Book Reviews

Kaskaskia: The Lost Capital of Illinois. By David MacDonald and Raine Waters (Carbondale: University of Southern Illinois University Press, 2019. Pp. 1, 209. $26.50, 978-0-8093-3731-6).

Kaskaskia: The Lost Capital of Illinois by David MacDonald and Raine Waters focuses on the French settlement on the Mississippi River located in present-day Kaskaskia, Illinois. Established in 1703, Kaskaskia was the center of the French villages in Illinois, eventually becoming the largest trading center of the agricultural centers on the Mississippi River. Kaskaskia contributed immensely to the French trading network, providing French traders a place to enjoy an urbane lifestyle resembling New Orleans. Kaskaskia was the largest town in Illinois until the early nineteenth-century, eventually becoming the first capital of the state of Illinois. MacDonald and Waters explore the history of Kaskaskia from its founding to the present-day, providing "a simple exposition of Kaskaskia" with maps, archeological records, photos, sketches, and primary accounts of the town (p.1).

David MacDonald brings intimate knowledge about Fort de Chartres as an emeritus professor of history at Illinois State University. MacDonald taught for thirty-five years at Illinois State University, focusing on Greek and Roman history. Recently retired, MacDonald has shifted his focus to the contributions of the French along the Mississippi River. He is the author of *Lives of Fort de Chartres: Commandants, Soldiers, and Civilians in French Illinois, 1720-1770*. Raine Waters teaches history at Heartland Community College and Illinois Valley Community College.

Kaskaskia: The Lost Capital of Illinois fits into the modern-day historiography of French settlement in the Mississippi River Valley by providing a concise renewed look into the influence of the town on the eventual establishment of the Illinois territory. The book reexamines previous scholars of Kaskaskia and provides an in-depth reinterpretation of the subject. An example is how the authors focus their attention on Jean-Baptiste Ducoigne, who was a chief of the Kaskaskia tribe and a spokesperson of the Illinois. Many historians have tried to pinpoint precisely when Ducoigne lived. According to the authors, other historians claim that Louis Ducoigne later changed his name to Jean-Baptiste Ducoigne and is the famed leader of the Kaskaskia tribe. The authors examined Kaskaskia historian R.M. Owens's suggestion that Louis Ducoigne changed his name to Jean-Baptiste Ducoigne, writing, "Owens's argument is weak, leading back to only a single source on vision quests among the Illinois Indian" (p. 44). MacDonald and Waters examined parish records and claim Louis was Jean-Baptiste Ducoigne's brother, who died as a child.

MacDonald and Waters' monograph offers several contributions to the history of the Jackson Purchase by explaining the importance of French colonization and their trading

network along the Mississippi River. Many scholars of Jackson Purchase history largely neglect the French contributions to the area's development. French traders along the Mississippi first-named Columbus, Kentucky *les rivages de fer*, which was later translated by the English as the Iron Banks. The authors briefly describe how in 1780, George Rogers Clark withdrew his troops from Kaskaskia and how he later established a new fort at the Iron Banks. This new fort named "Fort Jefferson, was a few miles south of the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, but the Chickasaw forced the abandonment of the settlement after little more than a year" (p. 39).

Part one of the book focuses on the history of Kaskaskia, and part two includes an examination of the architecture of the town. The authors describe the unique French *poteaux en terre* or *poteaux sur sol* techniques that were visible on the houses of Kaskaskia. The authors write about the difference in the purely French building and those built in a Franco-American style because of the "Franco-American houses often included dormers to provide light in the attics" (p. 116). Nearly all of the buildings highlighted in the book included an accompanying picture and floorplan, along with a historical biography of the builder or resident.

The final chapter of the book is entitled "'The Curse of Kaskaskia'- Creative Fiction, Not History," and explores the myth that the Flood of 1881 that destroyed the older part of Kaskaskia stemmed from two variations of a curse. The first variation of the curse was made by a priest driven out of town by townspeople failing to repent for their sins. The second variation of the curse was from a Native American who was killed by a father of a settler woman who fell in love with the Native American. The curse was first published in a newspaper on July 4, 1892, and again in the *Chicago Inter-Ocean* on February 3, 1901, with several variations. The authors do a fantastic job dissecting the curse comparing the supposed population to census data and church records. The authors provide "a simple explanation for the curse stories" that were so prevalent in the nineteenth century. Because of the lack of news available, newspaper editors "turned to whatever they could find or create" (p. 162). Some historians may find MacDonald and Waters' exploration of "The Curse of Kaskaskia" unnecessary or have questionable interpretations not relevant to their thesis. Works of fiction like the "Curse of Kaskaskia" do have historical significance, but are often "presented without context, they sometimes mislead readers" (p. 164).

