

Mourning Lincoln. By MARTHA HODES. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015. 406 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$30.)

“It was an evening that would ruin their lives,” New York University history professor Martha Hodes writes of April 14, 1865 (1). Indeed, it was an evening that ruined many lives, not just those of Union Army Major Henry Rathbone and his fiancée, Clara Harris, the other occupants of the Lincolns’ box at Ford’s Theater. However, it was also an evening that brought a sense of retribution and hope to many, including not only Confederates but also Copperhead Northerners. It was an evening that still shapes our daily lives after 150 years.

Mourning Lincoln is a sobering return to that time and place in American history following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Motivated by her own memories and reactions to September 11, 2001—she was walking to NYU when the planes hit the World Trade Center—and, to a lesser extent, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Hodes portrays the country as a place still as emotionally and politically divided after the war as it was at the beginning. The days, weeks, and months following Lincoln’s assassination are presented through the letters, diaries, journals, and newspapers of Northerners and Southerners, men and women, children and adults, blacks and whites, slaves and slave owners, soldiers and civilians, politicians and clergymen. Hodes shows us that the war’s most notable casualty was both revered and reviled as probably no other figure in our nation’s history.

Hodes’s research is breathtaking in both scope and depth. Drawing on approximately one thousand total sources, she examines diaries, collections of letters, newspaper articles, and other forms of writing. We hear from hundreds of citizens and soldiers, who remind us of the larger fears and issues that both surrounded and went beyond Lincoln’s death. We have heard from some of these figures, such as Frederick Douglass and Mary Chestnut, before. We hear from others for the first time. Hodes selects representative figures, Northerners Albert and Sarah Browne and Southerner Rodney Dorman, whom she uses to frame the debates regarding Lincoln’s death and its consequences. The Brownes were well-off Protestants from Salem, Massachusetts, whose moral and sociopolitical beliefs in free labor and abolitionism contrasted with those of Rodney Dorman, a Northerner transplanted to Jacksonville, Florida, and a convert to the Southern cause whose extraordinarily fierce proslavery and secessionist sentiments turned into a palpable hatred of Lincoln. These new voices reinforce our sense of the disparate emotions of the time.

There are many other voices who add their own emotions to the dialogue. Some are recognizable, like the Virginia fire-eater Edmund Ruffin, who found news of Lincoln’s assassination “entertaining reading” (78). Ruffin committed suicide shortly thereafter, unwilling to live under the perceived yoke of the Union and accept civil rights for former slaves. Radical Republican George Julian, a rep-

representative from Indiana, expressed his disgust that the “universal feeling among radical men here [Washington, DC] is that his death is a godsend.” Former slaves truly mourned his death, but even some abolitionists did not.

Even for readers who know and have read a great deal about the Civil War, *Mourning Lincoln* will introduce a greater appreciation for the life and service of Abraham Lincoln. Whether he was loved or hated, the triumph of his presidency and the tragedy of his death were felt by all Americans. Historians should be grateful to Martha Hodes for that important reminder.

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Sisterly Love: Women of Note in Pennsylvania History. Edited by MARIE A. CONN and THÉRÈSE MCGUIRE. (Lanham, MD: Hamilton Books, 2014. 208 pp. Notes. Paper, \$32.99.)

The frameworks of place and time shape a biographical collection. So too does the disciplinary focus of each author. Edited by Marie A. Conn and Thérèse McGuire, *Sisterly Love* reflects the backgrounds of the authors, from history to religious studies, literature to mathematics. There are varied approaches to each subject; some are chronologically driven narratives, some reflect on the roots of the subject’s ideology, and others are oral histories of women still living.

One theme is religion. Anna Johanna Piesch Seidel led the Sisters Choir in the early settlement of Bethlehem. Sister Assisium McEvoy, SSJ authored the *Course of Christian Doctrine: A Handbook for Teachers*, used throughout the world. Anna Kugler bridged both the medical and religious worlds as a doctor and missionary in India. Kate Drexel founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in 1891 and was canonized in 2000. Joan Dawson McConnon, cofounder of Project H.O.M.E. with Sister Mary Scullion, created one of the most effective existing organizations for the homeless. Women who are already well studied make up another group. These include actress and abolitionist Fanny Kemble; artist and muralist Violet Oakley; environmentalist Rachel Carson; impressionist painter Cecelia Beaux; and Ida Tarbell, the original muckraker.

The volume also includes stimulating discussions of twentieth-century entrepreneurs and pioneers in fields where women were rarely found. Mary Brooks Picken wrote over ninety books, including the iconic *Singer Sewing Book*, which allowed generations of women to learn how to sew at home. Gertrude Hawk founded a chocolate empire in northeastern Pennsylvania. Kathleen McNulty Mauchly Antonelli was one of a handful of hitherto little-known women working on the famous ENIAC computer at the University of Pennsylvania.

This volume could be used in the classroom as a model for student biograph-