



Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
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CHECK LIST OF ORIGINAL LINCOLN PHOTOGRAPHS Meserve Classification 109-130, A & B

In 1911 Frederick Hill Meserve privately published a book entitled *The Photographs of Abraham Lincoln* in an edition of 102 signed copies of which two were for copyright purposes. This remarkable publication contained 100 original photographs of Abraham Lincoln, along with miscellaneous pictures of the Lincoln family, government officials and places associated with the Sixteenth President.

The photographs were arranged in their approximate chronological order with pertinent data regarding the photographer, place and date. The numerals associated with this orderly arrangement (age 37, no. 1 to age 56, no. 100) of photographs, have become the standard of identification wherever Lincoln portraits are studied or classified.

With the discovery of eight additional Lincoln photographs (101-108), Mr. Meserve published in 1917 his *Supplement Number One*, and only about forty copies were distributed to subscribers or owners of the book. The names of the ninety-three subscribers were printed in the 1911 publication, and the names of the remaining seven subscribers appeared in *Supplement Number One*.

Lincoln Lore number 452 entitled "Meserve Collection of Original Lincoln Pictures—Key Lincoln Lore

24(6)5" dated December 6, 1937, published with Meserve's permission, the entire collection of 108 Lincoln photographs on a single sheet in miniature size. This served as a key to the "Check List of 100 Original Lincoln Portraits" which is the title of *Lincoln Lore*, number 245, dated December 18, 1933.

On January 24, 1938, *Lincoln Lore* again featured a checklist entitled "Key to Meserve Collection of Original Lincoln Photographs." This issue of the bulletin compiled the data on 108 photographs, whereas the earlier issue of *Lincoln Lore* treated only 100 photographs.

In 1938 Meserve published his *Supplement Number Two* (109-116). The publication of this brochure created a demand for *Supplement Number One*. However, the unused sheets printed in 1917 could not be found, and a new printing of number one was made in 1938.

Supplement Number Three (117-124) was printed in 1950, and while the supplements were provided for the original owners of the book, they enjoyed a wider circulation as they were acquired by students and collectors who were not original subscribers.

Supplement Number Four was published in 1955 and contains eight additional photographs (125 to 130, A & B), making a total of 132 subjects in the Meserve collection.



109



110



111



112



113



114



115



116



117



118



119



120

In order that *Lincoln Lore* may be brought up to date, Mr. Meserve has granted the editor permission to publish numbers 109 to 130, A & B, using his classification and data.

To the casual observer, some of these 24 portraits may appear to be the same as those first published in Meserve's book of 1911, but they were made from different negatives even though some of them were made at the same sitting.

The two additional photographs, designated as A & B, which are included in the fourth supplement but are without numbers, could conceivably be those of Abraham Lincoln. They were included by the compiler "in the hope that information concerning their history and identification may be forthcoming."

SUPPLEMENT NUMBER TWO

No.	Photographer	Place	Date
109	William Church	Springfield, Ill.	May 24, 1860
110	Unknown	Springfield, Ill.	1860
111	Unknown	Springfield, Ill.	1860
112	William Seavy	Springfield, Ill.	1860
113	Unknown	Springfield, Ill.	1860
114	Alexander Gardner	Washington, D.C.	Aug. 9, 1863
115	Mathew B. Brady	Washington, D.C.	1863 or 1864
116	Mathew B. Brady	Washington, D.C.	April 26, 1864

SUPPLEMENT NUMBER THREE

117	Unknown	Unknown	1858 (?)
*118	Mathew B. Brady	Washington, D.C.	Feb. 23, 1861
119	Mathew B. Brady	(Washington, D.C.)	Feb. 9, 1864
120	Unknown	Unknown	1860
121	Mathew B. Brady	(Washington, D.C.)	1864
122	E. A. Barnwell	Decatur, Ill.	May 9, 1860
*123	Mathew B. Brady	Antietam, Md.	Oct. 2, 1862
124	Unknown	Springfield, Ill.	1860

SUPPLEMENT NUMBER FOUR

125	(Government photographer)	Washington, D.C.	April 29, 1861
126	Unknown	Fredericksburg, Va.	
127	Mathew B. Brady	Washington, D.C.	Feb. 9, 1864
128	Mathew B. Brady	Washington, D.C.	April 20, 1864
129	Mathew B. Brady	Gettysburg, Pa.	Nov. 19, 1863
130	Gurney & Son	New York, N. Y.	April 24, 1865
A.	Unknown	Virginia	
*B.	Unknown	Washington	

*Stereoscopic photograph.

