# Abraham Lincoln's 

## Appearance

## Hands and Arms

## Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

## From the files of the


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ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S by Stanley waterloo


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wrag Abralam Lincola Grand Army of the Republic gather to celebrate the fftieth anniversary of peace after the terrible years of war, they will see a different city from the Washington of "their day," half a century ago; and some may be glad to find, as they will in the Smithsonian Instituton, relics and meinentos of their old

This collection will be found in the old museum adjoining the original Smithsonian building, and not in the larger structure generally known as the Natural History building. The veteran, on his right as he enters, will with reverence view a case containing some of the Lincoln relies. The death masks of the martyred man, showing the rigid lines, are prominent, No one ever saw the face in life so irresponslue, nor so free from care and sadness. There the soldier will see casts of the hands so strong to fight but so ready to carry the burdens of others. it was of one of these that Stedman wrote:

The band of Anas, shewed strung;
The fingers that on greatness chute.
Yet, lo! the marks their blurs along
of one who strove and stuttered much.


The manuscript of this whole poem is there. A suit of black broadcloth and a black the, worn by Lincoln shortly before the end, are folded carefully. The greasy streak at the top of the collar, the buttons with the covering worn so that the metal shows through, the liltthe rip in the lining of the coat tell the story of one indifferent to dress or too engrossed with other things to think about his raiment. Still they may have seemed excellent to the man who until he was eighteen had worn nothing but homespun or buckskin. There is a copy, not the original, of a letter pardoning : a soldier for a supposed desertion on condition of his return to his regiment. The solder won full pardon with his
taken from his body. Some simple medallic likenesses complete the meager is



## The Hand of Abraham Lincoln

"It is . . . for us here to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us . . . that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Abraham Lincoln belongs to the ages. The deathless spirit that guided his hand as it wrote these words remains, a heritage that none can take away from us.

# LINCOLN'S HANDS SUITED TO HIS GREAT HEIGHT. 

Hisures Made From a Measurement of Casts-His Feet of Normal NizeChronology of His Beard Wearing.

f feel that I can ada something instructive to tho discussions of $\mathbf{M r}$. Lincoln's physleal characteristics, provoked by the raging criticsim of Mr. Barnard's statio.
l have $\ln$ my possession coples of the two life masks made in 1860 and 1865 Prom his face and also casts of hls hands, obtalned from the orlginals in the Smithsunlan Institution. I have made somo careful measurements frotn the hands, comparlng the sizes with my own, and I append the results in inches and fractions thereof. I'he sizes are proportioned by my helght of 68 Inches and his of 76 inches:

A-My hand, $2 \quad 8-16$ : Lincoln'm, \&\%, fhould be - 7-11.
ib-My hand, 5-16: Lincoln's, 2 13-16, should be 2 10-17.

C-My hand, 3 ; Lincoln'a, $8 \frac{14}{4}$, thould be 3 8-15.

The words "should be" mean in proportlon to normal size as arrived at by helght. 'The measure A ls from the first to the fourth knuckle, B is the length of the top jolnt of the middile finger, and $C$ is the length of the land from the middie knuckle to the bend of the wrist.

It will be seen that with the exception of $C$ his measurements are slightly karger; but since my own hand is somewhat small for my slze this indlcates that Mr. Lincoln's was a hand of normal size for his lieight; in fact, the slue $C$ is less than normal. I have also compared these sizes with others of normal size and they prove that while the Hngers werc of good length, suitable to his build, the whole hand was anything but large. And no photograph shows him with a largo l:and, except that in one ur two the camera has played, as usual, frlcks with the perspective.

As to their appearance, these casts indicate a tim, powelful looking hand, with no trace of bony appearance: nor are they unusuaily deeply marked for hls age.

I also have a large number of photographs made by Erady and others and I cannot detect in any of them an Indication that the feet wero large or In any way clumsy; quite the opposite. Hlls day was before the invention of the box toc, and as every one knoss, if shoe without hos toes must be made longer. Shoes were not as tightly or accurately litted in his day, and his pictures show that he wore rather a loose shoe. But in spite of these facts the fout shows as one of normal length and la of it surpisinshe delicate charation, donsidering his youthiul oecupations.

