



Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
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LINCOLN AND THE INDIAN CHIEFTAINS

On the morning of March 27, 1863 President Lincoln waited on a delegation of Indian chieftains from six tribes who called at the Executive Mansion. The Washington *Daily Morning Chronicle* of March 28, 1863 gave a detailed account of the meeting.

According to the *Chronicle* some of the prominent officials gathered in the East Room for the formal interview were Secretaries Seward, Chase and Welles. Other guests were Daniel S. Dickinson former United States Senator from New York, Professor Joseph Henry of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. George W. Dole, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and a large number of celebrated personages who were present to observe the unusual reception. Commissioner Dole introduced the delegation to the President.

Through an interpreter Mr. Lincoln greeted the Indian chieftains with these words: "Say to them I am very glad to see them, and if they have anything to say, it will afford me great pleasure to hear them."

Seated in a line on the floor were Cheyennes (Lean Bear, War Bonnet, and Standing Water), Kiowais (Yellow Buffalo, Lone Wolf, Yellow Wolf, White Bull, and Little Heart), Arapahoes (Spotted Wolf and Nevah) and Comanches (Pricked Forehead and Ten Bears). The Apache and Caddo tribes had one delegate each (Poor Bear and Jacob).

Upon Lincoln's invitation to speak Lean Bear a Cheyenne and Spotted Wolf an Arapaho addressed the group through an interpreter. Apparently the Indian orators expressed their wonderment of the white man's

world and asked advice as to how they might advance their own civilization.

In reply to the Indian orators Lincoln said: "You have all spoken of the strange sights you see here, among your pale-faced brethren; the very great number of people that you see; the big wigwams; the difference between our people and your own. But you have seen but a very small part of the pale-faced people. You may wonder when I tell you that there are people here in this wigwam, now looking at you, who have come from other countries a great deal farther off than you have come.

"We pale-faced people think that this world is a great, round ball, and we have people here of the pale-faced family who have come almost from the other side of it to represent their nations here and conduct their friendly intercourse with us, as you now come from your part of the round ball."

To demonstrate this geographical point a globe was brought forward and Professor Henry gave the Indians a lecture on the formation of the earth stressing land and water areas and pointing out foreign countries with whom the United States had commercial intercourse.

One observer related that it was explicitly stressed that the legs of the globe did not form part of the shape of the earth. Perhaps the most impressive statement that Henry made so far as the Indians were concerned was in relation to the distance between Washington and their own country. Placing his hands upon the globe, Lincoln made it revolve, then suddenly stopping it with his finger on Great Britain he said "We white people

Lincoln Lore No. 1421 marks the beginning of a new editorship and a different format. Published as a folder for binding, all issues will be pictorial, utilizing the vast collection of pictures and photographs now in the Foundation's collection. In many instances pictures will be inserted with adequate cut lines to illustrate graphically the *Lincoln Lore*s running from Numbers 1 to 1420. As in the past, suitable indexes will be prepared at the end of each year to facilitate easy access to subject matter.
R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor



Lincoln Receiving the Comanche Indians

all come from this little spot. It is small but we have spread amazingly since we began to wander."

Continuing his remarks he said: "We have people now present from all parts of the globe—here, and here, and here. There is a great difference between this pale-faced people and their red brethren, both as to numbers and the way in which they live. We know not whether your own situation is best for your race, but this is what has made the difference in our way of living.

"The pale-faced people are numerous and prosperous because they cultivate the earth, produce bread, and depend upon the products of the earth rather than wild game for a subsistence.

"This is the chief reason of the difference; but there is another. Although we are now engaged in a great war between one another, we are not, as a race, so much disposed to fight and kill one another as our red brethren.

"You have asked for my advice. I really am not capable of advising you whether, in the providence of the Great Spirit, who is the great Father of us all, it is best for you to maintain the habits and customs of your race, or adopt a new mode of life.

"I can only say that I can see no way in which your race is to become as numerous and prosperous as the white race except by living as they do, by the cultivation of the earth.

"It is the object of this Government to be on terms of peace with you, and with all our red brethren. We constantly endeavor to be so. We make treaties with you, and will try to observe them; and if our children should sometimes behave badly, and violate these treaties, it is against our wish.

