

# LINCOLN LORE

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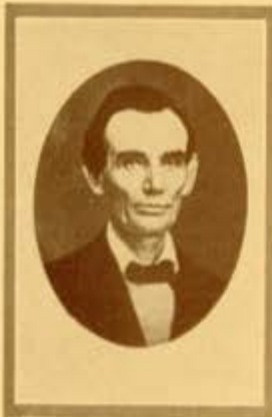


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Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

### TAD LINCOLN'S FATHER

In the autobiographical sketch which Abraham Lincoln prepared for Scripps in 1869, he said that "in 1854 his profession had almost superseded the thought of politics in his mind, when the repeal of the Missouri compromise aroused him as he had never been before."



THE PROFESSIONAL LINCOLN  
From a daguerreotype by Amos  
J. T. Joslin, taken at Danville,  
Ill., in 1853. Mss. No. 2.

success as a lawyer, the year 1853 marks the most important epoch of his career. At this time he was retained as an attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad, and his activities in relation to this important client are too well known to rehearse.

While we do not know the month or day on which this photograph was taken, we do have evidence that Lincoln was in Danville, Illinois, on May 27, 1853, as he wrote to George B. Kinkead of Lexington, Kentucky, a letter postmarked Danville, Illinois, in which he says:

"I am here attending court a hundred and thirty miles from home."

Possibly the distance from home at this time seemed farther than usual as back in Springfield there was a new baby less than two months old in the Lincoln home. Thomas, or Tad, the fourth and youngest son of Abraham and Mary Lincoln was born April 4, 1853. Tad is the child shown with his

father in one of the late photographs and more often portrayed with him than any of the other children.

This 1853 picture should be associated with Abraham Lincoln in the role of father of three rollicking boys, (one son died in infancy) and also that of a typical family man.

The story of this portrait of Lincoln taken at Danville, Illinois, comes down to us through Mr. W. L. Hilyard of Nebraska, the owner of the original daguerreotype.

Mr. Hilyard claims that his father and Mr. Lincoln were close friends and that while in Danville, Lincoln often roomed with them. The elder Hilyard was a deputy sheriff and would naturally come in contact with Lincoln at the Court House.

It was agreed by these two friends that they would have their pictures taken for presentation to each other, and the photograph gallery of Mr. Joslin was visited and the exchange of daguerreotypes made.

Not only does this portrait serve as a good likeness of the professional Lincoln but it also memorializes another Lincoln friendship which began in Danville, Illinois, and lasted throughout Lincoln's life.

Ward H. Lamon gives this reminiscence of his first meeting with Abraham Lincoln shortly after Lamon had arrived in Danville from Virginia. He claims he was introduced to Lincoln by Hon. John T. Stuart in 1847 and after Lincoln had looked him over and observed his "fashionable toggery—swallow tail coat, white neck cloth, and ruffled shirt," he said:

"And so you are a cousin of our friend John J. Brown; he told me you were coming. Going to try your hand at the law, are you? I should know at a glance that you were a Virginian; but I don't think you would succeed at splitting rails. That was my occupation at your age, and I don't think I have taken as much pleasure in anything else from that day to this."

It was customary for some of the lawyers who traveled the circuit to form local partnerships in the towns where the courts convened. Three years after Lamon met Lincoln and while Lamon was still untrained in the legal profession Lincoln formed such a partnership with him. Some

recent biographers would probably suggest that this relationship, as far as Lincoln was concerned, was a purely selfish contact, but it looks as if Lincoln was trying to help a relative of one of his close friends, John J. Brown, to get a start in the legal profession.

This partnership which began in 1850 lasted for eight years at which time Lamon was made district attorney. One wonders just how much influence Lincoln exerted on Lamon's behalf in this instance.

A professional card appearing in the *Illinois Citizen* reveals that their office was "on the second floor of the Barnum building over Williams' store" at Danville, Illinois.

The portrait which we have chosen to call "The Professional Lincoln" may not only serve as a memorial of him as a family man and a leading attorney, but it may also serve as a reminder of some of Lincoln's contacts with Danville.

One of the speeches leading up to the Lincoln-Douglas debates was delivered by Lincoln at Danville on September 22, 1858.

He was in Danville when he wrote a letter to James A. Briggs, dated November 13, 1859, stating that he would "be on hand" for the Cooper Union speech.

Danville was the last Illinois town through which Abraham Lincoln passed on his way to the inauguration at Washington and traditions are current about his lingering on the platform of the train a long while looking on Illinois for the last time. On the train with him was Lamon whose friendship he had made at Danville.

This portrait, taken seven years after the earliest daguerreotype of Lincoln was made, acts as a transition picture between Lincoln the Congressman and Lincoln the President. Those who cannot find the familiar lines of Lincoln's face in the portrait of 1846 when he was but thirty-seven years of age will do well to compare with it this portrait taken at the age of forty-four.

The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation is under obligation to Clint Clay Tilton, of Danville, Illinois, for the presentation of a photographic copy of this daguerreotype.