

LINCOLN LORE

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ROBERT LINCOLN'S GENEALOGY

Preliminary to the opening the much publicized Abraham Lincoln manuscripts this week-end at the Library of Congress it seems timely indeed to make available an unpublished autobiographical sketch of the donor, Robert Lincoln, and also present a brief unpublished biography of the President written by this same Robert Lincoln, the chief executive's only son to reach maturity.

The manuscripts containing the autobiography and the sketch are in holograph form and preserved in the Class Book of 1864. The custodian of the Harvard University archives granted the editor of Lincoln Lore the permission to publish these writings and this seems to be the proper time to release them. We are under obligation to Mr. Jules C. P. Landenheim for first calling our attention to these university treasures.

The limited space allowed by Lincoln Lore will permit no more than a careful copy of the documents made from photostats of the originals. In the near future, the Foundation will make available a brochure submitting facsimiles of the holograph writings and the statements of Robert Lincoln carefully annotated for corrections. The original manuscript appears on pages 481, 482 and 483 of the Class Book and in the following order without caption.

I know very little of my father's family. His great-grandfather is supposed to have gone from Berks County, Pennsylvania, to Rockingham County, Virginia, but nothing further is known of him. His son, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Virginia to Kentucky about the year 1782 and was killed by the Indians two years afterwards, leaving three sons, Mordecai, Josiah and Thomas.

Thomas Lincoln was born January 6th, 1778. He lived on the Frontier all his life, moving from Kentucky to Indiana, and thence to Illinois, where he died in February, 1851, leaving an only son,

Abraham Lincoln, my father. He was born Feb. 12, 1809, at Elizabethtown, Kentucky, and accompanied his father to Illinois. His father was poor and unable to give him an education. He however studied by himself and finally acquired sufficient knowledge to become a land-surveyor, in which occupation he was engaged for several years. During the intervals of his labor he studied law, but was interrupted in this by the Black Hawk War, in which he served as a Captain of Cavalry. After the Treaty he was elected a member of the Illinois Legislature, and having served his term, he commenced the practice of law at Springfield which he continued until 1860. During this time, he made himself well-known throughout the State by his speeches as a Whig, and after the dissolution of that party, as a Republican. He was defeated as a candidate for the U. S. Senate in 1858 by the late Stephen A. Douglas, and was elected President of the United States in 1860. [and reelected Nov. 8, 1864. (Class Sec.)].

The first member of my mother's family of whom I know anything is David Todd, who was born in Ireland, April 8th, 1723, and emigrated to Berks County, Penna., where he was a farmer. He moved to Kentucky in 1784, where he died in the same year leaving six children, of whom the fourth was Levi Todd, who was educated as a lawyer in Virginia and moved to Kentucky in 1776, was a lieutenant in Clark's Campaign in Illinois in 1778, served in several Indian wars north of the Ohio, commanded a battalion at the Battle of the Blue Licks, 1782, where his brother, Col. John Todd, was killed. He succeeded Daniel Boone as Colonel and became after-

wards a Brigadier and then a Major General. He occupied various small official positions, and died at his place near Lexington, Ky., in 1807, leaving eleven children of whom the eighth was Robert Smith Todd, born in Lexington Aug. 11th, 1791, died Aug. 1849. He was a lawyer. His wife was Eliza Parker, who died in 1825. They had a large family of which Mary Todd, my mother, married Abraham Lincoln in 1842.

I was born on the first of August, 1843, at Springfield, Illinois. I followed the usual pursuits of infancy and childhood there, until I was four years old, when I was taken by my parents to Washington, D. C., my father being at that time a member of the House of Representatives. Of my life at Washington my recollections are very faint. The following winter, (1848-9) I lived with my grandfather at Lexington, Ky., and after that time I resided at Springfield until I came East to enter College. I have a dim recollection of being under the slipper-guardianship of a school-mistress until 1850, when I became a pupil at the Academy of a Mr. Estabrook & under his instruction I remained for three years. At this time there had been founded at Springfield an Institution of Learning called the "Illinois State University," at which I was placed and remained until the summer of 1859. This "University" had, I believe, four instructors, Dr. W. M. Reynolds being the President. The government was very easy, and we did just what pleased us, study consuming only a very small portion of our time. The Classics were divided as at College, and when I left I was about to enter the Senior Class. I became aware that I could never get an education in that way and resolved to enter Harvard College, assuming that there would be no trouble in doing so, in which idea, it is unnecessary to say, I was very much mistaken. On being examined I had the honor to receive a fabulous number of conditions which precluded my admission. I was resolved not to retire beaten, and, acting under the advice of President Walker, I entered the well-known Academy of Exeter, N. H. I went to Exeter, hoping to enter the Class preparing to enter College, the next July, as Sophomores. The worthy Principal, Dr. Soule, soon convinced me of the vanity of my aspirations and I was obliged to enter the Subfreshman Class. My life at Exeter was characterized by little worth noting, except perhaps a flight from Justice, who pursued me, in the shape of a policeman all over the flourishing village, for having, in company with others, committed sundry depredations on the property of various citizens. Filthy lucre, also the root of all evil, proved a great blessing in the present case, and we all got off by paying damages.

After the commencement in 1860, I was able to inform my father that I had succeeded in entering College without a Condition—quite a change from the previous year. My life in College has been very pleasant and has had no interruptions. I have studied enough to satisfy myself without being a "dig." I have chummed during the whole of my course with Fred P. Anderson of Cincinnati, occupying during Freshman year, rooms at Pasco's corner of Main and Linden Sts. Sophomore and Junior years, Stoughton 22—Senior year Hollis 25.

In my Sophomore Year I was a member of the "Institute of 1770," and was "Editor" for one Term. During the same year I also belonged to a Secret Society. At the beginning of the Second Term of Junior Year, I became a member of the "Hasty Pudding Club," and was Vice-President, first term Senior.

Upon leaving College I intend to study law and shall in all probability follow it as a profession.

Robert Todd Lincoln