"You know it is not always possible for any father to have his children do precisely as he wishes them to do."

From the newspaper account it is apparent that the

Don't Shoot Barney D. . . .

Lincoln employed quaint literary mannerisms and figures of speech and many of his letters contain apt phrases and droll sentences which reveal his individual style.

A good illustration of Lincoln's genius of expression is a purported order written by Lincoln to Colonel James A. Mulligan of the Twenty-third Illinois volunteers regarding a soldier named Barney D.

The Adams County Press (Wisconsin) of April 12, 1873 carried in its pages the following anecdotes which illustrates this point:

"When Colonel Mulligan's Chicago regiment lay in camp away down South, one of the privates, call him Barney D—, in a moment of passion and intoxication stabbed and terribly mangled a comrade. Barney was one of the hard characters of the command, and it was a matter of no surprise when the court-martial sentenced him for this last and gravest of his many offenses to be shot, and fixed the day of his execution. Meanwhile, to the surprise of everyone, including the surgeons, the wounded man began to recover and was soon pronounced out of danger. Public opinion took the usual turn. It was thought a pity, after all, to shoot a fine young fellow, such as Barney was in his better moments; besides, he was one of the boys, had been born like them in Chicago, grown up with them, enlisted with them, and fought with them. A movement looking to a petition for the culprit's pardon was set on foot, in which none joined more heartily than the wounded man, and the camp which, but yesterday, was for lynching Barney, now yearned to save his life. But the General commanding approved the finding of the court-martial, and only the President could interfere, and the regiment was encamped away from the telegraph lines. So that, though the necessary documents had been forwarded, backed by strong recommendations, there were grave doubts if the merciful message which Mr. Lincoln was almost certain to send would reach the camp in time. An express was sent to the nearest telegraph station, thirty miles away, to carry the message with all haste—and all waited impatiently.

"The night before the fatal day arrived. Barney was to be shot at sunrise next day. No reprieve had arrived, and reluctantly the Adjutant prepared the necessary

Indians had a transportation problem and they were concerned about being sent back to their own country.

Lincoln allayed their apprehensions by stating: "In regard to being sent back to your own country, we have an officer, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who will take charge of that matter, and made the necessary arrangements."

While Lincoln was speaking his remarks were punctuated by "ughs" and "ahas" as the interpreter conveyed the message.

Throughout the meeting the large and restless crowd formed a ring around the line of Indian delegates and there was considerable crowding in order to gain a conspicuous place. The reporter also stated that the ladies did not refrain from audible comments on the speeches. The Indians, savages though they were, were dignified and cordial in manner and listened to Lincoln's remarks with great interest.

With the conclusion of his remarks, the President stepped within the circle and each chief stepped forward and shook him by the hand, some of them enacting a salaam by spreading out their hands. Others upon shaking the President's hand uttered the salutation "how" which was typical of the Plains Indians.

Certainly this was one of the most unique receptions of the Lincoln administration rivaling in interest the visit of the Japanese delegation to the United States during the Buchanan administration. Unfortunately this meeting did not bring permanent peace to the western frontier.

This incident or perhaps another similar one was the inspiration for the publication of an engraving by Ferd. Delannoy which was published in Paris bearing the title "Lincoln Receivant Les Indiens Comanches." See *Lincoln Lore* Number 1262, June 15, 1953 "The Comanche Chiefs Visit Lincoln."

Philatelic Lincolniana



Abraham Lincoln was featured in one of a series of stamps issued by Monaco in April 1956 for the Fifth International Philatelic Exposition held in New York.

The three francs stamp (Lincoln) in diamond format was designed by Gandon and engraved by Dufresne. The portrait of Lincoln, is surrounded by vignettes depicting the cabin birthplace, the National Capitol and the White House.

Other issues of the series feature Washington, Eisenhower, Franklin Roosevelt and Prince Rainier III.

orders, detailed the firing party, arranged for the parade. The night wore on. It is safe to say that not an eye was closed in the camp, and every ear was strained for hoof-beats from the east. Past midnight, 1,2,3, o'clock. There were movements in the gray eastern

(Continued on page 3)

SCULPTURAL STUDIES OF LINCOLN BY VOLK

I. Life Mask

Editors note: Subsequent issues of *Lincoln Lore* will carry in chronological sequence illustrations and information concerning the many sculptural studies of Lincoln by Volk.

