The Palimpsest

AUGUST 1949

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE

THE PALIMPSEST, issued monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa, is devoted to the dissemination of Iowa History. Supplementing the other publications of this Society, it aims to present the materials of Iowa History in a form that is attractive and a style that is popular in the best sense—to the end that the story of our Commonwealth may be more widely read and cherished.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

THE MEANING OF PALIMPSEST

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the records of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

No. 8 ISSUED IN AUGUST 1949 VOL. XXX

Lincoln and Iowa

Speech delivered by William J. Petersen, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa, before a Joint Session of the 53rd General Assembly of the State of Iowa on February 11, 1949.

On February 12th all Iowans will unite to pay their respects to Abraham Lincoln, a man whom many consider the greatest American this nation has produced. It is fitting that the Fifty-third General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to honor Lincoln, for in doing so it is but following the precedent of the Thirty-third General Assembly which forty years ago passed a law making Lincoln's birthday a legal holiday in Iowa. This was back in 1909 when the nation was celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth. It is interesting to note that this act was the first bill adopted by the Thirty-third General Assembly, the first measure to reach Governor Beryl F. Carroll's desk, and the first to receive his signature.

It is indeed appropriate that the lawmakers of this state should observe Lincoln's birthday, for

Lincoln himself was both a lawmaker and a lawyer. Actually Lincoln was elected to the Illinois legislature at the age of twenty-five, three years before he was admitted to the bar. Only one member of this Fifty-third General Assembly is as young as Abe Lincoln was when he entered the Illinois legislature in 1834.

As a young man Lincoln was introduced by sheer accident to Blackstone's *Commentaries*. He soon developed a deep respect for the majesty of the law. Years later he declared: "Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to her lisping babe; let it be taught in schools and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. Let it become the political religion of the nation; and let old and young, rich and poor, grave and gay sacrifice unceasingly on its altars."

Most Iowans are fairly familiar with the life of Lincoln. A few of them (and they are widely scattered throughout the state) have become ardent Lincoln students. Foremost among these is Judge James W. Bollinger of Davenport, who has willed his collection of 3,500 Lincoln books to the State University of Iowa. The Bollinger library (valued at more than $50,000) is not only the finest collection of Lincolniana in Iowa, but is un-

questionably the best private Lincoln collection in the United States. Lincoln collectors in Iowa have done much to perpetuate the memory of our first martyred President.

This is as it should be for the life of Lincoln can be associated with many phases of Iowa history. Throughout the nation students of state and local history have been eager to link the immortal Lincoln with their own region. Kentucky prides herself as his birthplace. Indiana is equally proud that he spent fourteen years in the Hoosier State before reaching his majority. Illinois proudly claims him as a citizen whose thirty years at New Salem and Springfield groomed him for the presidency. Between 1861 and 1865 the spotlight was focused on Lincoln in the White House: directing the war as commander-in-chief, ably guiding his party through the maze of partisan politics bogging down the war effort, and conducting American diplomacy in a highly successful manner.

Although the Great Emancipator never lived in Iowa, he did own land in the Hawkeye State, and made decisions of far-reaching effect on its history. He was intimately acquainted with many Iowans, visited the state on several occasions, spoke at Burlington and Council Bluffs, appointed one Iowan to the President's cabinet, and another to the United States Supreme Court. Lincoln's only living son married the daughter of James

Harlan of Mount Pleasant. Finally, it should be pointed out that Iowa strongly supported Lincoln in both presidential elections; and that her military contributions to the Civil War were brave, generous, and wholehearted. When the hand of the assassin laid the Great Emancipator low just one week after Lee's surrender at Appomattox the people of Iowa deeply mourned his loss.

Before discussing more fully Lincoln's intimate associations with Iowa it may be well to point out that the history of the Hawkeye State contains certain interesting parallels with the life of the Great Emancipator. For example, he was born in Kentucky in 1809, one year after the first American fort in Iowa was erected on the site of modern Fort Madison. The Lincoln family moved to Indiana in 1816, the very year that Fort Armstrong and Fort Crawford were erected on the eastern bank of the Mississippi opposite present-day Davport and McGregor. Lincoln reached his majority and removed to Illinois in 1830, the same year that a group of sturdy lead miners drew up the Miners' Compact at what is now Dubuque. During the Black Hawk War, Lincoln served as captain in the Fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and thus witnessed the dramatic events leading to the first permanent cession of Iowa land by the red man.

Lincoln was appointed postmaster at New Salem in May of 1833, a fortnight before permanent

white settlement began in the Black Hawk Purchase. While Lincoln was delivering mail out of his tall hat at New Salem, Postmaster Antoine Le Claire brought his letters to Davenport in his coattails.

Lincoln began his eight-year legislative career at Vandalia in 1834, the same year Iowa was attached to Michigan Territory. When the capital of Illinois was moved to Springfield in 1837, Lincoln chose that city as his home, serving as a legislator in the new building designed by John Francis Rague, who two years later designed the Old Stone Capitol at Iowa City. Rague, incidentally, knew Stephen A. Douglas and Mary Todd, and is said to have groomed Abe Lincoln for a dance.

So much for the chronology of Iowa history as it can be woven into the Lincoln story. Let us turn now to the more intimate associations he had with the story of Iowa, discussing him first as a landowner. 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. Lincoln, having served in the Black Hawk War, was granted three land warrants. He selected two of these land warrants in Iowa, striking testimony of his high regard for the future prospects of the Hawkeye State. The first Iowa land allotted him was a forty-acre tract in Tama county, fourteen miles northwest of Toledo. It

was improved land worth $10 per acre when Lincoln acquired it, and the taxes were only $1.60 in 1858. The warrant was issued to him on April 16, 1852, and the patent granted on June 1, 1855. After Lincoln's death this property was sold by his heirs.

His second Iowa military land warrant was a 120-acre tract in Crawford county, eight miles northwest of Denison. This land was sold by his son, Robert Todd Lincoln, in 1892 for the sum of $1,300. 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 by Abraham Lincoln.

In addition to his two military land warrants, Lincoln acquired certain lots and small parcels of land in and near Council Bluffs from Norman B. Judd in 1859. These lots were held by Lincoln at the time of his death, and in 1867 the Lincoln heirs reconveyed them to Mr. Judd.

Next let us turn to Lincoln as an able railroad lawyer, whose services were much in demand by such corporations as the Illinois Central and the Rock Island railroads. One of his most famous railroad cases deals with the wreck of the steamboat *Effie Afton* on the Rock Island bridge in 1856. Although there is no evidence that Lincoln visited Iowa on the occasion of his defense of the

bridge company against the steamboat interests in 1857, the importance of his contribution to Iowa history, to railroad history, and, indeed, to the westward movement can scarcely be over-emphasized. The story briefly runs as follows:

On February 22, 1854, the iron horse of the Rock Island railroad reached the Mississippi opposite Davenport — the first railroad to link the Father of Waters with the Atlantic. Anxious to gain easy access to the fertile prairies of Iowa, a bridge was completed between Rock Island and Davenport in April, 1856, despite the strong opposition of Secretary of War Jefferson Davis who favored the southern route. On May 6th the steamboat *Effie Afton,* while attempting to go through the Illinois side of the drawbridge, smashed against the pier, caught on fire, and was completely destroyed. The flames also consumed the wooden span east of the drawbridge, putting the bridge out of commission fully four months. The steamboat owners promptly brought suit against the bridge company and the case was tried in the United States circuit court in Chicago in September, 1857. During the voluminous testimony bitter feelings were exhibited on both sides.