SIX-CENT LINCOLN STAMP
1870-88



208
SAMPLE

The six-cent Lincoln stamps of the 1870-88 issue are perhaps the most difficult to classify due to their many colors and printings on different type paper.

The six-cent Lincoln is described as follows: "On a delicately lined ground appears a dark rectangular mass of color, with heavy side projections nearly one-third of the length, on which is the bust of Lincoln in an elliptical medallion, surrounded by a panel bearing the words 'U. S. Postage.' Below the medallion, on a waved ribbon with forked ends, are the words 'Six-cents,' in white capitals, separated by a large white Arabic figure '6'."

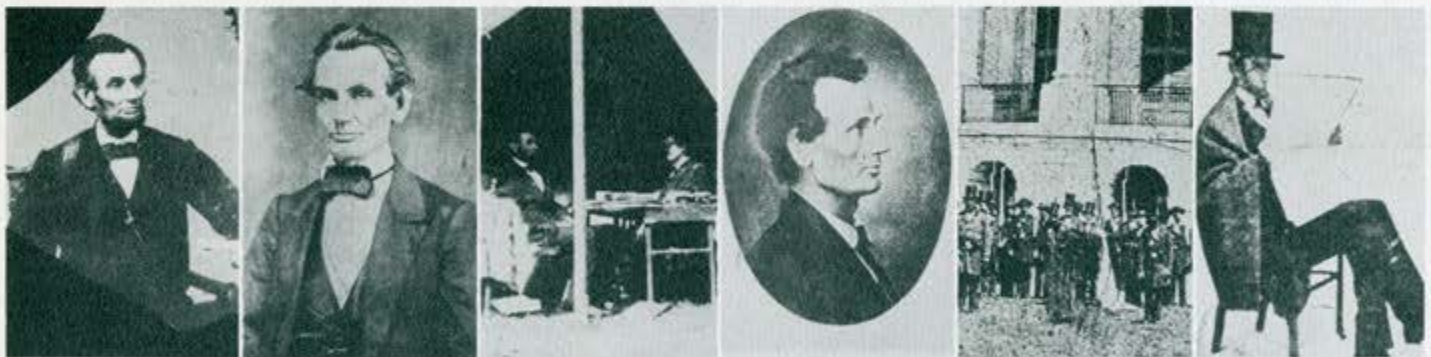
A further classification might read denomination 6-cents, subject Lincoln, presentation left profile, original artist Volk, and color red.

The six-cent Lincoln first appeared under the issue of 1870 (April 9 to 30), however, special printings were ordered from 1880-83 by the Post Office Department. In many cases the paper was the same as the earlier issue making the special printings extremely difficult to identify. Some denominations, however, can be distinguished because the stamps were printed on soft paper or by shades of color as some stamps are deeper and richer than the regular issue.

The six-cent Lincoln designated as A 47 was re-engraved. Three instead of four vertical lines between the edge of the panel and the outside of the stamp can be noted. Likewise, the first four vertical lines of the shading in the lower part of the left ribbon were made more distinct.

The six-cent Lincoln of 1870-88 can be classified as follows:

A 47	6c carmine	with grill	137
A 47	6c carmine	no grill	148
A 47a	6c dull pink	yellowish paper	159
A 47a	6c dull rose	hard white paper	170
A 47a	6c pink	soft porous paper	186
A 47a	6c dull rose	(re-engraved)	195
A 47a	6c rose	(re-engraved)	208



