

LINCOLN'S IOWA LANDS

By E. R. HARLAN

Herndon's "Abraham Lincoln," at page 92, Vol. I, in treating of the bounty warrants issued to Lincoln in compensation for his service in the Black Hawk War, quotes in a footnote a letter from "Jos. S. Wilson, Acting Commissioner Land Office, June 27, 1865," as follows:

In regard to the bounty land warrants issued to Abraham Lincoln for military services during the Black Hawk War as captain of the Fourth Illinois Volunteers, the first warrant, No. 52,076, for forty acres (Act of 1850), was issued to Abraham Lincoln, captain, etc., on April 16, 1852, and was located in his name by his duly appointed attorney, John P. Davis, at Dubuque, Iowa, July 21, 1854, on the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 20, in township 84, north of range 39 [15], west, Iowa. A patent as recorded in volume 289, page 21, was issued for this tract to Abraham Lincoln on June 1, 1855, and transmitted October 26, 1855, to the register of delivery.

"Under the Act of 1855 another land warrant, No. 68,465, for 120 acres, was issued to Abraham Lincoln, captain Illinois militia, Black Hawk War, on April 22, 1856, and was located by himself at Springfield, Illinois, December 27, 1859, on the east half of the northeast quarter, and the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 18, in township 84, north of range 39, west; for which a patent, as recorded in volume 468, page 53; was issued September 10, 1860, and sent October 30, 1860, to the register for delivery.—Letter Jos. S. Wilson, Acting Commissioner Land Office, June 27, 1865.

It is true that two warrants were received by Lincoln and two patents on Iowa lands were thereupon issued to him. Both were for lands in township 84, but the parcels are separated by about 144 miles, one being in range 15 and the other in range 39, west of the 5th principal meridian.

The first of these parcels is located by reference to record in the office of the recorder of Tama County, Iowa, from which the writer on September 27, 1924, abstracted the following data:

United States to Abraham Lincoln the north west quarter of the southwest quarter (40 acres) of section twenty, township eighty-four north, range 15 west of the 5th principal meridian. Date of sale July 21, 1854, upon a land warrant in lieu of cash

for which certificate of purchase was issued and numbered 52,076. That was done under authority of Act of Congress of September 28th, 1850, and designated the certificate holder as "Captain in the Fourth Illinois Volunteers, Black Hawk War," the patent thereunder dated June 1, 1855, was not recorded until June 15, 1916.

This land was transferred from the Lincoln name through the following course:

On April 6, 1874, for consideration of one hundred dollars, "Mary Lincoln (widow of Abraham Lincoln, dec'd)" executed her deed of quit claim to Robert T. Lincoln. The deed was recorded in Book 43, at page 162, deed records of Tama County, Iowa, on February 3, 1875.

On December 1, 1874, Robert T. Lincoln and wife, Mary H. Lincoln, executed their deed of warranty in consideration of \$500.00, which deed was recorded in Book 44, at page 392, on February 18, 1875.

It is common knowledge that Robert T. Lincoln was Robert Todd Lincoln, sole surviving child of Abraham Lincoln, and that Mary T. Lincoln was Mary Todd Lincoln, surviving spouse of Abraham Lincoln, the martyr president. The president having died without a will, this land descended in undivided interests of two-thirds to Robert Todd Lincoln and one-third to the widow, Mary Todd Lincoln, who sold for \$100.00 her undivided interest to her son, who thereby was seized of the entire right, title and possession.

And it is common knowledge that Robert Todd Lincoln's surviving spouse (he having died on the 26th day of July, 1926) is Mary (Harlan) Lincoln, sole surviving heir of the late James Harlan, a senator from Iowa whose name was under advisement in the Senate as nominee by Lincoln for secretary of interior at the time of the great tragedy, which nomination was revived by President Johnson and confirmed by the Senate.

The second parcel, 120 acres, is located in Crawford County, as described above by Land Commissioner Wilson and quoted by Herndon, and also verified by Charles D. Saunders, cashier of the First National Bank of Denison. (Note the difference, however, in their numbers of the warrant.—E. R. H.) The title as

stated by Mr. Saunders running from Abraham Lincoln until it passed out of the Lincoln family is as follows:

United States to Abraham Lincoln. East half of the northeast quarter (80 acres), and the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter (40 acres) of section 18, township 84 north, range thirty-nine west of the 5th principal meridian. The original entry was September 10, 1860, on land warrant numbered 68,645 and is recorded in Book "1," page 125. The warrant holder is designated as "Captain Black Hawk War." The patent was dated September 10, 1860, was filed for record December 12, 1867, and recorded in Book "D" at page 18. The title passed from the Lincoln family through warranty deed by Robert T. Lincoln and wife, dated March 22, 1892, filed April 26, 1892, and recorded in Book "13" at page 208, the consideration being \$1300.

Mr. Saunders writes us: "A large boulder has been moved to a corner of the 120 acres of land, which was granted by the government to Abraham Lincoln, and on this boulder the Denison Chapter, D. A. R., have caused to be placed a copper plate, bearing the following inscription:

'Land Grant made to Abraham Lincoln
for services rendered in the Black
Hawk War, 1832,
(Emblem)
Marked by
Denison Chapter D. A. R.
1923.'

"The huge boulder weighs in the neighborhood of two tons and may be seen from the road. To reach it by auto, take the primary road No. 34 north out of Denison for six miles; then take the road leading north to the town of Schleswig for one mile, and then one mile east."

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.