Lincoln himself remained calm throughout the heated trial. According to the original report in the *Chicago Daily Press* of September 24, 1857, Lincoln stated that he expected "to grow earnest

as he proceeded but not ill-natured. . . . The last thing that would be pleasing to him, he assured the jury, 'would be to have one of these great channels, extending almost from where it never freezes to where it never thaws, blocked up. But there is a travel from east to west,' he pointed out, 'whose demands are not less important than that 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.' He alluded to the astonishing growth of Illinois, having grown within his memory to a population of a million and a half; to Iowa and the other young and rising communities of the Northwest."

"Railroad travel," Lincoln asserted, "had its rights, just as much as steamboat travel. If the Mississippi had not acquired its advantage in 'priority and legislation'," Lincoln contended, "the railroad could enter into 'free competition' with it and readily surpass it." By way of illustration, Lincoln pointed to the 12,586 freight cars and 74,179 passengers that had passed over the Rock Island bridge in eleven months. "This shows," Lincoln concluded, "that this bridge must be treated with respect in this court and is not to be kicked about with contempt."

Lincoln made a second important contribution to the history of railroading in Iowa and America when, as President of the United States, he was

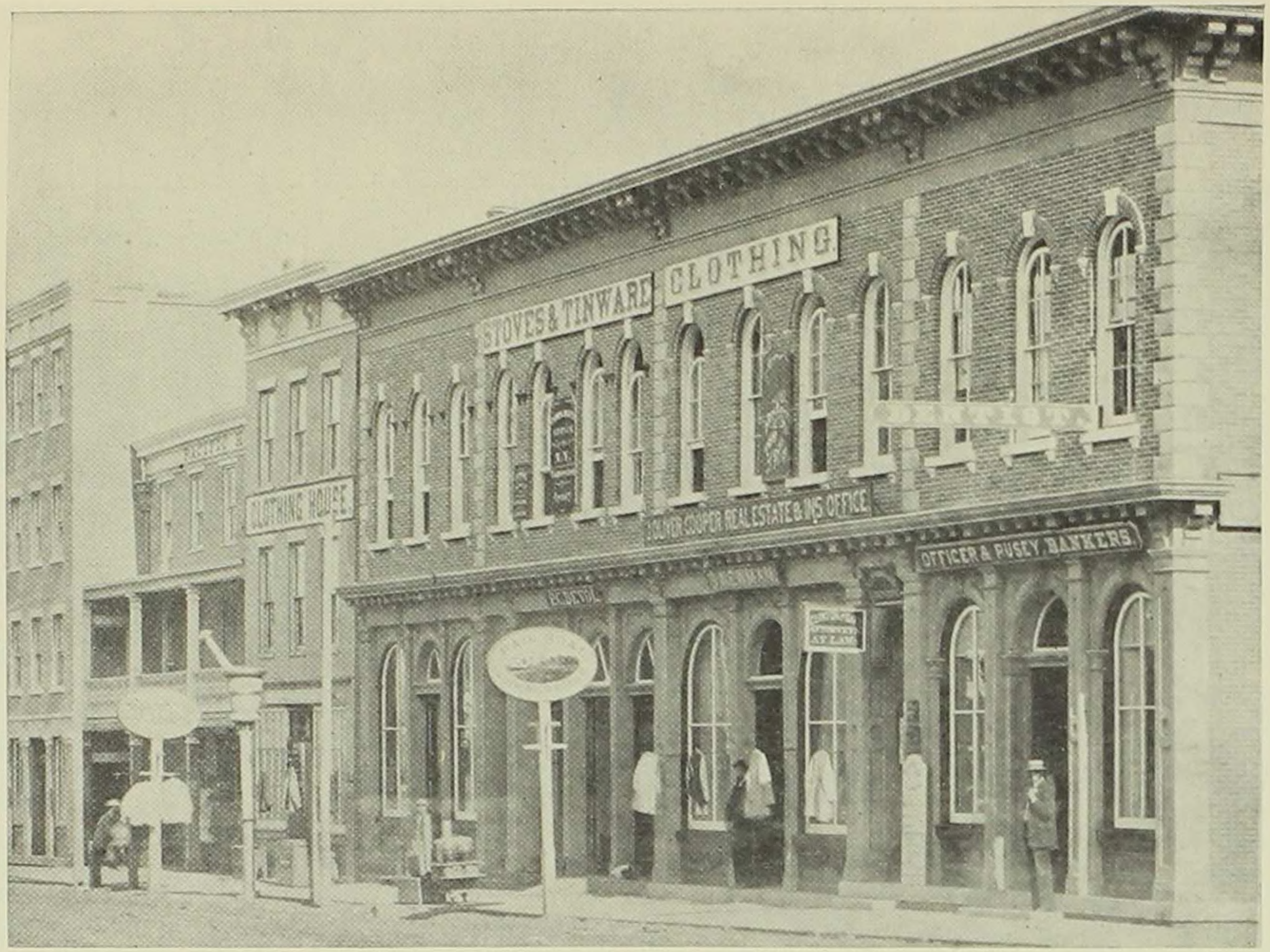


Photo Courtesy Council Bluffs Public Library

LINCOLN STOPPED AT PACIFIC HOUSE AT COUNCIL BLUFFS — 1859

(Small 3-story building on extreme left)

