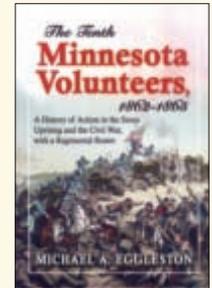
Marring this otherwise excellent book are a few jarring factual errors. The opening chapter describes Willis Gorman as the first territorial governor of Minnesota, when Alexander Ramsey enjoyed that honor. (Gorman was the second territorial governor.) A portrait identified as “Alfred Sully as a cadet at West Point” is actually a somewhat older version of that gentleman wearing the uniform of a brigadier general.

These are minor quibbles, however. Anyone interested in the First Minnesota or the lives of Civil War soldiers in general will find *Every Man Did His Duty* an enjoyable and richly rewarding book.

## The Tenth Minnesota Volunteers, 1862–1865

Michael A. Eggleston

(*Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 2012. 229 p. Paper, \$40.00.*)



Among the new books that have joined the crowded field of Civil War publications in time for the conflict’s sesquicentennial are regimental histories of units not previously studied in detail, including Michael Eggleston’s on the Tenth Minnesota. One of the state’s lesser-known organizations, the Tenth began its career in the midst of the U.S.–Dakota War of 1862 and took part in Henry Sibley’s Indian campaigns of 1862 and 1863. It later saw service against the Confederacy as part of the Sixteenth Army Corps in the western theater, fighting at Tupelo, Nashville, and Mobile. The only previously published history of the regiment is a brief chapter in *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*, so a good study might prove useful to students of the Dakota war and the last years of the Civil War in the west.

The actual narrative of this slender volume is only 110 pages; appendices add 100 more pages. The latter include reprints of the “Narrative of the 10th Regiment” and the unit roster from *Minnesota in the Civil and Indian Wars*. Researchers will find the roster’s separate listings of killed in action, wounded, deserters, and deaths by other causes particularly helpful. Other appendices, such as the 1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux and Lincoln’s December 5, 1862, Report to Congress on the Indian Trials, are tangential to the topic. This problem recurs in the main body of the book, as well.

The historical narrative is a straightforward description of events with relatively little analysis. Much of it deals

with the Dakota war and the Punitive Expedition of June–September 1863. This emphasis is entirely appropriate, as the Tenth saw a good deal of service in these campaigns. That said, Eggleston’s account leans heavily toward earlier interpretations, particularly that of William Watts Folwell in volume two of *A History of Minnesota* (1924). Though this work has been long considered among the most objective and thorough, much scholarship has become available in the decades since Folwell wrote. More insights from the work of later historians would have added considerably to the background information on this important conflict.

The Tenth returned to Fort Snelling in October 1863, and this history follows the regiment’s subsequent campaigns in the South, again with fairly straightforward accounts and relatively little detail on what transpired with the Minnesotans. In general, this work offers a top-down perspective. While there is nothing wrong with its descriptions of the campaigns, they are largely based on secondary sources and offer no new perspectives. More disappointing is the lack of any detail on the internal life of the regiment. Aside from a few scattered quotes, we are told little of what men experienced and still less about the personalities and ambitions of the commanding officers. For example, Col. James H. Baker was active in Republican politics in Ohio and Minnesota before the war, serving as Minnesota’s secretary of state from 1859 to 1862. His appointment as colonel undoubtedly came through his political connections, so it would be useful to know more about Baker and his background. Yet there is little here about his personality, relationship with subordinates, or effectiveness as a commander. He was brevetted to brigadier general and served as provost marshal of the Military Department of Missouri after the war, so we might assume that Baker was held in high regard by his superiors. It is a similar story with Lt. Col. Samuel P. Jennison, who took over the regiment after Baker’s promotion and commanded the Tenth Minnesota in its harshest combat. His civilian background—he had edited the *St. Paul Press*, the state’s major Republican newspaper, and was private secretary to Gov. Alexander Ramsey—would seem to deserve some comment.

For readers wanting to trace the career of the Tenth Minnesota, this book is adequate and its appendices somewhat helpful. Those looking for an in-depth study of the internal workings of the regiment and its relationship to the wider history of Minnesota in the Civil War period will be disappointed.

