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Sommario/riassunto	Historian Kenneth Lyftogt introduces us to the volunteer soldiers of the Pioneer Grays and Cedar Falls Reserves infantry companies and in turn examines Iowa's role in the Civil War. Many of these soldiers served the Union for the duration of the war, from the early fighting in Missouri to Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Sherman's destructive marches through Georgia and the Carolinas. Their letters home are Lyftogt's primary sources, as are editorials and articles published in the Cedar Falls Gazette.