Nur can I tind Indlation tabt his nech wais awkwardly long, although it. was a twle longer than normal in any but tall, thin men; certalmy notinine abnormal.

As for clothes, all of his photographes show that they were those of a gen-
tleman, according to the standard of his day; not well cared for, perhaps, and therefore what we would call "slouchy"; but assuredly not the clothes of a ciodhopper, but rather those of a man too buey and preoccupled to waste time on them. And some of these photographs prove that on occasion he was an elegant look. ing gentleman, particulariy his altting pictures.
My judgment, formed from a carefu: study of all of these pictures, la that if Mr. Lincoin was un awkward man, It was awkwardness of action and not in repose. People are usuaily at their awkwardest posing for a photograph, especially in those days of long sittings; and none of them displays. awkwardness. Inasmuch, therefore, as any statue must represent him in repose, there is no excuse for a statue typliying awkwardness, if Intended as a portrait of him. All tall men are called awkward, but we really mean unusuallty. for tall men are themselves unusual. And most men exhibli this characteristic more in sitting than in standing, because they have to use chatrs designed for shorter men. Since none of Mir. Lincoin's plctures In a sittlng posture shows tris tralt, 1 am eatisfied that the reports of his gawhlness are largely exasgerated. It has simply become the fashion so to consider him.

Mr. Barnard bás been accused of anachronism in representing Lincoln without a beard, and this is about the only harsh criticism of his statue with which I cannot agree. Surely Mr. Barnard has enough to answer for without this. Mr. Tincoln was not $n$ constant beard wearer, even during hls Presidential career. From varlous portraits I compile the following chronology:

In hls earliest knowza portrait-age 37 -he is without a beard.

A picture of 1850 shows him groning a beard.

A picture taken in 1807 shows him without a beard; also 1858 .

During the Douglas debate he mac evidently growing a beard.

The day after his first nomination he was without a beard; also, later in 18 ธ̃.

As Presldent-clect he is ohown Hith beard evidently growinz.

In February and the summer of 1860 his face was all shaven.

A portralt made on February 23 , 1861, shows a full beard.

In 1863 and 1864 he had a tull beard
In 156! he was mithout beard.
HIs last portralt, made on April ! 1SÉs. shows a short beard.

From this it will be seen that them: is alonndant justlfleation tor reprosenting him as Piesident without the beard; and his face so represented is decidedly more interesting.

Alex. Dorle
Dempan, Mass., Octower $25 . / 6_{1 / 7}$

## LINCOLI'S GREAT HANDS.

## Were Sufted to lifs Height, and llit

 Feet Were of Normal ilze.I feel that 1 can add someining instrmetive to the dismusions uf Mr. Lin ecin's piybleal chatacifristles, plovoked by lle raging crilleism of Mr. Barnard' stathe, Alexander Doyle of Dedhan Writes in the New lork Sisn.

I have in my possession coples of the two 118 tullsks made in 1860 and $180^{\circ}$ liom his face, and also cascs of his hands obtained fron the orlginais in the Smith sonlan insilltition. $L$ have nade some careful measurements from the hands. comparing the sizes with miy own, alid I append the results in fuches and fractions ditervol. The slzes are pruporitomed by my helght of 68 inehes and hls of i ehee
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Bulletin of the Lincoln Nationai Life Foundation . . . . . . . . Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

## THE POSTURE OF LINCOLN

The height of Lincoln and the size of his head, his hands, and his feet are questions which are discussed periodically with the appearance of each new feature article on any one of the above subjects. Not long ago a columnist made the statement that George Washington was the tallest of our presidents and that Lincoln's hat size was six and seven-eights.

## Stature

The names of Washington and Lincoln are associated more often than the names of other presidents, and many debates have taken place on the subject of their respective contributions to the United States of America. There should be no difference of opinion, however, as to which one was the taller of the two, as Lincoln easily wins this crown.