*Both books reviewed by Hampton Smith, the Civil War specialist on the Minnesota Historical Society reference staff and editor of Brother of Mine: The Civil War Letters of Thomas and William Christie (2011).*

## Land of 10,000 Loves: A History of Queer Minnesota

Stewart Van Cleve

(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2012. 323 p. Paper, \$24.95.)



Historians of sexuality have the difficult task of documenting communities, identities, acts, and desires that are often deemed private. This task can be even more difficult for historians of queer sexuality. After all, until the 1970—and in some cases, the early 2000s—it was against the law to dance with, kiss, or have sex with someone of the same sex. Still, queer subcultures remained vibrant in many places, even as they existed largely underground. The first histories of gay and lesbian life in the United States were community-based, typically written by and about white gay men (and sometimes white lesbians) in coastal urban centers. These studies paved the way in making lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) history a legitimate field, but they also largely excluded the experiences of people from different racial, gender, and geographic backgrounds.

Stewart Van Cleve’s *Land of 10,000 Loves: A History of Queer Minnesota* successfully challenges the coastal focus of queer historiography, if not the field’s other exclusions. It joins *Queer Twin Cities* as one of only three volumes addressed to the broad history of Minnesota’s LGBT community. (The third is a memoir, Ricard J. Brown’s *The Evening Crowd at Kirmser’s: Gay Life in the 1940s*.)

Of the two histories, Van Cleve’s is written in more accessible language and is better suited for a popular audience. The encyclopedia format allows him to address numerous subjects, introducing readers to the “who,” “what,” and “where” of LGBT life in Minnesota. Those looking for more of the “why” and “how” might be better served by *Queer Twin Cities*, particularly the essay “Sexuality in the Headlines” by Ryan Patrick Murphy and Alex T. Urquhart.

*Land of 10,000 Loves* is a great read for those who are interested in the bars, parks, activists, and community leaders that have shaped Twin Cities LGBT communities since the midtwentieth century. Van Cleve offers a nice mix of entries on subjects that are still familiar—such as the 19 Bar, Amazon Feminist Bookstore, Shades of Yellow, Patrick’s Cabaret, and the infamous airport restroom where Larry Craig was arrested—as well as those that have been long forgotten.

I found the narratives about lesser-known places to be more intriguing, and I hope that by giving readers the basics, *Land of 10,000 Loves* will inspire historians to dig even deeper into these complicated stories. For example,

although the restrooms of St. Paul department stores were sites of casual sex between men from 1914 to the 1960s, they were sites of gender conformity and policing for women. The Nicollet Hotel, on the other hand, allowed “respectable” women to perform in drag without damaging their reputations, at least in the 1920s.

Van Cleve works diligently to include details about queer communities of color, which are underrepresented in the archives he relies on. He speculates on the “good-time parties” in St. Paul’s African American Rondo neighborhood but is unable to find much documentation. The early chapter on Ozaawindib, an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) person from Leech Lake ca.1800 is especially unfortunate, since it relies entirely on European accounts of Native American sexual and gender practices. The entries on post-1980 Minnesota are more inclusive, addressing topics such as Two Spirit gatherings, the Minnesota Men of Color group, and the bar Margarita Bella.

The book is considerably stronger in its history of the Twin Cities than any other part of the state. Rural Minnesota barely makes it into this ostensibly statewide history, and even Duluth appears much less often than one might

hope. Van Cleve misses a great opportunity to discuss same-sex intimacy in logging camps or to address sexual encounters at fairgrounds across the state (although the section on the State Fair, while focused on the 1970s, is outstanding).

Ultimately, *Land of 10,000 Loves* is a testament to the incredible work that queer people have done to preserve their own history in spite of significant challenges. Van Cleve began the project as an assistant to Jean-Nickolaus Tretter, a community archivist whose collection is now held by the University of Minnesota. Van Cleve ends the introduction to his book by calling for continued investment in local historical resources such as the Tretter Collection and the Quatrefoil Library, a call that I echo. For community-based histories to become more inclusive, the archives that they are based on must be more inclusive as well.

*Reviewed by R. L. Cartwright, former associate project editor of MNopedia, the Minnesota encyclopedia ([www.mnopedia.org](http://www.mnopedia.org)). He has a PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota and is completing a book manuscript entitled Peculiar Places: A Queer History of Rural Nonconformity.*



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