



Lincoln Lore

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Bracker's Charcoal Drawings

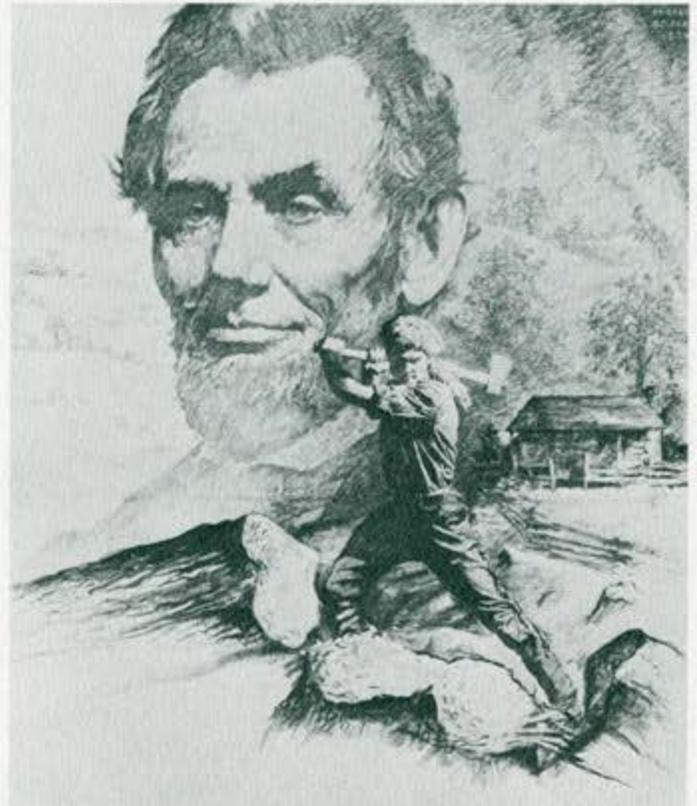
In the late fall of 1933 The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company commissioned M. Leone Bracker of Ipswich, Massachusetts, to produce four charcoal poster drawings depicting interesting episodes in the life of Lincoln. The insurance company at that time was engaged in a billboard advertising campaign, and Bracker was selected because of his exceptional work as a poster artist.

During World War I Bracker executed a number of patriotic posters for the United States Government, and his "Home Loan" poster is still remembered by those who work in poster art. He knew how to handle charcoal, knew all of its light and shade possibilities, its wealth and power of expression.

Bracker was born in Cleveland, Ohio, about 1890 and studied art in Cleveland, Chicago and New York. Leaving art school as a young man he worked for awhile for a New York weekly newspaper. Upon discovering that as a freelance artist he could not compete with old-time professionals, and not being able to set up a conventional type studio immediately, he became a charcoal poster artist. He had ideas, and knew how to dramatize a situation or a scene or an incident — or an individual.

As Abraham Lincoln had always been his ideal, Bracker came to Fort Wayne in November, 1933 with a great deal of enthusiasm for his project. Dr. Louis A. Warren, the director of the Foundation, assisted him in every way possible in the collection of photographs and background material, and even accompanied him to Kentucky and the Lincoln country in his search for the proper historical locality as well as for a native Kentuckian or Hoosier who might pose as the young Lincoln.

The artist was well received in Hodgenville. He found a storeroom where he could make sketches, but most im-



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

This is believed to be the first of the four charcoal drawings by Bracker. Here in a Kentucky setting Marvin Enlow is depicted as young Abe Lincoln the Railsplitter.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Leone Bracker (right) discovers Marvin Enlow as a prototype of young Abe Lincoln who posed for the charcoal drawing "Lincoln — The Railsplitter."

portant of all, he found a young man named Marvin Enlow who had all of the physical characteristics of a young Abe Lincoln. Young Enlow was 6 ft. 4 in. tall and resembled Lincoln in a striking number of ways. Bracker intended to spend considerable time in Hodgenville, but upon hearing that Judge Charles E. Bull, then a well known impersonator of the Sixteenth President, was leaving Chicago for his home in Nevada, he immediately rushed to Chicago. Bull had been making appearances at the Chicago World's Fair (Century of Progress) and the season was about over.

