The PALIMPSEST

The Harlan Home — Mount Pleasant

The Harlan-Lincoln Home

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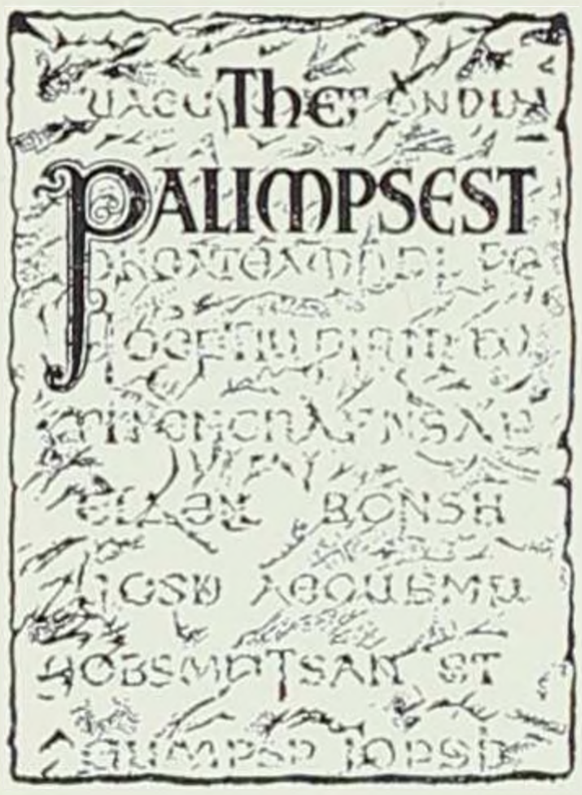

The Meaning of Palimpsest

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 record 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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Illustrations

All pictures unless otherwise noted are from the Harlan-Lincoln collection at Iowa Wesleyan College.

Authors

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THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

VOL. XLI ISSUED IN MARCH 1960 No. 3

James Harlan

In the Hall of Columns in the Nation's Capitol there stands the heroic figure of one of Iowa's greatest statesmen — James Harlan of Mount Pleasant. Chosen with Samuel Jordan Kirkwood to be one of two Iowans to represent the Hawkeye State in Statuary Hall, James Harlan richly merited this signal honor bestowed upon him by admiring fellow Iowans. Not only had Harlan served Iowa in the United States Senate for sixteen years but he had been Abraham Lincoln's choice for Secretary of the Interior. For constructive ability, for capacity of leadership, for sincere statesmanship, James Harlan had few equals among his contemporaries.

Harlan sprang from a sturdy pioneer stock. He was descended from George Harland, a Quaker, who emigrated from the vicinity of Durham, England, to County Down, Ireland, and thence in 1687 to America, settling finally in Chester, Pennsylvania. James Harlan's father, Silas Harlan, was born in Pennsylvania in 1792 and had mi-

grated with his parents to Warren County, Ohio. To Warren County also came the Connelley family from Maryland, with their daughter Mary, who was born in 1797. Silas Harlan and Mary Connelley were united in marriage in 1818 and soon afterwards joined the westward flow of settlers to Lamotte prairie in Clark County, Illinois. It was here that James Harlan was born on August 26, 1820.

Like Abraham Lincoln, who was eleven years his senior, James Harlan was born in a humble log cabin. When not yet four years old his family moved back across the Wabash into Indiana. Young Harlan continued to live in a log cabin which he had seen his father build "with no tools other than a common chopping ax, an augur, frow and hand-saw, and without a single nail or screw, or metallic material of any description."

The idyllic life led by the seven families who had named their Indiana home "The New Discovery" made a lasting impression on young Harlan.

> Each of these settlers was the owner of a team of horses, a few cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry. Their live stock lived with but little care from the owners on the spontaneous products of the country. The women converted the fleeces from the sheep into clothing. . . . The country was alive with game, such as deer, elk, bear, turkeys and grouse. So that these settlers had from the first year onward an abundance of excellent food and comfortable raiment, the fruits of their own industry, frugality

and skill. . . . They had no churches nor schools; few books and no newspapers, nor officers of the law. Magistrates were not needed; for there were no malefactors to punish.

It was amid such surroundings that James Harlan grew up, developing the industry, courage, independence, self-reliance and vision that seems to have been the common heritage of so many Iowa pioneers. Thus, from the age of five he had been taught the first lessons of husbandry — dropping corn and pulling weeds. As a result, Silas Harlan found his young son becoming yearly more and more useful "in all manner of farm labor."

If his father was responsible for teaching young James the rudiments of agriculture, his mother with "persistent patience" taught him how to read and write. Progress was slow since the library in the Harlan home at this time consisted of three books — the Bible, Hervey's *Evening Meditations*, and an Almanac, the latter having the greatest attraction because of the woodcuts that embellished it.

When James was still a mere lad the family had its first experience with that colorful frontier figure — the circuit rider. A Methodist preacher, William Smith, rode up to the Harlan home one day and asked permission to hold services in their cabin four weeks later. According to James Harlan, his father "was not at this time a member of

any church; he had been brought up a Quaker; but marrying out of the Society, and refusing to express his regrets for his breach of discipline" he had been dropped from the membership roll of the Society. The Methodist minister was granted permission to hold services in the Harlan home and it became a "preaching place, and a home for Methodist Preachers" until James was eighteen years old, when a small church was built.

When James was seven years old a rude log schoolhouse was erected about one mile from the Harlan cabin. Here, and in similar schools, young James studied for three months at a time until his thirteenth or fourteenth year, when he was given to understand that his education was complete. But fate determined otherwise.

One day young James was sent to Rockville, the county seat, to purchase some supplies. In a drug store he "beheld with amazement" a vast number of books on shelves extending nearly one-half way around the store room. Upon inquiring he learned that part of them were school books while the remainder "constituted the public library of Park county." The boy examined the wonderful volumes for an hour, rented Hume's *History of England*, and purchased Olney's *Geography and Atlas*, an elementary work on chemistry, a work on mechanics, a small book entitled *Natural Magic*, and Walker's *Dictionary*. Hurrying home he utilized every spare moment reading these

treasures by the flickering light of the open fireplace in their log cabin home. "I seemed to myself a new being," Harlan declared, "and to have entered on another existence." Thereafter, whenever opportunity offered, he added other books to his library.

Yet another influence on the life of James Harlan came when he was seventeen. A young Kentucky school teacher, Jeremiah Terry, became a boarder in the Harlan home. Terry instructed James in various scientific subjects as well as in forensics and composition. Soon he was reading his first essay before "The Lyceum" which Jeremiah Terry had founded. It was not long before James taught his first three-month school during the winter, receiving $25 per month compensation. He found expenses correspondingly light — board and lodging costing only seventy-five cents per week.

Three memorable experiences remained before Harlan reached his majority. He recalled vividly a journey to his birthplace in Illinois, his first experience of traveling on his own. Next he remembered the tremendous Whig political party meeting on the battlefield of Tippecanoe during the "hard cider" campaign of 1840. His allegiance to the Whig party dated from this event, which saw all the great Whigs of the nation on hand and orating for William Henry Harrison. Finally, his attendance at Park County Seminary in Rock-

ville, seven miles from his home, left an indelible impression on his mind. When Silas Harlan asked his son what his plans for the future were in May of 1841, James was not long in making up his mind. To the astonishment of his father he declared he had decided "to go to college."

It was about May 31, 1841, that James Harlan set out for Asbury University (now DePauw University) located at Greencastle, Indiana, eighteen miles eastward from his home.

> I walked across the country, along a newly made public high-way, at that time but little traveled, cut through a dense forest, for the most part uninhabited, carrying a fair sized bundle, made up of wearing apparel and several school books which I supposed I might need, adjusted to my shoulders on the end of a walking stock.

His method of travel was through choice and not through necessity, he later recalled, because it was "more convenient, more economical, and less bother every way to walk" the eighteen miles.

Harlan enjoyed his college days at old Asbury. It was not long before he established himself as an orator and debater. He joined the Platonean Literary Society and in his freshman year represented the Platoneans against their arch-rivals — the Philological Society — in the annual college debate. He spoke on the negative of the subject "Is a Republican Government better calculated for durability than a monarchy?"

Harlan's college days ended abruptly when his

slender resources were exhausted and he had to go to work to secure funds with which to continue his education. In 1842-1843 Harlan won more college triumphs in forensics; upon his return home he made his first trip across the Mississippi into the much talked of Territory of Iowa with George C. Snow, his prospective brother-in-law, and two other men.

The four set out from Indiana in a "two horse wagon" on September 18, 1843, and crossed the Mississippi at Burlington where they secured lodgings in the "Union Hotel." They found Burlington a town of "considerable notoriety" containing "not more than two thousand inhabitants, residing in primitive looking dwellings clustered together between two rugged hills at the mouth of a small stream called 'Hawk-Eye Creek.' The inhabitants, however, appeared to be alert, intelligent, enterprising, and courteous, — especially so to 'newcomers'."

Harlan and Snow made an overnight stop at Yellow Springs and spent several days at Wapello with friends. Returning to Burlington, they boarded the steamboat *St. Louis Oak* for Keokuk, where they secured lodging in the home of a "full fledged" Mormon.

The town of Keokuk at this date was not attractive. The bluffs were precipitous, and approached so close to the river as to leave room only for a very narrow wagon road, located close up to the water's edge, and one some-

what long row of buildings on the other side of this driveway, where they seemed to be engaged in a sort of life and death struggle with the rugged hills to secure room to stand on. This only business street was undulating, crooked, and unimproved in any way. The houses were small and primitive and only one story in height. One of them only was made of bricks; a very few were frame, and the residue were constructed of logs. The resident part of the town was located on the bluffs, and was even less inviting in appearance than its business street.

From Keokuk, Harlan and his companion proceeded by steamboat to Hannibal, thence by stagecoach to Paris, where he and his companion headquartered for three weeks in a slave area whose inhabitants were strongly anti-Abolitionist. Harlan noted two crowning evils in the slavery system — the inevitable tendency to depravity in the relations between the races, and the "admitted necessity of keeping the slave population in ignorance."

Late in October, Harlan and Snow found themselves in the small village of Clinton in Monroe County, Missouri, where a Methodist Quarterly Meeting had convened. Harlan was elected school teacher for a three-month session beginning November 7, 1843. In addition to conducting literary and debating societies, Harlan gave instruction to an evening "Grammar School," his companion, George C. Snow, being one of his pupils.

Upon his return home from his Iowa-Missouri experiences, Harlan assisted his father in putting

in the spring crops. In the meantime he busied himself with political speeches and was offered the Whig nomination for a seat in the Indiana legislature, but after reflection "acquired sufficient courage to decline." Soon he was back in Asbury University without serious loss of position in his classes despite his long absence.

As an upper-classman Harlan studied Latin and Greek and yet found time to participate in forensic contests. He warmly supported the "Great Compromiser" during the campaign of 1844. On August 20, 1845, James Harlan was one of a class of eleven who received their diplomas and the degree of B.A. at Asbury University. He had been in actual attendance only three years but had not remained "intellectually idle" during his periods of absence. The total cash expenditures for his entire college career aggregated only $266.72.

Education at "Old Asbury" did not prevent Harlan from entering the social life of the town of Greencastle. In his diary he recorded the names of approximately twenty young ladies, that of Ann Eliza Peck appearing most frequently. On November 9, 1845, James Harlan and Ann Eliza Peck were united in marriage, President Simpson officiating at the ceremony. Their first child, Mary Eunice, was born on September 25, 1846.

