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# Abraham Lincoln's Appearance

Hands and Arms

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection





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"Leonard, why wouldn't you come upon the roof with me?" The man flushed, laid down his book and the man flushed, laid down his book and looked up at her silently for a moment or two. Then he spoke slowly:
"I was afraid."
"Afraid of what?"
"That I would fall off the root."
"But there was no danger of that. It is a great, broad roof." "That makes no difference. It seems to me I would have fallen off, somehow.".
"Was that the reason you would not climb the mountains in Switzerland? Was that why you were alarmed at the Ferris wheel? "Yes." He hesitated, and then resumed "I'm glad you've spoken of it. We should nave talked the matter over long ago. Where heights are concerned I am a coward and I can't help it. I've tried and failed. I know others affected that way, but I thought I could show enough force of charucter to gradually overcome the weakness. I haven't done it. What are you going to do about it, my girl?" and he laughed vexedly. "Nothing," Nothing," she answered, cheerfully. "It's only a queer physical weakness. Maybe I can help you. Anyhow, we'll try together. But how did it ever come upon "I could not have answered you definitely until this very afternoon," was the reply. "I ve been thinking backward since I came down the stairs and I realize, now, just when this trait in me began. I'll tell you all about it. "When I was a small boy," he resumed, "I climbed trees as recklessly as did the other boys; I scampered along the beams in the barn, and heights did not affect me more than they did any other healthy youngster. My family, as you know, lived in Spring-field, Ill It was one day late in the '40s, when I was a boy of about ten, I believe, that I wandered into the old state house, now the courthouse, and upstairs into a big room where a group of attorneys and otheinls were gathered, talking politics and telling stories. A story was in progress as I sidled in, and it was being told most graphically by a gaunt young attorney, a man of extraordinary height, who was att-ting in the open window. I had hung about to hear him tell stories before and knew his peculiarities. He had a way of workmg a story up to a climax, then, at its close, rising suddenly from his chair, uplifting his irms and bringing them down with a sweep as some droll point was made. Then he would drop lazily back into his chair. I stood listening this afternoon, open-mouth-ed and fascinated. The story-teller went on, reached his climax, rose, threw up his arms and sat back suddenly, not into his chair, as he imagined in his absorption and unconsciousness, but into the open win ldow! He shot backward and outward, but, at the same instant, two enormously long arms shot upward and the outstretched hands with the fingers barely clutched the edge of the sash above! The mun drew numself upward and inward with a grim smile upon his face, but the faces of the others in the room were white, and hearts stopped beating. Finally some one spoke: "'Abe, if your arms badn't been five inches too long, you'd be a dead man!' "Somehow, I've never recovered from the effect of that strange scene. I've been afraid of heights and death. Had that man fallen, one of the grandest figures in history would never have loomed to its splendid height. The history of the United States would have been changed. Mary, that man was Abraham Lincoln!"







ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S ← ARMS →

By STANLEY WATERLOO

A Hitherto Unpublished Incident in the Life of the Martyr President.

T was one of the most winderful of days in the wonterful life at that splendid thing among many creations, the White City of DME. The lake, almost waveless, lay extensed like as a spanse of this estimated with the local property of the sate of the setting at these and grass because they the green at these and grass. becenatern sky, the green or three and graze was wind, the are as perfect and the now-ing thousands and tens of thousands visit-ing the great world's fair stepped lightly as they wolked, and were full of life and has they worked, and were turn at me and laughter. Among all the mystod groups there was nooc in greater spirits than one made up of half a dozen prople, led by a middle-nged main and rounan, who were evidently the host and hostess of the occaand. The woman's face sales of the bed-and rebuernest, that of the mao intellect and great strength of character. That the two, bushaml and wife, had not fired of each other throughout the years, that they were in period mound and laters will, was manifested by the many signs recognizable to those was masse the ejes to see onch things. There was understanding, deterease and thoughtrutiess of glance and word in soy signestion regarding the movements of the party, now on its way toward the Form wheel. Certainly to be congra ulated apon their partnership in his were Mr. and Mrs. Gental.

