# LINCOLN IN IOWA

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky. He resided for a time in Indiana, split rails, sold groceries, and practiced law in Illinois, now and again touched Iowa, and came to the end of his career in Washington, D. C. His opportunities were limited, his ambitions thwarted, yet his influences are widespread and eternal. If, in point of time, he belongs to the ages, so also, in point of space, he belongs to the world. In this prospective his personal associations with Iowa and with Iowans may be reviewed with profit.

### LINCOLN OWNED LAND IN IOWA

In 1850 and again in 1855 Congress passed laws granting bounties of land to persons who had rendered services in the armies of the United States. Abraham Lincoln, having served as captain of the Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Black Hawk War, was granted three land warrants. Two of these were filed for lands in Iowa. The first Iowa land given to Lincoln for his military services was the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 20, Township 84, Range 15 west of the 5th Principal Meridian - this being a 40 acre tract lying in what is now Howard Township, Tama County, some seven miles northwest of Toledo. A warrant for this amount of land was issued to Abraham Lincoln on April 16, 1852. It was entered for him by Attorney John P. Davis of Dubuque, on July 21, 1854, and a patent for the land was issued to Lincoln on June 1, 1855. After Mr. Lincoln's death this property was sold by his heirs.1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> United States Statutes at Large, Vol. IX, Ch. 85, Vol. X, Ch. 207; F. I. Herriott's "Iowa and the First Nomination of Abraham Lincoln" in The Annals of Iowa (Third Series), Vol. IX, p. 220.

The second parcel of land acquired by Lincoln through his military services was the east half and also the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 18, Township 84, Range 39 west of the 5th Principal Meridian. This tract of 120 acres lies in Goodrich Township, Crawford County, some eight miles northwest of Denison. In 1892 this land was sold by Robert T. Lincoln for a consideration of \$1300. In 1923 the Denison chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a boulder and copper plate upon this land as a reminder that it was once owned

In November, 1859, Lincoln acquired from Nathan B. Judd, with whom he had been associated in legal matters, certain lots and small parcels of land in and near Council Bluffs. These lots were held by Mr. Lincoln at the time of his death, and in 1867 the Lincoln heirs reconveyed them to Mr. Judd.<sup>3</sup>

by Abraham Lincoln.2

#### INVITATIONS TO VISIT IOWA

At an early date Lincoln acquired a wide reputation as a popular speaker. As early as 1844 his reputation went far beyond the borders of Sangamon County, Illinois. His career in the legislature of Illinois had given him a statewide acquaintance among political workers. In 1844 and again in 1846 he was a candidate for Congress, thus widening his sphere of influence. It is not strange then that James W. Grimes, in 1844, invited Mr. Lincoln to come to Iowa to speak at a political gathering at Burlington. It is apparent that Lincoln, even at that time, was considered as a celebrity whose presence at a political meeting would add dignity and interest. Apparently, however, Mr. Lincoln did

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Annals of Iowa (Third Series), Vol. IX, pp. 182, 220-223, Vol. XV, pp. 621-623.

<sup>3</sup> Letter from recorder of Pottawattamie County, dated July 27, 1933; The Annals of Iowa (Third Series), Vol. IX, p. 219.

not respond to the invitation. At all events he did not visit Burlington at that time.<sup>4</sup>

Twelve years later, in the summer of 1856, Mr. Grimes again invited Mr. Lincoln to come to Iowa to address a public meeting. Again Mr. Lincoln could not come. In declining this invitation he made the following reply:

Springfield, Illinois, July 12, 1856.

Yours of the 29th of June was duly received. I did not answer it because it plagued me. This morning I received another from Judd and Peck, written by consultation with you. Now let me tell you why I am plagued:

1. I can hardly spare the time.

2. I am superstitious. I have scarcely known a party preceding an election to call in help from the neighboring States, but they lost the State. Last fall, our friends had Wade, of Ohio, and others, in Maine; and they lost the State. Last spring our adversaries had New Hampshire full of South Carolinians, and they lost the State. And so, generally, it seems to stir up more enemies than friends.

Have the enemy called in any foreign help? If they have a foreign champion there, I should have no objection to drive a nail in his track. I shall reach Chicago on the night of the 15th, to attend to a little business in court. Consider the things I have suggested, and write me in Chicago. Especially write me whether Browning consents to visit you.