A three-month term as teacher was followed by more farm work. Then, in the spring of 1846,

Harlan was offered the principalship of Iowa City College. He arrived in the capital of the Territory of Iowa with his young wife on March 25, 1846, after a twelve-day journey across Illinois in an open buggy. Harlan organized Iowa City College into three departments, an infant department, a preparatory department, and a collegiate department. Tuition ranged from $2 to $6 per subject, or group of subjects, per quarter, and board could be secured in the homes of "respectable and pious" Iowa City families at from $1.00 to $1.75 per week.

Scarcely had Harlan arrived in Iowa City when he became embroiled in what was destined to become a stormy political career. In the first state election in 1847 the Whigs chose Harlan as their candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction, a position paying a higher salary than that of governor. He defeated Charles Mason, who had served as Chief Justice of the Territorial Supreme Court, but the election was called illegal by the Democrats. In the contest to fill the vacancy he was again defeated by Thomas Hart Benton, Jr., a Dubuque Democrat, by methods which Harlan felt were highly irregular and partisan.

Following this unfortunate experience, Harlan went to Indiana and then to Cincinnati where he purchased a stock of books and stationery for a drug store with which he hoped to earn a living while he studied law in Iowa City. During the

summer of 1848 he purchased a modest unfinished home on the corner of Dubuque and Jefferson for $546. Practically the same property was sold for $7,500 in 1902 and the Medical Laboratory Building erected on the site.

On May 15, 1850, the Whigs nominated Harlan for governor without his knowledge and consent and he declined the nomination. The following September he was admitted to the bar and began the practice of law in Iowa City. Meanwhile, he continued his public speaking on various subjects. He opposed the construction of a railroad from the Mississippi to Iowa City without the aid of eastern capital, and in December, 1851, participated in the celebration of the completion of the plank road between Burlington and Mount Pleasant. In February, 1852, he was admitted to practice law before the Iowa Supreme Court.

The versatility of Harlan is attested by his appointment as surveyor of a number of townships in Carroll County in 1852 and 1853. He had learned the rudiments of surveying from Jeremiah Terry, the Kentucky schoolmaster who had boarded with the Harlans in Indiana. According to Harlan: "The incidents of this episode in my life history were most agreeable, and its experiences were useful; but not pecuniarily remunerative."

Shortly after his return from surveying, Harlan received a letter from the Mount Pleasant Colle-

giate Institute (now Iowa Wesleyan College), urging him to accept the presidency or principalship of that institution. Harlan drove to Mount Pleasant to confer with the Board of Trustees.

They informed him that they owned twenty acres of ground and a commodious two-story brick building, that they were free from debt and had a school of fifty or sixty pupils, and that with proper management the number would rapidly increase. They proposed to give Harlan entire charge of the institution, with the understanding that he should employ all of his assistants, collect tuition and other funds, pay all expenses, and retain the remainder as his own compensation. The plan thus outlined was unsatisfactory to Harlan, and he frankly told the board that unless they would agree to do much more than they proposed he could not accept the presidency. He had supposed that they intended to establish a real college, capable of giving a full collegiate course. But as this would require several buildings, adequate scientific apparatus, a good working library and a competent faculty, there must be some other source of income than merely the tuition of the students.

The astounded Trustees finally accepted Harlan's views, engaged him as president and began a fund raising campaign.

As I now remember we received no one subscription which exceeded one hundred dollars; and very few of them were so large. Many of them did not exceed five dollars each, and a considerable number were smaller than that.

The net results were that Harlan moved his family to Mount Pleasant, built a home which now

is part of the Harlan Hotel, and on July 4, 1854, delivered the address at the laying of the corner-stone of a new three-story brick building, known today as Old Main.

After two years as president of Iowa Wesleyan, Harlan was elected United States Senator from Iowa by a rump legislature after one house had formally adjourned. This irregularity led to the vacating of his seat in January, 1857, but with the newly-formed Republican party now in the ascendancy Harlan was promptly returned by his supporters in the legislature. In 1860 he was the unanimous Republican choice for a second term.

As a United States Senator, Harlan concentrated on such Western measures as homesteads, college land grants, and especially the Pacific railroad, which had begun to tantalize Iowans since five of the ten railroads linking the Mississippi with the Atlantic had reached the Father of Waters opposite Iowa. When the Civil War broke out Harlan strongly supported Lincoln and was so close to the president that he was appointed Secretary of the Interior by Lincoln in 1864. Four years later, on September 24, 1868, at the Harlan home in Washington, Robert Todd Lincoln and Mary Harlan were united in marriage.

Harlan broke with President Johnson on reconstruction and submitted his resignation from the Cabinet in July, 1866. He promptly announced himself a candidate for United States Senator, do-

ing so at the cost of the friendship of Samuel J. Kirkwood and James W. Grimes. In such matters as reconstruction he was aligned with the radical Republicans and, unlike Grimes, supported the impeachment of President Johnson. Harlan also supported President Grant's Santo Domingo policy, which was strongly under fire by Democrats as well as Liberal Republicans. As a result of his position with the conservative Republicans his enemies combined in 1872 and succeeded in electing William Boyd Allison to take Harlan's place in the Senate.

Harlan entered another stormy era in his career when he became Secretary of the Interior. Departmental policies created bitter enmities and led to charges of improper appointments, and of corruption in the disposal of Indian and railroad lands. Harlan had determined to economize by dismissing every individual who was not delivering full service to the Department. As many as eighty removals were reported on a single day. The most notable of his many dismissals in pursuance of his economy program was that of Walt Whitman, who had earned the gratitude of the government by his devoted service to sick and wounded soldiers in Washington hospitals during the Civil War. Because of his literary fame Whitman had been given great latitude in his clerkship in the Indian Bureau. While a number of writers reviled Harlan for the dismissal, Whitman's more candid

friends admitted his services were not essential. With respect to his honesty and integrity, Harlan met all charges squarely and with convincing candor.

His defeat in 1872 brought Harlan's official political career to a close when he was but fifty-two years old. Although a candidate for senator and governor at various times he never again was successful in an election. His only remaining official service was as a member of the second court of Alabama claims.

Harlan spent the remainder of his career in Mount Pleasant. He was president of Iowa Wesleyan for a short time in 1869-70, and was president of the Board of Trustees at the time of his death. He was a staunch Methodist and an active supporter of the temperance movement. His only living son, William, died in San Francisco in 1876, and his beloved wife, Ann Eliza Harlan, died at Old Point Comfort, Virginia, on September 4, 1884. Both son and wife were buried in the family plot in Forest Home cemetery in Mount Pleasant.

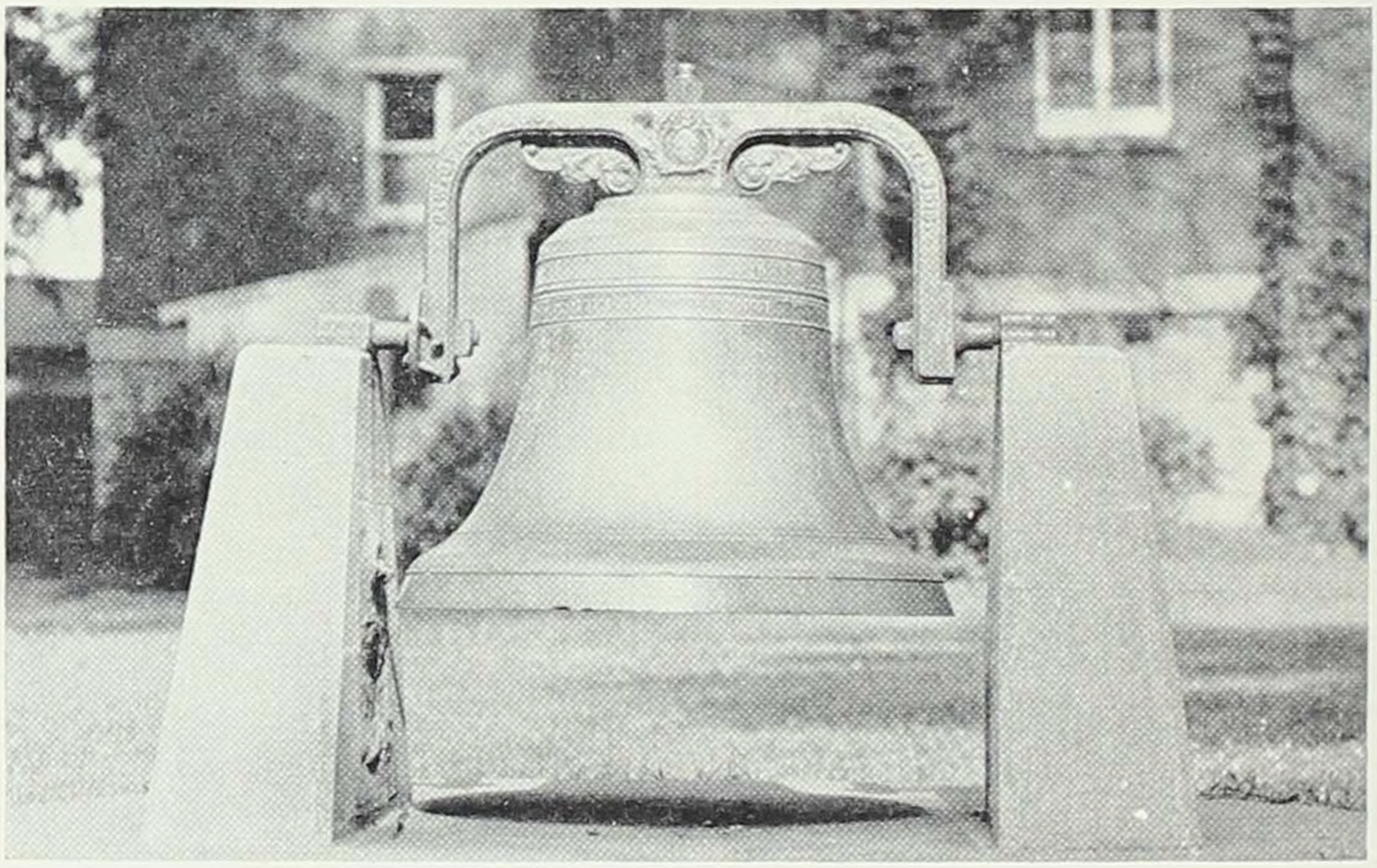
Ann Eliza Harlan was a strong personality in her own right. She was the first woman of our country "moving in what we call high circles of society" to personally visit and minister to the wants of suffering soldiers during the Civil War. She belongs to the band of brave women who have been referred to "as the Florence Nightingales of the Civil War."

James Harlan died in Mount Pleasant on October 5, 1899, in his eightieth year. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Todd Lincoln were at his bedside at the time of his death. Governor Shaw issued a formal proclamation referring to James Harlan as "one of the really great men of the nation" whose high service to the country had "reflected luster on the state of his adoption." After referring to his service during the "critical period" of the Civil War, Governor Shaw directed that the flags of all public buildings be placed at half-mast until after the funeral, and suggested that "the school-houses throughout the state display a similar token of mourning in honor of the first official head of the educational forces of Iowa."