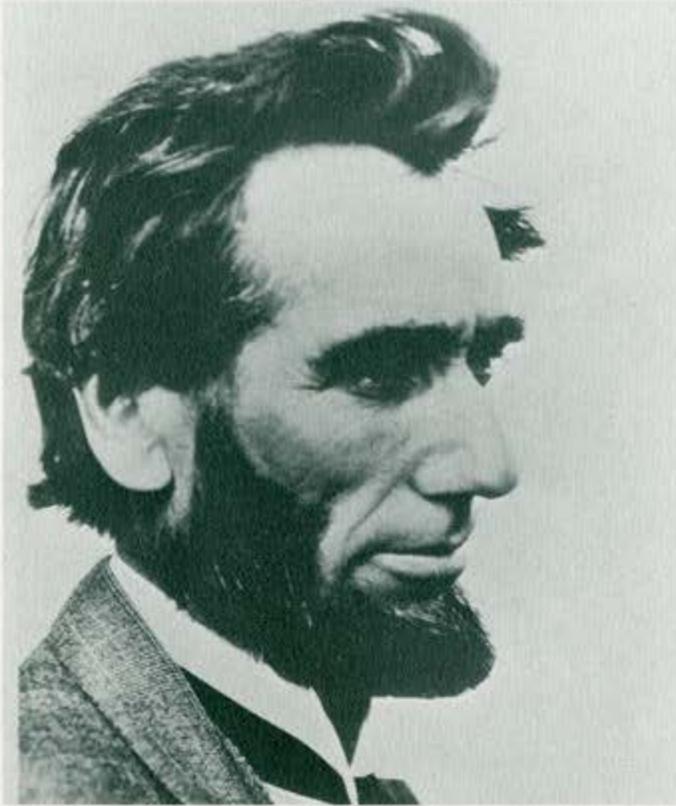
The artist's visits to the Lincoln Country and Chicago were most rewarding, and on November 25, he wrote Dr. Warren from his home, "Fair Vista," at Ipswich, Massachusetts:

"Dear Dr. Warren:

I have your letter telling me the material will be forwarded to me from Hodgenville.

I am at work on The Railsplitter picture and need the enlarged Lincoln portrait.

I planned to draw at Hodgenville but when I found that Judge Bull was leaving for an indefinite time I rushed to Hodgenville, took over a hundred photo-



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Judge Charles E. Bull has always been considered one of the outstanding impersonators of the Sixteenth President. His title can be attributed to his position as Justice of the Peace in the State of Nevada. Judge Bull is always in character and today at the age of 88 years he resides in Los Angeles, California.

graphic studies of Marvin Enlow and also some studies (drawings) of him.

I really have fine material for this picture.

He is a fine figure in his buckskins.

I believe our young Lincoln will be really acceptable and welcome by Lincoln Lovers.

Judge Bull is uncanny in his physical resemblance. I got a lot of help from him for the Gettysburg picture.

I did not get the mother and child as I hoped to. But I just felt it the wiser to get Judge Bull when I could.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

In the production of Lincoln at Gettysburg Bracker relied heavily on the sketches he made of Judge Charles E. Bull, the impersonator, and undoubtedly the hands are those of Michael Ryan of Ipswich, Massachusetts. Lucy Blake, who posed as Nancy Hanks, is in the Gettysburg audience; however, she did not pose for the Gettysburg drawing.

I did not get a chance to see Judge Mather. I would appreciate it if you would send me his name and initials that I may write to him explaining,

Also I may still go back. Mr. Kirkpatrick owner of the general store let me use his store for our posing. Also another Kirkpatrick whom you introduced me to across from the court house helped me so much.

Yours must have been a fine round of service to have left such loyal friends in Hodgenville.

Thanks for the personal photographs of our trip. It was a privilege to have you for host and guide.

I will never forget the spirit of those mountains in which the boy Lincoln grew and which you showed to me.

Sincerely
Leone Bracker."

The railsplitter picture was really conceived in the mind of the artist while he wandered around the environs of Hodgenville and the Lincoln birthplace farm. In company with Dr. Warren and not far distant from the birthplace cabin, Bracker saw a boy chopping wood in front of a little log cabin. To the artist the boy looked as Lincoln might have looked — tall, sinewy and powerful for his age. Of course, the sketches of Marvin Enlow provided the physical details. Behind the boy, like a fade-out in a motion picture, may be seen dimly a large portrait of Lincoln overspreading the hills.

Back home at Ipswich, Bracker began work on his drawing of Lincoln at Gettysburg, using his sketches of Judge Bull. He worried considerably about Lincoln's hands, and one day he saw his friend Michael Ryan, an old resident of Ipswich, wield an axe while chopping wood. Upon examining Ryan's hands, he discovered they were just the hands he wanted for Lincoln, fine sensitive hands.

Then there was a crowd of listeners to be drawn into the Gettysburg picture and Bracker remembered that the native people around the North Shore reminded him of the people who lived when Lincoln lived. They were of the same stock, so in this picture, Bracker introduced some of the townspeople of Ipswich, draped in costumes of the period. One person in particular was William Barton who is dressed as a Union officer. He still resides in Ipswich, Massachusetts.

