

abolitionist, he gained stature as one of the pioneering citizens in the region. His name still designates the small town where he settled. Boxley lived to see the end of American slavery.

Those interested in the history of the Old Northwest may visualize the widely-reproduced mural depicting Edward Coles, the young Virginian and future Illinois governor, standing on a raft in the Ohio River with slaves whom he was carrying to freedom. By breathing life into a fascinating cast of heretofore obscure characters, Schwarz adds dimension to the romanticized Coles mural. This book demonstrates that one must address issues of race and slavery to understand the early history of the region.

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*Blood on the Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln.* By Edward Steers, Jr. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2001. Pp. xv, 360. Map, illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Edward Steers, Jr., has written an account of Lincoln's assassination that is compelling, fascinating, and well documented. He notes, "I have relied principally on primary sources and sought independent corroboration of the recollections of those persons who figured prominently in the story" (p. xi). Though threats had been made on Lincoln's life even before he assumed the presidency, the level of danger rose after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. By the end of 1863, "black flag warfare" was apparently officially adopted by each of the belligerents, so that both "Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln were viewed as legitimate military targets" (p. 42).

John Wilkes Booth, though the key player in the plans to kidnap Lincoln and then to assassinate him, did not act alone. Steers makes a convincing argument that a much larger conspiracy was involved, beginning with Booth's immediate cohorts and going all the way up to at least the Confederate secret service. Dr. Samuel Mudd was not just a doctor who unknowingly treated an assassin's broken leg, but a Confederate sympathizer who knew Booth from previous encounters and was much more involved in the great tragedy than he ever admitted. Mudd escaped hanging by only one vote of the military tribunal. Mary Surratt was not an innocent bystander and thus was hung justly. She was a coconspirator in the plot. Steers has a wonderful ability to make the principal figures in Lincoln's assassination become real people, to sense their driven personalities, to feel their fanatical commitment to a lost cause.

Steers gives a carefully detailed and well-paced account of Booth's attempt to escape pursuing federal authorities. One can feel

the pain in the killer's leg as he desperately flees from one hiding place to another. Twelve days after the event at Ford's Theater the perpetrator is shot and killed in Garrett's burning barn in northern Virginia.

Steers dismisses some of the erroneous theories that have surrounded the assassination over the years. One such conjecture is that Lincoln's secretary of war, Edwin Stanton, bore responsibility for the murder. Another fallacious theory, at one time given great credence, is that Booth escaped the burning barn and lived on for several years, to die eventually by his own hand. Someone else, this theory goes, was killed at Garrett's farm. Steers effectively demonstrates that such theories bear no basis in fact.

Relying heavily upon the trial records, Steers tells the story of what happened at that famous military tribunal. The book closes with a moving account of the 1,664-mile journey of Lincoln's body to Springfield.

Steers has written a good book. Lincoln buffs, as well as general readers, will appreciate his attention to the details and evidence of a well-known story.

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*Carry A. Nation: Retelling the Life.* By Fran Grace. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001. Pp. xiv, 374. Illustrations, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$35.00.)

More even than other female reformers, Carry Nation has suffered considerable indignities in the historical record. Wildly wielding her hatchet and Bible, she was a ready caricature, and the newspaper illustrations have become standard fare in history textbooks. Her biographers were not kind; they did not sympathize with her cause or endorse her methods. She has been portrayed, with a few exceptions, as a well-meaning crank, perhaps a little crazy, more than a little ridiculous. She has been an easy target for male critics who dislike uppity women and for those who like a drink now and then.

Nation's fame, or notoriety, did not come to her until nearly the last decade of her life. Before her first saloon "hatchetation," she had lost her first husband to drink and had moved throughout the Midwest with her second, often barely escaping poverty. She was both active and contentious in local religious and reform circles and by 1900 was president of the Kiowa, Kansas, Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She was fifty-three when she began smashing saloons in Kansas and was soon accepting invitations to visit a town, speak, and destroy property. Saloonkeepers did not always oppose