121

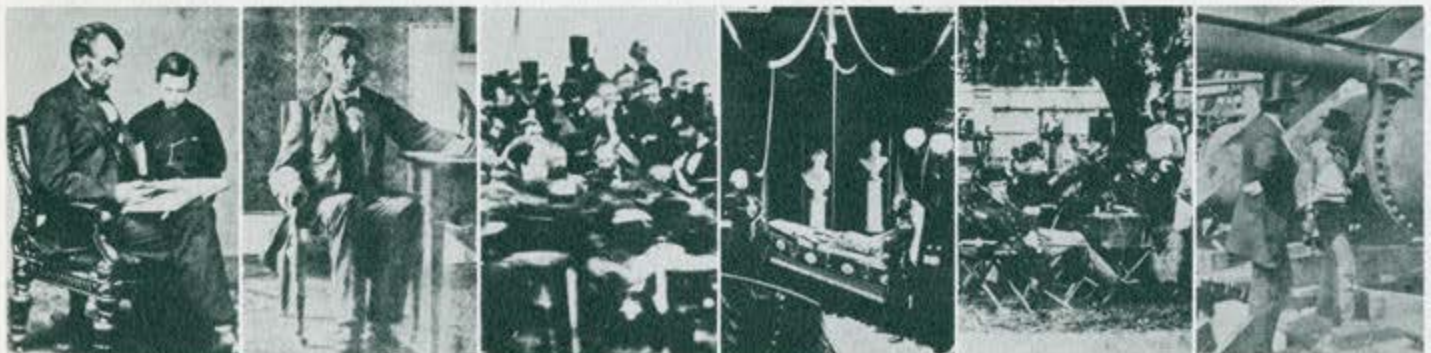
122

123

124

125

126



127

128

129

130

A

B

THOMAS LINCOLN'S ELIZABETHTOWN CABIN

Editor's Note: This article might be described as a postscript to a more lengthy and detailed discussion entitled "The Elizabethtown Lincoln Cabin Site" which appeared in A Series of Monographs Concerning The Lincolns and Hardin County, Kentucky. The Enterprise Press, Elizabethtown, Kentucky, 1938.

When Abraham Lincoln was nominated for the presidency on the Republican ticket in 1860, a few of the older residents of Hardin County, Kentucky, could recall that the Lincoln family once lived in that community at an early date.

Some of the early biographers even insisted that Lincoln was born in Elizabethtown, which was the county seat of Hardin, County, and they published a picture of a cabin which they claimed to be the one in which the Railsplitter first saw the light of day.

To get the matter straight, Samuel Haycraft wrote the presidential nominee in May, 1860, inquiring about his parentage and place of birth. Haycraft, who was born on August 14, 1795, in Elizabethtown, had once been acquainted with the candidate's father who migrated with his family to Indiana in the late fall of 1816.

Lincoln knew Haycraft by reputation as he had served as clerk of both the county and circuit courts from 1816 to 1857, and he had also been elected to the State Senate. He immediately replied to the court clerk, and in his letter dated May 28 he wrote: "I do not think I ever saw you, though I very well know who you are—so well that I recognized your handwriting, on opening your letter, before I saw the signature."

In answering Haycraft's inquiries Lincoln wrote: "In the main you are right about my history. My father was Thomas Lincoln, and Mrs. Sally Johnston, was his second wife. You are mistaken about my mother—her maiden name was Nancy Hanks. I was not born at Elizabethtown; but my mother's first child, a daughter, two years older than myself, and now long since deceased, was I was born Feb. 12, 1809, near where Hogginsville (Hodgenville) now is, then in Hardin County."

Unfortunately, Haycraft's first letter to Lincoln (he wrote several times), is not extant, but it has generally been assumed that Haycraft believed that Sarah Bush Johnston was Lincoln's mother. Then, too, Haycraft apparently thought that Abraham was Thomas Lincoln's first child instead of Sarah, who was born at the county seat town on February 10, 1807.

However, some authorities do not believe that Haycraft's "mistake" was in reference to Sally Bush Johnston as Lincoln's mother. Such a line of reasoning is best expressed in an editor's note following Lincoln's, May 28, 1860 letter in *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, Vol. IV, 1953, page 57: "... the assumption is hardly tenable since Haycraft knew about Thomas Lincoln's early residence at Elizabethtown and could scarcely have identified her (Sarah Bush Johnston) as the mother of Thomas Lincoln's first child, whom he supposed to have been Abraham instead of Sarah. Probably Haycraft did not know Nancy Hanks at all and in common with others among his Kentucky contemporaries, who began cudgeling their brains after Lincoln's nomination, confused her, as well as her mother with another notorious 'Nancy' whose reputation has survived the years because of its unsavory quality."

It is also pertinent to mention that Haycraft's later testimony to William Herndon about Nancy Hank's identity seems not to have been clear.

In a second letter to Haycraft, dated June 4, 1860, Lincoln wrote: "The place on Knob Creek, mentioned by Mr. (W. B.) Read, I remember very well; but I was not born there. As my parents have told me, I was born on Nolin, very much nearer Hodgins-Mill than the Knob Creek place is. My earliest recollection, however, is of the Knob Creek place."