MacDonald and Waters provide a substantial amount of research about Kaskaskia, including photographs, sketches, historic and modern pictures, floorplans, blueprints, letters, and government and church records. The authors provide new interpretations of previous historical research by offering an in-depth analysis of the historical record of Kaskaskia. Dispelling the myths and tall tales of Kaskaskia, the authors provide new insights into these myths proving that some elements of fiction can provide historians with relevant information. *Kaskaskia: The Lost Capital of Illinois* provides a fresh look into the long historiography of

Kaskaskia by providing new interpretations coupled with architectural and primary source documents that prove the importance of Illinois' first capital.

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The Bank War and the Partisan Press: Newspapers, Financial Institutions, and the Post Office in Jacksonian America. By Stephen W. Campbell (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2019. Pp. 1, 222. $34.95, ISBN 978-0-7006-2744-8).

Most history books frame the Bank War as a slugfest between President Andrew Jackson and Nicholas Biddle, president of the second Bank of the United States. But in his well-written and solidly-researched book, *The Bank War and the Partisan Press: Newspapers, Financial Institutions, and the Post Office in Jacksonian America,* Stephen W. Campbell argues that "by focusing on the partisan press…we can uncover a broader, multisided view of the Bank War; one that complements—and in some ways moves beyond the traditional narrative of the boxing match" (p. 10). Campbell is a lecturer in the Cal Poly Pomona history department. By plowing new ground over an old topic, *The Bank War and the Partisan Press* is a significant addition to the historiography of Jacksonian America.

Jackson-the-frontier-everyman hated banks in general and the haughty, city-slicker Biddle and the BUS in particular. But Campbell ranges beyond "Old Hickory" and "Czar Nicholas" to explain how Jackson's victory in the Bank War stemmed from an unlikely—if not unholy—alliance with the Democratic press and, of all things, the U.S. Post Office. Biddle battled back by enlisting Whig editors and by orchestrating "an interregional public relations campaign and a corporate lobby" (p. 66).

In Jackson's day—and well beyond the Civil War—most newspapers were flat-out party organs. Unlike at most papers today, there was no wall of separation between news and editorializing. A Jacksonian era editor—a Democrat or a Whig--never let the truth stand in the way of a good story, meaning a story that made his party look good and the other party look bad. Too, editors shamelessly doubled as local or state party hacks or even as elected officials.

Today, we think of major media owners as millionaire--or billionaire--moguls. But in the 1830s, few editors—even big city ones--got rich off their papers. Many of them struggled just to keep their presses rolling; many papers failed, Campbell writes. Survival largely depended on finding other income sources such as postal subsidies and fat government printing contracts.

So Jackson found plenty of willing accomplices among Democratic newspaper editors. He and the editors struck a bargain: Jackson would boost their bank accounts with Uncle Sam's largesse, and they would support him and oppose the bank.

Campbell emphasizes that partisan newspaper editors transformed "the Bank War from a primarily elite-driven political issue confined to the power corridors of Washington and Philadelphia to one that played out on the ground level in locations that were 1,000 miles from the East Coast.....Once set in motion, the Bank War phenomenally unfolded at the national level in ways that even the powerful bank president could not control" (p. 66).

Jackson's "spoils system" included the naming of local postmasters, some of them local editors. (Editor Amos Kendall of the powerful pro-Jackson Washington *Globe* became Old Hickory's postmaster general.) The pro-BUS Whigs charged that pro-Jackson postmasters deliberately delayed—or refused to deliver—Whig-leaning papers while speeding Democratic sheets to their subscribers, according to Campbell.

On other topics, the author points out that while most history books also portray the Bank War as a war of words, albeit heated, the dispute sometimes led to violence and even bloodshed. Campbell writes that besides politically-motivated bank runs, the controversy triggered acts of arson, riots, anonymous assassination threats against the president and the death of Biddle's brother in a duel with a pro-Jackson and anti-BUS congressman. (The combatants fatally wounded each other.)

Campbell, too, examines Biddle's call for re-chartering the bank in 1832, four years early. Most historians say Senators Henry Clay and Daniel Webster encouraged Biddle to go for an early re-charter to force Jackson to support or veto a re-charter bill. (Clay was set to run for president against Jackson.) Thus, some scholars argued that the showdown that led to the bank's demise could have been avoided. "There is very little likelihood that Jackson and Biddle could have agreed on a new BUS charter," Campbell convincingly writes (p. 66).