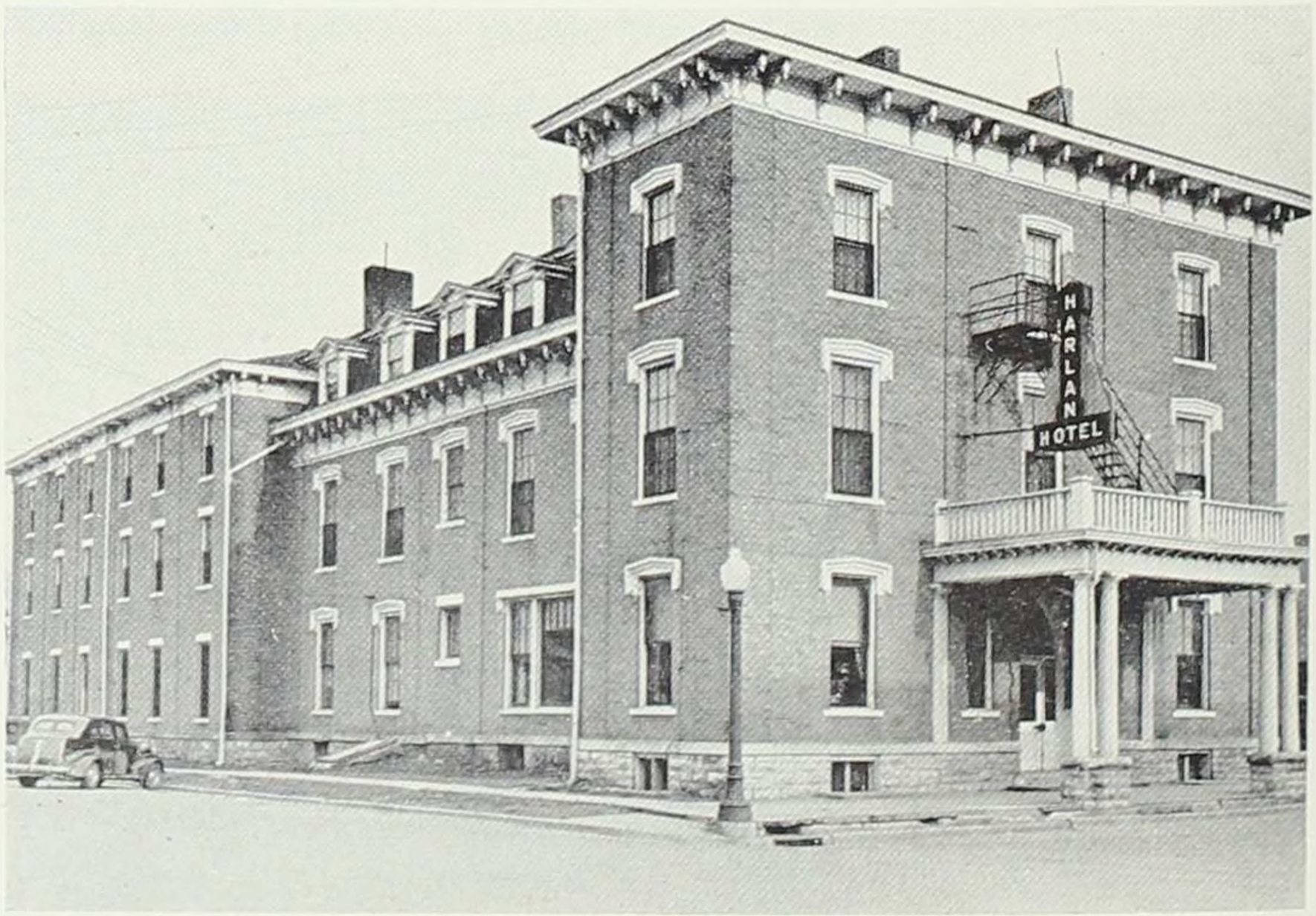
WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

JAMES HARLAN

MARY ELIZA HARLAN

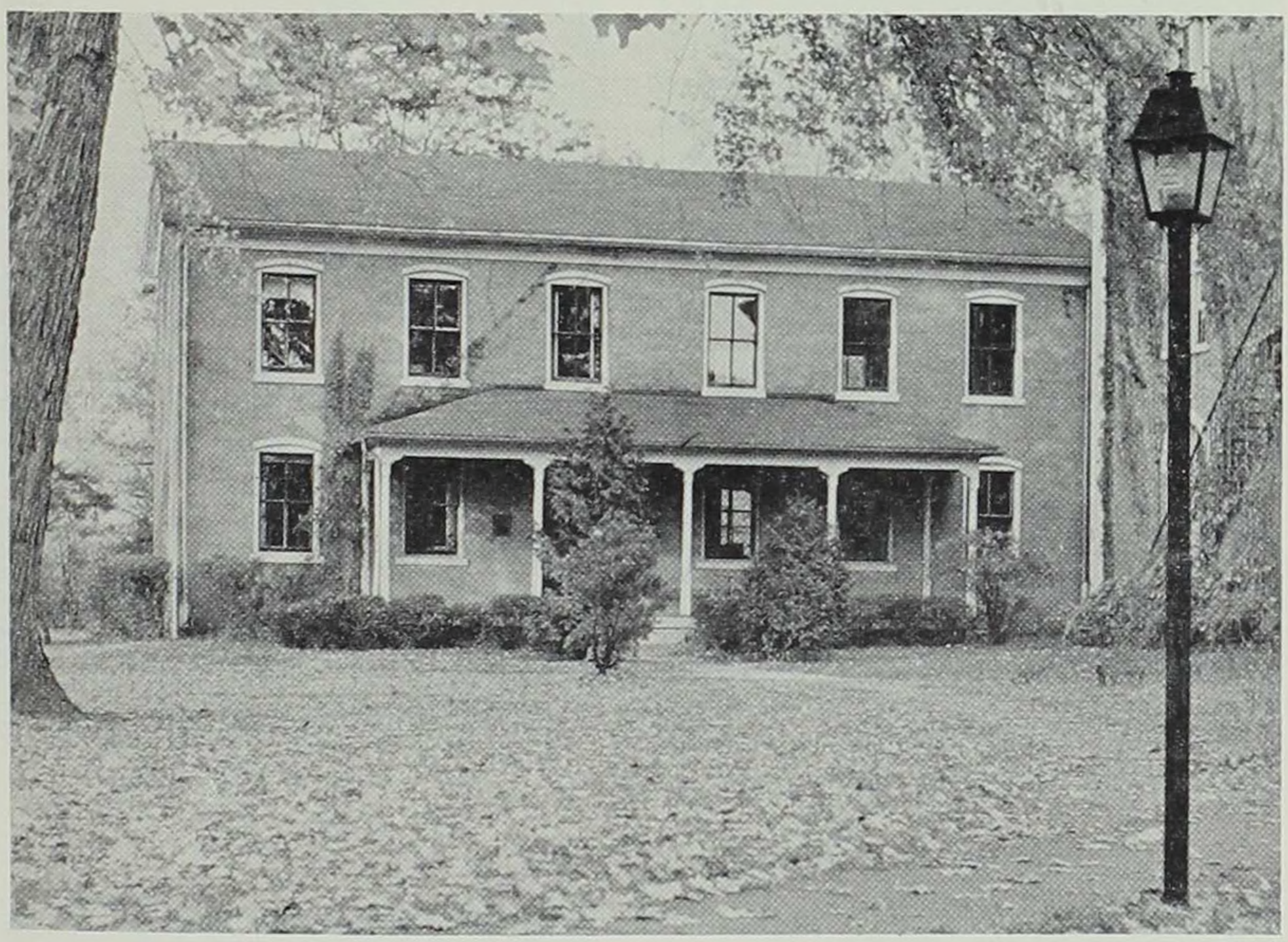


The old college bell at Iowa Wesleyan

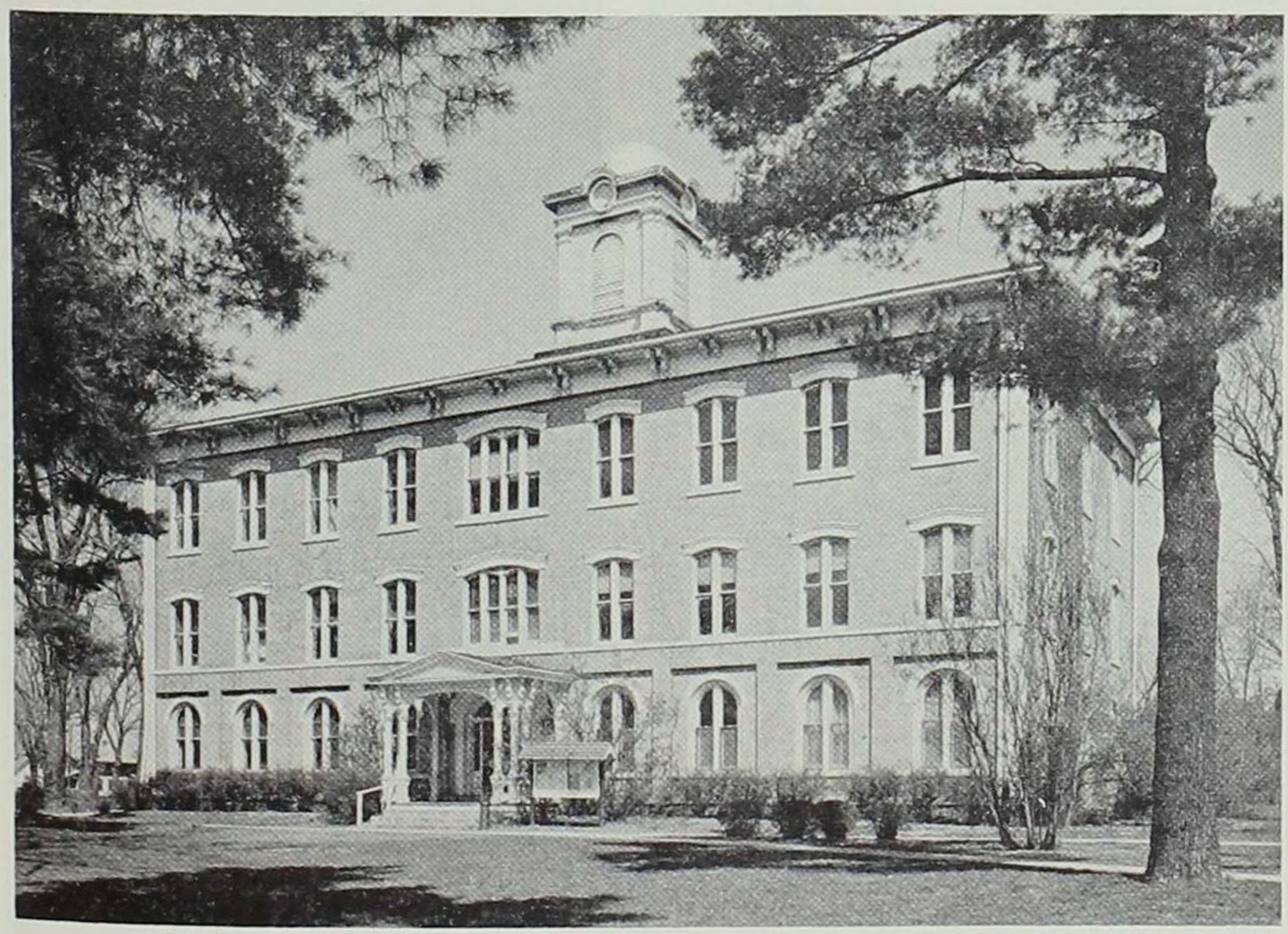


The Harlan Hotel
The center section with the mansard roof was Harlan's first home in Mt. Pleasant

