

The Jonathan Hale Farm supports the view that succeeding generations owe much to their pioneer heritage. Moreover, it clearly indicates that the Hales and their neighbors were generally extremely eager to escape the "privations" and "hardships" of pioneer life. The death of the first Mrs. Hale in 1829, many years in advance of her husband's demise, vividly illustrates that pioneer life was even more harsh and costly to women than to men. There is tragedy in the fact that the first Mrs. Hale lived only a few years in the new brick house, completed in the twenties. Fortunately, the Jonathan Hale Farm is now the Jonathan Hale Homestead, restored by the Western Reserve Historical Society and recognized by Congress as a national historical site. Supported by a bequest from a great-granddaughter of Jonathan Hale, Miss Clara Belle Ritchie, the homestead is now operated as a museum to illustrate life in the Cuyahoga Valley in pioneer days. Such museums are essential as an important means of explaining and interpreting the continuing debt of midwesterners to their pioneer heritage.

Indiana University

Donald F. Carmony

Lincoln as a Lawyer. By John P. Frank. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1961. Pp. x, 190. Appendix, index. \$4.75.)

Lincoln has been examined in as many different ways as any human being who ever lived. His life and all known facts surrounding it have been scrutinized. He has been the subject and, in some instances, the victim of analysis and hypothesis. This volume has the merit of setting itself a modest goal, and the author has the discipline to devote himself to the achievement of that goal. Occasionally, as is true in so many works about Lincoln, the mystery of his greatness proves overwhelming. The writer is tempted beyond resistance to write about the intriguing unknowns of Lincoln in ways far afield from particular and announced aims. When Frank does this (and he has resisted the temptation better than most), his writing takes on the aspect of a wry smile. It is as though he were telling us that he is aware that he is leaving the path that he has set out for himself because he cannot restrain his pen.

A great man happened to be a lawyer. In what ways did his profession affect his life? In what ways did it affect his thought and his decisions?

There is first described the legal practice in which Lincoln participated. From the nature of his practice, from the nature of the cases he handled, from the techniques which he used in handling the cases, the author extrapolates certain generalities about the mind of the practitioner. Having studied the practice and studied the mental set of the practitioner, the author moves boldly into Lincoln's public life both before and during his presidency. Matters of common knowledge among Lincoln lovers are examined from the peculiar point of view of the lawyer studying the lawyer. The Lincoln-Douglas debates, the Emancipation Proclamation, and many other speeches and papers of Lincoln are treated as cases prepared by a lawyer and shaped by his experience during twenty-five years at the bar.

Many very interesting similarities between Lincoln handling a case and Lincoln handling a country are pointed out. Lincoln's appeal to a jury or a judge becomes Lincoln's appeal to a cabinet member or the country. For those having close acquaintance with the problems and techniques of lawyers, this volume presents a unique series of analyses by way of analogy. The author tries to show that Lincoln, who began his practice of law without formal training and with very little training of any kind, grew in stature to become a man highly skilled in legal techniques and that he embarked upon the affairs of the presidency with equally negligible preparation, but grew in skill as a statesman in the same way he had grown in the skills of his profession.

The appeal of the book is by its very nature limited, but even those without legal training or special interest in law will find that the assembled facts and the reasoning presented add much to their understanding of Lincoln.

Crumpacker, May, Beamer, Levy, & Searer
South Bend, Indiana

Nathan Levy

Politics and the Crisis of 1860. By William E. Baringer *et al.* Edited by Norman A. Graebner. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1961. Pp. xii, 156. Readings, index. \$3.00.)

This volume consists of five essays presented originally in 1960 at a Civil War conference at Gettysburg College. The common theme is slavery's impact on American politics. Although the five authors agree that slavery was at the heart of the sectional conflict and that emotionalism was partly responsible for the crisis of 1860, they differ significantly in explaining how and why the crisis came.

Three focus attention on events that transpired in 1860. Robert W. Johannsen argues powerfully that the breakup of the Democratic party at Charleston, which resulted from uncompromisable differences over the territorial question, sealed the fate of the Union. Don E. Fehrenbacher and William E. Baringer turn to the Republican camp to disclose the crisis. According to Fehrenbacher the choice of candidate and platform at the Wigwam in Chicago was unacceptable to southerners because it portended the doom of their society. Thus they left the Union "to hold back a future that appeared to have no place for them" (p. 60). Baringer attributes the crisis to fiery campaign statements of Republican editors and politicians; their words generated such anger and fear in the South that after Lincoln's election—which in fact constituted nothing revolutionary in the political and constitutional system—moderates failed to placate the southern mind, and secessionist leaders, exploiting Republican threats, led their states out of the Union.

Norman A. Graebner surveys the antislavery movement in American politics from 1840-1860 and advances a twofold explanation of the crisis of 1860. Southern secessionists pursued objectives that could not be achieved within the political system, while northern antislavery leaders pursued objectives that could not be achieved under the Constitution. The second half of this interpretation challenges Fehrenbacher's argument, which cannot be easily discounted. Graebner himself insists