Your obedient servant,

A. LINCOLN<sup>5</sup>

In September, 1856, Henry O'Connor, a prominent attorney of Muscatine, invited Mr. Lincoln to attend a mass meeting in that city, and to participate in the political discussion. Lincoln felt, however, that his services were needed in Illinois and accordingly declined the invitation. His response to Mr. O'Connor was as follows:

<sup>4</sup> The Annals of Iowa (Third Series), Vol. IX, pp. 218, 234-236.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> William Salter's Life of James W. Grimes, pp. 83, 84.

Springfield, September 14, 1856.

Dear Sir: Yours inviting me to attend a mass meeting on the 23rd inst. is received. It would be very pleasant to strike hands with the Frémonters of Iowa, who have led the van so splendidly, in this grand charge which we hope and believe will end in a most glorious victory — all thanks, all honor to Iowa!! But Iowa is out of all danger, and it is no time for us, when the battle still rages, to pay holy-day visits to Iowa. I am sure you will excuse me for remaining in Illinois, where much hard work is still to be done.

Yours very truly,

A. LINCOLN.6

In August, 1857, James W. Grimes, who was at that time Governor of Iowa, wrote to Mr. Lincoln explaining to him some of the provisions of the newly adopted Iowa Constitution, and urging Lincoln to come to Iowa to speak in behalf of Republican candidates. Lincoln expressed a deep interest in Iowa politics, but said he was "altogether too poor" to follow his inclinations along this line. His letter to Mr. Grimes conveyed the following message:

Springfield, Illinois, August, 1857.

Yours of the 14th is received, and I am much obliged for the legal information you give.

You can scarcely be more anxious than I that the next election in Iowa should result in favor of the Republicans. I lost nearly all the working-part of last year, giving my time to the canvass; and I am altogether too poor to lose two years together. I am engaged in a suit in the United States Court at Chicago, in which the Rock Island Bridge Company is a party. The trial is to commence on the 8th of September, and probably will last two or three weeks. During the trial it is not improbable that all hands may come over and take a look at the bridge, and, if it were possible to make it hit right, I could then speak at Davenport. My courts go right on without cessation till late in November. Write me again, pointing out the more striking points of difference between your old and new constitutions, and also whether Democratic and Republican

<sup>6</sup> Life and Works of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Marion M. Miller, Vol. X, p. 19.

party lines were drawn in the adoption of it, and which were for and which were against it. If, by possibility, I could get over amongst you it might be of some advantage to know these points in advance.

Yours very truly,

A. LINCOLN 7

In the fall of 1859 it was rumored that Lincoln would be in attendance at the United States District Court at Keokuk. In anticipation of such a visit Hawkins Taylor, a pioneer attorney, lawmaker, and former mayor of Keokuk, wrote to Mr. Lincoln to confirm the report. The rumor proved to be false, yet the letter is significant as showing Lincoln's interest in Iowa. Its contents were as follows:

Springfield, Illinois, Sept. 11, 1859

Hawkins Taylor Esq. My Dear Sir:

Yours of the third is just received. There is some mistake about my expected attendance of the U. S. Court in your city on the 3rd Tuesday of this month — I have had no thought of being there — It is bad to be poor — I shall go to the wall for bread and meat if I neglect my business this year as well as last — It would please me to see the city and good people of Keokuk, but for this year it is little less than an impossibility — I am constantly receiving invitations which I am compelled to decline — I was pressingly urged to go to Minnesota; and I now have two invitations to go to Ohio — These are prompted by Douglas' going there; and I am really tempted to make a flying trip to Columbus and Cincinnati.

I do hope you will have no serious troubles in Iowa — What thinks Grimes about it? I have not known him to be mistaken about an election in Iowa — Present my respects to Col. Carter and any other friends; and believe me

Yours Truly,

A. LINCOLN.8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Salter's Life of James W. Grimes, p. 95. The original letter is in the Masonic Library at Cedar Rapids. See also "Letters Lincoln Wrote Iowans" in the Kansas City Star, February 12, 1925.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The Des Moines Register, February 8, 1925; The Annals of Iowa (Third Series), Vol. II, p. 475.