Log poposal to rice in the error wines great dirtit maintain and will not be must be abded on come train either Mr. or Mr. Gen-grodually the singular plateau. Centures ta, but from now of the young ladies of teal upo, vegetation found a place in the large group, choight, early sequenced in Mone polifical and dures and leich tien together had get made the arral pionocy in the steel ontil non-there extends a mightly lorest monetage and, as they strolled allong manch where was once mit a large and dend exextrosity was expressed as to what the consation would be when littled so far about. Mr. Genil alone did not express numseli. Has wise was observing hito narrowly and there grow a look of conseen upon her face, as was already apparent upon his. He was

The wired was reached, the tickets se-cared and laughtirgly distributed by Mr. Swall and then, as if sometiming imparters had just occurred to him, he explained hur-madle: The wheel was reached, the neket-"I can't go up with you, after all, I must



"I WAS AFRAID," SAID MR. GENTIL.

mme. It doesn't motter. I will meet you at the entrance to the Transportation build-

There were regreta and the man bur-sied nway, though his wile for a moment rested a lightly detaining hand upon his arm. Half an hour loter the party had rejoined him, and at laneheon and through-

into the taiming lands. For thousands of years the lake has cust up its sand on its marker shore, the winds have carried the day come from other Mo. (See the control of th



HE SHOT BACKWARD.

panse. Singularly enough, this soil thus brought from the lake's bottom proved the one thing for the nourishment of the heech, and the beech woods there are indee up of manaster trees not exceeded in size by those growing elsewhere upon the contineot. They lower aloft like oaks and crowd out other granths. Standing spleadidly upon other gravity. Standing spleadidly upon the lose nigrounds, that tempt visitors to exploration of their duely corrilors and to the coolines of their depths. Open take lake side bare been hall commer cottages and reserts of more pretension. One of these, visited by the Gentlis, land o broad flat roof, from the water side of which the standing of the coolines of the succets on Lake Michigan and nere the visitors throughd each evening. It connect that Mrs. Gentil wished to enjoy the view that Mrs. Gentil wished to enjoy the view with others, and her husband accompanied her op the long, tortuous stairwoy. He reached the roof, gave one quick glance shout, turned pale and stumbled back to the stairway, his wife savistion him. She said oothing, save to ask him if he were ill, and be but replied that he would be better in a few monuots. Sie returned to the roof

Perfect as had been the life of the Gentils, there had existed one little mar. Very tils, there had existed one little mar. Very proud of her husband was Mrs. Gentil, as she had a right to he. He was, and is, a man among mea. His record was oot of the present alone, but extended back almost to boyhood. He was young when he led his company gallantly in some of the fiercest bettles of the civil war. He never finched. The war over, coming back so did so many The war over, coming back as did so many friends and the man bury characteristic of the companies of the com Six weeks later Mr. and Mrs. Gentil were visitors at one of the lake shore toward to the bring and the shore toward to the brillian and the shore toward the brillian and the society of their upon dear cuter. South of this town for miles the first the shore toward the brillian the society of their upon dear cuter. South of this town for miles the shore toward the shore to the shore toward the shore toward the shore toward the shore toward the shore to the shore toward the shore to the shore the

of novement, his wife similared him estain must, and yet she sometimes wondered and was troubled. She wanted him perfect, and his was not quite that. After extended the second of the s

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"Leonard, way wouldn't you come upon

the rost with me."

The mass flowed, his down, his hook and looked up at her silently for a moment or two. Then he spoke should, and the spoke should be spoke should

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"Somehow, I've never recovered from the effect of that stronge scene. I've been afraid of heights and death. Had that man follon, one of the granulest figures in history would never hove loomed to its splendid height. The history of the United States would hove been chonged. Mary, that man was Abraham Lincoln!" HEN the members of the Grand Army of the Republic gather to celebrate the fiftieth 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 Institution, relics and mementos of their old commanding officers and of the great President.

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 relics. The death masks of the martyred man, showing the rigid lines, are prominent. No one ever saw the face in life so irresponsive, 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 hand of Anak, sinewed strong: The fingers that on greatness clutch. Yet, lo! the marks their lines along Of one who strove and suffered much.

### 5.29 \*\* 1515-

The manuscript of this whole poem is there. A sult of black broadcloth and a black tle, 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 little 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 soldler won full pardon with his life at Five Forks and the letter was taken from his body. Some simple medallic likenesses complete the meager list.

The drawing is from the east made from Abraham Lincoln's hand in 1860, by Leonard W. Volk



# 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.

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#### LINCOLN'S HANDS SUITED HIS TO GREAT HEIGHT.

Figures Made From a Measurement of Casts-His Feet of Normal Size-Chronology of His Beard Wearing.

structive to the discussions of Mr. Lincoln's physical characteristics, provoked by the raging criticsim of Mr. Barnard's statue.

I have in my possession copies of the two life masks made in 1860 and 1865 from his face and also casts of his hands, obtained from the originals in the Smithsonlan Institution. I have made somo careful measurements from the hands, comparing the sizes in inches and fractions thereof. The sizes are proportioned by my height of 68 inches and his of 76 inches:

A-My hand, 2 9-16; Lincoln's, 2% should be 2 7-11.

B-My hand, 2 5-16; Lincoln's, 2 13-16, should be 2 10-17.

C-My hand, 3; Lincoln's, 816, should be 3 6-17.