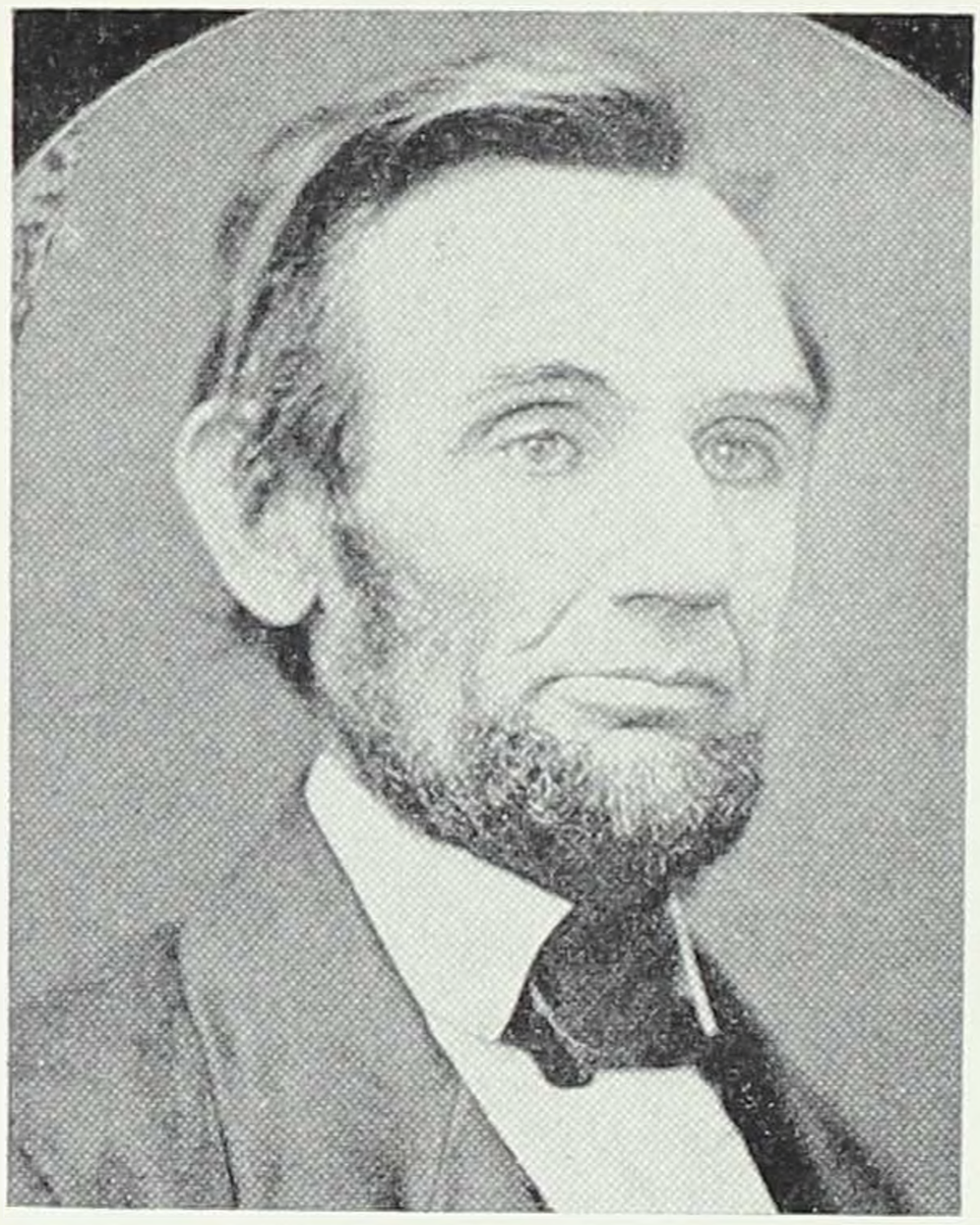
HISTORIC LANDMARKS AT IOWA WESLEYAN



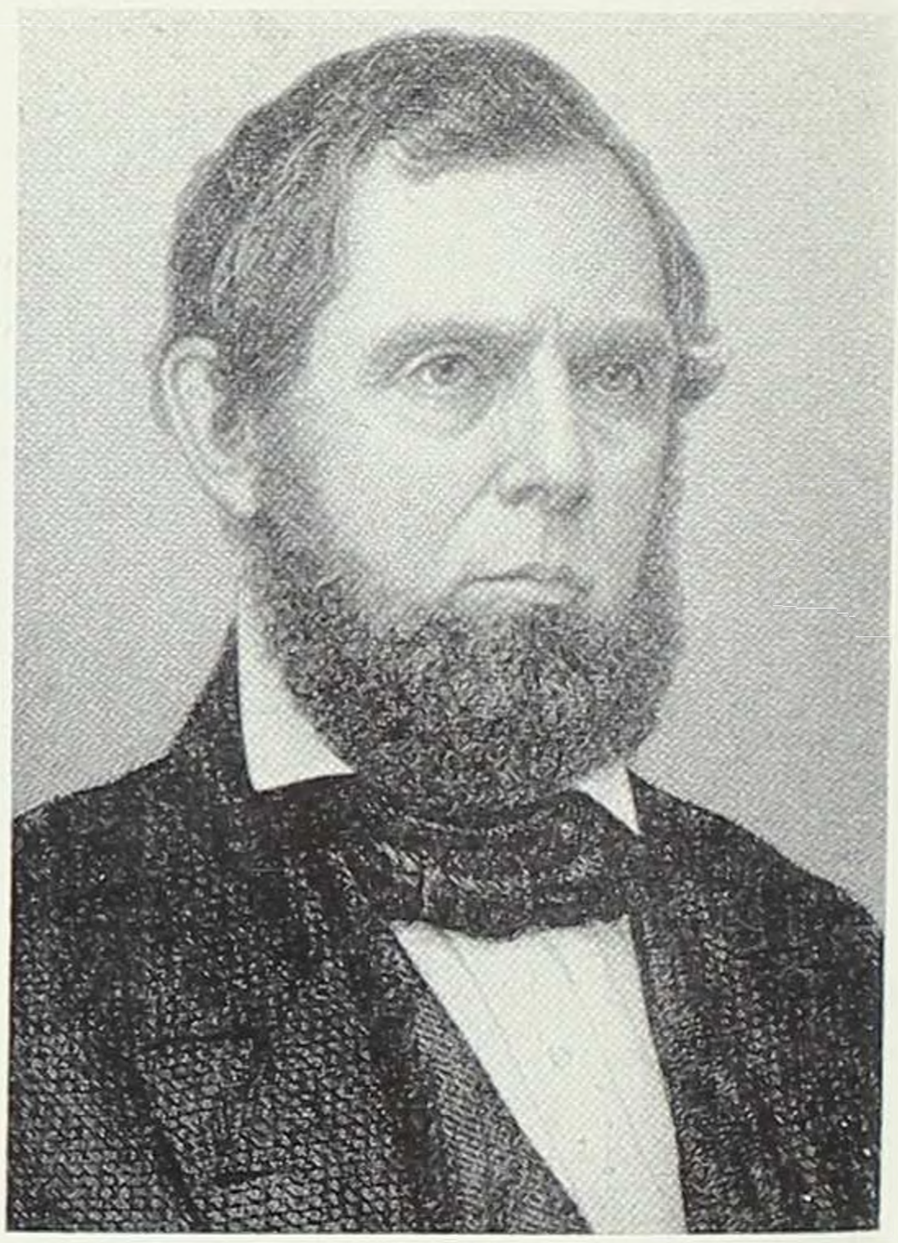
Old Pioneer — 1846



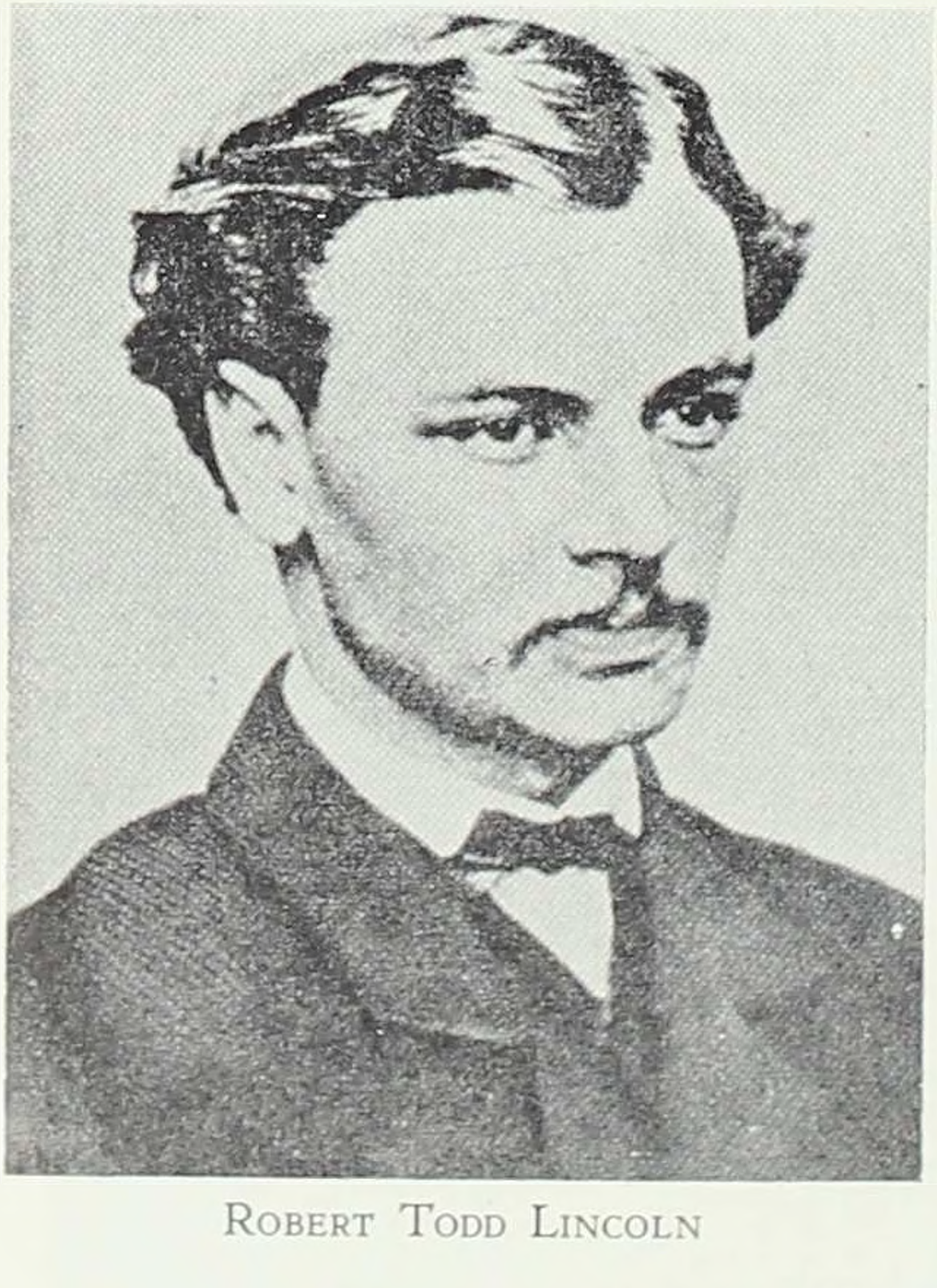
Old Main — 1855