Henry Cabot Lodge in his Life of Washington quotes a letter written by David Ackerson, of Alexandria, Virginia, in which Ackerson states that Washington's exact height was six feet, two inches in his boots. George Mercer, a close friend of Washington, claimed that he was "six feet, two inches in his stockings." There seems to be no description of Washington available which places his height at more than six feet, two inches.

Those contemporary with Abraham Lincoln who have written about him have consistently used six feet, four inches as his height. While some of his friends claim he was six feet four in his stocking feet, the claim has never been made that he was more than six feet four.

Five months before Lincoln was nominated for the presidency he was invited to prepare an autobiographical sketch. In the concluding paragraph he said, "If any personal description of $m e$ is thought desirable, it may be said I am, in height, six feet four inches, nearly, lean in flesh weighing on an average of one hundred and eighty pounds."

From the statements about Washington and Lincoln both before us, it is evident that the railsplitter was two inches taller than the father of the country.

Washington and Lincoln both changed very much in their physical appearance during the years; Washington grew heavier and Lincoln lost weight. When Washington took his seat in the House of Burgesses in 1759 at twentyseven years of age, he is said to have weighed 175 pounds, but at forty years of age, he weighed 210 pounds. Herndon claimed that when Lincoln first came to Illinois at twenty-one years of age he must have weighed over two hundred pounds. By the time he was fifty his weight was reduced to 180 pounds and during the next five years he is said to have lost twenty pounds.

Head
The size of Lincoln's head never came in for much discussion until the late Senator Beveridge measured a hat in Chicago said to have been worn by Lincoln and claimed that the size was but six and seven-eighths. This conclusion by Beveridge as to the size of the hat Lincoln wore was given further circulation by other writers.

Robert H. Hitt was one of the official stenographers during the Lincoln and Douglas debates. He had this to say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lincoln's hat was very large. He was a man of large head, and the style at that time was to wear high and full crown silk hats. The one he wore towards the last of his life looks enormous as compared with the hats seen now days." Evidently Hitt was not under the impression that Lincoln's head was exceedingly small.

Nicolay, one of Lincoln's secretaries, in describing Lincoln's head, said it was "large with a high crown of skull"; and another contemporary said, "His forehead is high and full and swings out grandly."

Lamon, a close friend of Lincoln, who had access to the notes gathered by William Herndon, had this to say about Lincoln's head, "His head was long and tall from the base of the brain and the eyebrow, his forehead high and
narrow, but inclining backward as it rose. The diameter of his head from ear to ear was six and one-half inches and from front to back eight inches. The size of his hat was seven and one-eighth."

Henry C. Whitney in his reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln states, "His head was high, but not large; his forehead was broad at the base, but retreated, indicating marked perceptive qualities, but not great reflective ones and in this phrenology is sadly at fault. He wore a hat measuring seven and one-eighth."

The hat which Lincoln is said to have worn on the last day of his life was in the Oldroyd Collection at Washington some years ago. One who examined the hat at that time had this to say about it, "I tried it on recently and found it very heavy and cumbersome. It fitted me loosely, and was a good $71 / 4$ in size. In addition to the heavy black band around it, there was another tiny band with a dainty buckle. This hat is in a remarkable state of preservation, and the maker's name on the lining inside shows it to have been manufactured by J. Y. Davis, of Washington, D. C."

Hands
There has never been very much discussion over the size of Lincoln's hands, as we are fortunate in having casts of both the right and left hands made at Springfield, Illinois, the day after he was nominated for the presidency. The cast of the left hand is an excellent one, but the right hand was very much swollen, due to the congratulatory hand shaking which Lincoln had received during the day on account of his nomination.

While the left hand is closed normally, Volk advised Lincoln to secure something to hold in his right hand, so he cut off about five inches of his wife's broom stick which he clenched. His hands measure ten inches in circumference following the glove fitters process of determining size.

Feet
In 1891 Dr. P. Kahler of New York published a small book on "Dress and Care of the Feet." In this book he presented drawings of both of Lincoln's feet showing the various measurements necessarily used for fitting. The right foot was twelve and one-quarter inches long and the left foot twelve inches. Lincoln's signature and the date December 13, 1864, appear on the diagram, evidently written by Lincoln.

