



# Lincoln Lore

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## A Convivial Card Game

When Zimri A. Enos prepared an article which would appear posthumously in the Transactions of *The Illinois State Historical Society* for the year 1909 entitled "Description of Springfield" (pages 190 to 208), he or the editor inserted as an illustration for the paper a photograph of four rather remarkable young men playing cards. Aside from a cutline, no mention is made of James H. Matheny, Samuel Baker and Gibson W. Harris, with only occasional reference to himself (Zimri A. Enos) in the body of the article. Other than the fact that Enos was the author of the article, the photograph is not exactly appropriate as an illustration for the topic.

However, the photograph is of unusual interest to the Lincoln student as all four of the young men were in different ways, directly or indirectly, associated with Abraham Lincoln. Because of the human interest appeal of the photograph, short biographical sketches of the four card players have been compiled.

### James H. Matheny

James Harvey Matheny was Lincoln's best man when

he married Mary Todd on November 4, 1842. According to William H. Herndon, "One morning in November (4th), Lincoln hastening to the room of his friend James H. Matheny before the latter had risen from bed, informed that he was to be married that night, and requested him to attend as best man." Matheny would recall later that "Lincoln's (marriage) was the first one ever performed (in Springfield) with all the requirements of the Episcopal ceremony." Lincoln's best man also related that when Lincoln repeated the words "with this ring I thee endow with all my goods and chattels, lands and tenements," Judge Thomas C. Browne would exclaim "God Almighty! Lincoln, the statutes fixes all that!"

James H. Matheny, son of Charles R. Matheny was born October 30, 1818 in Saint Clair County, Illinois. During his youth in Springfield he served as clerk in various local offices. That he was an interesting and exuberant young man is attested by the following account in John Carroll Power's book *History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois, (1876)*: "In 1840 ten young



From the Transactions of The Illinois State Historical Society For The Year 1909, Publication No. 14 (opposite page 190)

Reading from left to right - James H. Matheny, Samuel Baker, Gibson W. Harris, Zimri A. Enos. (Photograph taken sometime between 1845 - 1847). It might be of interest to suggest that Gibson Harris' room-mate, N. H. Shephard, may have taken this posed photograph.

men, who had been brought up in the vicinity of Springfield, and had not seen much of the world, or heard a great man speak, learned that Henry Clay was to make a speech at Nashville, Tenn., at a certain time. They fitted up an old prairie stage, put on a cover, provided themselves with tents and provisions, and in August, 1840, Benjamin A. Watson, Henry Oswald, Daniel Woodworth, Edna Moore, Stanislaus P. Lalumere, John H. Craighead, Oliver P. Bowen, Benoni Bennett, Moreau Phillips and James H. Matheny started in their wagon, drawn by four horses, and driven by Phillips. They camped out at night, did their own cooking, and sung the stirring campaign songs of that year in passing through every town and village. In some places they were applauded, at others jeered, and occasionally they were pelted with stale eggs, but they sang through it all, were on time to hear Clay's speech, and were invited on the platform. They sang some of their spirited songs, creating quite a furore, saw a crowd of forty thousand men, ten times as many as they had ever seen before, and returned home as they went, having been out five weeks, and traveled about one thousand miles. They felt well paid for their time, labor and expense."

In 1841 Matheny became a deputy in the circuit clerk's office. On February 11, 1845, he married Maria L. Lee, who was born in 1827 in Carrollton, Illinois. Miss Lee was a step-daughter of the brilliant soldier, orator and statesman, Colonel Edward D. Baker who met his death at Ball's Bluff early in the Civil War. The Mathenys had seven children (1876) all born in Springfield.

Matheny was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1847 and was elected Circuit Clerk in 1852. At the end of his term he began the practice of law. With the election of Lincoln to the Presidency, Matheny, Dr. Gershom Jayne and a party of Springfield men went to Washington, D.C. to attend the inauguration on March 4, 1861.

