



Lincoln Lore

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SCOTCH CAP AND MILITARY CLOAK A FABRICATION

A plot to assassinate president-elect Abraham Lincoln at Baltimore, Maryland, while he was enroute to Washington, D. C. to be inaugurated was definitely uncovered by secret agents on February 22, 1861. Reluctantly the president-elect consented to abandon the remainder of his scheduled itinerary. With Ward Hill Lamon he left Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on Friday evening of Washington's birthday, for Philadelphia. He traveled incognito through Baltimore by night train to Washington arriving at the capital at 6:00 a.m. the morning of the 23rd.

Such an unpretentious arrival of a president-elect in the nation's capital was described by his political opponents as "The Flight of Abraham."

Immediately the newspapers featured stories concerning the Baltimore plot and some of them published cartoons picturing Lincoln fleeing from Harrisburg wearing the garb of a Scotch cap and a long military cloak.

The chimerical garb of a Scotch cap and military cloak alleged to have been worn by Lincoln can be traced to a *New York Times* reporter named Joseph Howard, Jr. who confessed that he evolved the story from "the mysterious depths of his journalistic imagination." Howard was a prominent Republican of Brooklyn and a member of Henry Ward Beecher's church, having served that divine as private secretary.

He was a press representative aboard the Lincoln inaugural train when it left Springfield and he first heard of the Baltimore plot from a detective named Burns, whose brother, Howard recalled, was at one time the proprietor of the Pierrepont House in Brooklyn. The detective locked Howard's hotel door and held him a prisoner in his room until morning so that no releases could reach the newspapers until the following day. This same treatment was accorded all the newspaper reporters that made up the inaugural party. Burns evidently told Howard the full details of the plot thinking all the while that he could not release the story and at the same time relying on Howard's promise not

to use the information.

Being informed that Mr. Lincoln had already left by a special engine and car and that the plot had failed, Howard began to prepare a story despite the fact that he was detained and that the telegraph wires had been cut to New York. He began his dispatch: "Abraham Lincoln, president-elect of the United States is safe in the city of Washington." Then he proceeded to give all the details as they were unfolded to him by the detective.

Burns made the statement to Howard, "that no one would recognize Mr. Lincoln at sight." However, it was later revealed that traveling "incognito" consisted largely of concealing Lincoln's identity on the train. Any one who knew Lincoln would not have failed to recognize him as he traveled to Washington.

Lincoln's wearing apparel was described by different parties who were with him at some time when he made his unscheduled trip. One man remembered that he wore "an overcoat thrown loosely over his shoulders without his arms being in the sleeves, and a black Kossuth hat." Another observer recalled that he wore "a soft low-crowned hat, a muffler around his neck, and a short bob-tailed overcoat." One other witness said that Lincoln wore a "slouch hat and a cloak, the same one that he had worn from Springfield, and was fastened in front near the neck like many that were worn at that time. . . ." Lincoln informed Benson J. Lossing, the historian, that he wore "an overcoat he had brought with him from Springfield; and that garment was topped, not

by a Scotch cap, but by a soft wool hat which he found in the box holding the new beaver hat given him a few days before by a New York friend."

Howard, recalling the incident years later (*The Burlington, Vt. Free Press*, Friday, November 21, 1884) stated: "I asked myself what possible disguise could Lincoln get in Harrisburg, and, as I wrote on, I imagined him in a Scotch cap, which would be about as marked an opposite to his high silk hat as one



Lincoln at the Camden Street Station in Baltimore

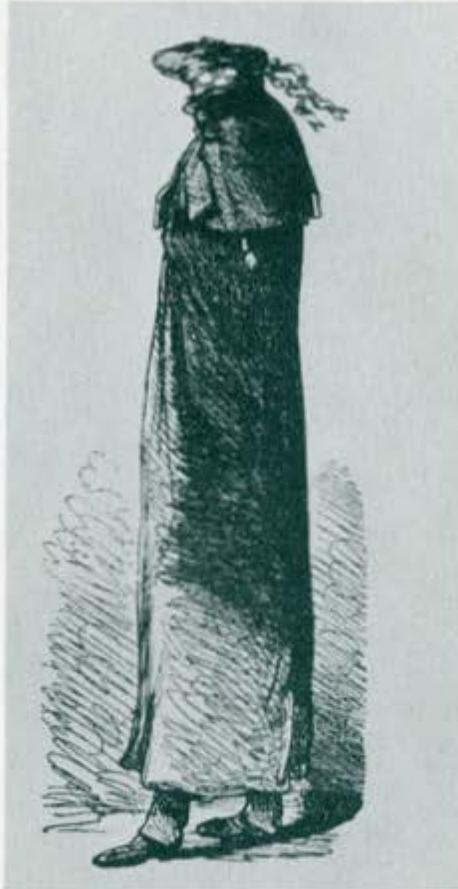
This sketch made by Thomas Nast for the *Illustrated News* was altered to conform with Howard's dispatch.

could conceive, and a military cloak, which I borrowed, in my imagination, from the shapely shoulders of Col. Sumner, who was traveling with the president-elect."

