

# LINCOLN LORE

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## MEN AND MEASURES OF THE THIRTIETH CONGRESS

The two most important years in the training of Abraham Lincoln for the presidency were those spent as a member of the lower branch of the Thirtieth Congress which convened in the Nation's capitol on December 6, 1847, and closed its second session on March 3, 1849. It has been true especially in the life of Lincoln that human interest incidents have been emphasized to such an extent that they have obscured many of the less colorful but more important episodes in his career.

The rebuilding of the little village of New Salem, Illinois, has focused unwarranted attention on the brief period Lincoln spent there, largely due to the purely fictitious love affair with Ann Rutledge. The traditional romance has been given more emphasis for that period than Lincoln's attendance at the sessions of the legislature in the state capitol, where he associated with the outstanding citizens of Illinois. A day spent in the legislature at Vandalia was far more valuable for Lincoln's intellectual advancement than a week spent in a grocery store among the humble people of New Salem.

Great stress has been placed upon the activities of Lincoln while traveling the eighth judicial circuit and particular attention has been directed to the influence upon him of outstanding lawyers with whom he journeyed from court to court. It is sheer provincialism to attempt to draw any comparison between the mental caliber of the men who Lincoln met in the county seat towns of Illinois, and those most brilliant minds of the nation with whom he was in constant touch at Washington during the Thirtieth Congress.

Without the training afforded and without the acquaintances made during the congressional session in 1847, 1848, and 1849, it is almost impossible to think of Lincoln being qualified to direct the affairs of the Nation in 1861. His ability to cope with both domestic and foreign policies and his selection of men from divergent groups, who could keep the ship of state afloat during its stormiest cruise, was greatly enhanced by his one congressional term.

A few of the personalities in the Thirtieth Congress with whom Lincoln came in contact, many of whom were more closely associated with, or opposed to, him in his higher office a dozen years later, are mentioned with a brief notation about them.

### Men

- Adams, Green, (H), Kentucky—Appointed sixth auditor by Lincoln.  
Adams, John Quincy, (H), Massachusetts—Former President and venerable member of the House.  
Ashmun, George, (H), Massachusetts—Chairman of Rep. Convention in 1860.  
Bell, John, (S), Tennessee—Union candidate for V. Pres. 1860.  
Calhoun, John C., (S), South Carolina—Tyler's Secretary of State.  
Cameron, Simon, (S), Pennsylvania—Lincoln's Secretary of War.  
Cass, Lewis, (S), Michigan—Opposed Taylor for presidency.  
Cobb, Howell, (H), Georgia—Chairman of seceding states convention.  
Collamer, Jacob, (H), Vermont—Postmaster General under Taylor.  
Corwin, Thomas, (S), Ohio—Lincoln's minister to Mexico.  
Crittenden, John J., (S), Kentucky—Attorney General for both Harrison and Fillmore.

- Davis, Jefferson, (S), Mississippi—President of the Confederacy.  
Dayton, William L., (S), New Jersey—Republican candidate for V. Pres. 1856.  
Douglas, Stephen A., (S), Illinois—Candidate for presidency 1860.  
Giddings, Joshua R., (H), Ohio—Lincoln's consul general to Canada.  
Goggin, William L., (H), Virginia—Chairman of Post Office and Post Roads Committee under whom Lincoln served.  
Greeley, Horace, (H), New York—Defeated by Grant for Presidency in 1872.  
Hale, John P., (S), New Hampshire—Free Soil V. Pres. candidate 1852.  
Hunt, Washington, (H), New York—Chairman of last National Whig Convention in 1856.  
Hunter, R. M. T., (S), Virginia—Confederate Secretary of State.  
Johnson, Andrew, (H), Tennessee—Lincoln's V. Pres. second term. Succeeded Lincoln to presidency.  
Johnson, Reverdy, (S), Maryland—Tyler's Attorney General.  
Marsh, George P., (H), Vermont—Minister to Italy under Lincoln.  
Palfrey, John G., (H), Massachusetts—Appointed by Lincoln as Postmaster of Boston 1861.  
Schenck, Robert C., (H), Ohio—Minister to Great Britain, 1870-1876.  
Smith, Caleb B., (H), Indiana—Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior.  
Stephens, Alexander H., (H), Georgia—Vice President of Confederacy.  
Thompson, Richard W., (H), Indiana—Refused seat on bench of the Court of Claims offered by Pres. Lincoln.  
Toombs, Robert, (H), Georgia—Secretary of State of the Confederacy.  
Tuck, Amos, (H), New Hampshire—Appointed as naval officer, post of Boston.  
Webster, Daniel, (S), Massachusetts—Tyler's Secretary of State.  
Wilmot, David, (H), Pennsylvania—Author of Wilmot Proviso.  
Winthrop, Robert C., (H), Massachusetts—Speaker of the House, 30th Congress.

### Measures

Some of the subjects chosen from among many important measures which were discussed in Lincoln's hearing, or in which he joined in the arguments before the House are submitted:

Abolition of slavery in District of Columbia. Amending Constitution in relation to electing president and vice president. Capital punishment. Plans for census of 1850. Charter of the City of Washington. Consular system in China and Turkey. Diplomatic intercourse with foreign nations. Duties on luxuries. Flogging in the Navy. Franking privileges. Importation of iron. Importation of slaves. Internal improvements. International exchanges.

Judicial system of U. S. Juvenile delinquents. Maury's ocean trails. Origin and conduct of Mexican war. Pension laws. Pre-emption laws. Public works on harbors and rivers. Relinquishment of school lands. Tariff act of 1846. Territorial governments of Oregon, California and New Mexico. Transportation of mail on Sabbath. Treaties between U. S. and China. War bounty land warrants.