During the Civil War (1862) he was commissioned a lieutenant colonel of the 114th Illinois Volunteers (Power's history states that Matheny was lieutenant colonel of the 130th Illinois Infantry) and after the siege of Vicksburg he served as Judge Advocate until July, 1864. When his regiment was consolidated with another he resigned. He returned to the legal profession (In 1860 he was associated with George W. Shutt) and became the senior member of the firm Matheny, McGuire & Matheny, but in 1873 was elected county judge of Sangamon County, a position which he held by repeated reelection until his death on September 7, 1890, having resided in Springfield for sixty-eight years.

#### Samuel Baker

Samuel Baker was a younger brother of Colonel Edward Dickinson Baker who was born in London, England, on February 24, 1811. The family was English and while his two older brothers, Alfred and Edward, were born in England, he along with Rebecca (she married Theodore Jerome, lived at Sausalito, California, where she died at the age of seventy-three) and Thomas were born in the United States.

The Bakers first settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but moved westward to New Harmony, Indiana, then on to Belleville and Carrollton, Illinois, and finally in 1835 Edward D. Baker moved to Springfield where he was destined to become a lifelong friend and political ally of Abraham Lincoln. Of course, he would move many times more in the pursuit of an exciting and brilliant career. The older brother whose life is a matter of historical record served as Congressman, Senator and soldier, losing his life at the Battle of Ball's Bluff on October 21, 1861.

In 1845 E. D. Baker lost his brother Thomas who, while living in Carrollton, had been thrown from his horse and was dragged to death. In 1849 Baker received word on May 15 that his brother Samuel had died of cholera in Pekin, Illinois. This was the same disease that had brought about his father's death in Carrollton in 1833. Baker left immediately to attend his younger brother's funeral.

Baker's friendship with Lincoln continued to grow through the years and on March 10, 1846 the Lincolns named their second son, Edward Baker. On February 1, 1850 Baker's namesake died. One would suppose that Samuel Baker was acquainted with Lincoln, or at least that Lincoln knew him as "Ned" Baker's younger brother.

E. D. Baker, undoubtedly, had a high regard for his

brother because he named his youngest son, Samuel. This child died in Springfield on March 9, 1852.

Perhaps Samuel Baker was invited to join the card game in Springfield by James H. Matheny, who had married or would marry Maria L. Lee, a step-daughter of Colonel Baker. Unfortunately, the young man died before he had an opportunity, like his older brothers, (Dr. Alfred C. Baker practiced medicine in Barry, Illinois) to make his mark in the world. It is mere conjecture to surmise that he likely would have enjoyed a successful career if he had lived.

#### Gibson W. Harris

Gibson William Harris was the first law student to study under the supervision of Lincoln & Herndon from 1845 to 1847. Perhaps it was the chance meeting of Lincoln and Harris in Albion, Edwards County, Illinois on October 20, 1840 that led to this association. According to Harris, Lincoln found time while in Albion to visit the old log schoolhouse of the village, interview the teacher, borrow a copy of Byron's poems, and admonish the students to take advantage of their opportunities because anyone might become President of the United States. Young Harris, one of the pupils, was so impressed by the genial smile of the Whig politician that he asked and obtained permission to take half a day off to attend the great political debate between Lincoln and Democrat Isaac P. Walker, that was to be held in the courthouse.

Harris also recalled that "in September, 1845, through the kindness of our then State Senator, Mr. Charles Constable, it was arranged I should enter the law office of Lincoln & Herndon, at Springfield, as student and clerk." John J. Duff in his book *A. Lincoln Prairie Lawyer* in a chapter entitled "Lincoln's Law Clerks" in writing of Harris stated, "he arrived in Springfield after a three-day journey by stage from Albion." The author continued: "Harris went directly to the Lincoln & Herndon office, where he met Herndon (but did not reveal his identity) who told him that the senior partner was out on the circuit at the time but was expected back in Springfield in a few days. Returning several days later, Harris met Lincoln, who rose from his chair and gave him a 'cordial handshake'. 'You are the young man Mr. Constable spoke to me about?' he asked, whereupon he proceeded to introduce him to Herndon. Then motioning toward the office bookcase, Lincoln remarked: 'You will need what that contains. Make yourself at home.'"