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



JAMES HARLAN



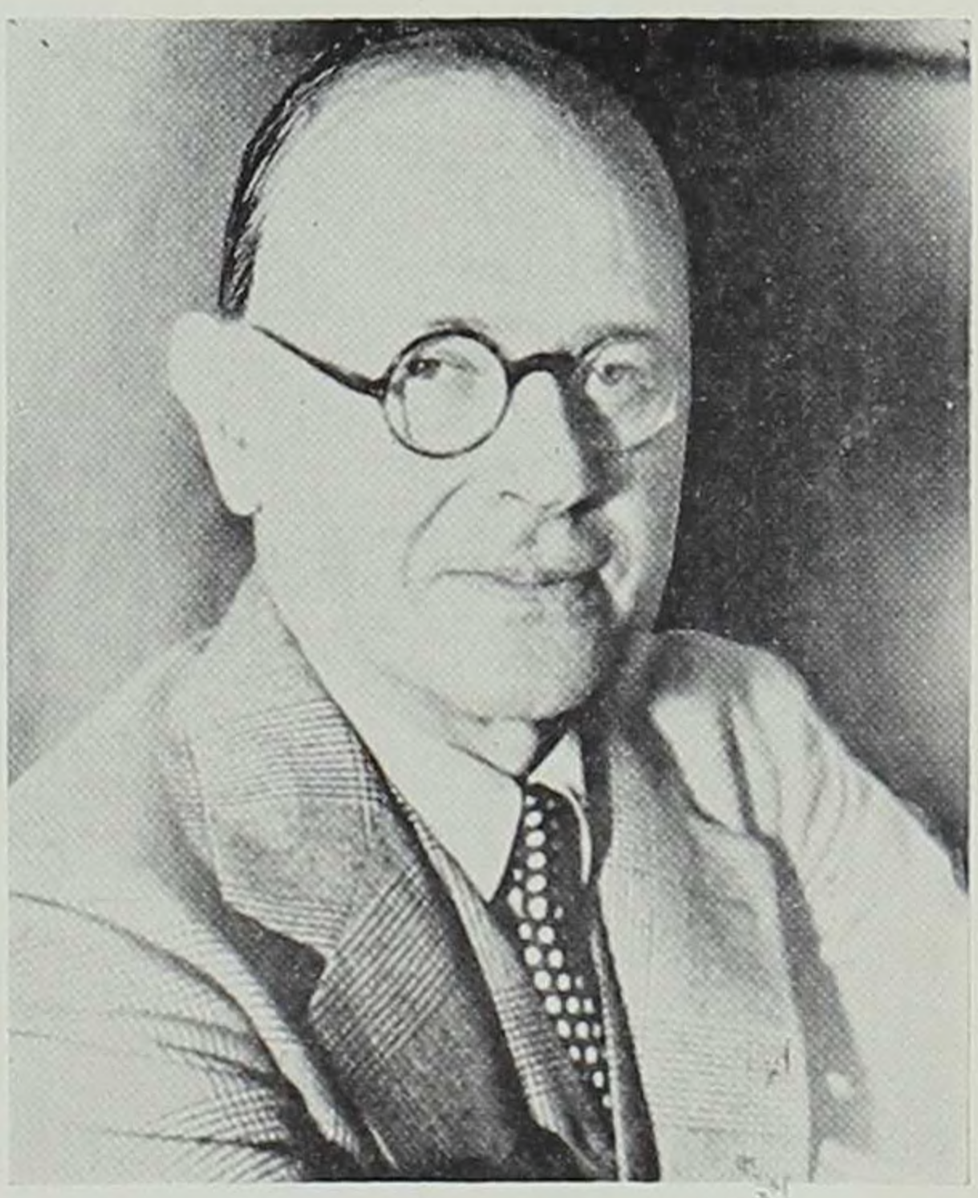
ROBERT TODD LINCOLN

MARY HARLAN

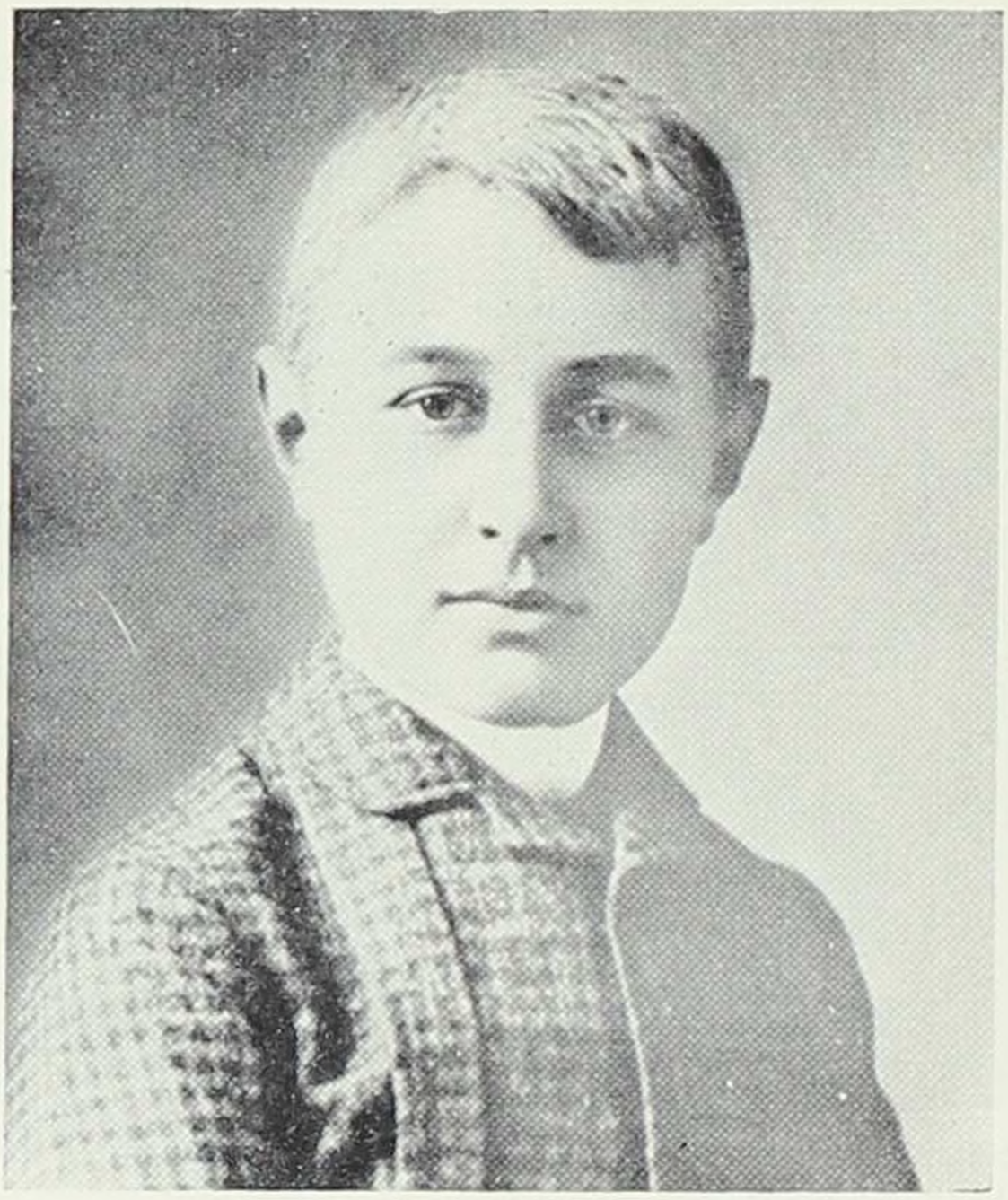
Jessie Lincoln Beckwith with daughter Mary

