

shapers of the American backwoods way of life" (p. 36). The substantive chapters that follow offer various kinds of evidence to corroborate this thesis: reconstructing the Savo-Karelian frontier way of life and the rapidity with which it advanced through previously unsettled forests in Finland, Sweden, and the Delaware Valley; establishing the existence of nearly identical cultural traits among the first European settlers of America's interior woodlands—the same farming, construction, folk architecture, and hunting and gathering practices; and presenting surname and place name occurrences that support early migration from the Delaware Valley into the midland interior.

Jordan's and Kaups's hypothesis that the colonial Savo-Karelian Finns of New Sweden are the primary contributors to America's woodland frontier culture is more than plausible. Excellent graphics depicting the recurring presence of the same material culture traits in northern Europe and interior America effectively reinforce their argument. The Savo-Karelian immigrants are convincingly presented as an adaptable group of settlers with a venerable European woodland frontier heritage. Their early arrival in the Delaware Valley and rapid dispersal to isolated sites in the forest contrasted with the more gregarious, slowly advancing, conservative cultivators who first came to New England, Pennsylvania, and the Chesapeake from European lands where the forests were cleared long before.

The evidence presented by Jordan and Kaups, however, is not sufficient to convince every reader of the validity of their thesis. They admit that information describing frontier culture in and near the Delaware Valley is sketchy. They also acknowledge a dearth of concrete evidence that later arriving and considerably more numerous Scots-Irish frontiersmen willingly adopted a way of life followed by a few scattered Finns. Nor can essential prior borrowing of Delaware Indian traits by the Savo-Karelians be fully documented. Even with these shortcomings, this provocative and clearly written monograph will hold the attention of any reader who has an interest in American frontier history.

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Andrew Johnson: A Biography. By Hans L. Trefousse. (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1989. Pp. 463. Illustrations, notes, index. \$25.00.)

Despite the flood of Reconstruction studies appearing over the past several decades and a substantial shelf of works already devoted to the enigmatic Andrew Johnson, historians have long needed a modern, balanced biography of the seventeenth president.

In this well-researched, carefully argued, and solidly written book, Hans L. Trefousse fills this important gap in the historical literature of the middle period.

Better than any previous biographer, Trefousse has separated fact from fiction in reexamining Johnson's hardscrabble boyhood in North Carolina, his migration to Tennessee, his success as a tailor, and his meteoric rise to prominence in local, state, and national politics. A powerful orator with a consistently populist appeal, Johnson was equally skillful at playing the dangerous game of divide-and-conquer to advance his career. Ostensibly a Democrat, he nevertheless often quarreled with the leaders of the Tennessee Democracy and worked with dissident Whigs when the need arose. By 1860, a principled commitment to Unionism, combined with intense ambition, drove him strongly to oppose secession, a decision that won Johnson both acclaim and derision throughout the country.

If success in politics often depends on timing, Johnson had chosen the right moment to command the national stage. Admiring his courage and natural political abilities, Abraham Lincoln rewarded Johnson accordingly: first with control of federal patronage in Tennessee, next with appointment as military governor of that state, and finally with the Union party's 1864 vice-presidential nomination.

Although Trefousse has written several books on the Radical Republicans and does not sympathize with Johnson's views on reconstruction and race, he presents a remarkably evenhanded account of the presidential years by paying careful attention to the intricacies of chronology, personality, and factional infighting. Johnson could never transcend the limits of his Jacksonian ideology, but Trefousse refuses to turn this well-known stubbornness into a caricature. Johnson's sincere and sometimes magisterial commitment to the Union and the Constitution receives full attention; and the rich analysis of the Republican opposition does not gloss over weaknesses of either character or judgment. Even though Trefousse avoids becoming embroiled in the persistent controversies of Reconstruction historiography, he implicitly departs from the neo-revisionist interpretations of Harold Hyman and Michael Les Benedict by approaching the impeachment question in a manner more akin to the mildly revisionist views of Eric McKittrick.

Andrew Johnson, of course, poses formidable difficulties for a conscientious biographer. Trefousse analyzes Johnson's family life and character, but available evidence simply will not support a complete and compelling portrait of this obviously driven but curiously elusive personality. Thus despite Trefousse's thoughtful attempt to explain why Johnson waited so long before trying to remove Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, this strange episode may forever remain inexplicable. The only real weakness in the book is

the author's rigid adherence to chronology, which sometimes leads to the sudden introduction of topics that are just as quickly dropped and repetitiously picked up later. This makes for some awkward transitions and is especially annoying in the discussion of Johnson's advocacy of homestead legislation. All in all, however, Trefousse has written a superior biography—one that should remain the standard work on Andrew Johnson for some time.

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The Frontier, the Union, and Stephen A. Douglas. By Robert W. Johannsen. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1989. Pp. xiii, 311. Notes, index. \$34.95.)

This volume contains nothing new concerning the frontier, the union, or Stephen A. Douglas. It is a collection of earlier works by Robert W. Johannsen, dating from the 1950s through a lecture delivered in 1986. Part I consists of four essays concerning the Pacific Northwest frontier from 1848 through the Civil War; Part II is comprised of six essays which present different aspects of Douglas's career; Part III provides four essays on the vision of Abraham Lincoln; Part IV is a lone essay describing the "Young America" spirit of mid-nineteenth-century America.

Although thirteen of the fifteen essays were previously published, having them all together in one volume provides a clear picture of the Douglas whom historians frequently ignore: the visionary who believed that popular sovereignty was a constitutional right of territorial residents, not merely a pragmatic way to avoid the question of slavery. As late as 1860 he claimed that "popular sovereignty was the single, crucial issue of the campaign" (p. 166). The eleventh essay, "In Search of the Real Lincoln, or Lincoln at the Crossroads," shows Lincoln's struggle to define "equality." The Douglas essays in Part II indicate that Douglas had equal difficulty in finding a universally acceptable definition of "popular sovereignty." In his preface, Johannsen suggests that although the martyred Lincoln has come to be revered "as a representative American . . . a better case might be made for Douglas" (p. xvii). Both the content and the placement vis-à-vis one another of these essays builds on that theme.

The fourteenth essay, "Sandburg and Lincoln: The Prairie Years," besides presenting an interesting bibliographic review of Carl Sandburg's works on Lincoln, suggests that Sandburg brought to the American people a view of Lincoln's life as "the life of the people" (p. 280). The following essay, "America's Golden Midcentury," shows a nation that reflected not only the Lincoln portrayed