The words "should be" mean in proportion to normal size as arrived at by helght. The measure A is from the first to the fourth knuckle, B is hand from the middle knuckle to the bend of the wrist.

It will be seen that with the exception of C his measurements are slightly larger; but since my own hand is somewhat small for my slze this indicates that Mr. Lincoln's was a hand of normal size for his height; in fact, the size C is less than normal. I have also compared these sizes with others of normal size and they prove that while the fingers were of good length, suitable to his build, the whole hand was anything but large. And no photograph shows him with a large hand, except that in one or two the camera has played, as usual, tricks with the perspective.

As to their appearance, these casts indicate a firm, powerful looking hand, with no trace of bony appearance; nor are they unusually deeply marked for his age.

I also have a large number of photographs made by Brady and others and I cannot detect in any of them an indication that the feet were large or in any way clumsy; quite the opposite. Hls day was before the invention of the box toe, and as every one knows, a shoe without box toes must be made longer. Shoes were not as tightly or accurately fitted in his day, and his pictures show that he wore rather a loose shoe. But in splte of these facts the foot shows as one of normal length and is of a surprisingly delicate character, considering his youthful occupations.

Nor can I find Indication that his neck was awkwardly long, although it was a trifle longer than normal in any but tall, thin men; certainly nothing abnormal.

As for clothes, all of his photographs show that they were those of a gen-

I feel that I can add something in- 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 busy and preoccupled to waste time on them. And some of these photographs prove that on occasion he was an elegant looking gentleman, particularly his sitting pictures.

My Judgment, formed from a careful study of all of these pictures, is that with my own, and I append the results if Mr. Lincoln was an awkward man. it was awkwardness of action and not in repose. People are usually 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 typifying awkwardness, if intended as a portrait of him. All tall men are called awkward, but we really mean unusuality, for tail men are themselves unusual. And most men exhibit the length of the top joint of the mid- this characteristic more in sitting dle finger, and C is the length of the than in standing, because they have to use chairs designed for shorter men. Since none of Mr. Lincoin's pictures in a sitting posture shows this trait, I am satisfied that the reports of his gawkiness are largely exaggerated. It has simply become the fashion so to consider him.

Mr. Barnard has 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. Lincoln was not n constant beard wearer, even during hls Presidential career. From various portraits I compile the following chronology:

In his earliest known portrait-age 37-he is without a beard.

A picture of 1853 shows him growing a beard.

A picture taken in 1857 shows him without a beard; also 1858.

During the Douglas debate he was evidently growing a beard.

The day after his first nomination he was without a beard; also, later in 1859.

As President-elect he is shown with beard evidently growing,

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

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

In 1863 and 1864 he had a full beard. In 1864 he was without beard.

Hls last portralt, made on April 9,

1865, shows a short beard.

From this it will be seen that there is abundant justification for representing him as President without the beard; and his face so represented is decidedly more interesting.

ALEX. DOSLE

DEDHAM, Mass., October 25./6/

#### LINCOLN'S GREAT HANDS.

#### Were Suited to His Height, and His Feet Were of Normal Size.

I feel that i can add something instructive to the discussions of Mr. Lineoln's physical characteristics, provoked by the raging criticism of Mr. Barnard's statue, Alexander Doyle of Dedham writes in the New York Sun.

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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

June 29, 1936

#### 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

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

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 me 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

From the statements about Washington and Lincoln both before us, it is evident that the railsplitter was two

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.

HeadThe 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. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember that Mr. Lindle of the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember the say about Lincoln's hat, "Yes, I remember coln'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

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. 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 descrip-

tion 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'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 Revealed to the Palmist-Tenderness and Fidelity.

Abraham Lincoln had a very long and sinewy, firmly elastic hand. The fingers



were especially long, as compared with the palm, and much of this length was due to the unusual length of the nail. The skin was delicate in texture. His thumb was the most remarkable I have seen. It was every way a model -well formed, elastic, and perfeetly proportioned with its several parts-still much

LINCOLN'S HAND. longer than I have ever seen on the same sized hand. The nails were models of beauty, of which any 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 keen, clear, penetrating power of rapidly comprehending whatever is presented; and with this a delicacy and intensity of impressionability that feels every shade of sentiment or purpose in the one who comes into the presence of the man. He had an intensity of affection as broad and deep as a refined and tender woman. Caution and justice were such preponderating qualities, as shown in his long and non-tapering fingers, square ends, and long, beautiful nails, that he rarely gave his decision until it was absolutely necessary. The long hand and long fingers, with the sinewy and enduring makeup, typed the man who attended carefully to detail, as exhibited in the fact of his doing much of his composition of the comp exhibited in the fact of his doing much of his own writing and investigating, which is insually turned over to a subordinate. Ten-derness, fidelity, helpfulness and an unyield-ing will, which nothing could break or bend, with a wonderful intuitive ability to see and feel men and things, which amounted to al-most 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 unflinch-