Mary Lincoln Isham with son Lincoln

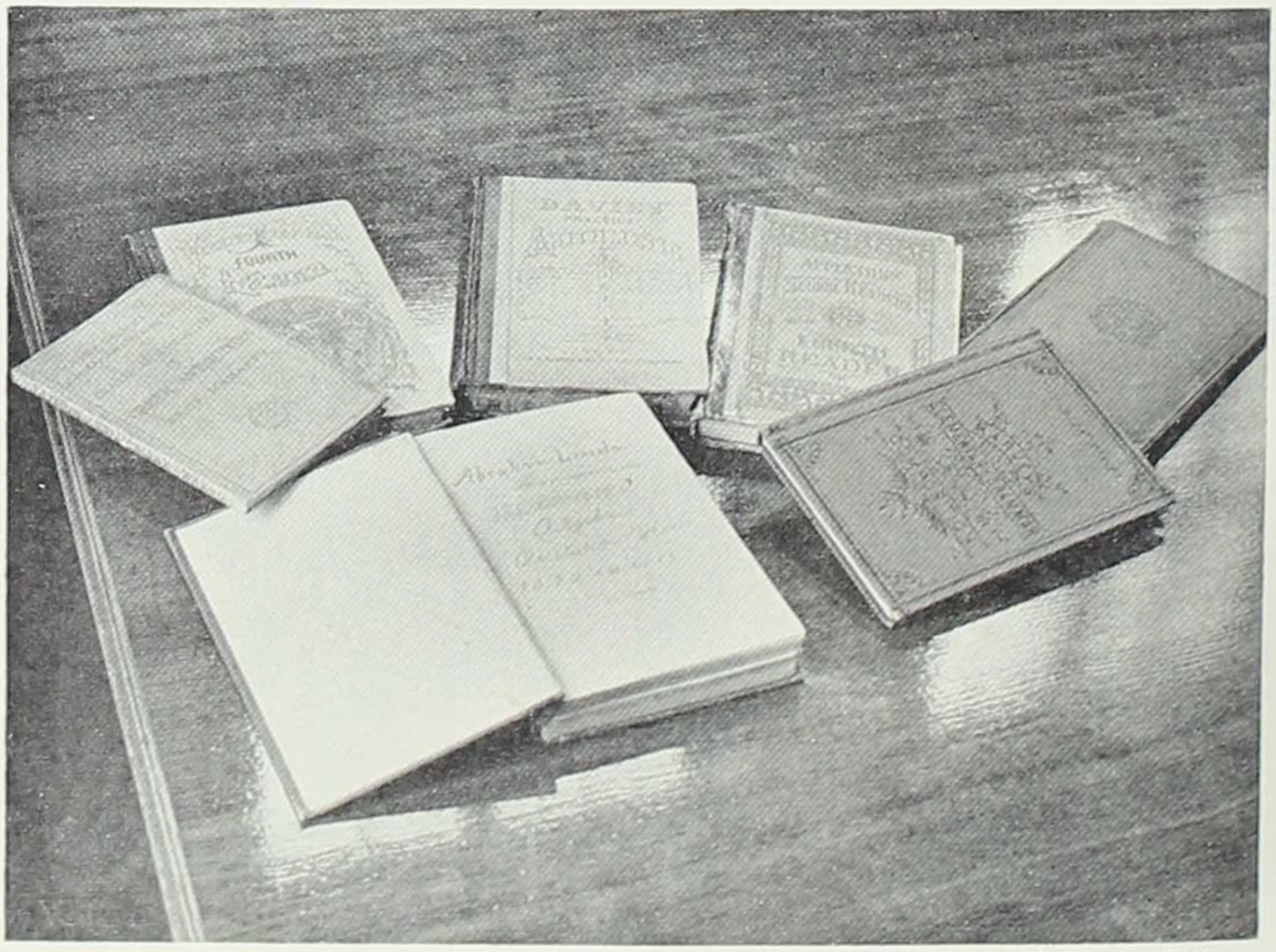
Robert Lincoln Beckwith



Lincoln Isham in 1957

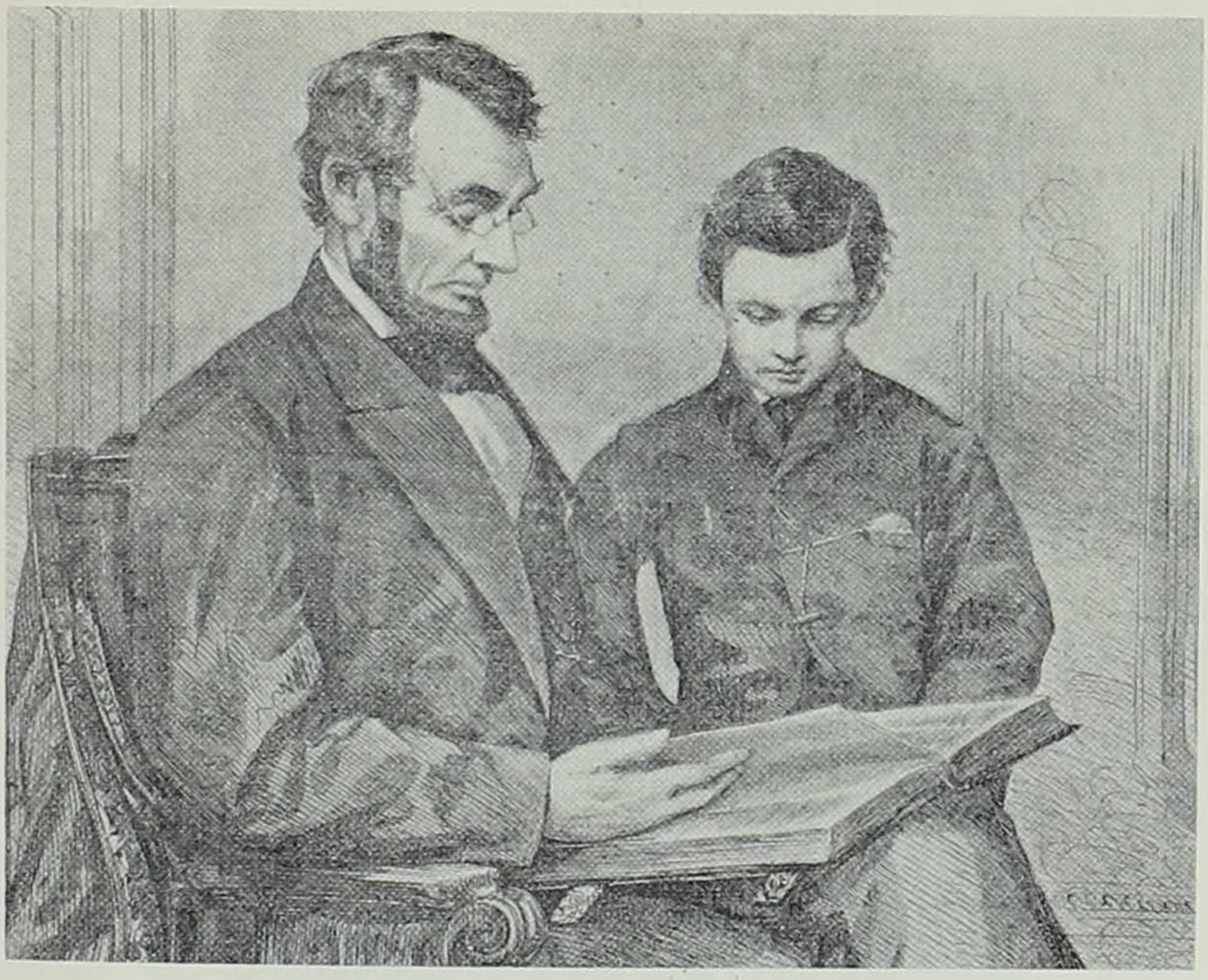


ABRAHAM "JACK" LINCOLN



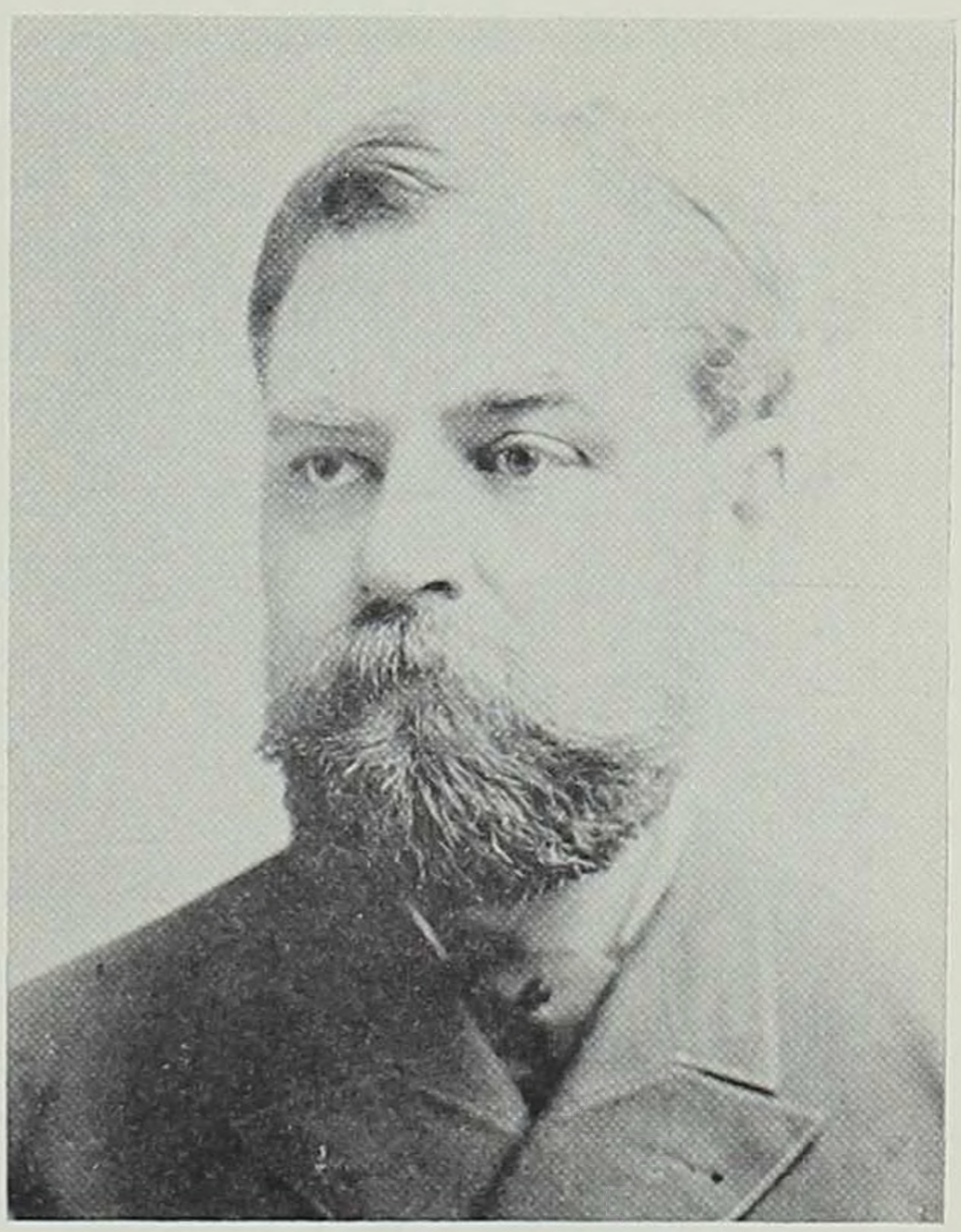
Property of Iowa Wesleyan College

Some school books used by Abraham "Jack" Lincoln at Iowa Wesleyan



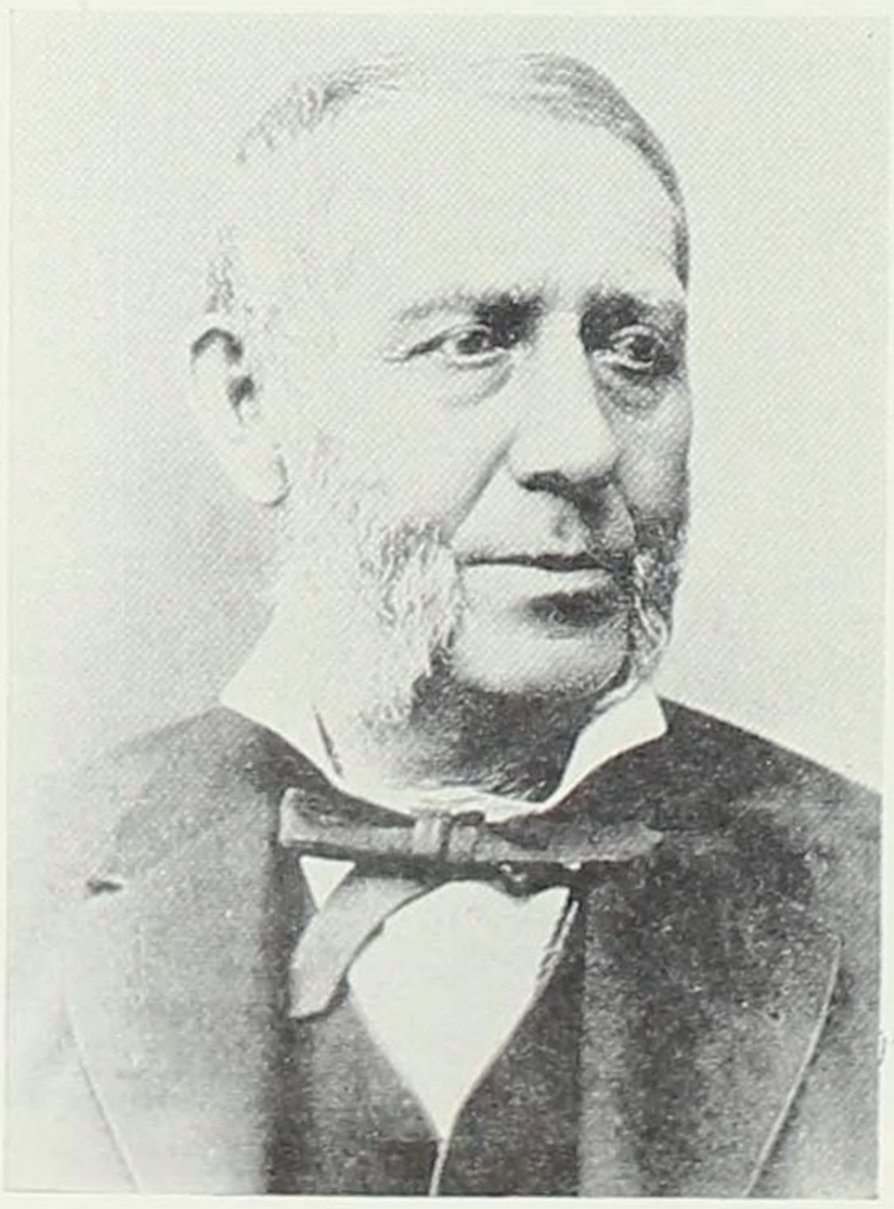
Lincoln and his son — Robert Todd

Mary Todd

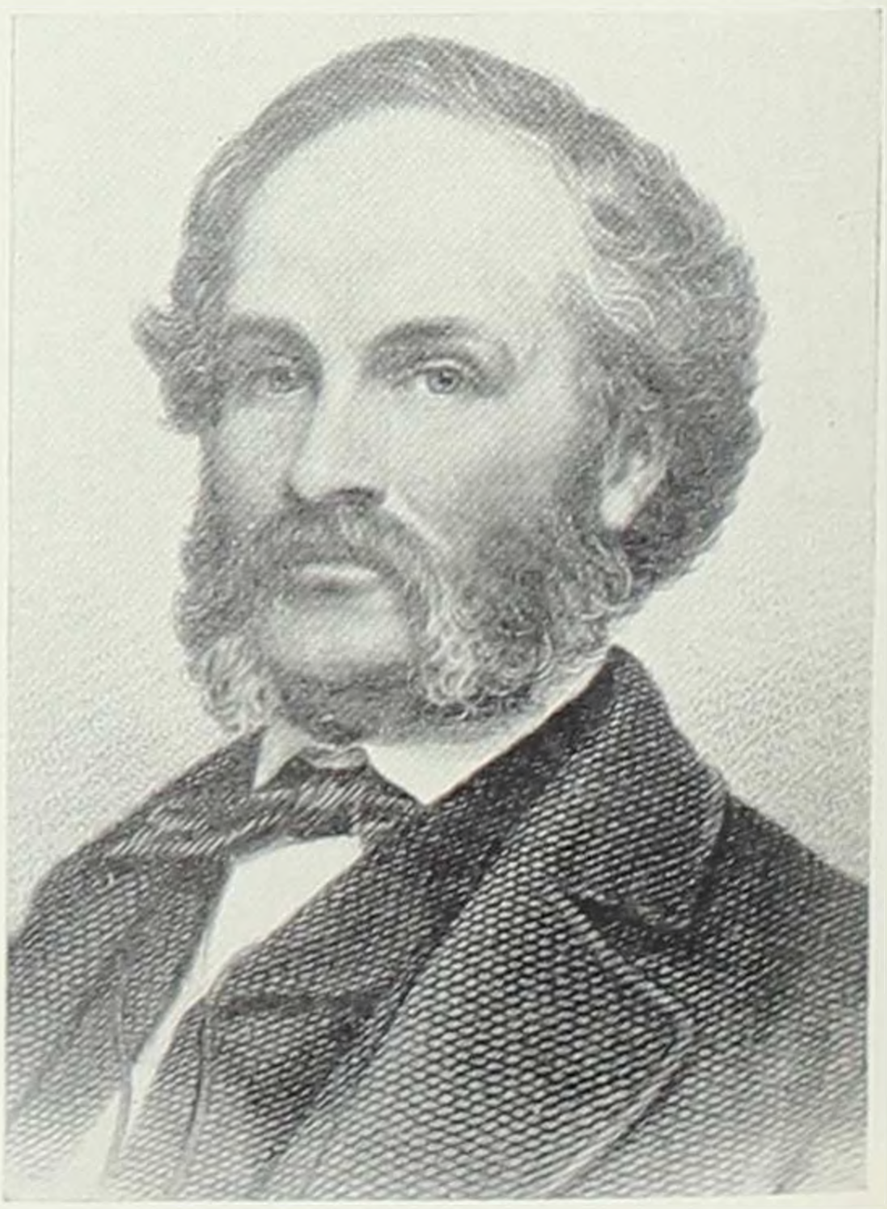


Robert Todd Lincoln

The Harlan Statue in the Nation's Capitol
Senator and Mrs. Thomas E. Martin point out the Harlan Statue in the Hall of Columns to the William J. Petersens.



SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD



JAMES W. GRIMES

Abraham Lincoln and His Friends

Address by President J. Raymond Chadwick of Iowa Wesleyan College before Joint Session of 58th General Assembly—February 12, 1959.

I certainly would be remiss if I did not express to you my sincere thanks for the honor which you have accorded me to speak on this very outstanding occasion to this joint session of the House and the Senate of the State of Iowa when we commemorate the Sesquicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. There are many phases of the life of Abraham Lincoln upon which one might speak. I have been an admirer of Lincoln for many years, and a student of his writings over a considerable period of time.

I know of no manner in which to study the life of Abraham Lincoln, however, which is more fascinating than to think of "Lincoln and His Friends." We are in a very large measure what our friends of the past and the present make us; and our influence is perpetuated through friends who feel the strength and power of our personality and teachings and carry forward our philosophy of life. History, therefore, is not a series of events, or a multitude of facts to be learned, but a line of men to be understood and appreciated. A very helpful approach, therefore, to the strength and

the power of Abraham Lincoln is to note how his life and thought was influenced by the philosophy of government which was held by Alexander Hamilton, on the one hand, and Thomas Jefferson, on the other.

There is sufficient evidence in the writings of Lincoln to indicate beyond the shadow of a doubt that he, like Hamilton, believed in a strong central government; and that these United States together make up one Nation. It is common knowledge that Lincoln had a very high regard for the Union. The basis for his national point of view is found in his conviction of the priority of and supremacy of the Union to the States. He held that the Union was older than the States and that they gained the standing they have as States through the Union. Furthermore, Lincoln held that the authority and the power of the Union was supreme to that which the States had. Even more he insisted that the Union was perpetual and no State had a right to withdraw from the Union. Consequently the preservation of the Union became the political cornerstone of Lincoln's theory of government. In his famous "House Divided Against Itself" speech he said, "I believe this Government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved. I do not expect the House to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."

Although it is not always recognized, the preservation of the Union was to Lincoln a more important issue than the momentous slavery question. This he made evident in his familiar words: "If freeing all the slaves would save the Union I would do that. If freeing none of the slaves would preserve the Union I would do that. What I do, I do for the preservation of the Union and what I do not do, I do not do for the preservation of the Union." And at last he accepted the "Mighty Scourge of War," as much as he hated it, rather than give up the Union. To Lincoln a strong central government was imperative.

When we turn to a consideration of Lincoln's conception of the objectives of government, however, we follow the way of Jefferson rather than Hamilton. In the mind of Lincoln the object of government was: (1) To protect its members from all forms of external harm. (2) To advance the personal rights of man. (3) To do for its members what they cannot well do for themselves. These emphases were undoubtedly due to the diligent study of the writings of Jefferson which Abraham Lincoln pursued. Nicolay and Hay record a letter of Lincoln on Jefferson as follows:

> The principles of Jefferson are the definitions and actions of free society. . . . All honor to Jefferson — to the man who, in the concrete pressure of a struggle for a National independence by a single people, had the coolness, forcast, and capacity to introduce into a merely revolutionary document an abstract truth, applicable to

all men at all times, and so to embalm it there that today and in all coming days it shall be a rebuke and a stumbling block to every harbinger of reappearing tyranny and oppression.

Thus it becomes evident even from this brief glimpse at the thought and practice of Abraham Lincoln that his philosophy of government was an unique synthesis of the political philosophy of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Therefore, it is possible for people of both major parties, Republicans and Democrats as well, to join heart and head and hand with all other people in paying tribute to Abraham Lincoln, that "Man of the people" who possessed the qualities of human sympathy, keen insight and great determination, the combination of which made him the Sage, the Savior and the Saint of Democracy. With one accord we all join with Edwin Markham in saying:

> Here was a man to hold against the world,
> A man to watch the mountains and the sea.

Lincoln's life and decisions were likewise influenced by the close friends of his day, his contemporaries if you please, one of the most outstanding of whom came from Iowa. This friendship, therefore, should be of special interest to us as citizens of Iowa on this Sesquicentennial of Lincoln's birth. I refer to none other than the friendship which existed between Abraham Lincoln and James Harlan, the first Republican Sena-