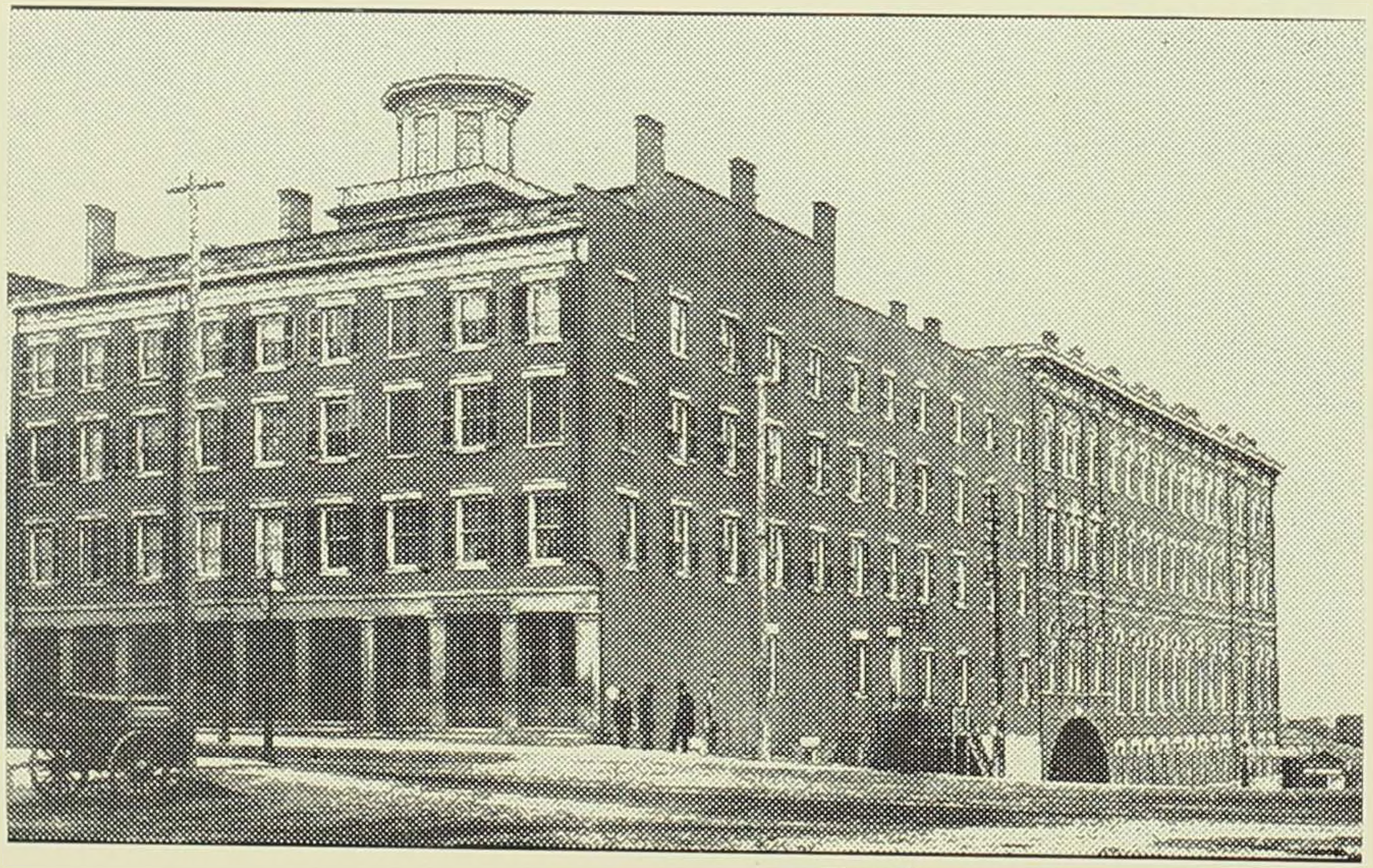


Photo Courtesy *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*

LINCOLN STAYED AT JULIEN HOUSE AT DUBUQUE — 1859

confronted with the problems of locating the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific.

While stopping at Council Bluffs in 1859, he had met Grenville M. Dodge, who had just completed extensive railroad surveys west of the Missouri for the Rock Island railroad. Lincoln remembered this visit when Congress passed the act providing for a transcontinental railroad and promptly called General Dodge to the White House for a conference. These two conferences with Grenville M. Dodge, more perhaps than anything else, fixed Council Bluffs as the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific. A memorial to Lincoln has been erected on the bluff overlooking the Missouri river, where he and his Iowa friends stood in 1859 and looked westward across Nebraska.

Lincoln also visited Dubuque in the spring of 1859, after presenting a case for the Illinois Central Railroad Company at Galena. He arrived in Dubuque with a party of railroad officials in a private car and spent a day and a night at the Julien House.

The remainder of Lincoln's intimate associations with Iowa are concerned with his political and presidential years. He was elected a United States representative the same year Iowa achieved statehood, but served only one term. During the 1850's, he joined the Republican party in Illinois. This threw him into close contact with James W.

Grimes — the father of the Republican party in Iowa — who had been elected Whig Governor of the Hawkeye State in 1854. Both men campaigned for election to the United States Senate in 1858: Grimes winning the coveted office in Iowa while Lincoln lost it to Douglas in Illinois.

During the heat of the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates, Abraham Lincoln crossed the Mississippi to deliver an address in Burlington. Clark Dunham, editor of the Burlington *Hawk-Eye* and an ardent Lincoln admirer, made the following comment on Lincoln's oration of October 9th:

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

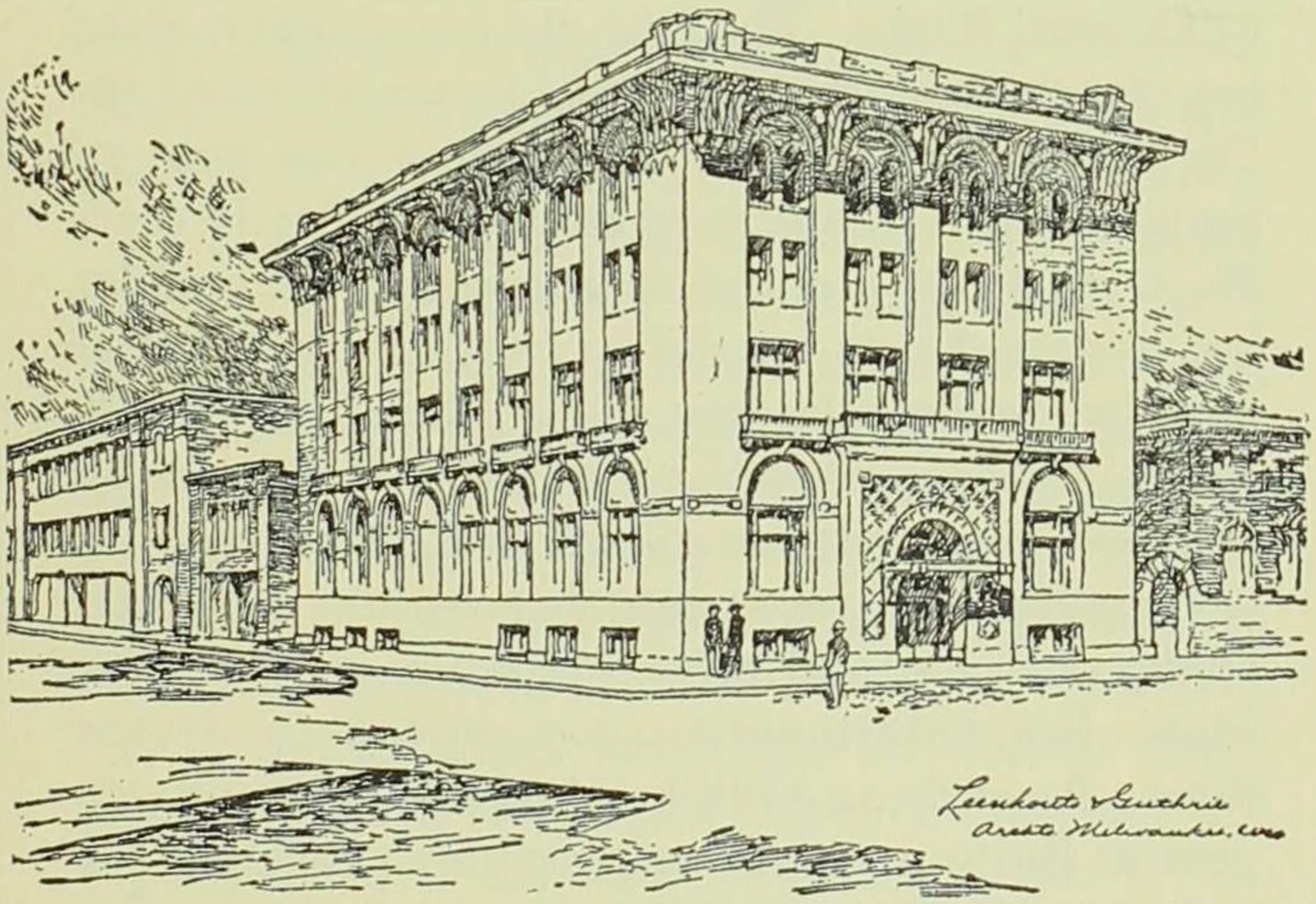


Photo Courtesy Burlington Public Library

GRIMES HALL — WHERE LINCOLN SPOKE IN 1858

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."

The only other speech that Lincoln is known to have made in Iowa was at Council Bluffs on the occasion of his flying trip out west in the summer of 1859. It attracted a good crowd, even though it was unscheduled, and it elicited conflicting reactions from the Republican and Democratic editors of Council Bluffs. The friendly *Nonpareil* praised his "masterly and unanswerable speech" and the "dexterity with which he applied the political scalpel to the Democratic carcass." The *Weekly Bugle* spoke in a derisive vein of Lincoln's effort, but admitted that his defeat by Senator Douglas had "magnified him into quite a lion" at Council Bluffs. Lincoln stayed at the Pacific House on this occasion and made his speech in Concert Hall.

