

# LINCOLN LORE

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## HIDDEN LINCOLN TREASURES

There are rich treasures of Lincolniana hidden away in obscure places which perseverance on the part of interested searchers will eventually bring to light. Although there may exist a probability that certain Lincoln documents or curios may have been lost, one should refuse to entertain such a supposition if he is really anxious to recover the cherished prizes. Nothing short of positive evidence of the complete destruction of a valuable item, once known to exist, should deter one from anticipation that some day it will be found.

### The Bixby Letter

The most valuable lost treasure among the writings of Lincoln is the letter forwarded to the Widow Bixby on November 21, 1864 and delivered to her on Thanksgiving Day. The letter was copied by a Boston newspaper and published in full the next morning. The original letter has completely disappeared and no trace of it has been discovered since it reached the widow's hands. That such a priceless letter would have been destroyed does not seem probable. The value of the original Bixby letter would approach six figures. One should not let suppositions which hold that Lincoln did not write the letter and that the facsimiles now extant are faked, prevent a thorough and constant search for the famous letter. Who can discover its hiding place?

### Printed Article on Temperance

One of the most familiar stories about Lincoln's early efforts as a writer is told by William Woods, friend of the boy during the Indiana years. Mr. Woods said that Abraham wrote an article on temperance so superior to the usual discussions on that subject that it was given to Mr. Aaron Farmer, a Baptist minister, who sent it to a temperance paper in Ohio. Mr. Wood further said that he saw the article in print in the paper (name unknown) in 1827 or 1828. If the original manuscript cannot be found, will not someone cite the name and date of the paper which printed the article?

### First Political Monograph

Judge Pitcher, a lawyer living at Mount Vernon, Indiana, read an article that Lincoln, as a boy, wrote on the American form of government, the perpetuation of the Union, and the sacredness of the Constitution. His reaction to the article was "The world can't beat it". It is said Judge Pitcher had this article published in a newspaper, and one man recalls having seen it in print. The paper in which it appeared is not known and the date it was published is likewise obscure. To what papers did Judge Pitcher subscribe, and when and where is the speech most likely to have been printed?

### Note to Parson Elkin

Lincoln's mother died in Indiana when Abraham was approaching his tenth year. There is a persistent story that the boy wrote a note to David Elkin, the minister of the church in Kentucky to which Nancy Hanks Lincoln belonged, telling Elkin of her death and asking him to come

to Indiana and preach the funeral sermon. Descendents of David Elkin in Kentucky claim to have seen the letter which they say was preserved. Where is it now?

### Pigeon Church Account Book

Lincoln as a boy is said to have been at one time a sexton of the Pigeon Church in Spencer County, Indiana. His father was a trustee of the church and often served as moderator at its meetings. Reverend Obenshain, a Methodist clergyman, claimed to have found in the loft of the old Pigeon Church an account book in which Abraham Lincoln had entered the purchase price of a broom and some candles. A Reverend French who later preached at the church is said to have had a book answering this description. Can the descendents of Reverend French be found? (This book is not to be confused with the Pigeon Church Record Book now in possession of the church.)

### Lost Pages of Lincoln's Copy Book

On September 8, 1865 Abraham Lincoln's stepmother showed William Herndon a copy book made by Abraham Lincoln. Apparently it was distributed page by page to different individuals. The Lincoln National Life Foundation is anxious to secure copies of all pages now preserved. We hope to supply photostats of the now extant pages to those who are in possession of single pages of the book. This notice refers to both the figure book and the selection of writings. May we hear from those owning separate pages?

### Little Mount Baptist Church Record Book

When the Lincolns lived on Knob Creek in Kentucky they belonged to the Little Mount Baptist Church. There is some evidence that the record book of this organization was in possession of one of the early members of the church who later lived in Louisville, Kentucky. This would be a valuable source book, indeed, to reveal the religious atmosphere in which Abraham Lincoln lived as a small child. Can this book be found?

### Missouri Democrat

It is said that Lincoln gave to E. L. Baker on May 17, 1860 a copy of the Missouri Democrat in which he had marked passages showing Seward's attitude toward certain slavery questions and then had written on the margin of the paper, "I agree with Seward in his 'Irrepressible conflict' but do not endorse his 'Higher Law' doctrine. Make no contracts that will bind me." Is this newspaper still extant?

### Lost Through Obscurity

There are a large number of letters and manuscripts written by Abraham Lincoln which are now in private hands, the contents of which are unknown to historians and biographers of Lincoln. Many erroneous statements referring to him might be corrected if the contents were known. The Lincoln National Life Foundation has been keeping a register of Lincoln documents now in private hands and would be pleased to record any original Lincoln manuscript now in a private collection.