Dr. Kahler made the following comments with reference to his contact with Lincoln:
"Abraham Lincoln was six feet and four inches in height, and had a very large foot. He knew the importance of proper clothing for the foot, and hearing Dr. P. Kahler, he sent for him and procured a pair of shoes made upon the Kahler last.
"At a recent session of the Health Association the original model of Mr. Lincoln's foot as drawn by Dr. Kahler was exhibited. Visitors to the establishment of $P$. Kahler \& Sons, 813-815 Broadway, can see the original order given by Mr. Lincoln for the admission of Dr. Kahler to the White House in Washington, and the drawing of Mr. Lincoln's foot made from life by Dr. Kahler, from which his shoes were made."

Many years ago a newspaper in Lynn, Massachusetts, published an article in which it was claimed that the boots Lincoln wore at the time of his assassination were in that city, having come into possession of the owner through William Clark who occupied the room where Lincoln was taken after his assassination. This brief description of the boots was given:
"The boots are old-fashioned, long-legged affairs, with square toes. They are much narrower than one would suppose a man his height would wear. The upper part of the legs are made of a heavy reddish-brown leather, but the rest of the foot is of a fine black material. They show considerable wear, although not worn at any part."

LINCOLN LORE AUng. 1955

## LINCOLN'S HAND

## (From an unidentified newspaper clipping)

Editor's note: Lincoln Lores numbers 1433 and 1441 carried articles concerning astrological predictions in relation to Lincoln's presidential campaign of 1860 and his assassination. These predictions were made before Lincoln's first election and his assassination. This article deals with palmistry-the art or practice of telling fortunes or of judging of character, aptitudes etc., by a study of the palm of the hand. In this case the palmist is unknown and his character analysis was made after Lincoln's death. Likewise the identity of the newspaper and its date are unknown. This information is presented as an oddity and is not intended to be taken seriously.

## LINCOLN'S HAND,

And What It leveried to thu s'alm-ist-Tenderness and Jidelity.
Abraham Jincoln had a very loner and sinewy, firmly elastic hand. Tl:o fingers


LINCOLN'S HAND. longer thin I Lave ever seen on the same sized ha:d. The nails were models of beauty, of which auy lady might be proud as to texture, color and shape. The mounts of Venus, Mercury, Mars and Jupiter were very full in the order named, and all of them well marked. This is every way a wonderful hand, displaying a kcen, clear, penetratiry power of rapidly comprehending whatever is presented; and with this a delicacy and iutensity of impressionability that feels every shade of sentiment or purpose in the one who comes into the presence of the man. Iro had an intensity of affection as broad and deep as a retined and tender woman. Cuation and justice were such preponderating qualities, us shown in his loug and non-tapering fingers, square ends, and long, beautiful nails, hat he rarely gave his dreision until it was absolutely necessary. The long hand and lonr fingers, with the sinewy and enduring maseup, typed the man who attended carefnlly to detail, as exhibited in tho fact of his doing anch of his own writing and investigating, which is nsually turned orer to a sulordinate. Teuderness, filelity, belptulness and an unyielding will, which nothing could break or bend, with a wonderfnl intuitive ability to see and feel men and things, which amomited to almost inspirational clairvoyance, were this great mau's characteristics.

## BIXBY AND SIXBEY

Because Abraham Lincoln wrote a beautiful letter of sympathy on November 21, 1864 to a Boston widow who was believed to have lost five sons (later investigations have revealed that only two sons were killed) on Civil War battlefields, the name of Lydia Bixby is well known to practically all students of Civil War history and classical American literature.

But fame did not immortalize the name of Sally Sixbey who lost three sons on the field of battle. In a quiet old graveyard in Stratford, Herkimer County, New York, there is a monument that marks the grave of the

Sixbey family. At the top of the monument is the following inscription:

## Colonel John Sixbey

Died 1874, Aged 65 years
Sally Sixbey, his wife
Died 1892, Aged 83 years
Underneath the broader part of the monument are inscribed the names of the three Sixbey sons who were killed on Civil War battlefields:

Jerome, killed at the storming of Petersburg, Va.,
1864. Aged 17 years.

