

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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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.

Columbus, Ind.

John W. Rowell