

Looking for Lincoln in Illinois: A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit

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Looking for Lincoln in Illinois: A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit, by Guy C. Fraker. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press. xiii, 130 pp. Illustrations, maps, appendix, bibliography, index. \$21.95 paperback.

Reviewer John A. Lupton is the executive director of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission. He was formerly an assistant editor on *The Papers of Abraham Lincoln* and has written extensively about Lincoln as a lawyer.

Guy Fraker's new book is the third in a series that offers guided tours of Lincoln sites in Illinois. Specifically, Fraker leads us around central Illinois on the Eighth Judicial Circuit during the height of Lincoln's circuit-riding practice. The guide provides valuable information about highways, roads, and streets, including a key to different types of markers and wayside exhibits. Many illustrations show readers the people and places Lincoln experienced. Fraker demonstrates that Lincoln's time on the circuit served two important purposes: building a substantial law practice while also creating a network of political operatives.

Fraker does not delve into scholarly issues related to Lincoln's law practice, but this book is not meant for that. The purpose is to hold the reader's hand while Fraker points out many Lincoln sites in a very well-done driving and walking tour of Lincoln's circuit law practice. The book provides tidbits about some of Lincoln's cases and personal interactions—not enough to know full details, but enough to whet the appetite. As a result, a larger "For Further Reading" section would have been helpful to direct readers to some of those cases. Surprisingly absent were the two *Papers of Abraham Lincoln* publications on Lincoln's law practice. The four-volume book edition, particularly, has two in-depth tours of Lincoln's circuit. Minor quibbles aside, Fraker succeeds in giving readers a taste of what life was like on the circuit with Lincoln, whose practice mirrored that of many attorneys in the Midwest.

Making an Antislavery Nation: Lincoln, Douglas, and the Battle over Freedom, by Graham A. Peck. Urbana, Champaign, and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2017. ix, 264 pp. Maps, appendix, notes, index. \$34.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Stephen Hansen is emeritus dean and professor of history at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. He is the author of *The Making of the Third Party System: Voters and Parties in Illinois, 1850–1876* (1980).

In this study of the rise of antislavery politics, Graham A. Peck uses Illinois as the context for examining the political conflict over slavery from the Northwest Ordinance in 1787 to the election of Abraham