

which “cemented the perceived and often real alliance of Latter-day Saints with American political, social, and religious conservatives” (209).

Throughout this volume the authors challenge notions of Mormon exceptionalism; instead, they suggest that “Mormons’ experiences reflect how America struggled to define and respond to the challenges of the early American republic.” National concerns about the fragility of democracy led to vigilance over a suspect religious minority whose political behavior was considered contrary to republican values. These new frameworks remind Latter-day Saints that their complicated experiences with American unity and nationalism are not entirely exceptional.

Thus, *Contingent Citizens* deemphasizes the common narrative of a marginal group that gradually progressed toward American acceptance. Rather, shifting political alignments have contributed to Mormons at times being at odds with national interests and at others aligning with them. Overall, the focus is on the Mormon experience in a context of changing democratic mobilization and shifting national identity. *Annals of Iowa* readers will find particular relevance in the Latter-day Saints’ historic encounters with the American state, and how those interactions affected the Mormons’ regional position while settled in Illinois, and their later religious exodus across Iowa to the Far West.

*Contingent Citizens*’s new approach is refreshing, if sometimes over-labored. These frameworks will enliven the field of Mormon history, helping to make it more relevant to a larger American historical context. It will also require a major reorientation of thought among those who are used to the typical “persecuted religious minority” narrative that has dominated the Mormon story.

*Moon of the Snowblind: Spirit Lake*, by Gary Kelley. Iowa City: Ice Cube Press, 2021. 184 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$19.99 graphic novel.

Reviewer Kevin T. Mason is Assistant Professor of History at Waldorf University. He is the author of “Inkpaduta in Iowa: Dakota Decline, Dispossession and Erasure,” which appeared in the Spring 2021 issue of the *Annals of Iowa*.

Gary Kelley’s graphic novel, *Moon of the Snow Blind*, brings new balance to interpretations of Inkpaduta’s 1857 attack on Spirit Lake in an accessible medium for general audiences. Through immaculately drawn images and hand-written text, Kelley approaches an important topic in Iowa’s history in a meaningful way.

Kelley manages to create balance in the narrative through intentional incorporation of the Dakota language and calendar, which the author utilizes as titles as the work moves chronologically from June

1856 through May 1857. The work incorporates recent scholarship, including that of enrolled member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota Oyate Gwen Westerman, giving further credibility to Kelley's earnest attempt at balance in the narrative. Kelley builds on the relevant scholarship with his incredible artistry to bring the Spirit Lake story to life in a unique and unprecedented way.

Although Kelley's work provides a departure from the stereotypical tropes associated with Iowa's Indigenous past and the 1857 events at Spirit Lake, readers can easily lose sight of Inkipaduta and the Dakota throughout portions of the work. Kelley's innocent depiction of pioneers at times slides into familiar tropes, potentially undercutting readers' understanding of Dakota sovereignty and motivations in the years and months preceding Inkipaduta's attack on Spirit Lake. Similarly, an emphasis of mystical stereotypes surrounding the Spirit Lake region and the Dakota people occasionally undermines historical realities. At times the narrative feels overly dependent on traditional interpretations of the events, especially the trope-riddled captivity narrative of Abbie Gardner-Sharp, despite the author and illustrator's clear intention to provide balance to his interpretation.

Minor quibbles aside, Kelley created a notable and meaningful entry into the historiographical and artistic records related to Inkipaduta's 1857 attack on Spirit Lake. The work provides a visually stunning and academically defensible interpretation of an iconic event in Iowa's history.

*Lincoln and the American Founding*, by Lucas E. Morel. Concise Lincoln Library. Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University, 2020. 145 pp. Notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Matthew Pinsker is Professor of History at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA. His research focuses on the career of Abraham Lincoln, partisanship in the Civil War era, American constitutionalism, the Underground Railroad and the history of U.S. campaigns and elections.

During the years before the Civil War, residents in western states like Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa cared deeply about how to interpret the founding ideals of the country. They argued fiercely over whether the Declaration of Independence truly meant to endorse universal human rights when it employed the phrase, "all men are created equal." They regularly debated how to apply the U.S. Constitution to pressing domestic issues like internal improvements or fugitive slave rendition. Jacksonian Democrats and Whigs and then Democrats and Republicans essentially organized their political parties over these weighty matters. The politics of antebellum America were a battle over a national inheritance.