Jackson killed the re-charter with a veto. Clay ran as the bank's champion and lost in a landslide. Afterwards, Jackson "slew the monster" by transferring its funds to favored state banks.

Historians still debate whether the demise of the BUS mainly caused the Panic of 1837, then the country's worst depression. Campbell cites other factors, notably "the trade and investment relationships with Great Britain and the global movements of gold and silver that linked Mexico, China and the United States through complex networks of credit and debt" (pp. 137-138).

Campbell concludes by pointing to historians who are steering the Bank War into other directions. He cites "compelling evidence to suggest that the BUS played a role in the expansion of slavery in the old Southwest, which in turn fueled the rise of global capitalism" (152). He adds that "recent works by historians of slavery and capitalism have come at the Bank War from a new angle, giving us an opportunity to rethink how we teach and narrate a long-studied topic. These lines of inquiry should continue" (p. 154).

So should research—perhaps for a *Journal* article—into how the Bank War and the Panic of 1837 played out in the Jackson Purchase, where most voters loved Old Hickory. The dearth of newspaper sources would make the task daunting but worthwhile, nonetheless.

Berry Craig

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Religion, Race, and the Making of Confederate Kentucky, 1830-1880. By Luke E. Harlow (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 2016. Pp. 242. $29.99, ISBN 978-1316620649).

Luke. E. Harlow's *Religion, Race, and the Making of Confederate Kentucky, 1830-1880*, published in Cambridge University Press' Studies on the American South series, provides a very useful overview of the triumph of evangelical, biblically literalist, proslavery religious forces in the years leading up to the Civil War and those following over competing emancipation, abolitionist, and pro-Union voices in Kentucky. The triumph of conservative religious faith united the commonwealth by 1880 with the white South on the issues of race and religion. Harlow, currently a history professor at the University of Tennessee, was a student of John Boles, who has written extensively on the Great Revival and evangelicalism in antebellum Kentucky, at Rice University.

Kentucky, with its long northern border, was no stranger in the early nineteenth century to anti-slavery thought emanating from the North, but by the mid-1830's, with the rise of "immediatism" associated with William Lloyd Garrison in abolitionist circles and the terror of race war that seized the minds of Southern whites following Nat Turner's 1831 rebellion, there was little support among Kentucky Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians for anti-slavery action of any kind. With the literal reading of the Bible to support them on the divisive issue of slavery, Kentucky churches broke fellowship with Northern congregations by forming pro-slavery Southern organizations. All hope among abolitionist, emancipationist, and colonizing adherents in the state were dashed by the passage of legislation in 1849 that repealed Kentucky's slave nonimportation law followed by the adoption of a proslavery constitution. Rumors of an 1856 slave revolt in the Hopkinsville region rekindled white fears and created a backlash that prevented public anti-slave discussions of any kind before the Civil War. Following Reconstruction, according to Harlow, as Northern passions to redeem the South cooled, reunification of sectional fragments of the evangelical denominations took place on terms acceptable to Southerners leaving in place pre-war "beliefs in the righteousness of slavery, anti-abolitionism, and white supremacy," which unified Kentucky evangelicals in brotherhood with those in other Southern states (p. 217).

Harlow's work falls in a long line, starting with E. Merton Coulter's 1926 *The Civil War and Readjustment in Kentucky*, of historical works that attempt to explain the conversion of a Union state to the Confederate cause after the war. This argument fails to explain the findings of Jackson Purchase historians Berry Craig, author of *Kentucky Confederates: Secession, Civil War, and the Jackson Purchase* (2014) and Alan Bearman, whose article, "'The South Carolina of Kentucky': Religion and Secession in the Jackson Purchase" was published in the *Filson Club Historical Society Quarterly* (2002). Both Craig and Bearman persuasively argue that Southwest Kentucky was, as the South Carolina of Kentucky, secessionist before the firing on Ft. Sumter. Kentucky historiography requires a lighter touch in order to more easily recognize the distinctive paths of its many regions, such as that taken by the Jackson Purchase through the era of the Civil War.

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Shiloh: Conquer or Perish. By Timothy Smith (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2014. Pp. 583. $26.95, ISBN 978-0700623471).