Because of his reputation as an orator and party leader, Lincoln had other invitations to speak in Iowa, but unfortunately was forced to decline them. As early as 1844 he had been invited to appear at Burlington but was unable to come.

In the summer of 1856 Governor James W. Grimes desired him to be present at a Republican rally in Burlington, but Lincoln wrote he could not spare the time and, in any case, was "superstitious about calling in foreign help from neighboring states on the eve of an election." However, if the opposition had imported a "foreigner," Lincoln

stated he had "no objection to drive a nail in his track." An invitation to "strike hands with the Fremonters of Iowa" at Muscatine in September of 1856 was declined because of the hard work still remaining before the Republicans in Illinois.

In August of 1857 Lincoln wrote Governor Grimes that he was "altogether too poor" to make the trip to Iowa from Chicago, where he was busily engaged as defense attorney for the Rock Island Bridge Company. To Hawkins Taylor of Keokuk he wrote in 1859: "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 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." Two days after Lincoln wrote the above letter John A. Kasson urged him to visit the Iowa state fair at Oskaloosa, but the busy Illinois lawyer had gone to Ohio.

In the harrowing Civil War days that followed, Iowa gave unwavering support to Abraham Lincoln. By 1860 the Hawkeye State was strongly Republican in politics, having elected Samuel J. Kirkwood Governor and having dispatched James Harlan to the United States Senate. The State was equally strong in supporting Lincoln in the

four-cornered presidential campaign of 1860 — Lincoln received 70,409 out of a total of 128,331 votes cast, or 54.8 per cent of the total. In the election of 1864, despite the war-weariness of a home front numbed by heavy losses, Iowans gave him even stronger support — 89,075 of the 138,671 votes cast were for Lincoln — or 64.2 per cent. Perhaps the most striking endorsement of Lincoln came from Iowa soldiers who cast 15,178 votes for "Honest Abe" compared with 1,364 votes for General George McClellan. Surely no commander-in-chief has ever received a warmer support from his fighting forces than did Abraham Lincoln in this eleven to one vote of confidence by Iowa soldiers during the campaign of 1864.

And it was not merely at the ballot box that Iowa supported Lincoln. Fully 78,059 men out of a population of 674,913 donned the Federal blue to "Preserve the Union." They represented half of the able-bodied men in Iowa. It was a greater number of soldiers than Washington had commanded in his armies during the American Revolution. It represented a higher percentage of the total population than in World War I or World War II. The contribution is even more signficant since mechanized agriculture was in its infancy.

If Iowans admired and supported Lincoln, the Great Emancipator was equally mindful of the fine citizens dwelling in the Hawkeye State. He

appointed James Harlan of Mount Pleasant as his Secretary of the Interior and subsequently Samuel Freeman Miller of Keokuk to the United States Supreme Court. He invited Annie Turner Wittenmyer of Keokuk to the White House, and together they laid the foundations of the Diet Kitchens that saved many a soldier's life during the Civil War. His only surviving son, Robert Todd Lincoln, married the daughter of James Harlan, and the Harlan-Lincoln Home at Mount Pleasant (where Robert T. and Mary Harlan Lincoln lived) is one of Iowa's prized possessions.

When the nation and the world honored the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth in 1909, the eyes of Iowa were naturally focused on the ceremonies at Hodgenville, Kentucky, where President Theodore Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the beautiful marble structure that houses the log cabin in which Lincoln was born and where he lived the first two years of his life. The exercises at Springfield, Illinois, shared honors with the Hodgenville ceremonies, for three nations paid tribute to Lincoln at Springfield — England was represented by Ambassador James Bryce, France by her Ambassador, Jules Jusserand, and the United States by William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska and Senator Jonathan P. Dolliver of Iowa. Dolliver was chosen to lay the American wreath at Lincoln's feet. Before 850 members of the Lin-

coln Centennial Association the silver-tongued orator from Iowa spoke on "Our Heroic Age," referring to that time when Lincoln and the statesmen who stood by his side walked without despair into the "chaos of civil strife," fought "the way of the nation through it, to lift up a spotless flag above it and, in the midst of the flame and the smoke of battle," created a true United States.

Since 1909 the State of Iowa has faithfully cherished the birthday of Abraham Lincoln. It is well that we do so, for in the life of the "Great Emancipator" we have mirrored those qualities which have made Iowa and America great. Lincoln the railsplitter; Lincoln the flatboatman; Lincoln the surveyor; Lincoln the Indian fighter; Lincoln the storekeeper and postmaster; Lincoln the circuit-riding country lawyer and stump-speaking prairie politician — truly here was a man with experiences that could be understood by thousands of Iowa pioneers engaged in transforming a wilderness into the richest agricultural State in the Union.

On February 12, 1909, "Ding" Darling drew a Lincoln cartoon entitled "The Guiding Star of the Republic." In it, "Ding" showed Uncle Sam, backed by Columbia, standing at the pilot wheel guiding the "Ship of State" toward the ever-beckoning profile of Lincoln, blazing resplendently in the starry firmament. Today that "Guiding Star" still shines brightly in the minds of Iowans.

1149861-5a

MILITARY BOUNTY LAND ACT OF 28 SEPTEMBER, 1850.

LAND WARRANT, No. 52076

{Register and Receiver's No. 11988

Land Office, Dubuque July 21, 1841

WE HEREBY CERTIFY, That the attached Military Bounty Land Warrant No. 52076 was on this day received at this office, from Abraham Lincoln

Sangamon county, State of Illinois

Wm McMurtry Register.

P. Quigley Receiver.

I, Abraham Lincoln of Sangamon county, State of Illinois hereby apply to locate and do locate the North West quarter of Section No. 20 in Township No. 81 North of Range No. 15 West in the District of Lands subject to sale at the Land Office at Dubuque containing 160 acres, in satisfaction of the attached Warrant numbered 52076 issued under the act of 28 September, 1850.

Witness my hand this 21 day of July A. D. 1841

Attest:

Wm McMurtry Register. } Abraham Lincoln

P. Quigley Receiver. } by John J Davis Atty

I request the Patent to be sent to

Land Office Dubuque July 21 1841

WE HEREBY CERTIFY, That the above location is correct, being in accordance with law and the instructions.

P. Quigley Receiver.

Wm McMurtry Receiver.