Two days after this letter was written, on September 13, 1859, John A. Kasson, Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, made a last moment attempt to induce Mr. Lincoln to visit the Iowa State Fair at Oskaloosa. His brief note to Mr. Lincoln was as follows:

Will it be possible for you to visit Oskaloosa in this State, at the State Fair, say the 28th of Sept, and speak there, and perhaps at one or more other places?

It is earnestly desired you should visit the State if possible.

Before Lincoln received this note he had become involved in a political campaign in Ohio and there seems to be no direct evidence that any reply was made to the letter. At all events the invitation to visit Iowa at that time was not accepted.<sup>9</sup>

#### LINCOLN'S VISITS TO IOWA

It is significant to note that although Lincoln frequently declined invitations to address political gatherings, he, now and again, gave favorable response and visited his friends and political associates in Iowa. It is believed that his first visit to Iowa was on October 9, 1858, when he delivered an address at Grimes Hall in Burlington. Notice of the meeting did not appear in the local papers until October 8th. On that date Clark Dunham, editor of The Burlington Hawk-eye published a brief but effective notice of the meeting. He referred to the Lincoln-Douglas debates which were being held in nearby Illinois towns. He expressed the view that Lincoln "had altogether the advantage of Douglas in the argument", and closed the notice with the words "Huzza for Lincoln".

In the next issue of his paper following the address Mr. Dunham made the following significant comment:

Grimes' Hall was filled to its full capacity. . . . So great is the sympathy felt here in the spirited canvass in Illinois, and so

<sup>9</sup> The Annals of Iowa (Third Series), Vol. IX, pp. 226, 227.

high is the opinion entertained of the ability of Mr. Lincoln as a speaker that a very short notice brought together from twelve to fifteen hundred ladies and gentlemen.

High, however, as was the public expectation, and much as was anticipated, he, in his address of two hours, fully came up to the standard that had been erected. It was a logical discourse, replete with sound arguments, clear, concise and vigorous, earnest, impassioned and eloquent. Those who heard recognized in him a man fully able to cope with the little giant anywhere, and altogether worthy to succeed him.

We regret exceedingly that it is not in our power to report his speech in full this morning. We know that we could have rendered no more acceptable service to our readers. But it is not in our power.

Mr. Lincoln appeared Saturday evening fresh and vigorous, there was nothing in his voice, manner or appearance to show the arduous labors of the last two months—nothing to show that immense labors of the canvass had worn upon him in the least. In this respect he has altogether the advantage of Douglas, whose voice is cracked and husky, temper soured and general appearance denoting exhaustion.

In June, 1907, almost a half century after Mr. Lincoln's visit to Burlington, Dr. William Salter recalled the occasion and made the following comment: "When Mr. Lincoln arrived at the old Barrett House where he stopped while in Burlington he had in his hand a small package, wrapped in a newspaper. Handing it to the clerk at the desk he asked him to 'Please take good care of that. It is my boiled shirt. I will need it this afternoon.' It was his only 'baggage'."

In the spring of 1859 Lincoln again visited Iowa. He was at that time attending court in Galena, Illinois, in the interest of the Illinois Central Railroad Company — a company with which he had been associated for almost a decade. Having presented one case and awaiting the time for

<sup>10</sup> Herriott's "Iowa and the First Nomination of Abraham Lincoln" in The Annals of Iowa (Third Series), Vol. VIII, pp. 454, 455.

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presenting another he took occasion to visit Dubuque, and spent a day and a night at the Julien House. He came with a party of railroad officials and rode in a private car. The distinction of having a private car and free transportation greatly impressed some of the younger attorneys of Dubuque, of whom William B. Allison was one; but the visit itself seems to have been of no outstanding political significance.<sup>11</sup>

In the summer of 1859 Mr. Lincoln made a trip to Kansas. On his return, while stopping at St. Joseph, Missouri, he decided to make a visit to Council Bluffs, perhaps with the thought of purchasing the lands which he later acquired from Nathan B. Judd. At all events, Mr. Lincoln, in company with O. M. Hatch, Secretary of State for Illinois, arrived at Council Bluffs by boat on Friday evening, August 12th, and went at once to the Pacific House, which was at that time the leading hotel of the city. It is doubtful if Lincoln contemplated making a speech in Iowa at that time, but the exigencies of the occasion were such that his friends, regardless of their political faith, prevailed upon him to address them. This was agreed to, and the Saturday morning issue of the Republican newspaper — The Weekly Nonpareil — contained the following announcement:

#### HEAR OLD ABE

Hon. Abe Lincoln, and the Secretary of State for Illinois, Hon. O. M. Hatch, arrived in our city last evening, and are stopping at the Pacific House. The distinguished "sucker" has yielded to the earnest importunities of our citizens,—without distinction of party,—and will speak upon the political issues of the day, at Concert Hall, this evening. The celebrity of the speaker will most certainly insure him a full house. Go and hear "Old Abe." 12

<sup>11</sup> The Annals of Iowa (Third Series), Vol. IX, pp. 220, 221.

<sup>12</sup> The Annals of Iowa (Third Series), Vol. IX, pp. 222, 223, quoting from The Council Bluffs Weekly Nonpareil, August 13, 1859.

This speech, like his earlier speech at Burlington, was not fully reported by the press, and it is not strange that the comments of the Republican and Democratic papers varied widely in tone. *The Weekly Nonpareil* of August 20th referred to the address in the following complimentary terms:

# ABE LINCOLN

This distinguished gentleman addressed a very large audience of ladies and gentlemen at Concert Hall in this city Saturday evening last. In the brief limits of a newspaper article it were impossible even though we wielded the trenchant pen of a Babbitt (which we do not) to give an outline of his masterly and unanswerable speech—the clear and lucid manner in which he set forth the principles of the Republican party—the dexterity with which he applied the political scalpel to the Democratic carcass—beggars all description at our hands. Suffice it, that the speaker fully and fairly sustained the great reputation he acquired in the memorable Illinois campaign as a man of great intellectual power—a close and sound reasoner.<sup>13</sup>

The Weekly Bugle, the Democratic press, reviewed the speech in less complimentary terms. Its account had this comment on the Lincoln speech:

### ABE LINCOLN ON THE SLOPE

The people of this city were edified last Saturday evening by a speech from Honorable Abe Lincoln. He apologized very handsomely for appearing before an Iowa audience during a campaign in which he was not interested. He then, with many excuses and a lengthy explanation, as if conscious of the nauseous nature of the black Republican nostrum, announced his intention to speak about the "eternal negro," to use his own language, and entered into a lengthy and ingenious analysis of the nigger question, impressing upon his hearers that it was the only question to be agitated until finally settled. He carefully avoided going directly to the extreme ground occupied by him in his canvass against Douglas, yet the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> The Annals of Iowa (Third Series), Vol. IX, p. 223, quoting from The Council Bluffs Weekly Nonpareil, August 20, 1859.

doctrines which he preached, carried out to their legitimate results, amount to precisely the same thing. He was decidedly opposed to any fusion or coalition of the Republican party with the opposition of the South, and clearly proved the correctness of his ground, in point of policy. They must retain their sectional organization and sectional character, and continue to wage their sectional warfare by slavery agitation; but if the opposition South would accede to their view and adopt their doctrines, he was willing to run for President in 1860, a Southern man with Northern principles, or in other words, with abolition proclivities. His speech was of the character of an exhortation of the Republican party, but was in reality as good a speech as could have been made for the interest of the Democracy. He was listened to with much attention, for his Waterloo defeat by Douglas has magnified him into quite a lion here.<sup>14</sup>

While Mr. Lincoln was in Council Bluffs he attended church on Sunday morning at Concert Hall. He also visited with William H. M. Pusey and Thomas Officer, leading citizens of Council Bluffs whom he had formerly known at Springfield, Illinois. Mr. Lincoln also met Grenville M. Dodge who was then a surveyor for the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad. Dodge had surveyed extensively in the West, and Lincoln discussed with him the possible locations for a railroad.

Later, in 1863, when Lincoln as President was confronted with the specific problem of locating the terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad, he recalled the conversation which he had had with Dodge. Calling Mr. Dodge to the White House, President Lincoln again conferred with him. Probably it was those two conferences, more than anything else, that gave to Iowa the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific—a decided boon to Iowa railway transportation throughout the years.

