

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.

Lucas Morel deftly explores these debates through the arguments offered by one of the better-known western politicians of that era, Abraham Lincoln. Morel begins by considering how Lincoln revered (and sometimes questioned) founders such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. He then provides full chapters on Lincoln's perspectives on the nation's two key founding documents—the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—before delving into more specific questions about Lincoln's views on the founders, slavery and broader questions about what he considered to be their "original intent." Morel, a noted Lincoln scholar and professor of politics at Washington & Lee University, concludes by identifying Lincoln as a "Conservative Liberal," a label which represents his attempt to explain how Lincoln was both progressive and conservative in his outlook on America's future.

Two qualities make this slim volume especially useful for teachers and lifelong learners. First, Morel's decision to organize his work in thematic and not biographical fashion allows for more focused consideration of popular classroom issues, especially regarding the promises and inherent contradictions of the Declaration's sweeping preamble. In what is by far the longest and most erudite chapter in the book, Morel explains with a series of powerful examples exactly how the Declaration became "the sine qua non of Lincoln's political thought" (29). Second, even in Morel's far more compact and somewhat less persuasive chapters (such as one regarding Lincoln's specific claims about slavery policy), the author nonetheless demonstrates deep familiarity with Lincoln's extensive canon of writings. This may be a slim book, but it covers a wide range of profound material with admirable scholarly precision.

Such an approach has become a hallmark of the widely admired Concise Lincoln Library from Southern Illinois University Press, which now boasts more than two dozen contributions on Lincoln's all-important life and career, written for general audiences but grounded in the finest recent scholarship. Aspiring students of Lincoln who are not familiar with this series should consider exploring it. Lucas Morel's volume on *Lincoln and the American Founding* certainly offers a fitting starting point for that exploration.