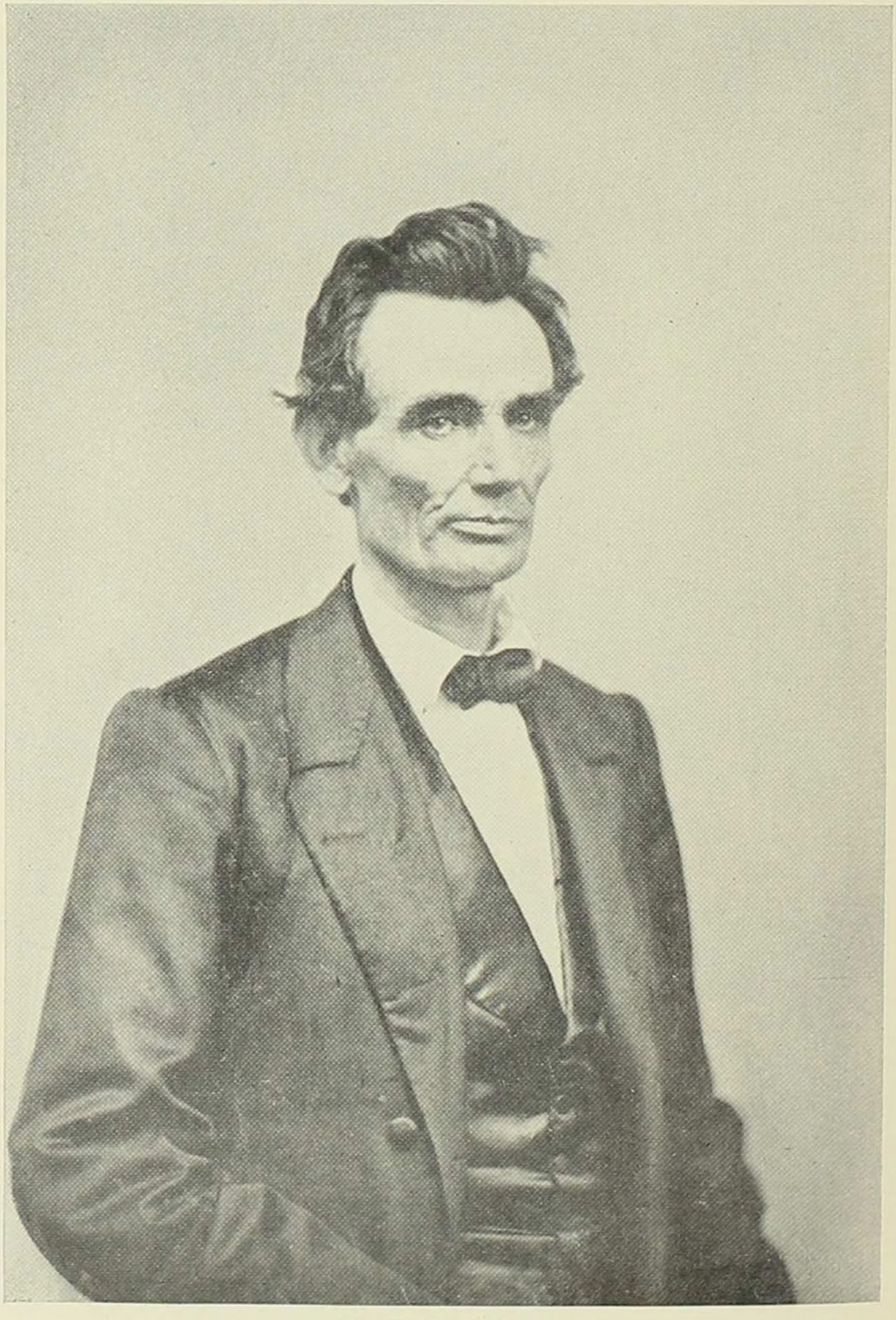
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES Washington, D. C.

RECORDS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.
Military Bounty Land Warrant No. 52076-40-1850.