While staying in a local hotel, Harris met N. H. Shephard, a daguerreotypist from Syracuse, New York, who was about to open a gallery in Springfield. Becoming good friends, the two young men secured permanent lodging at a boarding house where Harris remained during his entire stay in Springfield. In the latter part of 1848 Shephard wrote Harris at Albion informing him that he was about to start for California. Shephard never wrote Harris again who always believed that "he was lost on the overland trail." This photographer is of interest because he is believed to have taken the earliest known photograph of Abraham Lincoln. Harris was emphatic that the first photograph of Lincoln was taken in 1846.

While residing in Springfield, Harris was a frequent visitor at the Lincoln home; and on two different occasions, when the senior law partner was unable to accompany his wife, Harris became Mrs. Lincoln's escort to social gatherings where he danced with her. Harris found Mrs. Lincoln to be pleasant-mannered, bright, witty, accomplished "and fond of fun and frolic, but very staid and proper when it was in order to be so."

Harris felt that Lincoln took a kindly interest in him personally, but he said, "simultaneously the less pleasing fact dawned upon me that Mr. Lincoln was not an assiduous instructor in the technics of law (which, indeed, were always more or less irksome to him, his mind dwelling rather on its principles), and reluctantly I began to turn to Mr. Herndon for such explanations as I needed, or, as opportunity offered, discussed what to me were knotty points with various younger members of the local bar. But, while these developments could not but be a damper to the ardent youth unsatisfied until he could enter Mr. Lincoln's office, I never thought of admiring him less."

In 1846, when Lincoln became a candidate for Congress, young Harris took upon himself the task of writing a personal letter to every man of local prominence in the district in the interest of Lincoln's candidacy. After

spending two years in the Lincoln & Herndon office, Harris returned to Albion in April 1847 due to his father's illness, only to have Herndon write his father to induce him to return and resume his duties. Harris' father died in December 1847.

Becoming engaged in manufacturing, Harris moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, accompanied by his wife (it is assumed that he married in Albion). The Cincinnati city directories from 1856 to 1885 indicate that Harris was a mattress and bedding manufacturer who had a factory located at 130 Sycamore Street and 189th W. Fifth Street. The directories also indicate that he lived at 416 Hopkins Street, 226 Popular Street and at Winton Place.

On September 17-18, 1859 Lincoln was in Cincinnati to answer an impassioned "Squatter Sovereignty" address of Senator Stephen A. Douglas. He was accompanied by his wife and son, Tad. They stayed at the Burnet House. At 8:00 p.m. on Saturday the 17th Lincoln spoke from "the balcony over Kinsey's jewelry store, on the north side of what was then the Fifth Street Market Place, but is now the open space adjoining the beautiful Fountain and Esplanade." Once the speech was concluded, Harris elbowed his way to the Lincoln carriage where he was cordially greeted. Lincoln said, "Gibson, get in; Mary is with me. She is at the hotel, and you must come down to see her." As it was eleven o'clock Harris declined the invitation but agreed to call on the Lincolns the next morning.

When Harris called at the Burnet House on Sunday forenoon, he was warmly welcomed by Mrs. Lincoln and was cordially scolded for not having brought Mrs. Harris. Mrs. Lincoln said, "I will be here this afternoon" and "you must be sure to bring her then." That afternoon the two ladies met for their first and only time.

On February 12, 1861 when the President-elect and Mrs. Lincoln were in Cincinnati en route to Washington, D.C., Harris went to the Burnet House for another visit. There he met Lincoln, Mrs. Lincoln, Willie and Tad. Bob was not there as he was being entertained by some young men of the city. Mrs. Lincoln was cordial and the visit lasted nearly an hour.

