

Lincoln Lore

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LESSER LIGHTS

The man Friday, made famous by the association with his master Robinson Crusoe, will live in the minds of fable lovers as long as the memory of the children's hero survives.

It is doubtful if any character in history who has achieved world greatness has made immortal as many of his associates as has Abraham Lincoln. The children with whom he played as a lad, and the obscure frontiersmen with whom he worked as a young man, lived to be honored because of these friendships. The five school teachers, the pioneer preachers, and the volunteer instructors, who guided Lincoln's early training, have had their names published in many languages. Many of the relatives of the President, either real or imaginary, have received special attention by the press, and the name of Lincoln or Hanks today is not overlooked by the reporter who is on the lookout for a story.

To these people, who have become known to readers of history, there must be added another group—far more important! It was not by accident that most of them became associated with Lincoln, but in the regular pursuits of life their common interests drew them together. It would be a tremendous task to catalogue the names of those who have been assured of lasting fame by their contacts with the Emancipator.

The "Great Triumvirate," the "Long Nine," the legal associates on the circuit, the Representatives in the Thirtieth Congress, those who presided at the public meetings where he spoke, the delegates to the Chicago Convention, his cabinet members, his secretaries, his generals, and the host of men and women with whom he had official dealings during the great war, have all been swept into more or less fame by their association with him.

These names are the prizes for which the autograph hunters search and the signatures of those, who were potent factors in bringing about the nomination of Abraham Lincoln as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States in 1860, should not be overlooked.

MEN CONTRIBUTING TO LINCOLN'S NOMINATION

William L. Stoddard claimed to have started the first "Lincoln for President" boom with an editorial he printed at Champaign, Illinois, in the month of May, 1859.

John Hanks, and his Lincoln rails at the Decatur convention, would be named by many as the man who set in motion the machinery that finally nominated Lincoln.

Joseph Medill, whose writings presented Lincoln as the logical candidate, and the only one with whom the party could win, exerted a powerful influence.

The Unknown Delegate, who made a motion, because of the lateness in delivering the tally sheets, that the convention adjourn until the following morning (Friday), saved the day for Lincoln, according to those who are convinced Seward would have won had the ballot been taken that night.

Cassius M. Clay, of Kentucky, is set forth as the man who forced the nomination of Lincoln when he addressed a group of northern delegates as follows: "It makes a great deal of difference to you whom you nominate . . . and it makes a much more vital difference to us. . . . We call upon you to nominate Abraham Lincoln, who knows us and understands our aspirations."

Horace Greely's strength was felt, prior to the balloting, by the powerful opposition he manifested towards Seward. This negative influence is thought by some to have nominated Lincoln.

Amos N. Whiteley, who lived in Muncie, Indiana, claimed that Abraham Lincoln introduced him to his cabinet as "The man who is responsible for my nomination." He claimed to have organized the crowd of rooters who drowned out the Seward enthusiasts.

Norman D. Judd, of Illinois, was the man who actually put the name of Lincoln before the convention, "As a candidate for the Presidency of the United States."

Caleb B. Smith shares with Judd the honor of supporting Lincoln by seconding the nomination on behalf of the Indiana delegation.

Thomas H. Dudley, of New Jersey, is also put forth as a most important factor in Lincoln's nomination. In harmony with the agreement made by the famous "Committee of Twelve," he announced on the calling of New Jersey on the third ballot that he would vote for Abraham Lincoln.

Simon Cameron, who led the Pennsylvania delegation into the Lincoln fold "at just the right moment," was the first candidate to make a contribution to Lincoln's triumph.

Carter, of Ohio, after all, was the man who contributed the votes that

actually gave Lincoln the nomination, when he shouted that "Ohio changes four votes from Chase to Lincoln," with but two votes needed.

Note: This list makes no attempt to compile a complete list of all the leaders who contributed to the nomination of Lincoln.—Ed.

THE WIGWAM

There is a third building which should stand on the street which led from the Kentucky Log Cabin to the White House, and by this building Abraham Lincoln was obliged to pass before he reached the city of fame. There had been built, in the year 1860, at the corner of Market and Lane Streets in Chicago, a large structure one hundred and eighty feet long and one hundred feet wide. It was made of plain pine boards and in some respects both the characteristics of a log cabin and a government building were conserved. It was called the "Wigwam." Into this building came the delegates of the Republican Convention, on the morning of May 16, 1860, for the purpose of naming the next candidate for the Presidency of the United States, on the Republican ticket. It was on Friday, May 18, that this purpose was achieved. It may be truly said that Lincoln passed from his cabin home to the White House by way of the Wigwam.

A REAL RAIL SPLITTER

A national magazine, sometime ago, presented an argument to show that Lincoln was not in reality a Rail Splitter. Possibly Lincoln's own testimony on this subject might be of interest while considering the incidents of his nomination.

Lincoln autobiography prepared for Scripps:

"Abraham, though very young, (eight years), was large of his age and had an axe put in his hand at once, from that time until his twenty-third year he was constantly handling that most useful instrument, less of course in plowing and harvesting time."

Lincoln's reply to Ward Lamon:

"I don't think you would succeed at splitting rails. That was my occupation at your age and I don't think that I have taken as much pleasure in anything else from that day to this."

Lincoln's remarks to groups of men upon observing an axe hanging outside the cabin of a boat:

"Gentlemen, you may talk about Raphael repeaters and your 11-inch Dahlgrens, but here is an institution which I guess I understand better than any of you." With that he held out the axe by the helve at arm's length.