burg and a wartime photograph of the Union ironclad Cairo, sent to the river bottom in 1862, salvaged a hundred years later and currently on display. The only Midwest entry is George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, which stands on the site of old Fort Sackville in Vincennes, Indiana. The park commemorates the seizure of the fort from the British on February 25, 1779, and the role of the Clark expedition in conquering the old Northwest Territory. Stevens graphically portrays the successful siege of the fort by Clark and his men after they had spent eighteen days slogging through freezing mud and wading chest deep in icy water.

The narrative is a mix of the heroic and the tragic. The human dimension is ever-present. A letter written by a dying son to his father during the twenty hours of nonstop savagery at Spotsylvania is reproduced. Some of the photographs are worth a thousand words: the dead among shattered trees on the slope of Little Round Top at Gettysburg; a solitary headstone, nearly overgrown with tall grass, which marked the spot where one of George Custer’s men fell; Union infantrymen sitting in a trench, waiting for orders to advance.

The guide is a treasure for anyone who plans to visit battlefield parks. It will make tours more rewarding and more easily manageable. It is readable and comprehensive enough, however, to appeal to a wider audience. It makes great armchair reading for the sedentary who love dramatic and well-crafted historical writing.

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In this insightful selection of Lincolniana editor Waldo Braden presents eulogies and ceremonial tributes that have contributed to a prevailing Lincoln mythology. For some seven generations politicians and preachers have been getting “right with Lincoln,” as the late Senator Everett Dirksen once astutely noted. In this process of getting right, political and spiritual leaders have created an atmosphere that permits little if anything to despoil the Emancipator’s sainted memory, thereby successfully securing the mythos of this epic hero in the American mind.

In a perceptive introductory essay Braden notes the change in public sentiment from a “maligned Old Abe” to his “personification” as “Father Abraham” and “Savior of the Republic” (p. 1). Ex-
planatory commentary gives meaningful detail about speaker, audience, and occasion for each of the selected twenty-three speeches. The texts reveal a rhetorical artistry that flourished in contributing to the legend. Two of the leading eulogists, like Lincoln, spent significant periods of their lives in frontier Indiana. Henry Ward Beecher's first pastorates were in Lawrenceburg and Indianapolis, where his *Lectures to Young Men* attracted nationwide attention. Bishop Matthew Simpson, onetime president of Asbury (DePauw) College in Greencastle, was selected to deliver "the final benediction" at the open vault in Oak Hill Cemetery, Springfield. Lincoln's rail-splitter heritage became a cherished feature of the mythology. Ralph Waldo Emerson emphasized this frontier influence "upon the American character," anticipating the thinking of Frederick Jackson Turner (p. 28).

Four presidents are included among the selected ceremonial orators (James A. Garfield, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and William Howard Taft). Four others ran for the presidency. Democrats, unlikely eulogists in the immediate postbellum period, became entirely acceptable as public sentiment shifted, ultimately enabling Democratic Governor Mario Cuomo in 1986 to proclaim before a Springfield audience of scholars and politicians that honoring Lincoln was "beyond the scope of partisan politics." In an eloquent address Cuomo proclaimed, "We have lifted Lincoln to the very pinnacle of our national memory. . . . We have chiseled his face on the side of a mountain, making him appear as a voice in the heavens" (p. 233).

Ceremonial oratory resounds with sainthood, martyrdom, and "epic grandeur," but seldom is there a whisper of the apocalyptic cost of warfare. Elihu Root came closest to describing the cost when he quoted the words of Lincoln to Mrs. Bixby, mentioning "the solemn pride" of having "laid so costly a sacrifice" as five sons "upon the altar of freedom" (p. 201). Braden's excellent book illumines not only Lincoln but the thought of postwar generations that followed him.

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**We Took the Train.** Edited by H. Roger Grant. (DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1990. Pp. xxx, 175. Illustrations, notes, index. $29.50.)

This is a pleasant little book, an exercise in nostalgia. H. Roger Grant has assembled twenty-one first-person narratives devoted to travel by train in the United States. Some are from the early days of railroading, but they continue to the present with accounts of travel on Amtrak's Metroliner over the famous north-