Before Harris left, Lincoln inquired if he was satisfied with what he was doing, evidently thinking of a government position to which Harris might be appointed. Harris answered, "Yes." It has been suggested that Lincoln was thinking of the Collectorship of the Port of Cincinnati. If Harris had not been satisfied with his manufacturing business, no doubt the office would have been available to him. During periods of a business depression, Harris sometimes wished that he had answered Lincoln differently, but with the upswing of business and the receipt of government contracts, Harris entertained no more regrets.

In later years Harris cherished the memory of his early association with the martyred President, and one of his prized mementoes was a copy of the President's favorite poem, "O Why Should the Spirit of Mortal be Proud." Harris wrote "Many a time at the office did he recite this (O Why Should The Spirit of Mortal be Proud) poem in whole or in part; for a while I actually thought he had written it, so nearly did it resemble, in tone and meter, one of the several compositions of his own that I had found in the office desk. One day I asked him for a copy of it. 'All right,' he said, 'get pen, paper and ink, and you can take it down as I repeat it.' I still have the copy, fourteen stanzas, thus made."

Harris, in recalling his tenure as a law student in Springfield, wrote an article entitled, "My Recollections of Abraham Lincoln," which appeared in the November, December, 1903 and January, February, 1904 issues of *Woman's Home Companion*.

In his declining years, Harris moved to Florida to his beautiful home at Holly Hill, where he died on December 6, 1911.

#### Zimri A. Enos

Zimri Allen Enos must have felt a close relationship to Abraham Lincoln in that he served two terms of two years each as county surveyor of Sangamon County. Lincoln it will be recalled was a deputy surveyor (under T. M. Neale) of Sangamon County. Years later Enos would make the following statement about his famous contemporary: "Many persons seem to treat doubtfully or lightly the statement that Mr. Lincoln was a Surveyor; but those old Surveys, such as Mr. Ledlie and others who knew him personally and have consulted with him

on the subject of surveying, or having had occasion to retrace any of his work, will bear witness that he was a good practical land surveyor."

Enos was the son of Pascal Paoli Enos and he was born on September 29, 1821, in St. Louis, Missouri. He moved with his family to Springfield about 1823. On June 10, 1846 he married Agnes D. Trotter, who was born in New York City on February 15, 1825. They had six children (1876) born in Springfield. After serving as a county surveyor, Enos was elected to three terms as Alderman of Springfield.

*Lincoln Day By Day - A Chronology* contains numerous references to Enos. The May 6, 1844 entry indicates that he was a delegate from Sangamon County in Tremont, Illinois, where seventh congressional district Whigs convened to nominate E. D. Baker for Congress. On March 2, 1846 Enos was appointed a delegate to the congressional convention and instructed to vote for Lincoln. On June 22, 1855 Enos, then the Sangamon County surveyor, completed a survey of the thirty-six acre tract near northwest Springfield which Lincoln was handling for Mrs. Maria L. Bullock of Lexington, Kentucky, who was Mrs. Lincoln's aunt. On July 27, 1855 Enos at Lincoln's request completed the survey of additional tracts of Mrs. Bullock's land. On March 14, 1857 Lincoln concurred in a legal opinion which was written by Stephen T. Logan at the request of Zimri A. Enos. The opinion concerned the compensation received by the county surveyor.

As a well-known professional surveyor of his day, Enos was called upon to give a paper on "The Early Surveyors and Surveying in Illinois" before the Illinois Society of Engineers meeting in Springfield on January 29, 1891. His paper appeared in pamphlet form (M. 1082) with a facsimile of a plot of survey by Lincoln dated May 10, 1836, and a facsimile of Mr. Lincoln's opinion on "Congressional regulation of surveying" dated January 6, 1859. Enos died December 8, 1907.

#### James Pollock

##### Lincoln's Director of the Mint

When Abraham Lincoln served his one term in Congress (1847-1849), he resided (sometimes with and sometimes without his family) at Mrs. Benjamin Sprigg's boarding house in Carroll Row, two squares east of the Capitol building. (See *Lincoln Lore* No. 1524, February, 1965).