tor [originally an Anti-Nebraska Whig] from the State of Iowa.

President of Iowa Wesleyan, 1853-55, during which he built "Old Main" Hall, and being elected in 1855 to the United States Senate, James Harlan was well acquainted with Washington circles when Abraham Lincoln arrived as President-elect. While the country was awaiting the inauguration of Lincoln, a new and warm friendship began between him and Harlan. In selecting his first cabinet Lincoln sought the advice of Senator James Harlan, whom he had met only once before. During the years of the war the friendship between them deepened so that at the second inaugural Senator Harlan was chosen as an escort for Mrs. Lincoln, and Miss Mary Harlan was among the distinguished group surrounding the President.

Senator Harlan was also intimately connected with the President on the occasion of his last public appearance. It was only three days before the assassination. The President had announced that he would speak from the White House and a large audience gathered in front of the executive mansion. When the President ceased speaking, there were calls for Senator Sumner but he was not present, and then Harlan was loudly called for.

Another indication of the close relationship between Senator Harlan and President Lincoln is revealed in the fact that Lincoln appointed Harlan as Secretary of the Interior in the Spring of 1865,

and even though Lincoln was assassinated before Senator Harlan assumed the duties of this office, he filled it with distinction from May 15, 1865, to July 27, 1866, when he resigned because of opposition to policies of Johnson's administration.

The close personal quality of this friendship between Senator Harlan and President Lincoln is revealed in the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln and Mr. and Mrs. Harlan often took drives together out into the country surrounding Washington, D. C. The last drive which they took together was shortly after the fall of Richmond when they crossed the Potomac River into Virginia through a country devastated by war. This drive, says Senator Harlan in his autobiographical papers, has become to me historical not only because it was the last drive of this nature which President Lincoln took but also "because he had suddenly become, on the fall of Richmond and the surrender of the Confederate Army at Appomattox, a different man from what I had ever seen in him. His whole appearance, poise and bearing had marvelously changed. He was in fact transfigured. That indescribable sadness which had previously seemed to be an adamantean element in his very being, had been suddenly exchanged for an equally indescribable expression of serene joy as if conscious that the great purpose of his life had been achieved. . . . Yet there was no manifestation of exultation or ecstasy. He seemed," Senator

Harlan concluded, "the very personification of supreme satisfaction."

This close friendship between Senator Harlan and President Lincoln was recognized by the Senator's associates, when he was chosen a member of the Congressional Committee to escort the body of Lincoln, after his assassination, to Springfield, Illinois.

A few weeks later Harlan presided over a meeting of citizens who were interested in erecting a monument to Lincoln. An organization was formed and James Harlan was chosen President.

But why were these two men such close friends? Why did Lincoln seek the counsel and advice of James Harlan on many occasions? They were kindred spirits. They had much in common. To use the words of Edwin Markham:

> Born of the ground,
> The great west nursed them on her rugged knees.

The education of each was very meager. Lincoln, as we know, had three books in his library, as a boy, *Aesop's Fables,* Weems' *Life of Washington* and the Holy Bible. Harlan, likewise, at the age of 14, saw for the first time a large collection of books in the Public Library of Park County, Indiana. After examining the wonderful volumes, he secured a few volumes to take home with him, and thus began his search for knowledge.

Both of these men were lawyers; also pioneers in the field of human rights. Each of them be-

lieved in education for all and placed human rights uppermost in their scale of values. Harlan, like Lincoln, continually raised his voice against the further extension of slavery, and when the war came he firmly supported the government in its measures to preserve the Union. With Lincoln he shares the credit for securing the freedom and enfranchisement of an oppressed race.

It is no wonder, therefore, that the state of Iowa paid high tribute to the memory of James Harlan in 1907, when Congress passed a law authorizing each state to select the names of two of its illustrious sons, statues of whom would be placed in the National Statuary Hall in the Capitol Building in Washington, D. C., Iowa designated James Harlan as "Worthy of being selected as one of the citizens of Iowa whose statue shall be placed in the said National Statuary Hall."

The friendship of these two outstanding American families bearing the name of James Harlan and Abraham Lincoln continued on in a very real sense of the word, long after Lincoln's death, through the union of the two families in marriage. On September 24, 1868, Mary Harlan, the only one of James Harlan's four children living to maturity, married Robert Todd Lincoln, the only one of Abraham Lincoln's four children living to maturity. After Senator Harlan retired from his position as Senator in 1873 he returned to his home in Mount Pleasant. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Todd

Lincoln often visited him there. His three grandchildren, Mary Lincoln, Abraham (Jack) Lincoln and Jessie Lincoln, were his pride and joy. On one occasion, in September, 1883, he had the three grandchildren stand against a closet door while he recorded the name and the height of the same on the central panel. This door is a precious treasure of Iowa Wesleyan College.