At the time Mr. Lincoln visited Council Bluffs in 1859, he

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Council Bluffs Weekly Bugle, August 17, 1859. See also J. R. Perkins's Trails, Rails, and War, p. 51.

accompanied his friends to the top of the high bluff overlooking the Missouri River, and looked westward over the great plains of Nebraska. In recent years an appropriate memorial has been erected on this bluff in commemoration of Lincoln's visit to Iowa.

# THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE CASE

Aside from Lincoln's visits to Iowa, he now and again touched Iowa with his influence in a manner that should not be forgotten. One such incident was his appearance as an attorney in the case of Hurd et al. v. Railroad Bridge Company — the famous Mississippi River Bridge Case.

Near the middle of the nineteenth century railways came into the Mississippi Valley, and there at once developed a struggle between water and land transportation systems. In the early fifties the firm of Sheffleld and Farnam completed the construction of the Michigan Southern Railroad into Chicago — a fact which stimulated the building of the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad from Chicago to the Mississippi River. The first train over this road arrived at Rock Island, Illinois, in 1854.

In order to extend railway transportation farther westward a group of men from Iowa, Illinois, and the East, under the leadership of Henry Farnam, organized the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company. Beginning on the west side of the river this company began the construction of a railroad from Davenport across the State of Iowa to Council Bluffs. To unite the two roads and provide a continuous line of rails across the continent it was necessary to construct a bridge across the Mississippi River. Prior to that date no bridge had been constructed at any point across the river, and water transportation was unimpeded.

Construction work to enable the railroad to cross the river required three parts: a bridge across the narrow arm

of the river between the Illinois shore and Rock Island, a line of tracks across the Island, and the long bridge between the Island and the Iowa shore. In January, 1853, the Illinois legislature incorporated the Railroad Bridge Company and authorized it to build, maintain, and use a railroad bridge over the Illinois portion of the Mississippi River to Rock Island. The Bridge Company then contracted with the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company to construct the west portion of the bridge extending across the Iowa side of the river, in accordance with the laws of Iowa. Land was acquired from Antoine Le Claire upon which to place the west end of the bridge on Iowa soil.

It was contended by steamboat companies that the erection of a bridge across the river would materially interfere with and impede water transportation. In support of this view the Secretary of War directed the United States District Attorney for the northern district of Illinois to apply for an injunction to prevent the construction of the railroad across the Island and the bridge over the river. The court refused to grant the injunction, however, and the work of construction proceeded.

When completed, the bridge consisted of a wooden superstructure that rested on six piers between the Island and the western shore. Three piers were within the jurisdiction of Illinois and three on the Iowa side of the river. Of the three piers on the Illinois side the one nearest to Iowa was a large circular stone structure, upon which rested a large turntable or revolving section of the bridge. The piers were so constructed that when the revolving section was turned at right angles to the rest of the bridge there was an opening of 116 feet on the Illinois side of the pier and one of 111 feet on the Iowa side. The ordinary spans of the bridge had openings of 250 feet in the clear through which lumber rafts might pass, and steamboats had a clearance space of 116 feet on the Illinois side of the river when the revolving section of the bridge was turned.

In the latter part of April, 1856, the bridge was completed and the first train pulled into Davenport. Despite the precautions taken to avoid interference with water transportation uninterrupted service was of brief duration. On May 6th the steamer Effie Afton attempted to go through the Illinois opening of the bridge and was wrecked against one of the piers. The boat caught fire and was destroyed. The flames also consumed the wooden span east of the draw causing great damage to the bridge and financial loss to the company. More than four months elapsed before repairs could be completed so that railway service over the bridge could be resumed.

The Effie Afton having been completely destroyed, its owners brought suit against the bridge company for damages. The case — Hurd et al. v. Railroad Bridge Company — came to trial in the United States Circuit Court convening at Chicago in September, 1857, and as was noted above, Abraham Lincoln was one of the attorneys for the bridge company. The testimony was voluminous and feelings of resentment were clearly apparent on both sides.

