

LINCOLN LORE

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AN ORIGINAL LINCOLN PHOTOGRAPH ESCAPES IDENTIFICATION



Meserve No. 14

The new book also includes pictures of one-hundred of Lincoln's associates and an interesting prologue on "The Face of Lincoln," by Carl Sandburg.

Now that the reproductions of original photographs of Abraham Lincoln have received a much wider distribution through this new Meserve publication, a new interest seems to have been created in the history of some of the photographs. One of these prints about which there seems to be much difference of opinion among Lincoln students is known in the Meserve classification as Number 14. Other compilations of pictures identify it as Oldroyd 31, Miller 25b, and Lorant 13.

A compilation of the evidence available about this picture is arranged under the name most usually associated with the particular copy in question.

ARMSTRONG—Photographic, oval print signed, "Yours truly, A. Lincoln." Reproduction in Foundation collection but no information.

BIEDLER—Photographic print, $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ ", mounted on a card $2 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ ", inscribed with A. Lincoln. Discovered in Springfield, Illinois in January 1938.

BRINKERHOFF—Photographic print, $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ ", mounted on yellow paper. Under the picture is this inscription written by a contemporary of Lincoln's: "Taken in Springfield, Illinois shortly after he was nominated in 1860."

BROOKS—Photographic, oval print on mat signed, "Yours truly, A. Lincoln." The original owner of the photograph stated in a letter bearing the date Nov. 11, 1860: "I called on Mr. Lincoln twice (at Springfield) and found him very easy in his manners. I was very much pleased with him. I obtained from him an autographed letter and obtained a fine large photograph with his autograph."

COLE—Ambrotype— $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ ". In Bryner's book on *Abraham Lincoln in Peoria*, appears this statement about the picture, "From an ambrotype made in Peoria in the early fifties, it is believed, by H. H. Cole." Another source

of information states, "This Lincoln photograph was taken in Peoria in 1858 when Lincoln was engaged in his memorable campaign for the United States Senate." L. K. Dewein is the owner of what he claims to be the original negative presented to him by Mr. Cole.

FOUNDATION—Photographic print mounted on rectangular card, $2\frac{1}{4} \times 3$ ". No imprint visible, but erasures have been made. This picture, with no history available, was acquired in Illinois, by the Lincoln National Life Foundation. It contains more of the original background than any print thus far observed.

HUBBARD—Ambrotype with oval shaped mat. "An ambrotype of Mr. Lincoln made at Pittsfield, Illinois" during the campaign of 1858. Guy W. Hubbard claims that "The original was presented to his father, Capt. William A. Hubbard, of the 17th Illinois Infantry, for an act of bravery in 1862." It may be the same as the Lambert copy.

JUSTICE—Ambrotype with oval shaped mat on rectangular glass about 4×6 ". The owner states "the picture of Abraham Lincoln was made in Dayton at the Cridland Studio," on September 18, 1859, by Thomas Walker Cridland.

LAMBERT—Ambrotype with oval shaped mat, 3×4 ". Mr. Meserve in his earlier discription of the picture stated, "From a photograph of the ambrotype supposed to have been made at Hannibal, Missouri, in 1858, now in the collection of Major William H. Lambert."

LAMBERT—Daguerreotype. An inscription on the back of a rectangular print states, "Enlarged from Major Lambert's daguerreotype." This information on a rectangular print implies that Mr. Lambert had a daguerreotype study as well as an ambrotype.

LAMBERT—Ambrotype with oval shaped mat. Said to have been made at Pittsfield, Illinois during the famous campaign of 1858. "Original was presented to Capt. William A. Hubbard of the 17th Illinois Infantry, for an act of bravery in 1862."

LOPER—A rectangular reproduction of a daguerreotype reproduced in volume 21 of the *Nebraska Magazine of History*, loaned to the Nebraska Historical Society by the late Mrs. A. L. Loper.

McCLELLAN—Ferrotype— $1\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ ". "Found between the walls of an old building in Muncie, Indiana, when the building was torn down (1898)."

McWILLIAMS—Photographic, oval print. "The original of this photograph was bought in 1860 in a Springfield gallery by Mr. D. McWilliams, of Dwight, Illinois." Later it came into possession of Mr. Stuart Brown, of Springfield. (Tarbell's *Early Life*, p. 81.)

MOORE—Two photographic prints with the inscription "Yours truly, A. Lincoln." "In the family were two of these photographs which my sister obtained in Springfield, between the nomination and the inauguration. Mr. Lincoln autographed both in a firm, clear hand." (Letter from Mr. Moore in Foundation archives.)