

LINCOLN LORE

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HENRY CLAY, LINCOLN'S POLITICAL IDOL—BIBLIOGRAPHY

One hundred years ago this Spring, on March 2, 1844, a flag was raised over a Whig cabin, in Springfield, Illinois, and a great assemblage gathered there to celebrate the victory of the Whigs in the state of Maryland. The Whig choir sang and Abraham Lincoln was one of the speakers. Lincoln had been made an elector for Henry Clay, the Whig's candidate for the presidency, and a speaking itinerary was arranged for him that eventually took him as far away as his old home in Indiana.

There has been much speculation with reference to the book which may have contributed most to Lincoln's development as a statesman. Aside from its moral precepts, the diction of the Bible, he absorbed from his mother's daily reading, was undoubtedly an important factor in his manner of expression. The spirit of the Revolutionary fathers which the youth, Lincoln, captured from reading Weems' Washington was his chief inspirational source. His early political notions were formed by reading the life and works of Henry Clay.

It is doubtful if any statesman influenced Abraham Lincoln quite so much as Henry Clay, and "The Railsplitter" became a recognized champion of "The Millboy of the Slashes." After Clay had passed away, people who heard Lincoln's speeches remarked that his was the voice of Henry Clay speaking again to the people.

Two biographies about Clay seem to have been Lincoln's chief source of information and reference, during the Illinois years, a small book by Prentice, first printed in 1830, and a very large book by Epes Sargent, published in 1854. The Sargent book had been published in two volumes in 1843, but in 1853 J. L. Gihon issued the two volumes under one cover, and a year later Leary & Getz put out a facsimile of it. The one bearing the latter imprint with date 1854, is similar to the Clay life used by Lincoln during the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

What is said to be the identical copy of this last mentioned book used by Lincoln, is still extant and the editor of *Lincoln Lore* has had the privilege of examining it. There are many passages which have been underlined throughout the book, as if a careful student of Clay had read it from cover to cover. Lincoln often underscored important passages and these lines of emphasis may be his. The book finally came into the hands of Major Lambert, and when his collection was sold at auction, this book was acquired by E. D. Worth, for the sum of \$450.

This bulletin is one of a series which has presented some fragmentary bibliographies of books eligible for a place in a Lincoln collateral library. The following titles may serve as a reference list to those interested in the life and works of Henry Clay.

Books About Clay

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Clay, Thomas H., *Henry Clay by His Grandson*, 1910.

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Colton, Calvin, *Works of Henry Clay, Comprising His Life, Correspondence, and Speeches, Edited by Calvin Colton, with an introduction by Thomas B. Reed, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and a History of Tariff Leg-*

islation from 1812 to 1896, by William McKinley, President of the United States, 7 vols., 1897.

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(Lindsay & Blakiston, Publishers), *Life of Henry Clay, Statesman and Patriot, Containing Numerous Anecdotes*, 240pp., 1852.

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Mallory, Daniel, *A Biography of Henry Clay, the Senator from Kentucky, compiled and edited by Daniel Mallory, containing also a complete report of all his speeches, selections from his private correspondence; eulogies in the Senate and House; and a poem by George D. Prentice, Esq.*, (Complete in one volume), 1328pp., n. d.

Mayo, Bernard, *Henry Clay, Spokesman of the New West*, 570pp., 1937.

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Rogers, Joseph M., *The True Henry Clay*, 388 pp., 1904.

Sargent, Epes, *Life and Speeches of Henry Clay*, 2 vols., 1843. (In both paper and board covers).

Sargent Epes, *Life and Speeches of Henry Clay*, 695pp., 1853. (Published by J. L. Gihon, another edition in 1854, published by Leary & Getz).

Schurz, Carl, *The Life of Henry Clay*, 2 vols., 1887.

United States, *Obituary Address on the Occasion of the death of the Hon. Henry Clay, a Senator of the United States from the state of Kentucky, delivered in the Senate and in the House of Representatives of the United States, June 30, 1852, and the funeral sermon of the Rev. C. M. Butler, Chaplain of the Senate, preached in the Senate, July 1, 1852*, 135pp., 1852.

Walker, Edward, *Beauties of Hon. Henry Clay, to which is added a Biographical and critical Essay*, 235pp., 1839.

Winthrop, Robert C., *Memoir of Henry Clay*, 1880.

Pamphlets About Clay

Sargent, N. (Oliver Oldschool), *Life of Henry Clay*, (Bedford's Cheap Edition), 16pp., 1844.

Sargent, N. (Oliver Oldschool), *Brief Outline of Life of Henry Clay*, 16pp., n. d.

Addresses by Clay

To the People of the Congressional District Composed of the Counties of Fayette, Woodford, and Clarke, in Kentucky, 33pp., (1825).

Speech of Henry Clay with a Biographical Sketch, 1827.

Speech of the Hon. Henry Clay on the subject of the Removal of the Deposites, delivered in the Senate of the United States, December 26, 30, 1833, 31 pp., 1834.

Speech of Mr. Clay of Kentucky, on the Measure of Compromise, delivered in the Senate of the United States, July 22, 1850, 31pp., 1850.

Speech of Mr. Clay, of Kentucky, in the Support of his Propositions to Compromise on the Slavery Question, in the Senate of the United States, February 5, 1850.