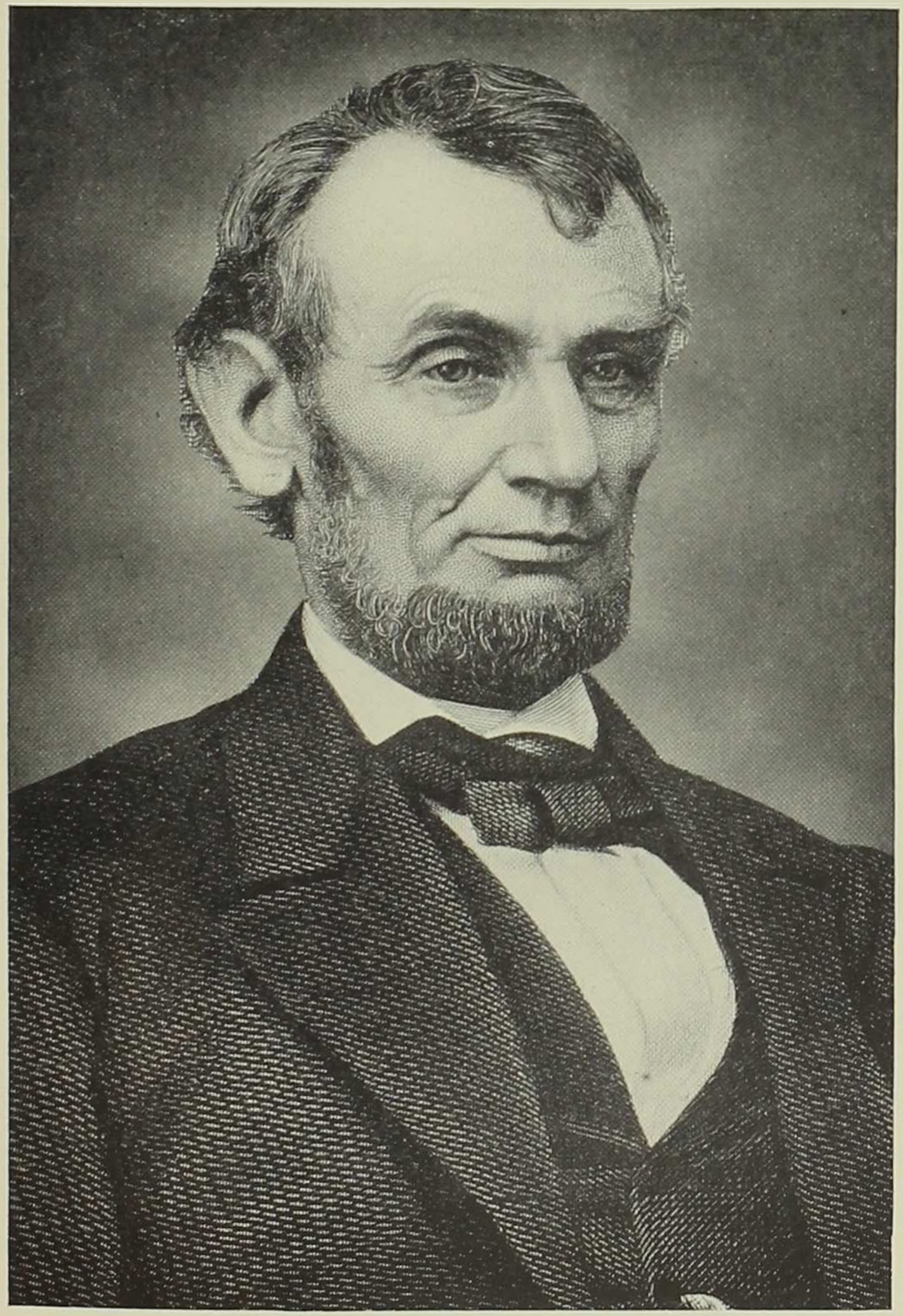
Three Centimeters

Photo Courtesy Illinois State Historical Library

MILITARY BOUNTY LAND WARRANT TO LAND IN
TAMA COUNTY

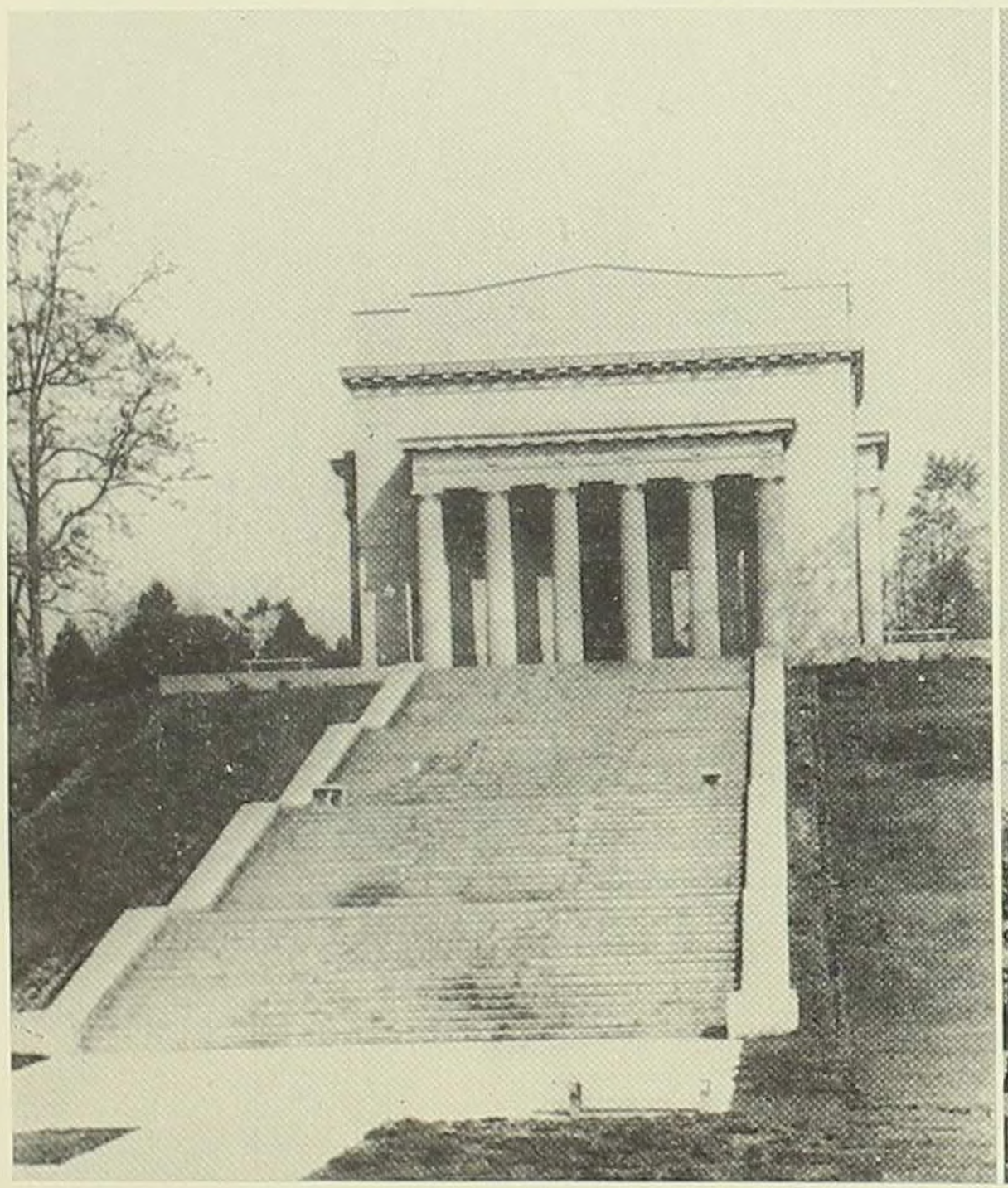


ABRAHAM LINCOLN:
Lawyer for Rock Island Bridge Company



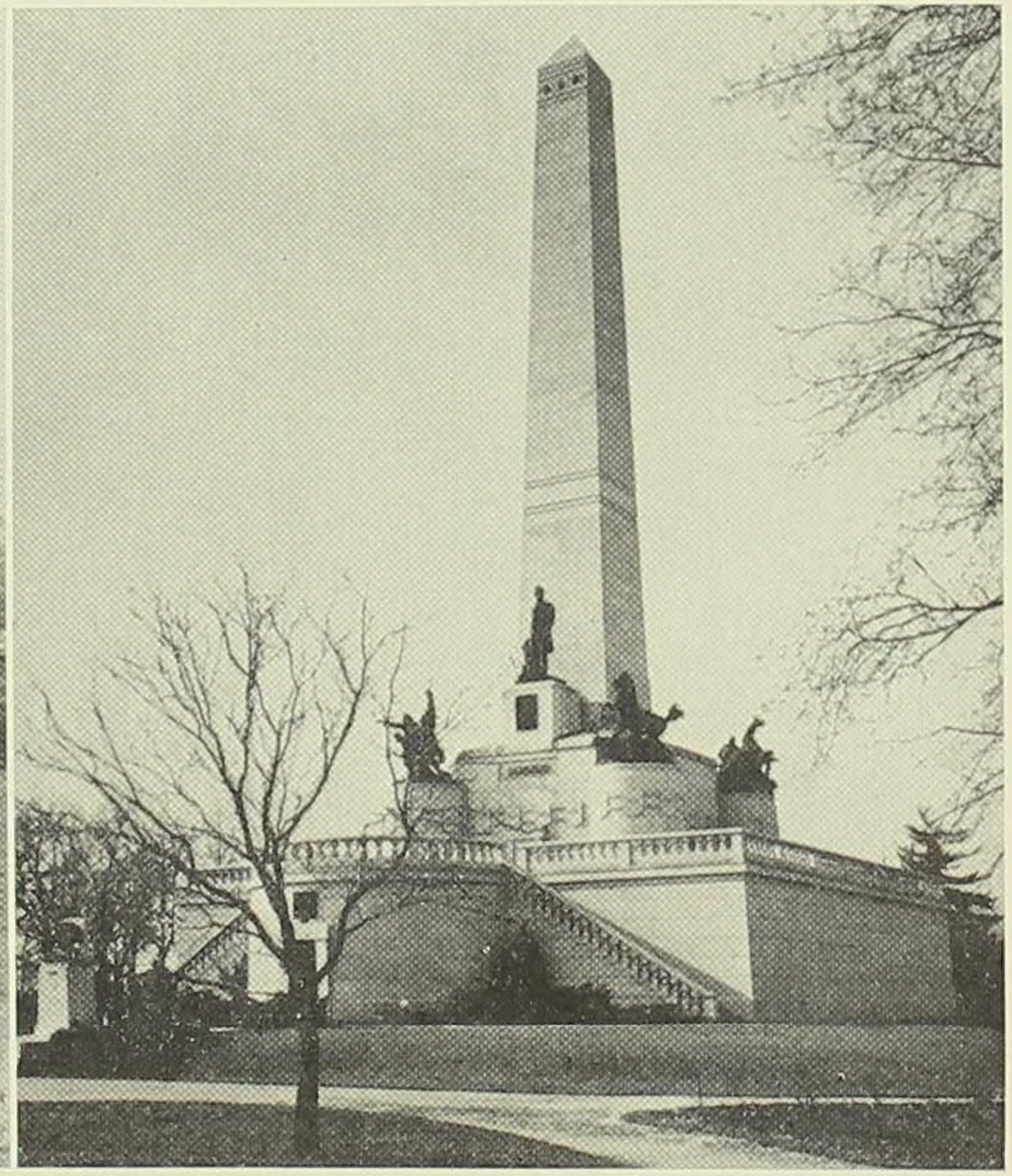
ABRAHAM LINCOLN:
President of the United States

MONUMENTS TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN



Birthplace at Hodgenville

"I was born February 12, 1809 . . . a mile, or a mile and a half, from where Hodgen's mill now is."



Photos Courtesy Illinois State Historical Library

Tomb at Springfield

"There lies the most perfect ruler of men that ever lived." Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton

Words of Lincoln

The following "Words of Lincoln" — written or spoken — have been compiled by Harry J. Lytle as among the outstanding gems of thought expressed by the Great Emancipator. An authority on Lincoln lore, Mr. Lytle has selected these for Iowans — young and old — and they are reprinted herewith for the pleasure and profit of all citizens. — THE EDITOR.

Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser — in fees, expenses, and waste of time. As a peace-maker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough.

