primary documents or interview major participants, relying instead on newspaper accounts. Still, he has set a foundation for future work on what is, as he notes, an unusual, if not unique, collaboration between competing interests to preserve a spectacular landscape.

Kudos to Bieter for seeking guidance from and utilizing resources at the Owyhee County Historical Society and Boise’s Basque Museum. More academic historians would be better served if they recognized that some of the most knowledgeable people and richest resources reside in our local historical organizations. Bieter set himself the task of “bridging the historiographical gap between Frederick Jackson Turner and the work of the new western historians” (xvi). He does not quite reach that lofty goal. But he has produced a lively history of a previously ignored area.

Keith Petersen

Pullman, Washington

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Examining modern politics through the lens of the past is the strategy of Rose Hayden-Smith in *Sowing the Seeds of Victory: American Gardening Programs of World War I.* Hayden-Smith argues that wartime food production campaigns of a century ago left behind informative blueprints for creating a better American society today. While historians will find the beginning and ending chapters stray from traditional historical writing, others interested in a historical approach to activist journalism will find this book appealing. Chapters Two through Six examine the origins of the community gardening efforts in America, including early propaganda associated with the emerging war in Europe. Hayden-Smith argues that the histories of the United States School Garden Army, the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women, as well as the Women’s Land Army of America (WLAA) each serve as teachable moments for Americans to examine the political and social effects of community gardening in today’s world.

The narrative successfully faces the challenges of compiling a vast array of data into one cohesive narrative. What the narrative provides in journalistic cohesiveness, however, it lacks in depth and breadth of historical research. The war garden chapters highlight the significance of wartime propaganda and con-
sumption, but neglect to discuss European precedents of the national campaigns. The chapter on the WLAA highlights women’s changing roles in agriculture, but Harriet Stanton Blatch is relegated to one meager chapter, her ties to international organizations are minimized, and the fact that she was the director of the WLAA is not mentioned. While the British roots of the WLAA movement are discussed, the cited research comes from limited secondary sources that are not comprehensive. Additionally, Hayden-Smith claims “it has never been argued” that the success of the Victory Garden movements of World War II were partly due to the successes of the homefront agricultural programs of World War I (187). Several works, including my own, *Cultivating Victory: The Women’s Land Army and the Victory Garden Movements*, published a year earlier, argue this point.

The use of both Raj Patel and Gary Paulk Nabhan as reviewers for the back cover instead of leading historians implies that Hayden-Smith is not appealing to the traditional historical academic community, but rather those interested in activist journalism and politics. In place of a traditional historical narrative, the reader finds a back-and-forth examination of events and attitudes of World War I compared to various events and attitudes of the past decade. While this style has an appeal to a certain market of readers today, historians may wonder how relevant it will be a decade or more from now when political, economic, and environmental factors have changed. For the present, however, it inspires readers to make positive change through gardening.

Though at first glance the similarities to my recent work are abundant (including a nearly identical book jacket), *Sowing the Seeds of Victory* sets itself apart as a journalistic exploration of current events through the lens of wartime agriculture in the First World War.

Cecilia Gowdy-Wygant
*Metropolitan State University of Denver*
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This book offers a novel perspective on the history of cattle ranching, native dispossession, and land management in the drylands of interior British Columbia. The origins of the cattle industry in this remote region of limited water and