Howard sent his dispatch early the next morning and it was received by the *Times* office just as the day editor reached his desk. Upon reading the story the editor got out an extra immediately. Shortly thereafter, a thousand newsboys sold papers to startled New York citizens featuring the astounding revelation of the diabolical plot. Needless to state, the Scotch cap and military cloak immediately became fixed in people's minds as Lincoln's disguise when he traveled "incognito" through Baltimore.

Thomas Nast, a reliable pictorial news artist was a member of the presidential party after the train left New York. He was assigned to draw sketches for the *Illustrated News* and his drawing of Lincoln at the Camden Station in Baltimore was accurate. However, it was altered in the editorial rooms of the paper to conform to Howard's dispatch of the Scotch cap and military cloak.

Vanity Fair in its issue of March 9, 1861 published a cartoon entitled "The New President—A Fugitive Sketch" which chided Lincoln on his midnight journey to Washington in outlandish garb. The same issue of that magazine had a cartoon entitled "The Mac Lincoln Harrisburg Highland Fling." *Harper's Weekly* in its March 9, 1861 issue published a cartoon depicting "The Flight of



THE NEW PRESIDENT
"A Fugitive Sketch"

Vanity Fair, March 9, 1861

Abraham" and a cartoon "The Passage Through Baltimore" by Adalbert Volck was distributed privately in March 1861 as one of a series of Lincoln caricatures. Other caricatures dealing with the unfortunate incident made their appearance designed largely to embarrass Lincoln and his administration.

Apparently the Scotch cap and military cloak story caught the people's imagination so completely that Howard was never reprimanded for his "journalistic imagination." Devoid of any journalistic ethics, Howard who was later with the *Brooklyn Eagle*, embarrassed the President in 1864 when he drafted a "Bogus Proclamation" with forged signatures of Abraham Lincoln and William H. Seward which was published by the *New York World* and the *New York Journal of Commerce*. The *New York Herald* published the proclamation but after discovering that the *Times* and the *Tribune* were not publishing it, the editor had the 25,000 copies already run off, destroyed.

The so-called proclamation was dated May 17, and among other things, called for 400,000 men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years to suppress the rebellion. Further on in the proclamation the statement was made that if any state failed to furnish its quota by June 15, the same should be raised by a peremptory draft.

Immediately there was a sharp repudiation of the document and an order was signed by Lincoln calling for the arrest and imprisonment of "the editors, proprietors and publishers" of the offending papers. Their property was also ordered seized. However, after an investigation and with the arrest of Howard and Mallison, who prepared the bogus copy on manifold paper, the presidential orders were rescinded. Both men confessed. Howard wanted to manipulate the stock market and gold did move upward from five to ten percent. Howard was released from Fort Lafayette prison on August 24 through intercession of Henry Ward Beecher. Mallison remained in

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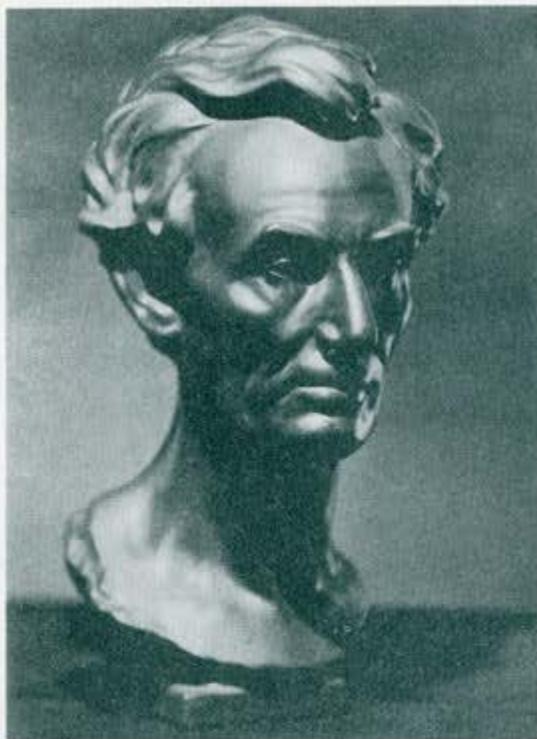


The Mac Lincoln Harrisburg
Highland Fling
Vanity Fair, March 9, 1861



The Flight of Abraham
Harper's Weekly, March 9, 1861

THE SHORT BUST OF LINCOLN BY VOLK. NO. 4



In classifying Volk's plaster portraits of Lincoln the usual chronological order has been mask, head, short bust, nude bust and full bust. However, there may be a possibility that the so-called "Hermes" nude bust came third. This belief is strengthened by the fact that Volk secured his patent on June 12, 1860 with the submission to the Patent Office of the "Hermes" bust.

