

Book Notices

Pioneers and Preachers: Stories of the Old Frontier. By Robert William Mondy. (Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1980. 268 pp., illus., notes, index, \$21.95 cloth, \$10.95 paper.)

The author, a noted historian, was a member of Walter Prescott Webb's first class on the American frontier. His book presents a very lively highly documented account of frontier life including marriage customs and sex, perils, of travel, vigilante committees, preachers, etc. The author has culled anecdotes of real people and incidents from the newspapers, letters and diaries of the times. His fine eye for detail gives the reader an almost cinematic picture of the reality of frontier life from 1783 to 1865. Because of its well-balanced approach this book will appeal to general reader and scholar alike.

The Public and the Private Lincoln: Contemporary Perspectives. Edited by Cullom Davis et al. (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1979. 192 pp., notes, index, \$18.95.)

This is the first such collection of essays on Lincoln to be published in more than twenty years. Selected from papers delivered during a conference sponsored by Sangamon State University, these nine essays contribute to a heightened understanding of the timeless figure of Abraham Lincoln and this book demands a close reading by both scholar and buff.

Oral History: An Introduction for Students. By James Hoopes. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1979. 147 pp., bibliography, \$10.00.)

This volume is designed as a college level text book and manual of oral history. In addition to acquainting the student with the methodology of oral history as a method of historical research, the author emphasizes the importance of the integration of oral history with other more traditional kinds of research. As such, it is one of the more stimulating and imaginative of the oral history "primers" on the market.

—MDG

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