ing 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 Lin-coln's character that was deeper, perhaps, than his well-credited wisdom and his demonstrated mag-

nanimity.
"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

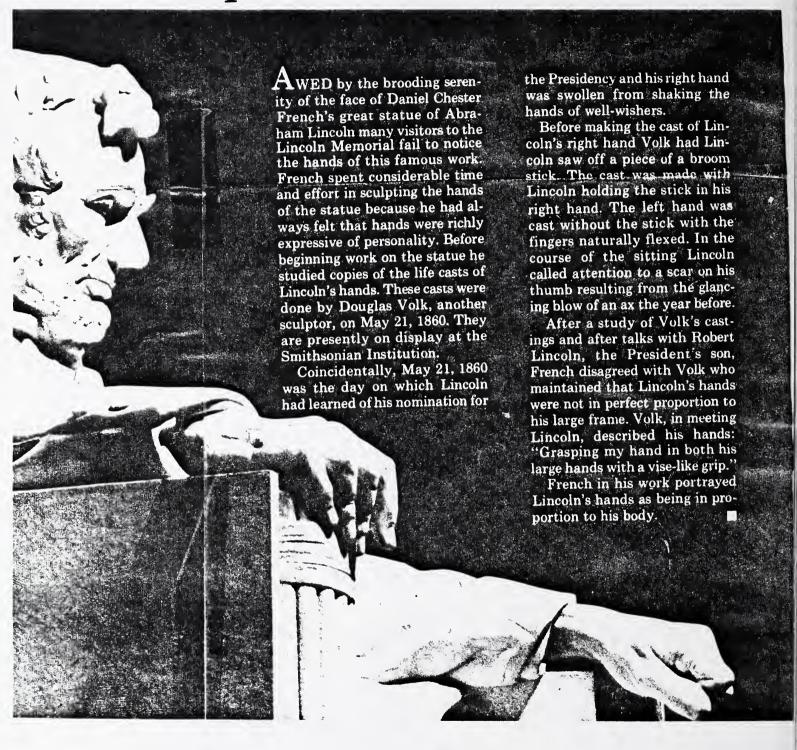
plateaus.
"The roughness of his early life, opening in a dirt-floored, one-room cabin near Hodgenville, Ky., on Feb. 12, 1809, his early defeats and disappointments, the dogged climb to prominence—these are all a part of the Lincoln legend which will not be forgotten.
"All of us can take heart from this struggle.

"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."

Editors Note: An appropriate certificate will be presented to the editorial writers who won first and second place in this contest.

# The Expressive Lincoln Hands



#### THE HAND OF LINCOLN

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 pushed 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 made the forest ring,
And drove the wedge, and toiled amain.

Firm hand, that loftier office took,
A conscious leader's will obeyed,
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 kings of earth were mute!

The hand of Anak, sinewed strong,
The fingers that on greatness clutch;
Yet, lo! 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 heart, 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 you 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!

Edmund Clarence Stedman.

## Cranston House Handprint Claimed to Be Lincoln's

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

ham Lincoln some time in 1364 press his huge right hand into the wet plaster of a house at 54 Maple strect, Cranston, and underneath the imprint write "Old Abe, 1864"?

John L. Keely of 86 Huxley 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 seen the hand print, a good quarter of an inch deep in the plaster, many times. The hand was much larger than that of the average person, he up on the wall of the cellarway, proving, he said, that only a man as tall as President Lincoln could have reached that high.

#### Radio Broadcast

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,

The question now arises: Did Abra- William T. Sprague. The Sprague family, owner of the Cranston Print Works, had just built the nearby mill houses of which 54 Maple street is

> Mr. Keely 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 live in the house, said that he had 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 said, and it was at least seven feet only too well, but she never suspected it might have been Lincoln's.

#### Print Filled In

"Only it isn't there any more," she added, "everytime I went into the Radio Broadcast cellarway that thing on the wall Support for his theory, he said, 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 oldfashioned enough to be good in 1864, which was the year Lincoln was reelected President.

#### Another Handprint

Mrs. Salisbury then remembered that there was another handprint in the pantry. But this, too, had given her an eerie feeling 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 Sprague was a United States Senaunder 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

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 became President. He made a rousing speech in defence of Repubcame back to Woonsocket after a swing around New England. (Several persons, suspected Democrats, hurled visited Governor Sprague in 1864.

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 licanism and the following month files of 1864 failed to disclose that Lincoln had come here that year.

When it was suggested last week that it was not likely "Old Abe" stones at his train up there.) But would go around sticking his hand nothing appeared to show that he 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."