The sculptural studies of Leonard W. Volk have contributed more to an understanding of Abraham Lincoln's physical characteristics than any other medium save that of photography.

Volk began his work on a mask of Lincoln as early as March 1860, while the Illinois lawyer was in Chicago appearing as a counsel for the defense in the United States Court case *Johnson v Jones and Marsh* (Sand Bar Case).

Stephen A. Douglas, with whom Lincoln had debated in the celebrated Senatorial Campaign of 1858 was one of Volk's first prominent subjects. The sculptor spent most of the winter of 1859 in Washington working on the Douglas portrait.

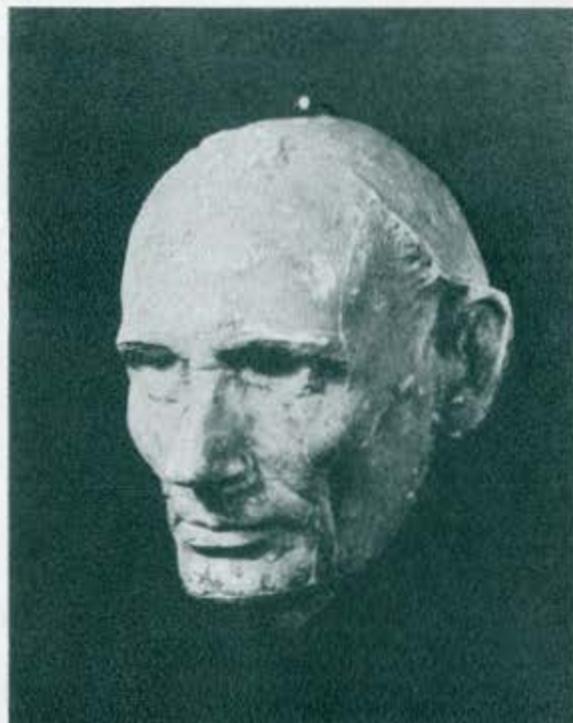
Volk's wife was a cousin of Douglas and the Senator helped to finance a trip for the sculptor who travelled to Italy for art study in 1855. Volk returned to Chicago in 1857. Upon the opening of his walk-up studio in the Portland Block on the fifth floor of the building opposite the Sherman House on Clark Street, Volk was eager to do another notable bust or statue.

Lincoln had promised to sit for Volk when the two men met in 1858 and now that Lincoln was in the local news in connection with the Sand Bar Case it seemed a most opportune time for the sculptor to remind the lawyer of his promise. Contacting Lincoln in the United States District Court-room Lincoln agreed to visit the studio.

According to the sculptor the Lincoln life mask was made on Saturday, March 31, 1860: "He sat naturally in the chair when I made the cast and saw every move I made in a mirror opposite, as I put the plaster on without interference with his eyesight or his free breathing through the nostrils. It was about an hour before the mold was ready to be removed, and being all in one piece, with both ears perfectly taken, it clung pretty hard, as the cheekbones were higher than the jaws at the lobe of the ear. He bent his head low and took hold of the mold and gradually worked it off without breaking or injury. It hurt a little, as a few hairs of the tender temples pulled out with the plaster and made the eyes water . . ."

It was "a process that was anything but agreeable" Lincoln afterwards related to Thomas D. Jones who was commissioned to make a bust of the President shortly after the election. Perhaps the most trying ordeal was breathing through the quills which were stuck through the plaster and into the nose.

The plaster mold which actually came in contact with Lincoln's face might be termed a negative. The masks which were molded from the negative plaster mold may



LIFE MASK OF LINCOLN BY VOLK

Note division lines made by foundry mold for bronze casting. The original mask is not marked with lines being all in one piece.

be designated as positives. Apparently the original plaster negative is not extant as no mention of its existence has been discovered after an exhaustive study. It is believed that "several association items" which Volk had in Chicago were destroyed in the great fire of 1871.

As the mask presents a rather stark appearance without eyes or hair many people have mistaken it for a death mask. Yet despite its death-like appearance (which is typical of all life studies) the Volk mask is a great foundation portrait for a series of heads, busts, statuettes and statues which depict Lincoln as a vigorous and statesmanlike character of the nineteenth century. See *Lincoln Lore* Number 241, November 20, 1933 "Volk's Plastic Portraits of Lincoln."