It was customary at that time for Congressmen to board in small clubs or messes, somewhat on the order of students in college towns. Lincoln's messmates were Pennsylvania representatives John Blanchard, John Dickey, A. R. McIlvaine, John Strohm and James Pollock. Three other congressmen at Mrs. Sprigg's were Elisha Embree of Indiana, P. W. Tompkins of Mississippi and Joshua R. Giddings of Ohio. All nine of the congressmen were members of the Whig party.

Of this group one had achieved distinction. Giddings was "for twenty years (1838-1859) the most distinguished anti-slavery leader of the House." In 1861 as President, Lincoln appointed Giddings consul general to Canada, an office he held until his death.

Pollock was destined to achieve distinction. He was elected Governor of Pennsylvania in 1854 as a Union-Republican and brought about many reforms in legislation, reduced the state debt and eliminated state taxation. On the expiration of his term in office, he resumed his law practice.

In 1861 President Lincoln appointed Pollock director of the United States Mint in Philadelphia, which position he held until October, 1866. By his efforts, and with the approval of Salmon P. Chase, then Secretary of the Treasury, the motto "In God we trust" was placed on all the national coins large enough to contain it, which practice continues today.

In 1869 Pollock was reappointed director of the mint, which position he filled for many years. Born in 1810, he died in 1890.

The United States Mint at Philadelphia has struck eighteen medallions of the directors of the mint from David Rittenhouse to Eva Adams. The Pollock bronze medallion, 3 inches in diameter, sells for three dollars. The obverse contains the following wording: The Hon. James Pollock, LL.D. The reverse: "Governor/of/Pennsylvania/1855 to 1858/Director/of U. S. Mint 1861/Reassigned 1866/Reappointed/1869.

(See Medallion on Page 4)

## CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1969-1970

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Dr. Kenneth A. Bernard, Boston University, 725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.; Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Rd., Garden City N. Y.; Carl Haverlin, 8619 Louise Avenue, Northridge, California; James T. Hickey, Illinois State Historical Library, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois; E. B. (Pete) Long, 607 S. 15th St., Laramie, Wyoming; Ralph G. Newman, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Illinois; Hon. Fred Schwengel, 404 Union Arcade Bldg., Davenport, Iowa; Dr. Wayne C. Temple, 821½ S. 5th St., Springfield, Illinois. New items available for consideration may be sent to the above persons, or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

## 1969

**BAUER, CHARLES J.** 1969-40

Nancy Lincoln's Boy (Caption title) [Copyright 1969 by Charles J. Bauer, privately printed.]  
Double folder, 8½" x 5½", 5 pp., illus.

## 1970

**ATKINS, CLARK** 1970-4

The Guide to Lincoln Trail/follow the life and footsteps of Abraham Lincoln/from Hodgenville, Kentucky thru Indiana to Springfield, Illinois/Souvenir/Edition/(Device) . . . published by News Publications, P.O. Box 1388, Springfield, Illinois . . . Clark Atkins Publisher/Robert T. Rees Advertising . . . [Copyright 1970 by News Publications.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10" x 6¾", 79 pp., illus., price, \$1.50.

**BABER, ADIN** 1970-5

Adin Baber/Sarah and Abe/in Indiana/Moore Publishing Company/Durham, North Carolina [Copyright 1970 by Moore Publishing Company]. (Juvenile)

Book, cloth, 8¾" x 5¾", 240 pp., illus., price, \$5.95.

**FEHRENBACHER, DON EDWARD** 1970-6

The Leadership of/Abraham Lincoln/Don E. Fehrenbacher/Professor of History/Stanford University/John Wiley & Sons, Inc./New York London Sydney Toronto [Copyright 1970, by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.]

Book, cloth, 8¾" x 5¾", 194 pp., includes bibliographical references, price, \$6.95.

**HOSTICK, KING V.** 1970-7

Original Letters/and/Documents Pertaining/to/Abraham Lincoln/offered by/King V. Hostick/901 South College Springfield, Illinois 62704 (217) 544-8283 [Cover title.]

Pamphlet, paper, 11" x 8½", 7 pp. (Catalogue of 71 items of Lincolniana for sale, with prices listed.)