Nicholas, killed at the battle of Fair Oaks, Va., 1862. Aged 25 years.
John, Jr., killed at the battle of Malvern Hill, 1862. Aged 29 years.
Nicholas and Jerome were of the 34th Regiment, Co., K., N. Y. V. John, Jr., was of the 121st Regiment, N. Y. V.

What a coincidence "that so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom" would be borne by two mothers whose names were so similar:

Herkimer County News, Little Falls,
N. Y., Tuesday, September 22, 1931.
(Property of Mr. \& Mrs. George C.
Bond of Fort Wayne, Indiana)

## MOST TIMELY EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 1)
not the same, to be sure.
"But the element of crisis calls for much the same steadfastness that marked Lincoln.
"The peril from without needs to be seen with the same unwavering clarity with which he saw the internal crisis from 1854 onward in his rise to national leadership.
"The menace needs to be met with the same unflinching resolve.
"What can Americans today learn from Abraham Lincoln?
"We can strive, however imperfectly, for his ability to pierce to the heart of a complex problem without being swayed by expediency.
"Our world is vastly more complex today . . . the skeins of men's ambitions and affairs more subtly tangled . . . right and wrong seemingly, but not basically, inextricably twined.
"Our hope is a Lincolnesque faculty to cut to the heart of the problem, find its essential truth, and sustain it on this basis.
"This ability, this sagacity, in Lincoln was fortified by another quality: His magnanimity.
"His eyes, as they regarded the people of the South, were never hooded by the opaque lids of bitterness and revenge.
"This leads us logically into another facet of Lincoln's character that was deeper, perhaps, than his well-credited wisdom and his demonstrated magnanimity.
"This was the side of him that found expression in his passionate faith in the strength and virtue of the plain people.
"The stock from which he sprang and grew tall gave Lincoln an inborn and unfailing feeling for the popular government that he was to lead through its travail. "Lincoln looms larger" with the passage of time, as distance seems to lift a peak from foothills and plateaus.
"The roughness of his early life, opening in a dirtfloored, one-room cabin near Hodgenville, Ky., on Feb. 12, 1809, his early defeats and disappointments, the dogged climb to prominence-these are all a part of the Lincoln legend which will not be forgotten.
"All of us can take heart from this strugrle.
"But it is above these phases of Lincoln's life that we can look for the crystallized facet at the top of the peak for a shining reflection that may be helpful in guiding Americans today.
"What flashes back?
"The clear gleam of an intense patriotism, tested, and found whole and true."
Elitors Note: An apmonriate certificate will be presented to the editorial writers who won fist and second alace in this contest.

# The Expressive Lincoln Hands 



Look on this cast, and know the hand That bore a nation in its hold:
From this mute witness understand What Lincoln was, -how large of mould

The man who sped the woodman's team, And deepest sunk the ploughman's share, And pushod the laden raft astream, of fate before him unaware.

This was the hand that knew to swing The axe-since thus would Freedom train
Her son-and mode the forest ring, And drove the wedge, and toiled amain.

Firm hand, that loftier offico took, A conscious leader's will obeyrd,
And, when men sought his word and look, With steadfast might the gathering swayed.

No courtier's, toying with a sword, Nor minstrel's, laid across a lute;
A chief's, uplifted to the Lord When all the kinge of earth were mute!

The hand of Anak, sinewed strong, The fingers that on greatness clutch;
Yet, lol the marks their lines along Of one who strove and suffered much.

For here in knotted cord and vein I trace the varying chart of years;
I know the troubled hoart, the strain, The weight of Atlas-and the tears.

Again I see the patient brow That palm erewhile was wont to press;
And now 't is furrowed deep, and now Made smooth with hope and tenderness.

For something of a formless grace This moulded outline plays about;
A pitying flame, beyond our trace, Breathes like a spirit, in and out, --

The love that cast an aureole Round one who, longer to endure, Called mirth to ease his ceaseless dole, Yet kept his nobler purpose sure.