BARNEY D—(Continued)

sky; the brilliant southern stars paled; it was almost dawn.

"Suddenly a faint sound was heard, as of a shout away to the east. The excitement became electric. Men rushed from their tents, half-dressed, and gathered in anxious groups. The officers were hardly less excited, and mingled with them. Then in rapid succession were heard challenge and reply as the advancing party passed sentry after sentry, then the tramp and splash of hoofs and, at last, burst into view the long looked-for messenger, covered with mud from head to foot, wan and worn out, his horse panting and travelstained, and bruised, for they had ridden thirty miles since midnight along roads that were sluices of mud and water. The rider held his way straight to the Colonel's tent and delivered his telegram. It read thus:

'Washington, ———, 186—.

Colonel Mulligan: If you haven't shot Barney D— yet, don't.

A. Lincoln.'

"They hadn't and they didn't."

Lincoln One Hundred Years Ago
July 1856

Visited: Princeton, Chicago, Dixon, Sterling and Galena.

Political Activities: Spoke in the presidential and gubernatorial campaigns for Fremont and Bissell.

Political Issues: Extension of slavery, sectionalism and disunion.

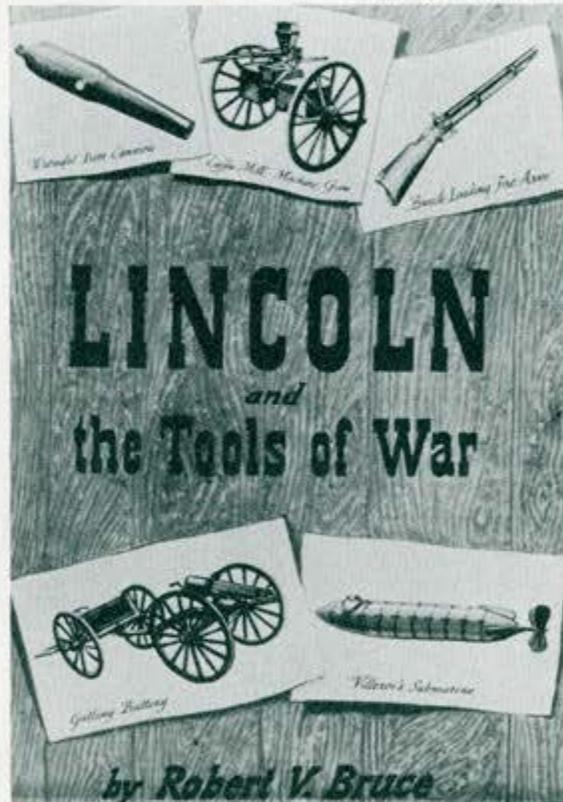
Political Wisdom: "I am superstitious, I have scarcely known a party, preceding an election, to call in help from the neighboring states, but they lost the state." Lincoln to Grimes, July 12, 1856.

Law: Went to Chicago "to attend to a little business in court."

Apt Expressions: "It turned me blind when I first heard Swett was beaten and Lovejoy nominated . . ." Lincoln to Whitney, July 9, 1856. "I should have no objection to drive a nail in his (political enemy) track" Lincoln to Grimes, July 12, 1856. "Stand by the cause, and the cause will carry you through" Lincoln to B. Clarke Landy and others. July 28, 1856.

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- KLEMENT, FRANK L.** 1956-9
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Pamphlet, paper, 7¼" x 10", 19 pp., illus.
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Abe Lincoln/Log Cabin/to White House/by Sterling North/Illustrated by Lee Ames/(Landmark Books)/Random House/New York.
Book, cloth, 6" x 8½", 184 pp., illus., price \$1.50. Landmark Book series, No. 61.
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The year was/1856/1856-1956/Rand McNally/100th Anniversary/(Caption title).
Folio, paper, 10" x 13", (3) pp., Contains 9" x 11½", photo of Lincoln taken by Hester in 1860. Also excerpts from "Life of Lincoln" by William H. Herndon, and acknowledgements by Paul M. Angle, and historical poem by Rand McNally Co.
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