Accepting Lincoln's statements as final, Haycraft wrote him on August 19, that: "It was generally understood that you were born in this Town (Elizabethtown) and as there was some difference of opinion about the place and also about your parentage . . . I took the liberty of writing to you on the subject. . . . No long since a relation of mine from New York visited this place & aided by some old citizens hunted up the remains of the Old Cabin in which your father resided, and he had

8 feet of a log sawed out & took it to New York. The old house has been removed several times, was once a human residence . . . a slaughter house & was a Stable, excuse me for going into little particulars. I thought you would not be displeased to hear of them."

Undoubtedly, following the receipt of the letter of June 4, Haycraft having Lincoln's autobiographical statements in mind, and perhaps aided by some "old citizens" was able to positively identify or have identified the Elizabethtown cabin home of Thomas Lincoln.

In 1869, Haycraft published *A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, And Its Surroundings* and he referred to "the old cabin that the father of President Lincoln lived in" as one of two log houses of ancient date then standing. However, he failed to mention in his history that an eight foot log had been taken to New York and that "the old house" had been removed several times." Neither did he mention his correspondence with Lincoln and, in fact, recorded some erroneous statements about Sally Bush Lincoln always bringing little Abe to the store of Helm and Green "to carry her bundles home."

Later biographers were more or less successful in discounting the importance of the Elizabethtown cabin, all the while pointing out that the so-called birthplace cabin was none other than the one occupied by Sarah Bush Johnston, who married Thomas Lincoln in 1819.

It has also been fairly well established that the Elizabethtown cabin was first constructed on a lot on the corner of Poplar Street and an unnamed alley, designated as Lot G on a map of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, drawn by Dr. Louis A. Warren. This property was originally owned by Samuel Haycraft, Sr., the father of the court clerk.

With Lincoln's nomination and election in 1860 the cabin gained considerable local fame but at that time it was situated on Race Street (Site B), near the raceway and mill (Site C) on Valley Creek which Thomas Lincoln helped to construct in 1797.

A persistent tradition is still current in Elizabethtown that the old cabin was roughly treated after its removal to Race Street, becoming as Haycraft said, "a slaughter house & . . . Stable."

There are still many perplexing problems as to the identification of the cabin and the site; for example, the tax lists indicate that Lincoln lots were located on land originally owned by Andrew Hynes.

Yet, in the light of Haycraft's statements to Lincoln (Aug. 19, 1860) regarding the Elizabethtown cabin there is a possibility that Sarah Bush Johnston may have resided in the original Lincoln cabin before its removal to a new location, which if true, makes that ancient abode doubly significant.

McMURTRY'S SPEAKING ITINERARY

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 7, 8, 1957.
 Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 9, 10.
 Charleston, West Va., Jan. 11.
 Canton, Ohio, Jan. 14, 15.
 Akron, Ohio, Jan. 16, 17.
 Johnstown, Pa., Jan. 18.
 Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 21, 22.
 Erie, Pa., Jan. 23.
 Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 24, 25.
 Norfolk, Va., Feb. 4, 5.
 Richmond, Va., Feb. 6, 7.
 Martinsburg, West Va., Feb. 8.
 Washington, D. C., Feb. 11, 12.
 Baltimore, Md., Feb. 13, 14, 15.
 Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 18.
 Philadelphia, N. J., Feb. 21, 22.
 Hartford, Conn., Feb. 25, 26.
 Providence, R. I., Feb. 27.
 Boston, Mass., Feb. 28, March 1.

The persons who might be interested in learning of the schedule in detail in the various cities named above, may contact the local offices of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.

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SANTA CLAUS LINCOLN

Very little is known about the way the Lincoln family celebrated the Christmas holidays. When Lincoln was a member of the Illinois General Assembly, the House of Representatives always adjourned for the day. While a Congressman in Washington, D. C., in 1847 and 1848, Lincoln likely enjoyed the holiday recess. While residing in Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln was usually at home with his family during the holidays, even though his mind may have been on other things, as he wrote one or two letters of a political nature bearing the date of December 25. Then, too, there are some traditional accounts of White House holiday activities that have been told and retold every Christmas season.

One could hardly associate Lincoln with Santa Claus unless such an association could take a political turn. A cartoonist, named Beard, depicted Lincoln as a political-military Santa Claus visiting Jefferson Davis carrying the symbols of peace and war. The above cartoon was published in an unidentified newspaper early in the 1860's, and is a part of the great cartoon collection of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

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