Lo, as I gaze, the statured man, Built up from yon large hand, appears:
A type that Nature wills to plan
But once in all a people's years.
What better than this voiceless cast
To tell of such a one as he,
Since through its living semblance passed The thought that bade a race be free!

# Cranston House Handprint Claimed to Be Lincoln's 

# But Records Fail to Show Civil War President <br> Visited Rhode Island in 1864, Date of Mark on Wall 


#### Abstract

The question now arises: Did Abra- William T. Sprague. The Sprague ham Lincoln some time in 1064 press family, owner of the Cranston Print his huge right hand into the wet plas- $\mid$ Works, had just built the nearby mill ter of a house at 54 Maple strect, houses of which 54 Maple street is Cranston, and underneath the imprint write "Old Abe, 1864"?

John L. Keely of 86 Huxlcy avenue, this city, has been harboring that belief for a long time and Saturday he informed the Evening Bulletin about the mysterious hand print.

Mr. Keely, whose mother used to live in the house, said that he had seen the hand print, a good quarter of an inch decp in the plaster, many times. The hand was much larger than that of the average person, he said, and it was at least seven feet up on the wall of the cellarway proving, he said, that only a man as tall as President Lincoln could have reached that high.

\section*{Radio Broadcast}

Support for his theory, he said, came from a recent radio broadcast in which it was said that Lincoln had visited Rhode Island as a guest of Rhode Island's Civil War Governor, one. Mr. Kcely said the story is that Lincoln, taken to visit the houses while they were still under construction, pressed his hand into the wet plaster in a jesting mood, then wrote underneath the inscription: "Old Abe, 1864." An expedition was organized and moved out to 54 Maple street to the faint surprise of Mrs. Dorothy Salisbury and a number of children, present occupants at 54. Yes, Mrs. Salisbury remembered the hand print only too well, but she never suspected it might have been Lincoln's.

\section*{Print Filled In} "Only it isn't there any more," she added, "everytime I went into the cellarway that thing on the wall made me feel queer so we had it


## Continued

filled in about two years ago with some plaster.'
The expedition, somewhat dashed took a gander at the place on the cellarway wall and sure enough, there was the faint outline of a large hand and something that looked like the letter " O " under it.
However, on the opposite wall, scratched deep into the plaster was another inscription: "Old Abe, 1864, clected." The handwriting was oldfashioncd enough to be good in 1864 , which was the year Lincoln was reelected President.

[^0]washed the dishes at the pantry sink.
(About this time when a brooding silence had fallen on the expedition a gentleman sitting in the back yard announced several times in a loud voice that "Roosevelt will never get elected to a third term, by G-!")
The only thing left to do was to check up and see if Lincoln ever did visit Rhode Island in 1864. The Evening Bulletin files show that he was here in February, 1860, before he bccame President. He made a rousing speech in defence of Republicanism and the following month came back to Woonsocket after a swing around New England. (Several persons, suspected Democrats, hurled stones at his train up therc.) But nothing appeared to show that he visited Governor Sprague in 1864 Sprague was a United States Sena-
tor at that time and the Civil War was going full tilt.

Visit Not Recorded
A librarian at the Rhode Island Historical Society searched the files there but could find nothing except the visit in 1860.
At the Lincoln Collection at the John Hay Library, which has more data about the Civil War President than virtually any other place in the country, a week-end search was started. The librarian reported this morning that a diligent perusal of all files of 1864 failed to disclose that Lincoln had come here that year.

When it was suggested last weck that it was not likely "Old Abe" would go around sticking his hand into wet plaster walls, Mr. Keely demurred.
"History," he said, "shows that he
was full of devilment. I wouldn't be at all surprised if he had."

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[^0]:    Another Ilandprint
    Mrs. Salisbury then remembercd that there was another handprint in the pantry. But this, too, had given her an eerie fecling and she had painted it over, then stipled it. This print showed up a little more clearly as did the same inscription, "Old Abe," 1864." Mrs. Salisbury was under the impression that the words were "old age" and that combined with the ghostly handprint roused in her definite apprehensions of impending doom every time she