Timothy Smith's *Shiloh: Conquer of Perish* is a significant contribution to American Civil War studies. Union and Confederate armies clashed at Shiloh, in southwestern Tennessee, for two days in early April, 1862, in what was the largest and bloodiest battle of the Civil War up to that time. Smith maintains that events during the second day of the battle played an important part in determining the battle's outcome. He explains: "In examining the second day in detail within the context of the overall battle, I argue that it was not a done deal and that it was much more important to the central battle than is often thought." Smith also aims to make the Battle of Shiloh less confusing to readers by using physical terrain as the basis to organize the battle into phases and sectors.

Smith ascribes much importance to the role of Union General Ulysses Grant and the terrain on the course of the battle. Amidst an overwhelming Confederate assault on the battle's opening day, Grant managed to rally his forces at his last line of defense to prepare for another day's worth of fighting. Smith believes that Grant's conduct at Shiloh earned him a reputation for not giving up. The author also comments on the contribution of terrain in aiding Union forces. Soldiers moving across the battlefield navigated difficult, vegetation-choked portions that slowed Confederate movements and helped Union defensive efforts on the first day of battle. Union forces also benefitted from a narrowing of the terrain as Confederate forces attacked and moved forward. On the second day, as Union forces went on the offensive to drive back CSA forces, the terrain seemed to widen and give them more space to maneuver.

Smith pays close attention to how his book fits within Shiloh historiography. He mentions that four books are devoted to the battle itself and none of them are recent publications. Unlike other authors, Smith spends more effort examining and assigning significance to events of the second day of the battle in determining its outcome. He accomplishes this goal. The author also addresses arguments of other sources and historians regarding certain aspects of the battle. For example, some historians claim that the Union forces at Shiloh were taken completely by surprise. Smith disagrees, arguing that this might have been so in terms of grand strategy, but not in terms of the awareness of Union troops on site.

Shiloh sheds light on the history of the Jackson Purchase. This episode in the Western Theater of the American Civil War determined which side held strategic points within the Mississippi River Valley. Combatants sought control of the valley and its rivers for the purposes of transporting troops and material within the region. Smith states that the Battle of Shiloh proved important in determining Union or Confederate possession of the river valley. It also turned out to be the last opportunity for the CSA to reclaim its territory there.

One criticism is that Smith did not devote more attention to the societal impact of the battle of Shiloh; one of his stated goals. He allots a small portion of the text near the end of the volume to the societal impact, but it would have been interesting to see a more expansive analysis of this topic. The author understandably devotes the core of the text to events of the battle itself; however, more discussion of the societal impact would have been appreciated.

Smith uses a variety of primary sources to weave together his narrative of the Battle of Shiloh. He relies heavily on archival sources and the Shiloh National Military Park collection for his study. Smith's use of sources also allows him to tell the human side of the story. Personal accounts allow the reader an idea of what conditions the soldiers experienced. For example, he provides personal accounts by soldiers under Confederate General Patrick Cleburne's command who had difficulty moving across the swampy terrain of Shiloh. Another example is seen with a vivid account in which a soldier describes what it felt like to be shot in the hip.

Smith, currently a Lecturer at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has written many works related to the Battle of Shiloh, but has not been able to bring that knowledge together in a single volume of his own until this book's publication. He has devoted a lot of time and attention to the battle throughout his life, including during his service as a park ranger at Shiloh National Military Park. *Shiloh* is definitely a valuable resource for academics and Civil War enthusiasts alike.

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Johnsonville: Union Supply Operations on the Tennessee River and the Battle of Johnsonville, November 4-5, 1864. By Jerry T. Wooten (El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie, 2019. Pp. xvii, 205. $29.95, ISBN 978-1611214772).

Traditionally, scholars of the American Civil War have focused on the eastern theater, with more recent scholars acknowledging the importance of fighting in the western theater. However, coverage of the western theater is typically limited to Ulysses S. Grant and his exploits up to his promotion to Commander of all Federal forces. In an attempt to flesh out the narrative of the Civil War, Jerry Wooten, in his book *Johnsonville: Union Supply Operations on the Tennessee River and the Battle of Johnsonville, November 4-5, 1864*, spotlights the little-known Union supply depot of Johnsonville located on the Tennessee River. Wooten subverts traditional narratives from "Lost Cause" perpetrators by focusing on Union operations preceding the battle, as well as clearing up common misconceptions regarding the battle and events leading up to it. By focusing on this under researched battle, Wooten not only expands the narrative of the Civil War, but also sheds light on the story of the Jackson Purchase region and the role it played during the conflict.

