

members of the Pennsylvania legislature for patriotic reasons, and that he speculated in cotton and objected to the resumption of specie payments for the public good, Govan never raises any question as to the soundness of Biddle's explanations.

The book reflects the narrowness of the author's research, which consists chiefly of an exhaustive examination of the Biddle papers. Much might have been gained had more attention been devoted to other contemporary records, even to the secondary accounts of the period.

In defense of this book, it can be said that the author threads his way with some skill through the complicated political intrigues of the age and that he competently and lucidly describes Biddle's involved banking and foreign exchange operations. Possibly this strongly partisan and uncritical study provides an understanding of Nicholas Biddle, the man, which might not be gained from a less friendly biography.

Amherst College

George Rogers Taylor

*Lincoln's Youth: Indiana Years, Seven to Twenty-one, 1816-1830.* By Louis A. Warren. (New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., 1959. Pp. xxii, 298. Illustrations, endpaper maps, notes, sources, index. \$6.00.)

*The Philosophy of Abraham Lincoln: In his own Words.* Compiled by William E. Baringer. *Keystone Series.* Edited by C. A. Muses. (Indian Hills, Colo.: Falcon's Wing Press, 1959. Pp. xxxii, 167. \$3.50.)

Almost twenty-five years ago Louis A. Warren, then editor of the *Larue County Herald* of Hodgenville, Kentucky, published *Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood*. A product of rigorous research and critical analysis, the book replaced many a flimsy legend with solid fact, raised the status of the Lincoln family, and demonstrated that Lincoln's early years were considerably less drab than they had previously been pictured.

The book also led to Warren's appointment as Director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Lincoln students hoped that he would soon do for the Indiana years—also a murky period—what he had done for the Kentucky years. The duties of his position, however, were too onerous, so it was not until his retirement in 1956 that he could really devote himself to the Indiana book.

The result, one regrets to say, is disappointing. The text is padded with long excerpts or summaries of books which Warren, sometimes on doubtful authority, credits Lincoln with having read, and with much silly, unsupported tradition—which the author rejects, to be sure—that could better have been omitted altogether. (Chapter XII, "Romance," is a case in point.) In addition, there are far too many suppositious statements: "This book must have impressed Abraham . . ." (p. 111), "As a boy Abe may have heard from his father the tragic story of John Fitch . . ." (p. 148), "Apparently Abe had performed his tasks

on the flatboat competently and after his return he may have been employed in the store at intervals by Gentry" (p. 187).

In treating two subjects long controversial Warren has abandoned all caution. Nancy Hanks, he says, "was the only daughter of James and Lucy (Shipley) Hanks" (p. 6), and hence of legitimate parentage. He may be right, but his case is not strong enough to justify a categorical assertion. Warren repeatedly credits Nancy Hanks Lincoln with the ability to read—with teaching young Abraham his letters and reading the Bible to him—in spite of the fact that the only contemporary document which bears her name is signed with her mark.

While Warren makes some corrections in the Indiana story, and has performed a useful service in bringing together all that is known, the general picture established by William H. Herndon and redrawn on better authority by Albert J. Beveridge remains unchanged. One must conclude that there is simply no basis in existing historical sources for a different interpretation. If there were, Louis A. Warren would have found it and used it well.

Mr. Baringer's anthology needs only a few words. The Introduction—a polemic by the general editor, C. A. Muses against the communistic dialectic—is completely irrelevant. Baringer's definition of Lincoln's "philosophy" may be inferred from his inclusion of items like the following: "Dr. Zacharie has operated on my feet with great success, and considerable addition to my comfort" (p. 18); and "Today I verbally told Colonel Worthington that I did not think him fit for a Colonel; and now, upon his *urgent* request, I put it in writing" (p. 21). The book lacks a subject index, a fault which strips any compilation of this kind of most of its value.

Chicago Historical Society

Paul M. Angle

*They Who Fought Here.* Text by Bell Irvin Wiley; illustrations selected by Hirst D. Milhollen. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1959. Pp. vii, 273. \$10.00.)

*From the Cannon's Mouth: The Civil War Letters of General Alpheus S. Williams.* Edited by Milo M. Quaife. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press and the Detroit Historical Society, 1959. Pp. x, 405. Illustrations, maps, index. \$7.50.)

*The Civil War Dictionary.* By Mark Mayo Boatner, III; maps and diagrams by Allen C. Northrop and Lowell I. Miller. (New York: David McKay, Inc., 1959. Maps, bibliography. \$15.00.)

Professor Bell Irvin Wiley, author of the historical narrative for *They Who Fought Here*, has produced an extremely interesting account of the life of the common soldier on both sides during the Civil War. Emphasis is primarily upon the lot of infantrymen—and the overwhelming preponderance of troops on both sides were in that group. The substantial similarity of the life led by Billy Yanks and Johnny Rebs is frequently indicated. Attention is given to important topics such as enlistments, rations, clothing and shelter, weapons, diversions, crime and