All the while, the charcoal artist was considerably concerned in his efforts to find the ideal woman who could pose as Nancy Hanks — Lincoln's mother. Bracker wanted to put Nancy and her son inside the little Kentucky cabin — depicting her teaching Abe to read and write. In Lucy Blake (nee Bailey) of Ipswich he found the type he wanted. She is a descendant of pioneers, of the same stock as the Lincolns. The careful observer will also discover Lucy Blake (Nancy Hanks) in the audience which Lincoln is addressing at Gettysburg; however, she did not pose for this picture. Just recently the Foundation has supplied Mrs. Blake with photographs of the mother and son drawing for her eight grandchildren. The boy who posed as Lincoln in the mother and son study, is Napoleon Beaulieu who now resides in Newburyport, Massachusetts.

The fourth charcoal drawing required very little historical research. It is a type of visionary picture of Lincoln looking beyond the holocaust of the Civil War into the sunlight of the future. Perhaps the most objectionable feature of this drawing is the man and wife, with their son, dressed in the style of 1934 looking at Lincoln with admiration. This family group definitely dates the drawing.

All four of the drawings, two of which measure approximately 6 by 3½ feet, and two of which measure approximately 5 by 4 feet, are signed "M. Leone Bracker, 1934." The artist, thinking in terms of reproduction for billboards, pieced together the art board on which his charcoal pictures would appear. While these sections do not show up in the reproductive process, the seams are noticeable under their glass frames as they hang in a corridor of the building.

Once the drawings were completed and all had been delivered to the home office of the Lincoln National, Bracker on March 19, 1934 wrote to Dr. Warren as follows:

"I was glad to hear from you.

I was sorry not to find you in Fort Wayne when I brought the last pictures.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Lincoln and his Mother is undoubtedly the most admired of all the Bracker charcoal studies. Lucy Blake of Ipswich, Massachusetts, of the same pioneer stock as the Lincolns, provided the artist with the physical features he needed to portray the ideal Nancy Hanks. Napoleon Beaulieu who now resides in Newburyport, Massachusetts posed as Lincoln.

You were a real part in the making of these Lincoln pictures and I am glad to so declare.

I hope they may accomplish all we hope for them.

The write up in the Boston Post of the father of Lincoln with the two illustrations I thought very good.

Tomorrow I will return to you the data you sent out and thanks for same.

I regret that I was not able to be at the dedication. I was in bed for several weeks after and tho well must still wear a brace for a month yet.

If in any way I can help just know I want to.

I do hope you will find use for those pictures in small sizes fit for framing.

With my good wishes to you all.

Sincerely
Leone Bracker"

Not only were the drawings used successfully for the billboard advertising project, but they appeared in national magazines, on calendars, on blotters, on circulars and for other miscellaneous needs of the company. Then, too, the original drawing added four new Lincoln pictures to the Foundation's collection. On February 12, 1934 some of the drawings that were finished were unveiled and appropriate recognition was given to both the drawings and the artist.

On August 26, 1937 Bracker accidentally met his death at Rye Beach, New Hampshire. On this tragic day he was on a picnic with his wife and two daughters along the rocky shore. Reports say that he fell by accident into the surf and was drowned.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

In this charcoal drawing, Lincoln envisions a better day as he looks through the holocaust of Civil War into a bright future. The drawing is unfortunately dated by the 1934 clothing styles of the man and his family as they look at Lincoln with admiration.

The Lincoln Room at the Savoy

The Abraham Lincoln Room (originally called the Mirror Room) at the Savoy Hotel in London, England, has long been associated with the affairs of the United States. T. P. O'Connor, "father of the House of Commons," presented a bust of Abraham Lincoln to the Savoy to be placed permanently in the room so closely connected with America.

On October 29, 1923, at a banquet honoring T. P. O'Connor on his seventy-fifth birthday, the bust was unveiled by the Marquis Curzon of Kedleston. Sculptured by G. D. MacDougall in 1922, the bust is modelled in bronze over plaster. It rests on a marble pedestal in an alcove designed and lettered by Sir Edward Maufe, R. A.

Lucius Beebe in his brochure *The Savoy of London* (reprinted from Holiday Magazine) recounted some of the Anglo-American events that transpired in this famous banquet hall: "Here is where Herbert Hoover, during World War I, organized the American Citizen's Committee which arranged for sending home some 20,000 stranded American tourists, it was here that the American colony in London gathered to celebrate the entrance of the U.S. into the conflict. Here in 1917 Sir Winston Churchill, then Minister of Munitions, made his appeal to a significant Anglo-American gathering for 'the supreme intensity of effort' to end the war."