The nude bust might be characterized as featuring too prominently Lincoln's shoulders and chest in its "design in round relief" because so much material was required in its manufacture. Likely the cost was prohibitive for many prospective customers, particularly if it appeared in marble or bronze. A practical solution was to cut the head and neck out of the shoulders and once it was mounted on a small base (overall dimension 17½ inches tall), it could be offered for sale at a greatly reduced price. Obviously the idea was sound because the short bust is the most popular of all of Volk's works and many replicas have been manufactured for sale. Some of the replicas are mounted on a small pedestal base about 4 inches tall.

In 1953 at the Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc., New York, N. Y., an original plaster model of the Volk short bust was sold at auction for \$420. This bust was the property of Mrs. Wendell Douglas Volk. Written in ink on the bust is the following inscription: "Original cast of bust of A. Lincoln from life sittings by Leonard W. Volk, Chicago, Apl. 1860." This bust is mounted on the four inch pedestal making it 21½ inches tall.

The inscription on the manufactured short bust follows: "Abraham Lincoln, Modeled From Life by Leonard W. Volk, Chicago 1860. Replica." The Foundation collection has the short bust in both plaster and bronze.

A good story is in circulation that before the commencement of the recent military movement which resulted in the capture of Richmond, Mr. Lincoln, then at City Point, sent by the hands of "a reliable contraband," as a present to Jefferson Davis, the identical long cloak and Scotch cap in which, in 1861, Mr. Lincoln travelled from Harrisburg to Washington. The present has evidently been appreciated.

The Saint Paul Press
April 16, 1865

LINCOLN ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 1856

Visited: Alton, Trenton, Pekin, Ottawa, Joliet, Peoria, Clinton, Belleville, Urbana, West Urbana (Champaign), Atlanta, and Pittsfield.

Political Issues: Discussed constitutionality of congressional legislation upon the subject of slavery in the territories. Appealed for votes for Fremont and Dayton, Bissell and Wood, and the whole Anti-Nebraska ticket.

Law: Made and filed an affidavit (case of Gray v. French) concerning the paternity of a child.

Apt Expressions: "I am here at court, and find myself so 'hobbled' with a particular case, that I can not leave. . . ." Lincoln to Jonas, October 21, 1856. "I was forced off to Pike County, where I spoke yesterday. . . ." Lincoln to Ruggles, October 28, 1856.

GETTYSBURG, NOVEMBER 19, 1863

A letter written by David Wills, president of the Gettysburg Cemetery Commission, to Governor A. G. Curtin of Pennsylvania, dated October 6, 1863, reveals that Edward Everett definitely set the date for the dedication of the Soldiers' Burial Ground at Gettysburg.

Wills' letter indicates that Everett had two good reasons for fixing the date of November 19, rather than October 23 (22) as decided upon by the Cemetery Commission. First, his commitments for October were so extensive that he did not have ample time to make adequate preparation. Secondly, he desired to give his oration over the graves of the dead soldiers, rather than over a place designated for their interment.

Wills made no mention to Governor Curtin of the possibility of inviting President Lincoln to be present to give a dedicatory address. While Everett's letter of invitation bore the date of September 23, Lincoln's invitation to Gettysburg dated November 2 was an afterthought.

The Wills-Curtin letter is as follows:

"Gettysburg, Oct. 6, 1863

"To His Excellency, A. G. Curtin, Gov. of Penna.:

"Sir—I have been in communication with the Governors of the States interested in the Soldiers' Burial Ground at this place, about the arrangements for the consecration of these grounds.

"They have all most cordially united in the selection of Hon. Edward Everett to deliver the oration on that solemn occasion, and in accordance with the unanimous wishes of the chief Executives of the several States, I addressed a letter of invitation to Mr. Everett to deliver the address at the consecration of these grounds on the 22d of this month. He replied that his engagements were such, that he could not possibly make such preparation as would enable him to do justice to the interesting and important occasion, and meet the expectations of the multitude that will be assembled. But if the day could be postponed to Thursday, the 19th of November, he would cheerfully undertake the honorable duty.

"The proposition to postpone the time has been acceded to, and therefore this burial ground will be consecrated and set apart to its sacred and holy purposes, with appropriate ceremonies, on Thursday, the 19th day of November, 1863.

