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Editor

LIBRARY OF LINCOLN'S YOUTH

Some of the books which Abraham Lincoln used as a youth while living in Indiana have been reviewed in Lincoln Lore during the past months. This issue of the bulletin brings to a close this series of studies by commenting briefly on other books Lincoln is known to have used previous to his removal to Illinois at the age of twenty-one years.

Of the early campaign biographers who wrote about Lincoln, Scripps seems to be the most trustworthy. The compilation of books which he claims Lincoln used as a youth undoubtedly is authentic. He lists them in this order: Dilworth's, The Bible, Aesop's Fables, Pilgrim's Progress, Life of Franklin, Weems's Washington, and Riley's Narrative.

Thayer in his "The Pioneer Boy" names this list of books in Lincoln's early library. The Bible, Spelling Book, Aesop's Fables, Pilgrim's Progress, Lives of Washington, Clay and Franklin, and Plutarch's Lives, History of the United States, Kentucky Preceptor, and Robinson Crusoe.

There is positive evidence that Plutarch's Lives should not have been included in this list.

Several other biographers besides Thayer claim that one of Lincoln's earliest books was a life of Henry Clay. Holland states it was a gift from his mother. It does not seem possible that previous to Henry Clay's nomination for the presidency in 1831 any book about him would have found its way into the Indiana wilderness. The life of Henry Clay, published in 1855, which was in Lincoln's library in later years cannot be associated with a volume read by Lincoln in his youth. Probably he read some of Henry Clay's published speeches which may have been accompanied by a brief sketch of his life.

Among the books upon which Abe "laid his hands" were "Aesop's Fables," "Robinson Crusoe," "Pilgrim's Progress," a "History of the United States," and Weems' "Life of Washington," according to Ward Lamon's account. Lamon says that Lincoln used to go to David Turnham's house and read "The Revised Statutes of Indiana" because Turnham was "acting constable" at the time and could

not lend it. He also read Scott's "Lessons" and "Sinbad, the Sailor" at Turnham's house.

One of Lamon's informants claims that Lincoln read all of the books owned by Jones, the store keeper, and among them was a history of the United States. Several titles have been suggested for this book but the name of the editor is still unknown. It may have been Grimshaw's.

The KENTUCKY PRECEPTOR

containing

A Number of Useful Lessons
For Reading and Speaking

Compiled for the Use of Schools

BY A TEACHER

Delightful task! To rear the tender thought,
To teach the young idea how to shoot,
To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,
To breathe the enlivening spirit, and to fix
The general purpose in the glowing breast.
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The "Kentucky Preceptor," a book of recitations, was the property of Josiah Crawford at the time Lincoln used it. Mr. Crawford presented the book to his grandson, William F. Adams, who sold it to Herndon in 1865. Inasmuch as Crawford did not come to Indiana until 1826 Lincoln could not have used it before he was fifteen years of age. Lincoln's writing in the book is good evidence that he used it.

Two more books containing selections of literary productions were used to advantage by Lincoln. The "Columbia Class Book" and Scott's "Lessons in Elocution." The formal title of this last named book was "Lessons in Elocution, or Selections of Pieces in Prose and Verse for the Improvement of Youth in Reading and Speaking."

It is almost certain that the autobiography of Franklin was one of the books in his early library. It introduced him to a character wholly unlike the military heroes and militant statesmen with whom he had become familiar in his other books.

At least one song book, and possibly others, found its way into the Lincoln home. Dupree's song book was used by the pioneer Christians, and this

was was evidently the title of the one mentioned as having been owned by the Lincolns.

The world of bewildering words presented by "Bailey's Dictionary" was evidently well explored by him. In fact, he may have memorized whole parts of it, as people nowadays do, for certainly there was no dearth of words in his later speeches and writings.

The eight volumes previously discussed in Lincoln Lore and which probably exerted the most influence over him are: The Bible, Dilworth's Speller, Aesop's Fables, Weems's Washington, Ramsay's Washington, Pike's Arithmetic, Pilgrim's Progress and Murray's English Reader.

There are some books nominated for this early Lincoln library that must be labelled traditional. If he read the books enumerated in the following paragraphs, he must have been greatly influenced by them.

Weems' "Life of Marion" has all the combined zest and action of a Conrad novel and an Indian raid, and probably contributed a great deal, where courage and hardship were concerned, to the ideals of young Abe. Marion, too, was a "humble cultivator of the earth."

Defoe's immortal "Robinson Crusoe" is another excellent account of difficulties met and conquered—of being content with sparse comforts—and of living side by side with bountiful nature.

The list of books compiled from different sources which Lincoln is said to have read while living in Indiana follows:

He is also credited with having read and to have been especially fond of the story of "Sinbad, the Sailor." Certainly these two characters, Lincoln the man and Sinbad the myth, in their varied and adventuresome careers, had much in common; particularly when the troubles of government and the war rode Lincoln's stooped shoulders like the fantastic sailor's Old Man of the Sea.

Aesop's Fables	Murray's English Reader
Arabian Nights	Pike's Arithmetic
Bailey's Dictionary	Pilgrim's Progress
Bible	Quinn's Jestis
Columbia Class Book	Ramsay's Washington
Dilworth's Speller	Riley's Narrative
Dupree's Song Book	Robinson Crusoe
Franklin's Autobiography	Scott's Lessons
History of the United States	Speeches of Clay
Kentucky Preceptor	Statutes of Indiana
Leather Stocking Tales	Webster's Speller
	Weems' "Marion"
	Weems' "Washington"