

returned to farming. Six years later they left Minnesota for California. The few letters written after 1878, especially those few from California, add little to the book, except to bring Theodore's life to a close.

The collection is clearly edited with detailed notes and introductions which fill in the gaps between letters. The volume is not compelling reading, but it is a useful addition to the literature on early Minnesota and nineteenth-century life.

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*The Abraham Lincoln Encyclopedia.* By Mark E. Neely, Jr.  
(New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1982. Pp. xii,  
356. Sources, illustrations, tables, index. \$45.00.)

At casual glance this spacious, abundantly illustrated book might seem destined for the coffee table. On closer inspection, however, one quickly discovers that Mark E. Neely, Jr., director of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum at Fort Wayne, has produced a simply splendid guide to Lincoln's world, a volume of immense value to buffs and scholars alike. Included are 337 informative, well-crafted, often original entries on Lincoln's contemporaries, places where he lived and worked, issues and events which shaped his career, and the collectors and biographers who preserved his memory. Well-chosen illustrations (mainly photographic portraits and political cartoons) accompany most of the articles.

Neely keeps his eye firmly fixed on Abraham Lincoln. Persons who influenced his era but not Lincoln himself (e.g., Emerson, Garrison, W.T. Sherman) rate no separate entry; sketches of contemporaries who are included highlight their relationship with Lincoln; and articles on Washington, Jefferson, and Clay treat only Lincoln's views *about* such heroes. Not only the great, but the humble and lowly whose lives brushed Lincoln's are to be found in this book—even Grace Bedell, who suggested that Lincoln grow a beard; Horatio Taft, father of Willie and Tad Lincoln's Washington playmates; Henry Wikoff, briefly a regular in Mary Lincoln's White House salon; and Mrs. Lincoln's dressmaker, Elizabeth Keckley. Indeed, Neely extravagantly gives as much space to his portrait of Mrs. Keckley as he does to Andrew Johnson, Joshua Speed ("Lincoln's only intimate friend"), Conscriptio, or Popular Sovereignty.

The quality of these essays is uniformly high. All rest upon the latest scholarship, make good use of Lincoln's own letters and speeches, and possess a consistency and coherence which only a single author could provide. Neely approaches Lincoln with sympathetic understanding but also with a clear-eyed awareness of the foibles which made him human. Even the most controversial subjects, such as Lincoln's record on civil liberties and his supposed losing battle against Marfan's Syndrome, receive balanced, sensible treatment. Among the best articles are those on Mary Todd Lincoln, Poetry, the Whig Party, Kentucky, Dr. Mudd, and Humor. (This last entry even includes a smutty poem of the sort Lincoln apparently loved to tell.) The price is steep, but the book is worth every penny.

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Richard H. Sewell

*The Union Cavalry in the Civil War. Volume II, The War in the East: From Gettysburg to Appomattox, 1863-1865.* By Stephen Z. Starr. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1981. Pp. xv, 526. Illustrations, notes, maps, bibliography, index. \$30.00.)

The second volume of Stephen Z. Starr's trilogy about the Union cavalry could have been entitled "Sheridan's Cavalry." It tells of the vast changes in the organization, morale, and activities of the cavalry in Virginia after General Philip Sheridan took command in 1864. At that time much of the cavalry still was detailed to the infantry, serving in small units as scouts, wagon guards, couriers, and cattle drovers. Sheridan brought these troops together into a powerful, aggressive fighting force that played a major role in the Union victory.

The book has excellent descriptions of all the cavalry action from Gettysburg to Appomattox—and there was lots of action—but Starr also describes the problems of keeping the large mounted force in the field. Even after three years of war, the supply system could not provide the horses and forage needed by the cavalry.

It is difficult to follow the movements of the cavalry on the maps included in the book; otherwise, Starr's work is excellent. Better than any other book, it gives the Civil War student an understanding of the very large contribution made by the cavalry in achieving the final victory.

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John W. Rowell