In the midst of this heated controversy Lincoln remained calm and deliberate. He said that he did not propose to assail anybody, that he expected "to grow earnest as he proceeded but not ill-natured". He pointed to the fact that there was some conflict in the testimony, but he commented that one quarter as many witnesses seldom agree and even if all had been on one side "some discrepancy might have been expected". He said that he would try to reconcile the differences and cherished the hope that there were no intentional errors. He had no prejudice against steamboats or steamboatmen. He could appreciate their viewpoint. The last thing that would be pleasing to him, he

said, would be to have blocked up and impassable one "of these great channels, extending almost from where it never freezes to where it never thaws". But he contended "there is a travel from east to west, whose demands are not less important" than those of the river. "It is growing larger and larger, building up new countries with a rapidity never before seen in the history of the world". This travel, he contended, had as many rights as the north and south traffic. There were times, he said, when floating or thin ice makes the river useless, while the bridge is as useful as ever. "This shows", he said, "that this bridge must be treated with respect in this court and is not to be kicked about with contempt".15

Peter A. Dey, one of the engineers of the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad, who was living in Iowa City at the time of the bridge controversy, attended the trial at Chicago and was deeply impressed with the manner in which the case was conducted. "Mr. Lincoln's examination of witnesses", he said, "was very full and no point escaped his notice. I thought he carried it almost to prolixity, but when he came to his argument I changed my opinion. He went over all the details with great minuteness, until court, jury, and spectators were wrought up to the crucial point. Then drawing himself up to his full height, he delivered a peroration that thrilled the court-room and, to the minds of most persons, settled the case." 16

In the end the jury disagreed and the suit for damages failed. Later, other attempts were made in the courts to have the bridge declared a nuisance, but these also failed, and the bridge came to be a great thoroughfare for western

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> John Parish's "The First Mississippi Bridge" in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. III, pp. 133-141; "Lincoln and the Bridge Case", a reprint of the account printed in the *Chicago Daily Press* for September 24, 1857, in *The Palimpsest*, Vol. III, pp. 142-154; *Rock Island Magazine*, October, 1922, pp. 16-18.

<sup>16</sup> Century Magazine, Vol. LXXI, p. 953.

travel. Today when one thinks of the first bridge across the Mississippi, he is likely to think also of Lincoln and his plea in defense of the bridge company.

# THE HARLAN-LINCOLN HOME

Although Abraham Lincoln never resided in Iowa, it is of interest to note that some of his descendants — the children of Robert T. and Mary Harlan Lincoln — spent a part of their youth in this State. Because of this fact one of the historic sites of most interest in Iowa today is the Harlan-Lincoln Home at Mt. Pleasant.

James Harlan was a native of Illinois. He spent his youth in Indiana and as a young man came to Iowa, in 1846, locating at Iowa City. A few months after the arrival of the Harlan family, a daughter, Mary Harlan, was born. A few years later James Harlan moved to Mt. Pleasant to become president of Mt. Pleasant Collegiate Institute, now Iowa Wesleyan College. In 1855 Harlan was elected to the United States Senate. Thereafter, for many years he spent much of his time in Washington, D. C. During the summers, however, he continued to reside at Mt. Pleasant, where he built, for those years, a palatial home at the end of North Main Street.

During the Civil War, Mr. Harlan was closely associated with President Lincoln. He was chosen as an escort for Mrs. Lincoln at the second inaugural of Lincoln in 1865. He was selected as a member of Lincoln's Cabinet and was with Lincoln on the occasion of the President's last public address, three days before the assassination. Mr. Harlan was among those who stood at the bedside of the stricken President, and remained to comfort the sorrowing family. Moreover, there was also a family tie between Lincoln and Harlan for in 1868 Mr. Harlan's only daughter, Mary, was married to Robert T. Lincoln, the only surviving son of the martyred President.

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After the marriage, Mary Harlan Lincoln spent much time at the Harlan home in Mt. Pleasant. Upon the death of her father, Mrs. Lincoln inherited this home and later donated it to Iowa Wesleyan College. On an old door, which is still preserved, may still be seen marks which tell the names, ages, and heights of three of the grandchildren of James Harlan and Abraham Lincoln, who in the early eighties might frequently have been seen on the streets of Mt. Pleasant or playing about the Harlan-Lincoln home.<sup>17</sup>

JACOB A. SWISHER

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17 Martha T. Dyall's "The Harlan Home" in The Palimpsest, Vol. XII, pp. 347-363.