**ILLINOIS (DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION)** 1970-8

Old/State/Capitol/1839-1876/(Cut of Capitol, Lincoln, Douglas and Grant)/ [Cover title]

Triple folder, 9" x 4" folded, contains text, illustrations, and floor plan.

**JONES, EDGAR DE WITT** 1970-9

Lincoln/And the Preachers/by/Edgar DeWitt Jones/with an introduction by/William H. Townsend/Biography Index Reprint Series/Books for Libraries Press (Device)/Freeport, New York [Copyright 1948 by Harper & Brothers, reprinted 1970 by arrangement with Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc.]

Book, cloth, 9" x 5¾", Fr., xviii p., 203 pp., price, \$11.00.

**LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY** 1970-10

Lincoln Memorial University Press (Device)/Spring, 1970/Vol. 72, No. 1/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to historical research in the field of Lincolniana and/the Civil War, and to the promotion/of Lincoln Ideals in American/Education. [Harrogate, Tennessee]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10½" x 7¾", 38 pp., illus., price per single issue, \$1.50.

**LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY** 1970-11

Lincoln Memorial University Press (Device)/Summer, 1970/Vol. 72, No. 2/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to historical research in the field of Lincolniana and/the Civil War, and to the promotion/of Lincoln Ideals in American/Education. [Harrogate, Tennessee]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10½" x 7¾", 41-83 pp., price per single issue, \$1.50.

**NEWMAN, RALPH G.** 1970-12

The Life of Lincoln/Abraham Lincoln/An Autobiographical Narrative/written and edited by/Ralph Geof-

frey Newman/illustrated with twenty-four original drawings by/Lloyd Ostendorf/(Device)/Chicago, Illinois/The Lincoln Mint/Division of Ero Industries, Inc./1970 [Copyright 1970 by Ralph Geoffrey Newman]

Brochure, stiff boards, 10½" x 7¾", 77 pp., illus. (This book published to accompany 24 thirty-nine millimeter medals dedicated to life of Lincoln.) Limited edition (600).

**NOYES, EDWARD** 1970-13

Wisconsin's Reaction to the/Assassination of Abraham Lincoln/By Edward Noyes/Oshkosh, Wisconsin/(picture)/Address at Annual Meeting/Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin/Madison/1969/Historical Bulletin No. 25/1970. [Cover title]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10" x 7½", 18 pp.

**PLOWDEN, DAVID** 1970-14

Lincoln/and his/America/1809-1865/With the words of/Abraham Lincoln/Arranged by/David Plowden/and the Editors of The Viking Press/Foreword by/John Gunther/A Studio Book The Viking Press New York [Copyright 1970 by The Viking Press, Inc.]

Book, cloth, 11¾" x 11¾", 352 pp., illus., includes bibliography, price, \$22.50.

**U. S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR** 1970-15

Abraham Lincoln/Birthplace/National Historic Site Kentucky (Cover title). [U. S. Government Printing Office: Reprint 1970 for National Park Service]

Single sheet, folded twice, with printed text, illustrations and map of Lincoln Birthplace near Hodgenville, Ky.

**WRIGHT, KENNETH** 1970-16

(Portrait of Mary Todd Lincoln)/Wing of Expectation [Cover title] (Music and Story by Kenneth Wright) [Program for Premiere of the Opera "Wing of Expectation" presented at Ford's Theatre on May 14 and 15, 1970, for the benefit of the Peterson House, 516 Tenth Street N.W. where President Lincoln died at 7:22 a.m. April 15, 1865. Printed by Kaufmann Graphics, Inc., Washington, D. C.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 18¾" x 8¾", (8) pp., illus.

**LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE FOUNDATION** 1970-17

(Picture)/The Lincoln Library/and Museum/The Lincoln National Life Foundation, Incorporated [Cover title]

Pamphlet, paper, 3½" x 6¼", (14) pp., illus. (Form No. 10045-70. Printed for The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.)

James Pollock

Lincoln's Director of the Mint

(Continued from Page 3)