In order to understand what led to Nathaniel Bedford Forest's raid into western Tennessee in the autumn of 1864, Wooten gives ample context starting at the settling of the area where Johnsonville would be founded (Chapter 1). Wooten guides the reader through the various events, which led to the conception of Johnsonville, from Andrew Johnson's leadership in Tennessee (Chapter 2) to the building of the railroad that would eventually run through the town (Chapter 3). Even the minutest of details, such as the construction of individual mills and warehouses are covered in extraordinary detail (Chapter 5). Wooten also focuses on African-Americans in Tennessee, who would play a major role in the battle to come (Chapter 4).

The second half of Wooten's book focuses on military efforts to protect the supply depot. As much of the former town was flooded during the damming of the Tennessee River in the mid-twentieth century, Wooten relies on documents and artist renditions of the fort and its defenses (Chapter 6). What makes Wooten's research stand out is that while he does incorporate the Confederate forces into the narrative of the battle, Wooten gives equal focus to both Confederate and Federal forces. Motives for Forest's move north is explained, as well as Confederate movements prior to the battle (Chapter 7). The Battle of Reynoldsburg Island (Chapter 8), along with several river battles, and the actual Battle of Johnsonville (Chapter 9), are analyzed in excruciating detail. Finally, Wooten provides an epilogue to the battle, including Federal responses and the history of the site up to the modern day (Chapter 10).

What makes this book a vital and unique addition to the Civil War's narrative is the amount of original research that went into the book's production. Wooten, who worked at the site for a number of years, was able to gather a plethora of newspapers, personal accounts, and official records from the period. Along with other scholarly research that has been done about

the site, Wooten clears up misconceptions about the battle, such as the kinds of artillery firing on the fort (p. 151) and confusion in personal accounts about who was in charge at the garrison (pp. 75-80). Wooten's careful analysis of conflicting documents and accounts not only provides scholars with a better understanding of the battle, but also dispels myths that have circulated around those interested in the Lost Cause movement (p. 176). One such narrative that the movement presents is that the Battle of Johnsonville was a great victory for General Forest and the Confederacy. However, as Wooten explains, the actions of the Federal Army are completely excluded from these narratives (p. 176). Another common myth portrayed by Lost Cause sympathizers was that the Confederates' positions were unknown, but Wooten's research contradicts this claim (p. 177). Wooten's research ultimately shows that, though the Lost Cause believers depict Forest's attack on Johnsonville as a grand victory, it was nothing more than a "minor setback [to the Federals] with no strategic advantage to the Confederacy" (p. 177).

In addition to providing a better overall picture of the events that transpired at the Battle of Johnsonville, Wooten also adds to an underappreciated aspect of the Civil War: the role the Jackson Purchase had in the conflict. With the exception of Grant's first battle at what was called the "Gibraltar of the West" at Columbus, Kentucky, the Jackson Purchase region is typically left out of Civil War narratives. However, this claim is challenged by Wooten, who not only highlights the capture of Fort Heiman (located in present-day Calloway County) (p. 105-6), but also the essential role of Union Lt. Cmdr. Le Roy Fitch and his naval support from Paducah, Kentucky, in the effort to seize the fort (p. 125). Wooten's findings offer a new piece in the history of the Jackson Purchase that was either overlooked or forgotten.

As Wooten points out, the actual Battle of Johnsonville lasted no longer than two days in the winter of 1864. Even though this is the case, Wooten manages to turn the ultimately insignificant battle into a compelling narrative that even the most reading-averse would find interesting. By focusing on Federal efforts at the depot, Wooten offers a fresh insight into the small garrison. The role of the Jackson Purchase is also mentioned, adding to an oft-forgotten part of the region's history during this period. Without a doubt, Wooten has proven himself as a leading scholar on Johnsonville and its role in the latter half of the Civil War.

Zachery Jameson

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General Hylan B. Lyon: A Kentucky Confederate and the War in the West. By Dan Lee (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2019. Pp. 280. $37.00, 978-162-1904878).

Although General Hylan B. Lyon served both the federal and confederate governments during his distinguished military career, he consistently sacrificed his personal life in honorable

service to a cause greater than himself. The book described Lyon's family's history, military, and political service to emphasize how living in a slave-holding hierarchical society had a profound effect on Lyon's sense of duty and honor. Dan Lee is also the author of books about the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, General Thomas J. Wood, Colonel Frank Wolford, the First Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry, and the Civil War in Kentucky's Jackson Purchase. Lee carried out extensive research with primary documents in writing this book. There are twenty-six pages of notes and sixteen pages of bibliographic sources.

