

Troubled State: Civil War Journals of Franklin Archibald Dick

edited by Gari Carter

xxxii + 279 pages, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index.
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In the 1960s editor Gari Carter's mother gave her the Civil War journals written by Carter's great-great grandfather, Franklin Archibald Dick. Carter's newly edited volume, *Troubled State*, includes two journals covering the periods from September 1861 through April 1862 and September 1864 through July 1865. Regrettably the intervening journals are missing, but Dick's letters fill in most of that time period.

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dick moved to St. Louis, Missouri, in 1842 and began practicing law there. In 1851 he married Myra Madison Alexander, a sister-in-law of Francis Preston, Jr., "Frank" Blair's. Well-educated and connected to the politically powerful Blair family, Dick's journals provide an interesting look at a civilian's life during the war, convey a sense of the psychological impact of the conflict, and are interspersed with much reflection on war news, religion, and finances.

Dick resided in the Philadelphia area during the beginning and ending stages of the war, and the majority of his surviving journals detail that phase of his life. Although his first entries were written in the Philadelphia area, Dick reflected back on life in politically divided St. Louis in early 1861. Dick vividly detailed his friendship with Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon, the riot at Camp Jackson, and the meetings of pro-Union supporters in Dick's law office. Upon his return to Philadelphia, Dick invested in a cartridge-making factory along with a brother-in-law. Problems with this endeavor frequently troubled him, and the venture ended in tragedy when the factory exploded in March 1862 and several workers died.

Back in St. Louis, Dick engaged in strenuous and stressful attempts to maintain Missouri's loyalty to the Union. His surviving journals detail some of his work on the Board of Assessors in St. Louis. As the editor ably describes it the "board's purpose was to raise money for the Western Sanitary Commission to support civilian refugees in St. Louis. Southern sympathizers who did not voluntarily donate money to the commission were required to pay an assessment based on the value of their property and the degree of their disloyalty . . ." (p. 87). In November 1862, Major General Samuel R. Curtis appointed Dick provost marshal general for the Department of Missouri, a position in which he served until May 1863. As provost marshal general, Dick served as overseer of military prisons in the department, dealt with suspected spies and others who were disloyal, and had authority to banish individuals. Again, he served in a position that infuriated Southern sympathizers but won him praise from Unionists. Dick's letters from this time convey the challenges of life in that "troubled state," Missouri. As a useful corrective to prevailing

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views of Abraham Lincoln, it is interesting to note that although Dick respected Lincoln, he felt Lincoln treated Southerners much too leniently.

In the journal covering the latter part of the war, Dick spent much time considering whether to move back to St. Louis. It is apparent from this portion of his journal that his work in St. Louis had caused some type of psychological trauma leading to great indecisiveness and a desire for vengeance on Southerners. The title of the book also serves as a useful description of Dick's mindset during this part of the war.

The editor has done a good job of identifying individuals written about by Dick and placing his journals and letters in context, although this reviewer desired more information about the explosion at the cartridge-making factory. A helpful chronology of war events is included at the beginning of each chapter, and there are two appendices: one includes short biographical sketches of military leaders and family members and the other is a genealogy of Dick's family. Dick's writings are an unusual addition to Civil War literature, valuable for their portrayal of how the war impacted one man in a politically divided border state.

Reviewed by M. Jane Johansson, associate professor, Rogers State University, Claremore, Oklahoma.