"Mr. Everett suggests that the ceremonies would be rendered more interesting if deferred till after the removal of the soldiers. All references to their self-sacrificing bravery in the cause of their country would be far more effective if uttered over their remains, than if only pronounced on a spot to which they are hereafter to be removed.

"The removal of the dead will be commenced about the 26th of this month, and a large portion of the bodies will be interred in the Cemetery before the 19th of November.

"Mr. William Saunders, the rural architect, in the employ of the Agricultural Department, at Washington, is here now, designing and plotting of the grounds, preparatory to the removal of the dead.

"I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,
David Wills."

SCOTCH CAP AND MILITARY CLOAK

(Continued from page 2)



The Passage Through Baltimore

Adalbert Volck, a resident of Baltimore, published a portfolio of copper engravings during the war bearing a false London imprint and the signature of V. Blada (his own given name reversed) to avoid detection and to prevent the confiscation of his engravings.

prison about a year.

Once the offending newspapers resumed operation, they were quick to condemn the Lincoln administration for its suppression of the freedom of the press and the knotty question of state and federal rights were involved. President Lincoln bore the brunt of the attack and his opponents made the most of the situation for political purposes.

Manton Marble, editor of the *World*, writing at white heat excoriated Lincoln: "It is you that in the transaction stand accused before the people. It is you who are conspicuously guilty. It is upon you that history, when recording these events, will affix the crime of a disregard of your duty. . . . The people are soon to pass upon your claims to re-election and the right of impeachment yet remains to their representatives."

See *Lincoln Lore* number 886, April 1, 1946, "A Scotch Cap and Military Coat."

A. LINCOLN v. TIMOTHY D. LINCOLN

Two lawyers named Lincoln, one representing the plaintiffs and one the defendant, were active in the famous "Effie Afton" Bridge Case (Hurd et al v. Railroad Bridge Company) which was tried in Chicago before Judge John McLean in the U. S. Circuit Court in September 1857.

The plaintiffs' attorneys were Timothy D. Lincoln, H. M. Wead and Corydon Beckwith. Representing the defendant were Abraham Lincoln, N. B. Judd and Joseph Knox.

The case commenced on September 8, and a hung jury standing nine to three was dismissed on September 24. Throughout the case T. D. Lincoln actively represented his clients taking part the first day in answering Judd, and later in the presentation of depositions and in arguing the admissibility of evidence offered by the defendant. In the closing arguments T. D. Lincoln spoke for the plaintiffs the last two days of the trial—a speech lasting more than seven hours which was declared to be "able, elaborate, and ingenious."

Abraham Lincoln gave considerable attention to the interests of the defendant, making a trip to Rock Island, Illinois, as well as numerous trips to Chicago, in which the right of a railroad to bridge a navigable stream

was involved. The passage of time and the approaching Civil War were factors which, in reality, gave a practical decision in favor of the defendant—navigable streams could legally be bridged for railway transportation. This contention was finally upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States.



TIMOTHY D. LINCOLN

Timothy Danielson Lincoln of Cincinnati, Ohio (born May 11, 1815) was an admiralty lawyer with a notable reputation in 1857. He was the son of Dr. Asa Lincoln of Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, who was an eminent member of the medical profession, a member of the Governor's Council and was elected several times to the State Senate. His mother's name was Sarah Danielson, whose father was a judge during the "Shay Rebellion" and was a general in the army.

Leaving Brimfield, Massachusetts he expected to settle in St. Louis, Missouri, where he had a few friends, but enroute he stopped in Cincinnati and was greatly attracted by the beauty of the surrounding country. He continued his journey to St. Louis, but the subject of slavery in Missouri weighed so heavily upon his mind that he returned to Cincinnati to practice law.

He entered the law office of a Mr. Charles Fox, where he remained until October, 1842. That year he was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court, then sitting at Zanesville. The law firm Fox & Lincoln was dissolved in 1846 and Lincoln continued to practice alone until September 1864 when the firm of Lincoln, Smith, Warnock & Stephens was formed.

In 1845 Lincoln married Miss Mary Seymour Clark, a daughter of Major Nathan Clark, of the United States Army. They had eleven children.

Lincoln often represented clients before the Supreme Court of the United States, or in the Court of Claims at Washington, D. C. In addition to the Rock Island Bridge suit, he took part in many similar suits against bridge companies spanning western rivers.

Mr. Lincoln did not take an active role in the Civil War, but he did sustain the government and on the last call for troops in Ohio he sent three substitutes into the army, at a cost of six hundred dollars. One substitute was for himself, one for his son, John Ledyard Lincoln, then three years old, and one for a son just born.

A search through genealogical records indicates that Timothy D. Lincoln (died April 1, 1890) was evidently not a descendant of Samuel Lincoln of Hingham, Massachusetts, the first American progenitor of the Sixteenth President.