Beebe did not mention that when Mr. Lloyd George sailed for America in the autumn of 1923, it was here (Savoy) that he spoke the day before he sailed.

Today in Anglo-American affairs the Lincoln Room is "the scene of such events as the monthly luncheon of the American Chamber of Commerce, the luncheon of the American Correspondents' Association, the Pilgrims Dinners, the annual banquet of the Royal Society of St. George, founded to keep alive English traditions in America, and the meetings of the Monday Luncheon Club, a group headed by the U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James for the discussion of international business problems."

The famous room has been redecorated several times, the last time in 1967, but its name and the bust of Lincoln still remain.

During the Second World War, the Abraham Lincoln Room was considered the smartest air-raid shelter in London.

It might be well to add that the Savoy is a luxury establishment and is, in fact, ranked with the great hote's of all time.



From the Savoy Hotel, London, England

This photograph taken on October 29, 1923 shows the Marquis Curzon, the American Ambassador, and Mr. T. P. O'Connor at the unveiling of the bust of Abraham Lincoln at the banquet given at the Savoy Hotel to Mr. T. P. O'Connor on his seventy-fifth birthday. The room formerly known as the Mirror Room was formally dedicated the Abraham Lincoln Room, to commemorate the many American functions of historical importance which have taken place there. The bust was made by G. D. MacDougall in 1922 and is modelled in bronze over plaster. It is displayed on a marble pedestal and stands in an alcove at one end of the dining room. The banquet room was again redecorated in September 1967.

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1969-1970

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Arnold Gates, 289 Hyde Park Road, Garden City, New York; Carl Haverlin, 8619 Louis Avenue, Northridge, California; E. B. Long, 508 Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park, Ill.; Ralph Newman, 18 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. Kenneth A. Bernard, Boston University, Boston, Mass.; James T. Hickey, Illinois State Historical Library, Centennial Bldg., Springfield, Ill.; Hon. Fred Schwengel, 636 Union Arcade, Davenport, Iowa; Dr. Wayne C. Temple, 821½ S. Fifth Street, Springfield, Ill. New items available for consideration may be sent to the above addresses or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

1969

DUPUY, TREVOR NEVITT

1969-26

The Military Life of Abraham/Lincoln/Commander in Chief/by Trevor Nevitt Dupuy/Col. U.S. Army, Ret./Franklin Watts, Inc./575 Lexington Avenue/New York, N. Y. 10022 [Copyright 1969 by Franklin Watts, Inc.]
Book, cloth, 8¼" x 7¾", Fr., xlii p., 195 pp., illus., price, \$3.95.

FERGUSON, W. J.

1969-27

I Saw Booth Shoot/Lincoln/by W. J. Ferguson/With Illustrations/Austin (Device) New York/The Pemberton Press/Jenkins Publishing Company/1969 [Reprint of 1930 issue copyrighted by Wm. J. Ferguson. Published by The Pemberton Press, 1 Pemberton Parkway, Austin, Texas 78703.]

Brochure cloth, 9¼" x 6¼", Fr., 63 pp., illus., price, \$4.95.
(Original edition was limited to 1000 copies and bore Monaghan Number 3181.)

LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

1969-28

Lincoln Herald/Index/Vol. 70/Spring, 1968/Compiled by Gary R. Planck/Edited by Wayne C. Temple/Lincoln Memorial University Press/Harrogate, Tennessee/1969 [Cover title.]

Pamphlet, paper, 10½" x 7½", 15 pp.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

1969-29

Lincoln Memorial University Press/Fall, 1969/Vol. 71, No. 3/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, 10½" x 7½", flexible boards, 85-132 pp., illus., price per single issue, \$1.50.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

1969-30

Lincoln Memorial University Press/Winter, 1969/Vol. 71, No. 4/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 7½", 133-163 pp., illus., price per single issue, \$1.50.

McCLURE, STANLEY WILLIAM

1969-31

Ford's Theatre/and the House Where Lincoln Died/by Stanley W. McClure. [Washington, U.S. National Park Service, 1969.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 9" x 6", 40 (2) pp., illus., price, 50¢.

OSTENDORF, LLOYD

1969-32

Abraham Lincoln Memorial Lecture/The Magnetism/of Lincoln/by Lloyd Ostendorf/(Device)/Lincoln College/Lincoln, Illinois/(Cover title) [1969.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 8½" x 5½", 20 pp., illus.