From notes used in a law lecture. *July 1, 1850*

What I do say is, that no man is good enough to govern another man without the other's consent. I say this is the leading principle — the sheet anchor of American republicanism. . . . Our republican robe is soiled and trailed in the dust. Let us repurify it. Let us turn and wash it white in the spirit, if not the blood, of the Revolution. Let us turn slavery from its claim of 'moral right' back upon its existing legal rights and its arguments of 'necessity.' Let us return it to the position our fathers gave it; and there let it rest in peace. Let

us re-adopt the Declaration of Independence, and with it the practices and policy which harmonize with it. Let North and South — let all Americans — let all lovers of liberty everywhere join in the great and good work. If we do this, we shall not only have saved the Union, but we shall have so saved it as to make and to keep it forever worthy of the saving. We shall have so saved it, that the succeeding millions of free happy people, the world over, shall rise up and call us blessed to the latest generation.

Reply to Douglas — Peoria. *Oct. 16, 1854*

Ambition has been ascribed to me. God knows how sincerely I prayed from the first that this field of ambition might not be opened. I claim no insensibility to political honors; but today could the Missouri restrictions be restored, and the whole slavery question replaced on the old ground of "toleration" by necessity where it exists, with unyielding hostility to the spread of it, on principle, I would, in consideration, gladly agree, that Judge Douglas should never be out, and I never in, an office, so long as we both or either, live.

Springfield campaign speech. *Oct. 30, 1858*

As each man has one mouth to be fed, and one pair of hands to furnish food, it was probably intended that that particular pair of hands should feed that

particular mouth — that each head is the natural guardian, director and protector of the hands and mouth inseparably connected with it; and that being so, every head should be cultivated and improved, by whatever will add to its capacity for performing its charge. In one word, free labor insists on universal education.

Wisconsin Agricultural speech. *Sept. 30, 1859*

Of course, when I came of age I did not know much. Still, somehow, I could read, write, and cipher to the rule of three, but that was all. I have not been to school since. The little advance I now have upon this store of education, I have picked up from time to time under the pressure of necessity.

From Autobiography. *Dec. 1, 1859*

Dear Mary:

With pleasure I write my name in your album. Ere long some younger man will be more happy to confer his name upon you. Don't allow it, Mary, until fully assured that he is worthy of the happiness.

Autograph Album. *Dec. 7, 1859*

Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it.

Address at Cooper Union. *Feb. 27, 1860*

My friends: No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell.

Farewell address — Springfield. *Feb. 11, 1861*

I take the official oath today with no mental reservations, and with no purpose to construe the Constitution of laws by any hypercritical rules. . . . I hold that, in contemplation of universal law and of the Constitution, the Union of these States is perpetual. Perpetuity is implied, if not expressed, in the fundamental law of all national governments. It is safe to assert that no government proper ever had a provision in its organic law for its own termination. . . .

Physically speaking, we cannot separate. We cannot remove our respective sections from each other, nor build an impassable wall between them. . . .

The chief magistrate derives all his authority from the people, and they have conferred none upon him to fix terms for the separation of the states. . . .

If the Almighty Ruler of Nations, with His eternal truth and justice, be on your side of the North, or on yours of the South, that truth and that justice will surely prevail by the judgment of this great tribunal of the American people. . . .

I am loath to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearth-stone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

First Inaugural — Washington. *March 4, 1861*

My dear Sir:—

The lady bearer of this says that she has two sons who want to work. Set them at it if possible. Wanting to work is so rare a want that it should be encouraged.

Letter to Major Ramsey. *Oct. 17, 1861*

Your dispatches complaining that you are not properly sustained, while they do not offend me, do pain me very much.

Letter to Gen. McClellan. *April 9, 1862*

Your dispatches of today received. God bless you, and all with you. Destroy the rebel army if possible.

Telegram to Gen. McClellan. *Sept. 15, 1862*

The will of God prevails. In great contests each party claims to act in accordance with the will of God. Both may be, and one must be wrong. God cannot be for and against the same thing at the same time. In the present civil war it is quite possible that God's purpose is something different from the purpose of either party; and yet the human instrumentalities, working just as they do, are of the best adaption to effect His purpose. I am almost ready to say that this is probably true; that God wills this contest, and wills that it shall not end yet. By His mere great power on the minds of the now contestants, He could have either saved or destroyed the Union without a human contest. Yet the contest began and, having begun, He could give the final victory to either side any day, yet the contest proceeds.

Written Meditation. *Sept. 30, 1862*

I have just read your dispatch about sore tongued and fatigued horses. Will you pardon me for asking what the horses of your army have done since the battle of Antietam that fatigues anything.

Telegram to Gen. McClellan. *Oct. 24, 1862*

Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance or insignificance can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation. We say we are for the Union.... The world knows we do know how to save it. We — even we here — hold the power and bear the responsibility. In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom for the free — honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve. We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last, best hope on earth. Other means may succeed; this could not fail. The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just — a way which, if followed, the world will forever applaud, and God must forever bless.

Second Annual Message to Congress. *Dec. 1, 1862*

If you are besieged how do you dispatch me? Why did you not leave before being besieged?

Telegram to Gen. Daniel Tyler. *June 14, 1863*

The signs look better. The Father of Waters again goes unvexed to the sea. . . . Peace does not appear so distant as it did. I hope it will come soon, and come to stay; and so come as to be worth the keeping in all future time. . . . Still, let us not be over-sanguine of a speedy final triumph. Let us be quite sober. Let us diligently apply the means, never doubting that a just God, in his own good time, will give us the rightful result.

From a political letter. *Aug. 26, 1863*

My dear Sir:—

Hadn't we better spank this drummer boy and send him back to Leavenworth?

Letter to Secretary of War Stanton. *(No Date)*

The year that is drawing to a close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. . . . Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense, have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. . . . No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gift of the Most High God, who, dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath

