throughout the world and sets forth that Lincoln's program was similar to others in attempting to ensure social continuity.

Carl Degler finds that Lincoln, like Otto von Bismarck of Germany, created a unified nation out of separate states. Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., compares Lincoln with Franklin D. Roosevelt—both were accused of acting as dictators for violating the Constitution to make war and protect internal security, but both were careful to avoid setting dangerous precedents.

Boritt analyzes Lincoln's abhorrence of violence that dated from his youth in Indiana. Agonizing over his role as commander, in a time of low morale in July, 1864, Lincoln appeared on the parapet at Fort Stevens and exposed himself to enemy fire. Boritt interprets that as the bullets splattered, Lincoln stared, not at the Confederates but at God. Silently, he prayed: "If I am wrong, God, strike me down" (p. 208). The book provides interesting perspectives on Lincoln as a national strategist, but on Lincoln as military strategist, readers should still turn to the standard studies, such as T. Harry Williams, *Lincoln and His Generals* (1952).

JAMES A. Ramage is professor of history at Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, and author of *Rebel Raider: The Life of General John Hunt Morgan* (1986). He is currently writing a biography of John Singleton Mosby.


As settlers emigrated from Europe to the United States and subsequently moved westward, they took with them their quite varied material culture traits. One such important cultural trait is reflected in the form of the barn, the hub of a farmer's life. Robert F. Ensminger's *The Pennsylvania Barn* is a scholarly study of the origin, development, and diffusion of a specific barn form. The Pennsylvania barn, one of the most important agricultural structures on the landscape, is a two-level structure with a characteristic overhang or forebay and a bank, hill, or ramp providing entrance to the upper level.

Ensminger examines the Pennsylvania barn's European antecedents with special emphasis on a Swiss prototype. He provides very convincing evidence for the development of a Swiss forebay bank barn, which was carried to southeastern Pennsylvania whence it diffused across the United States and into southern Canada. The text, supplemented with maps, photographs, and drawings, and the glossary of barn terms, provide ease in understanding the detailed study.
Of interest to barn enthusiasts is Ensminger's new and more comprehensive classification system of Pennsylvania bank barns. He based the classification on a detailed examination of the "differences in the specifications of the forebay and the process of its integration into the barn frame" (p. 55). His classification scheme accommodates Pennsylvania barns both within and outside the Pennsylvania core area and is intended to help explain the evolution of this special barn form. Ensminger provides a thirty-four-step diagram of the conjectured evolution of the Pennsylvania barn and related barns in America, which he concludes was completed by 1900.

Ensminger notes that "migration patterns correlate closely with the distribution of Pennsylvania barns" (p. 151). As the concept of the Pennsylvania barn spread across the country from the Pennsylvania core, regions of Pennsylvania barn intensity formed. Perhaps the single weakness of this generally well-researched study was the author's limited fieldwork in several of these Pennsylvania barn regions, especially Indiana. The author singles out Pennsylvania barns in Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Texas, the Far West, and Ontario. The only Indiana connection was in Ensminger's "hypothesis that there is a correlation between Amish settlement and the presence of Pennsylvania barns" (p. 163). Not only are Pennsylvania barns found in areas of Indiana with no Amish communities, but Amish communities are found with no Pennsylvania barns.

Ensminger is to be commended for his interest, enthusiasm, and scholarship in his comprehensive study of the Pennsylvania barn. The Pennsylvania Barn is essential reading for anyone interested in material culture and American vernacular barn architecture.

Susanne S. Ridlen teaches folklore and American studies courses at Indiana University Kokomo. Her special interest is in material culture, especially barns and gravestones.


Marion B. Lucas has written an outstanding book on black Kentuckians from slavery through the Civil War to the late nineteenth century. His thesis is that the desire and search for liberty