OLD ABE'S JOKES

1969-33

American Humorists Series/Old Abe's Jokes/Literature House/Gregg Press/Upper Saddle River, N. J. [Republished in 1969 by Literature House, an imprint of The Gregg Press, 121 Pleasant Avenue, Upper Saddle River, N. J. 07458. A Facsimile reproduction of the 1864 edition. Monaghan #335.]

Book, cloth, 8¼" x 5¾", Fr., 140 pp., price, \$9.00.

PHILLIPS, ISAAC N.

1969-34

Abraham Lincoln/by some men who knew him/Being Personal Recollections of/Judge Owen T. Reeves/Hon. James S. Ewing/Col. Richard P. Morgan/Judge Frank-

lin Blades/John W. Bunn/With Introduction by/Hon. Isaac N. Phillips/Edited with Notes and Foreword by/Paul M. Angle/Essay Index Reprint Series/(Device) Books for Libraries Press/Freeport, New York [Copyright, 1950 by American House. Reprinted 1969 by arrangement with Abraham Lincoln Book Shop.]

Book, cloth, 8¼" x 5½", Frd., 123 pp., price, \$6.75.

PICKETT, WILLIAM P.

1969-35

The Negro Problem/Abraham Lincoln's Solution/By/William P. Pickett/(Quotation from Shakespeare)/(Device)/Negro Universities Press/New York [Reprint of 1909 edition by G. P. Putnam's Sons.]

Book, cloth, 8¼" x 5¾", x p., 580 pp., price, \$17.50.

POETICAL TRIBUTES

1969-36

Poetical Tributes/to the/Memory of/Abraham Lincoln./Edited by/J. N. Plotts./New York:/Garrett Press, Inc./1969 [This volume is a photographic reprint of the 1865 edition published in Philadelphia by J. B. Lippincott & Co. First Garrett Press Edition Published 1969.]

Book, cloth, 8¼" x 5¾", Fr., xii p., 306 pp., price, \$12.75.

RAWLEY, JAMES A.

1969-37

Lincoln and/Civil War/Politics/Edited by James A. Rawley/The University of Nebraska/Holt, Rinehart and Winston/New York Chicago San Francisco Atlanta/Dallas Montreal Toronto London Sydney [Copyright 1969 by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.] (American Problem Studies.)

Book, flexible boards, 9¼" x 6¾", 129 pp., illus., price, \$2.25.

RICHARDS, KENNETH

1969-38

The Story of the/Gettysburg/Address/By Kenneth Richards/Illustrated by Tom Dunnington/(Device) Childrens Press, Chicago [Copyright 1969, Regensteiner Publishing Enterprises, Inc.] (Juvenile Literature)

Brochure, stiff boards, 9¼" x 8¼", 30 (2) pp., illus., price, \$2.70.

WASHINGTON, BOOKER TALIAFERO

1969-39

Address/prepared by/Booker T. Washington/for delivery/at/A Dinner Given by the Members of/The Union League Club/on/February 12, 1899/in Commemoration of the Birth/of/Abraham Lincoln [Copyright by Rhistoric Publications, Phila., Pa. 19107 (Afro-American history series 1969.)

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 8¾" x 5¾", 16 pp., price, \$5.00.

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ANDERSON, DAVID D.

1970-1

Abraham Lincoln/By David D. Anderson/Michigan State University/(Device)/Twayne Publishers, Inc. New York [Copyright 1970 by Twayne Publishers, Inc.]

Book, leather, 8¼" x 5", 205 pp., index., price, \$4.50.

ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

1970-2

Illinois/History/Volume 23/Number 5/February 1970/ Abraham Lincoln/(Picture) A Lincoln Montage/What Is Greatness?—Lincoln's/Advice to Young People—Two/Times, Two Problems—Lincoln's/Service Record—The Springfield/Years—Not So Long Ago—Big Man/in Little Town—Belleville's Visitor—"After Life's Fitful/Fever"—The Horses in Lincoln's/Life—The Cartoonists' Victim [Cover title.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10" x 7¼", 99-119 pp., illus., price, 20¢.

MOCHIZUKI, MASA HARU

1970-3

(Device) no. 11/Tokyo Lincoln Center/Report No. Eleven/February 12, 1970/(three lines of Japanese language)/291-1860 (Cover title) [Printed in Tokyo, Japan, in both Japanese and English languages.]

Pamphlet, paper, 10" x 7", 11 pp., illus. (A list of Lincoln books and materials on sale. Also recent acquisitions for permanent collection of Lincolniana listed, along with a brief history of the Tokyo Lincoln Center.)