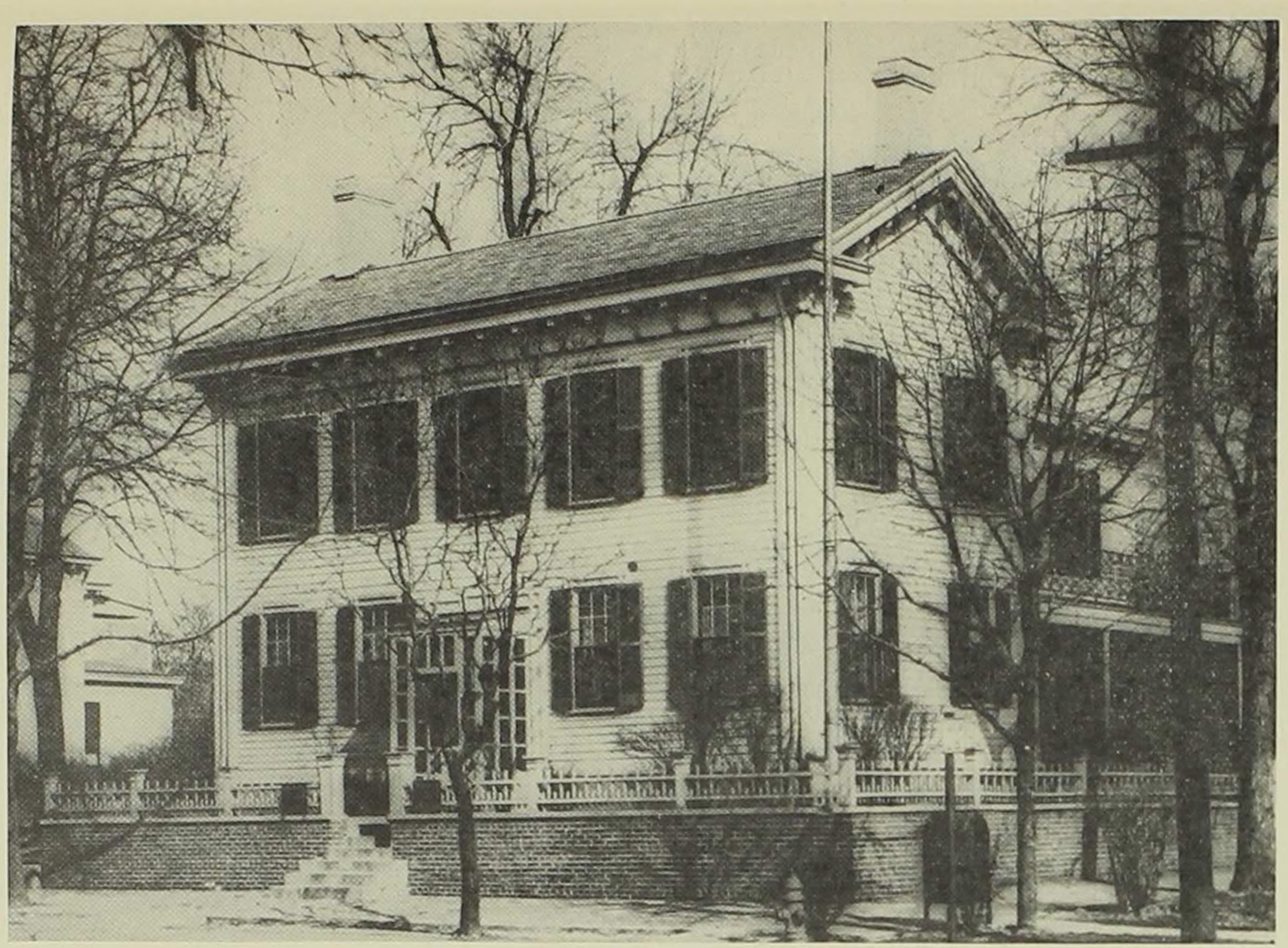


Photo Courtesy Illinois State Historical Library

LINCOLN'S HOME AT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

"Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man." February 11, 1861

Photo Courtesy Illinois State Historical Library

ILLINOIS STATE CAPITOL AT SPRINGFIELD

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free." June 17,1858

nevertheless remembered mercy. . . . It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do therefore . . . set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.

Thanksgiving Proclamation. *Oct. 3, 1863*

Dear Sir:—

I personally wish Jacob Freese, of New Jersey, to be appointed colonel for a colored regiment, and this regardless of whether he can tell the exact shade of Julius Caesar's hair.

Letter to Secretary Stanton. *Nov. 11, 1863*

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate — we cannot consecrate — we cannot hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Gettysburg Address. *Nov. 19, 1863*

I have seen your dispatch expressing your unwillingness to break your hold where you are. Neither am I willing. Hold on with a bull-dog grip, and chew and choke as much as possible.

Telegram to General Grant. *Aug. 17, 1864*

The purposes of the Almighty are perfect, and must prevail, though we erring mortals may fail to

accurately perceive them in advance. We hoped for a happy termination of this terrible war long before this; but God knows best, and has ruled otherwise.

Letter to Mrs. Eliza P. Gurney. *Sept. 24, 1864*

Dear Madam: I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Letter to Mrs. Bixby. *Nov. 21, 1864*

I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this book upon reason that you can and the balance on faith, and you will live and die a better man.

Letter to Joshua F. Speed. *(No date)*

Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the *cause* of the conflict might cease with or even before the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. That of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. . . .

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Second Inaugural Address. *March 4, 1865*

Lincoln Admirers

Selected and arranged by HARRY J. LYTLE

If you wish to know the difference between an orator and an elocutionist — between what is felt and what is said — between what the heart and brain can do together, and what the brain can do alone — read Lincoln's wondrous speech at Gettysburg, and then the oration of Edward Everett. The speech of Lincoln will never be forgotten. It will live until languages are dead and lips are dust. The oration of Everett will never be read.

The elocutionists believe in the virtue of voice, the sublimity of syntax, the majesty of long sentences, and the genius of gesture. The orator loves the real, the simple, the natural. He places the thought above all. He knows the greatest ideas should be expressed in the shortest words — that the greatest statues need the least drapery.

Col. Ingersoll's ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1907).

There is no new thing to be said of Lincoln. There is no new thing to be said of the mountains, or of the sea, or of the stars. The years go their way, but the same old mountains lift their granite shoulders above the drifting clouds; the same mysterious sea beats upon the shore; and the same silent stars keep holy vigil above a tired world.

But to mountains and sea and stars men turn forever in unwearied homage. And thus with Lincoln. For he was mountain in grandeur of soul, he was sea in deep undervoice of mystic loneliness, he was star in steadfast purity of purpose and of service. And he abides.

Homer Hoch in House of Representatives. Feb. 12, 1923

The folk-lore Lincoln, the maker of stories, the stalking and elusive Lincoln is a challenge for any artist. He has enough outline and lights and shadows and changing tints to call out portraits of him in his Illinois backgrounds and settings — even had he never been elected President.

Sandburg's THE PRAIRIE YEARS (1926).

A touch of rusticity, contributed by his birth and environment, is to be found in much of his written work, but it enriched his personality and deepened his sympathy and imagination. But when his mind was moved to its highest points of feeling and sincerity, his expression took on a purity, an elegance, and an insight, which gave it the qualities of literature.

Robinson's ABRAHAM LINCOLN AS A MAN OF LETTERS

Gladstone left not a single piece of writing that has been given a place in the world's literature. . . . "Who ever reads Gladstone's speeches?" Lincoln's letter to Mrs. Bixby, on the other hand,

may be found on the walls of one of the colleges of Gladstone's own Oxford, placed there as a specimen of the purest English prose, and English schoolboys commit to memory Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address" as the finest speech of its kind ever written in the English language.

Dodge's ABRAHAM LINCOLN, MASTER OF WORDS (1924).

There is no man in the country so wise, so gentle and so firm. I believe the hand of God placed him where he is.

Hay's LINCOLN IN THE CIVIL WAR (1939).

Real education is the mastery of our own language as a tool for our use, the appreciation of words in their right meaning, a living through the experience of the race and making it our own experience. . . .

Though Lincoln always said his education was defective, it was the kind of education that every youth, man, and woman needs today, for it was a constant hunt for ideas, a continual process of self-education all through life. With all the contributions of our schools and higher institutions of learning, there is the constant peril that we shall confound schooling with education.

By Dr. John H. Findlay in a Lincoln day address.

It is a mistake to think of Mr. Lincoln as an uneducated man. The "kindergarten" and "primary" courses were taken in a Kentucky cabin, with his mother as "principal." Possibly he never learned at his school to make maps, but he did learn "manners and morals." At the age of nine he entered the academy to prepare for college. This "school of learning" was located in a "clearing" on his father's farm, a "little house in the woods" in the State of Indiana. Here his attention was first directed to "physical culture." This study he was not permitted to neglect. The "gymnasium" was well furnished with "apparatus" — axes, wedges, mauls, log-chains, cross-bars, swinging saplings, etc. Then came "nature study out on the campus." He found spring beauties and sweet williams, May-apples and purple grapes, and, out beyond, the prairie grasses and the wild rose. From these, from trees, shrub and plant, from form, color and perfume, came that sense of beauty embodied in those exquisite prose poems which we so much love to read. This branch of study included zoölogy. He learned the names of animals, their nature, habits, instincts, history and language. He knew when the birds mated and how they built their homes, and he learned well the lesson best worth learning from science — to be kind and gentle to all animals.

J. S. Ewing Address to Schoolmasters. *Feb. 12, 1909*

The State Historical Society of Iowa

IOWA CITY IOWA

Established by the Pioneers in 1857

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