Case can be faulted for not engaging the most up-to-date historiography. While he cites Hatch and other historians who were active in the 1980s and 90s, he does not reference John Wigger, Mark Noll, and other recent historians of early American Methodism. One wonders how Case would respond to Noll’s assertion that the paradox of Methodism was that a religion that “had not been adjusted to the norms of American ideology [flourished] in the new American nation” (p. 340). Nevertheless, Case’s insight that Hoosier Methodism etched a populist, combative, and ruggedly individualistic spirit into American evangelical Christianity seems pertinent at a time when these values are once again shaping our nation’s culture.

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*Abe’s Youth: Shaping the Future President*
Edited by William E. Bartelt and Joshua A. Claybourn


*Abe’s Youth* publishes thirty papers prepared by residents of southwestern Indiana during the 1920s and 1930s. The authors of the papers—women and men who were politicians, school teachers, lawyers, journalists, and artists—were drawn together by a common quest (known in its time as “the Lincoln Inquiry”) to document and share the history of their community in which Abraham Lincoln lived from age 7 to 21. The Inquiry took the institutional form of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, founded in Evansville in 1920. Editors William E. Bartelt and Joshua A. Claybourn open their preface by acknowledging that “Keith Erekson’s 2012 book, *Everybody’s History: Indiana’s Lincoln Inquiry and the Quest*
Bartelt and Claybourn offer a brief summary of each piece, together with a few annotations throughout, often to correct a fact or add information about people or places named in the text. A judicious selection of illustrations, inserted between Parts One and Two, features artistic sketches of Lincoln’s early life and early twentieth-century photographs of the grave of Lincoln’s mother and other Indiana monuments.

Abe’s Youth provides a convenient way to access some of the important work of the Indiana Lincoln Inquiry. It forms a nice accompaniment to Everybody’s History, which places the activities and findings of the Inquiry into broader contexts within Lincoln studies, public history, and Indiana history of the early twentieth century. The Inquiry engaged written documents, oral histories, historic sites, and material culture to offer an interpretation of Abraham Lincoln that anticipated the work of academic historians by several decades. And within the context of Indiana’s corrupt, Ku Klux Klan-ridden politics of the 1920s, their reimagination of the Indiana frontier helped support a new vision of pioneer history that constructed Indiana as the worthy boyhood home of the Great Emancipator.

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