Hylan B. Lyon was born near Eddyville, Kentucky in 1836. By the time he was eight-years old, both parents had passed away. The Lyon children went to live in the home of Frederick H. and Helen Skinner. As a young man, Hylan watched his surviving relatives owning and importing slaves onto their property. By age sixteen, he gained an appointment to the U.S. military academy at West Point, New York. Following graduation, Lyon was assigned to the 3rd U.S. Artillery and then ordered to Florida to fight in the Third Seminole War. In 1857, Lieutenant Lyon was ordered to travel west on a ship to Fort Yuma, California. Once Native American relations deteriorated in the late 1850s, Hylan was assigned to Washington Territory to fight in the Coeur D'Alene War. This transfer had two profound effects on Lyon. First, he had fallen in love with his cousin Laura O'Hara and was unable to return to Kentucky. Second, Hylan witnessed the cold-blooded murder of an Indian chief by his commanding officer. Lyon considered the murder as a dishonorable act of cowardice.

Following the firing at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861 and Lincoln's call for volunteers, Hylan as a slaveholder and resident of the First Congressional District, which at that time was the most conservative and pro-Southern of any in the state, decided to forgo his promotion to 1st lieutenant and resign his commission in the United States Army. Lyon gave up his five-year Army officer career, a quiet life as a farmer, and an opportunity to enjoy a newly-wed life with Laura O'Hara to help organize a company of infantry for the confederate army. Once again, duty and honor were held in higher regard than Hylan's personal aspirations.

Rather than focusing exclusively on General Lyon, the author Dan Lee wrote too prolifically about Generals Bragg, Forest, Hood, and Buford and their battlefield maneuvers. On a positive note, Lee convincingly demonstrated how the close relationship formed between Lyon and Forest during the Battles of Tupelo and Brice's Crossroads. General Forest's victory at Brice's Crossroads had a profound effect on Lyon. From that point onward, Lyon desired to serve under the command of General Forest. He did not feel the same way about General Bragg. Lee also cogently analyzed Lyon's strengths and weaknesses as a leader during his famous western Kentucky Raid. Lee emphasized that the raid brought out Hylan's strengths of speed, comprehension of the terrain, and his ability to command discipline over the men under his control.

This book fits well within the historiography of the subject because it explains why the Kentucky legislature decided in favor of Lyon as the namesake for the county. The book also

depicts both the pro-union and confederate sympathies of the Jackson Purchase area. Dan Lee repeatedly pointed out that Hylan tended to permit local government officials to remove county records before the destruction of county courthouses. Lyon claimed that he burned the courthouses in Hopkinsville, Cadiz, and Princeton because "they were used as fortifications by Negroes but the garrisons that utilized the Hartford and Burkesville courthouses were white, and he burned those courthouses just the same" (p. 179). Lee believed that since the garrisons were all U.S. troops; that was more significant a point than their race. Although Lee admitted he lacked the knowledge of why Lyon permitted the removal of records prior to the destruction of the courthouses, I believe that the kind gesture demonstrates the honorable character of General Lyon. Although the destruction of courthouses placed a tremendous financial burden on people in his community, Lee explained that Lyon's Confederate soldiers did not set fire to private homes and no executions were reported after his men captured the black garrison at Cadiz during his incursion into western Kentucky.

Dan Lee adroitly points out that one of the key weaknesses of General Lyon was his inability to follow his military superior General Hood's order to ensure that the gristmills would soon begin grinding grain and to destroy the rail and telegraph communications with Nashville. Rather than following orders, Hylan spent the three weeks of his raid burning courthouses with "no obvious advantage either tactical or strategic to be gained by these acts" (p. 180). As another example of General Lyon's insubordination, Lee describes Lyon's trip to Eddyville to visit his wife as an "indulgence that came close to costing him half of his command and which put the entire operation at risk" (p. 180). Laura Lyon later died at the close of the Civil War.

Following his wife's passing and the closure of the war, Lyon fled to Mexico for about a year before wanting to return home to be with his son. After receiving a presidential pardon in 1866, Hylan returned to Kentucky. Lyon spent the next forty years of his life engaged in farming, prison reform, and service in the state house of representatives. At the time of his death in 1907, Hylan was still dedicated to duty and civil service as mayor of Eddyville, Kentucky.

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