The continuing strength of the Harlan-Lincoln friendship is further revealed in a very interesting and unique manner which I am sure is of special interest to everyone in Iowa. Robert Todd Lincoln inherited slightly more than $100,000.00 from his father, Abraham Lincoln. With this he made an estate of $3,300,000.00 through the medium of free enterprise, which I feel is one of the greatest blessings of America.

Upon the death of Robert Todd Lincoln in 1926 his entire estate came into the possession of his wife, Mary Harlan Lincoln. In the early thirties she sought the counsel of Frederick Towers, attorney of Washington, D. C., in making her will. After making certain bequests to individuals there remained $2,100,000 which she desired to set up as a trust fund, the interest from which would go to her descendants so long as there was any issue of blood. Furthermore, Mrs. Lincoln said she wanted the trust fund to be divided, when there was no more issue of blood, one third going to the American Red Cross, one third to the Chris-

tian Science Church of Boston and the remaining third to be used to create a memorial to her father. Mr. Towers made the suggestion that her father, James Harlan, had but one thought, day or night, and that was Iowa Wesleyan College. The comment was true, for Mr. Harlan had been twice President of Iowa Wesleyan and had remained a trustee of the College to the day of his death in 1899. After due consideration Mrs. Robert Todd Lincoln concurred that a gift to Iowa Wesleyan would be a fitting memorial to her father, James Harlan, and instructed Mr. Towers to designate the last third of the trust fund for this purpose.

At the present time the trust fund has appreciated so that it is valued at more than $3,000,000. The youngest heir is Robert Todd Beckwith, a grandson of Robert Todd Lincoln and Mary Harlan, whose age is 55 and no children. The next heir is his sister, Mary Beckwith, 61 and no children; and the third heir is Lincoln Isham, another grandchild, cousin of the first two named, who is 67 years of age and no children.

Thus in the course of human events, since there is no further issue of blood besides the three living great grandchildren of Abraham Lincoln and James W. Harlan, the trust fund will be divided and Iowa Wesleyan College will receive at least $1,000,000.00. This will be a significant gift, but even more significant is the fact that we will be the only college in the world ever to receive any

of Abraham Lincoln's money, at least in any substantial amount, through his son Robert Todd Lincoln. Yea more, how appropriate that it should be a memorial to Lincoln's close friend, James Harlan. Therefore, just as Iowa is next to Illinois geographically, so it also seems to me that she is next to Illinois in importance as far as association with the spirit of Abraham Lincoln is concerned through the union of the two families of Abraham Lincoln from Illinois and James Harlan of Iowa.

Our desire to perpetuate the spirit of that union as well as the memory of the families of James Harlan and Abraham Lincoln, is revealed by the fact that Iowa Wesleyan College has recently launched a program for the restoration and refurnishing of the Harlan House in Mount Pleasant, adjacent to the campus of Iowa Wesleyan where Senator Harlan lived following his retirement from his important position of national leadership. This we feel will be a fitting memorial to the memory of James Harlan, first Superintendent of Public Instruction for Iowa, first Republican Senator from Iowa, first Cabinet Member from Iowa, and fast friend of Abraham Lincoln; as well as an appropriate recognition for Robert Todd Lincoln, outstanding business man and public servant, and a worthy shrine symbolizing the spirit of Abraham Lincoln and James Harlan, great pioneers of the Middle West who went "From prairie cabin up to Capitol."

In this I am sure you all rejoice. More and more we need to recognize and give honor to great Americans who served their Nation with unusual vision and courage in a most critical period of our history. It is only as we all join our hearts and minds and hands to perpetuate the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, the great emancipator, as well as the spirit of his contemporaries who shared his outlook upon life, outstanding among whom was James Harlan, will we demonstrate our full measure of devotion so that "Government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

J. RAYMOND CHADWICK

The Harlan-Lincoln Home

The Harlan-Lincoln tradition is deeply imbedded in the history of Iowa Wesleyan College. The intimate association of James Harlan with historic Iowa Wesleyan, both as President and as a member of the Board of Trustees, drew him close to the oldest institution of higher learning in continuous operation in the State of Iowa.

The marriage of James Harlan's only living daughter, Mary Eunice Harlan, to Robert Todd Lincoln, the only living son of Abraham Lincoln, brought these two families together. The descendants of Robert Todd Lincoln and Mary Harlan stem from the marriage of Charles Isham and Mary Lincoln and that of Jessie Lincoln with Warren Beckwith. For many years it was the custom of the Lincoln grandchildren—Mary, Abraham (Jack), and Jessie—to spend their summers with the James Harlans in Mount Pleasant, hence the close association of the Lincoln name with this historic Iowa home. All three grandchildren attended Iowa Wesleyan as did Mary Harlan Lincoln.

Mary Lincoln was born on October 15, 1869, and married Charles Isham, a New York lawyer, in London, England, on September 2, 1891, while

THE HARLAN-LINCOLN FAMILY

James Harlan
1820-1899

Ann Eliza Peck
1824-1884

M. 1845

Julia Josephine Jessie Harlan
1856-1862

William Aaron Harlan
1852-1876

Silas James Harlan
1850

Mary Eunice Harlan
1846-1937

M. 1868

Charles Isham
-1919

Mary Lincoln
1869-1938

M. 1891

Leahalma Correa

Lincoln Isham
1892-

Abraham (Jack) Lincoln
1873-1890

Hazel Holland Wilson
1898-

Jessie Lincoln
1875-1948

Robert Lincoln Beckwith
1904-

M. 1897-1907

Mary Beckwith
1898-

Still Born Child
1901

Abraham Lincoln
1809-1865

Mary Todd
1818-1882

M. 1842

Robert Todd Lincoln
1843-1926

Edward Baker Lincoln
1846-1850

William Wallace Lincoln
1850-1862

Thomas Lincoln
1853-1871

Robert Randolph

M. 1926 -1948

Frank Johnson

M. 1915 -1925

Warren Beckwith
1873-1955

her father was serving as Minister to the Court of St. James. Their only child, Lincoln Isham, was born in New York City on June 8, 1892.

Abraham "Jack" Lincoln was born August 14, 1873. He was the only grandson of the Sixteenth President from whom the Lincoln name could be transmitted in order to perpetuate the direct blood line. Unhappily, "Jack" died on March 5, 1890, in London, England, while his father was Minister to the Court of St. James.

Jessie Lincoln married Warren Beckwith of Mount Pleasant on November 10, 1897. The first offspring of this union, Mary Lincoln Beckwith, was born on August 22, 1898. Jessie's second child, Robert Lincoln Beckwith, was born at Riverside, Illinois, on July 19, 1904.

These were the grandchildren of James Harlan and Abraham Lincoln who spent many happy summers in the Harlan Home in Mount Pleasant.

The Harlan Home, situated just across the street from Iowa Wesleyan on the north side of the campus, became the property of Mrs. Robert Todd Lincoln following the death of James Harlan in 1899. Eight years later, in 1907, Mrs. Lincoln gave the home to Iowa Wesleyan, with the thought that it might become the home of future presidents of the college. This hope never materialized and for a number of years the house stood lonely and unoccupied, until the spring of 1931, when it was remodeled and made habitable

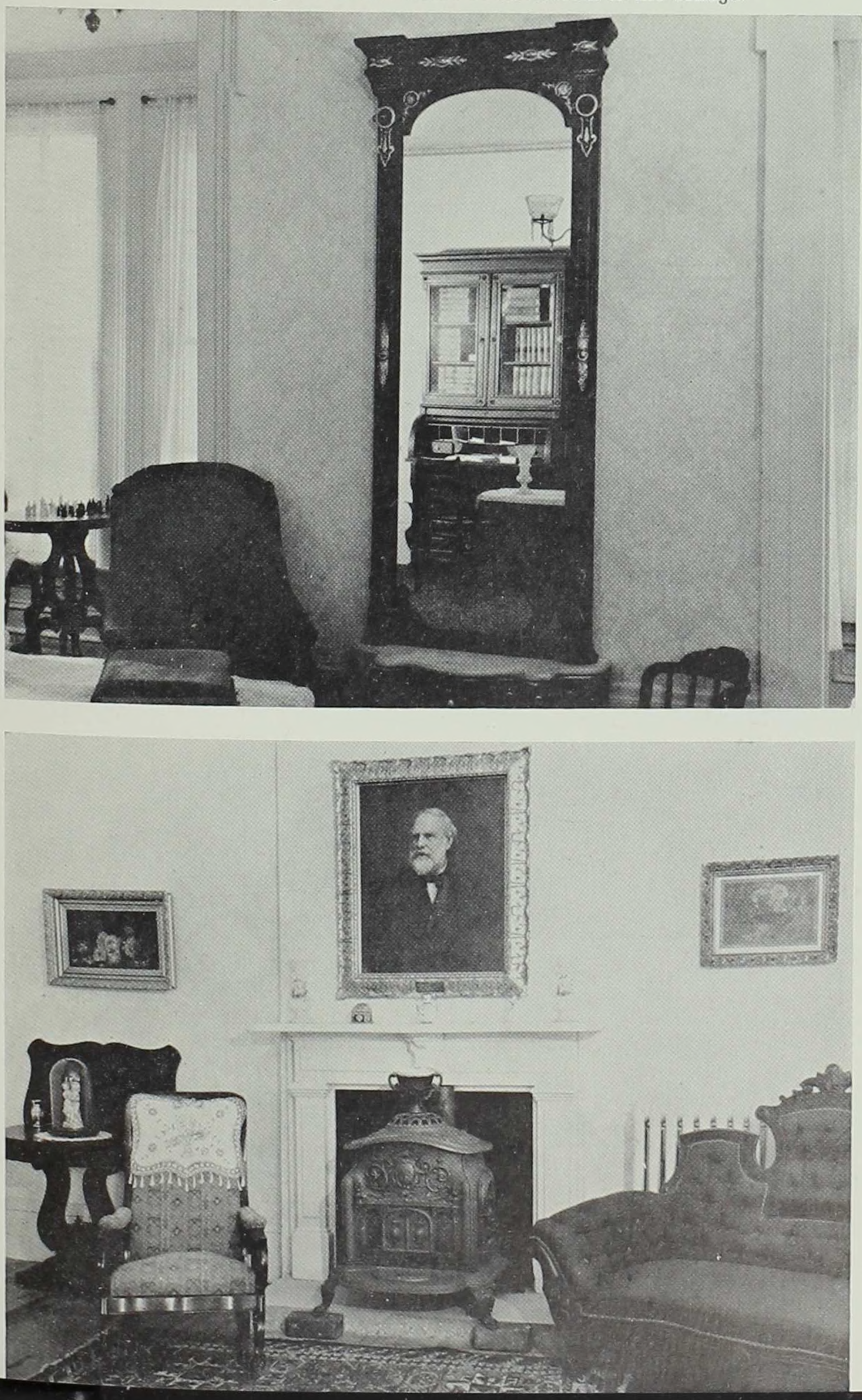
again. It was while in the process of remodeling that the door measuring the height of the three Lincoln grandchildren was discovered and preserved. As the pressure for space developed on the Wesleyan campus the home was gradually taken over by the art department.

The approaching Centennial of the Civil War and the role of James Harlan in that epic struggle helped crystallize feeling on the Wesleyan campus that the Harlan Home, with its rich Harlan traditions and its associations with the name of Lincoln, should be preserved and restored as it would have appeared when James Harlan still lived in it. President J. Raymond Chadwick was thoroughly in sympathy with the idea and the restoration was well underway by 1960. The Harlan Home is destined to become one of Iowa's most important historic shrines.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

RESTORATION OF THE HARLAN HOME

Two views of the restored living room. The oil painting of James Harlan over the fireplace is the gift of Mrs. Robert Todd Lincoln to the college.



Abraham Lincoln and His Family