

ther, the book is a good read for anyone interested in the political history of Indiana and in the attitudes citizens held regarding the pressing political issues of their day: emancipation and Union. Bulla writes with the authority of one who knows his subject well, as indeed he does. Press suppression in the North during the Civil War has been Bulla's primary interest since his days as a graduate student, and he is presently expanding his work to consider other mid-western states. This first book puts him well on the road to completing this important work on the complex

issue of how a country at war over slavery could justify suppression of one of the most important groups in any society, the press.

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Man of Douglas, Man of Lincoln
The Political Odyssey of James Henry Lane

By Ian Michael Spurgeon

(Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 2008. Pp. x, 291. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$42.50.)

Ian Michael Spurgeon has written an intriguing and thoroughly researched biography of controversial nineteenth-century American politician James Henry Lane. During his colorful public career, Lane was a Mexican War colonel, a Democratic congressman from Indiana, and a free state advocate and Republican senator from Kansas. Due to the unique trajectory of Lane's career, Spurgeon argues here that contemporaries and historians alike have, however, consistently mischaracterized Lane as volatile, irrational, unprincipled, and opportunistic. Spurgeon contends instead that Lane's "political odyssey" was rational and consistent with his

overall and lifelong ideological commitment to popular sovereignty, white supremacy, and unionism. By effectively utilizing Lane's personal correspondence and speeches as well as relevant newspaper accounts concerning Lane, Spurgeon analyzes Lane's personal tragedies and political exploits within the context of American sectionalism.

Spurgeon indicates that Lane's political journey parallels the experiences of other Americans navigating through the politically turbulent antebellum period. As an example, Spurgeon examines Lane's endorsement of the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act along with his ardent support of Stephen

Douglas and the Democratic Party. Like Douglas, Lane was preeminently concerned with the needs and wants of northern white Americans, believing that the principle of popular sovereignty expressed in the act safeguarded the rights of these citizens in the territories. Lane's support of the act, Spurgeon therefore argues, represents his ongoing commitment to popular sovereignty and white supremacy.

Lane settled in antislavery Lawrence, Kansas in 1855, and though he continued to defend the doctrine of popular sovereignty, while there he slowly gravitated toward the free state ideology growing in Kansas. Spurgeon criticizes historians for interpreting Lane's opposition to the proslavery territorial government as opportunistic, instead viewing Lane's shift as reflective of his long-standing political ideology. According to Spurgeon, Lane's commitment to local power meant that he shared with Lawrence residents—whether anti-black free state proponents or morally committed abolitionists—an abhorrence for the proslavery forces in Kansas. With Lane confronting an implacable proslavery territorial government, Spurgeon interprets Lane's movement toward aggressive, even violent military tactics to contest such forces as the natural outcome of a rational man defending popular sovereignty and the rights of all free staters.

Spurgeon's chapters concerning the relationship between Abraham

Lincoln and Lane as well as Lane's views on slavery were particularly thoughtful and interesting. Spurgeon compares the backgrounds of the two men, regarding their movement toward the Republican Party as similarly motivated by a desire to limit proslavery political power and slavery's territorial growth. After Kansas was admitted to the Union as a free state in 1861, the state legislature selected Lane as a Republican senator. Spurgeon concludes that Lane's movement from the Democratic to the Republican Party demonstrated a natural realignment since Lincoln and the Republicans, according to Lane, now championed the "democratic principles" of self-government and unionism. Yet unlike Lincoln, Lane expressed no moral opposition to slavery even though he eventually supported abolition and the enrollment of black troops as a way to save the Union.

While nineteenth-century newspaper editors commonly expressed partisan, sensationalized rhetoric—and Spurgeon is correct to note that "rumors" surrounding controversial figures like Lane tended to be overblown—it nonetheless appears that many of the public criticisms leveled against Lane were not entirely without merit. The reviewer is still left with the impression that Lane was first and foremost a skilled, sometimes volatile politician, guided less by a coherent ideological commitment to "democratic principles" and more by emotional, even visceral,

responses to personal interactions with other leading political powers. Indeed, along with discussing Lane's exceptional oratorical and politicking abilities, Spurgeon credits Stephen Douglas's verbal attack upon Lane's Kansas free state sympathies as the key factor leading Lane to reject the Democratic Party. Notwithstanding, Ian Spurgeon's narrative of James Lane is a welcome addition to the

nineteenth-century American political narrative.

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More Than a Contest Between Armies

Essays on the Civil War Era

Edited by James Marten and A. Kristen Foster

(Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2008. Pp. xii, 309. Notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00.)

The American Civil War is a popular and enduring subject in publishing; and its approaching sesquicentennial will only make it more so. Books and articles regularly appear on seemingly every possible aspect of the war. Written for both academic and popular audiences, by scholars and amateurs, the quality and topics can vary greatly. Something like the stock of the sutlers' wagons that followed Civil War armies, the subject offers something for everyone. From a very focused work on a single battle, to a sweeping analysis taking in the whole war and its many facets, reader—much like that soldier perusing the sutlers' goods—can find something to interest them. *More Than a Contest Between Armies: Essays on the Civil War Era*, is much like the sutlers' offerings—there is something here for everyone.

Based on presentations given by many of the foremost Civil War scholars of the last forty years as part of the Frank L. Klement Lectures at Marquette University, editors James Marten and A. Kristen Foster have done a marvelous job of assembling twelve essays presenting different aspects of and perspectives on this tragic conflict. The editors' excellent preface places the anthology in context to the Klement series and its goal to present the broad field of Civil War study—from the battlefield to the home front; from the military and political leaders of the war to the battles waged to preserve the honor and glory of their causes in its aftermath. The editors quote Civil War historian Frank Klement himself for the title of the book. The Civil War was indeed "more than a contest between armies," and the essays presented