

# Abraham Lincoln, the Nation's Greatest Hero.



On February 12, 100 years will have passed since Abraham Lincoln, considered by many the greatest figure in American history, came into the world. It is an old story, the life of Abraham Lincoln, yet an ever fascinating one. To the younger generation Abraham Lincoln has already become a half-mythical figure, which, in the haze of historic distance, grows to more and more heroic proportions, but also loses in distinctness of outline and feature. This is indeed the common lot of popular heroes. As the state of society in which Abraham Lincoln grew up passes away, the world will read with increasing wonder of the man, who, not only of the humblest origin, but remaining the simplest and most unpretending of citizens, was raised to a posi-

their consent. As a politician and a statesman he took no steps in advance of the great mass of our people. At times I thought that he was timid, over-cautious; but in the end he was right and I was wrong."

From an address delivered by Joseph H. Choate, before the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution, November 13, 1900: "He was born great, as distinguished from those who achieve greatness or have it thrust upon them, and his inherent capacity, mental, moral and physical, having been recognized by the educational intelligence of a free people, they happily chose him for their ruler in a day of deadly peril."

A Man of True Greatness.  
Hon. George E. Boutwell, ex-Secretary of the Treasury: "His chief



HOUSE IN WHICH LINCOLN WAS BORN. It was situated in what is now La Rue County, Ky.

tion of unprecedented power in our history; who was the gentlest and most peace loving of mortals, unable to see any creature suffer without a pang in his own heart, and suddenly found himself called to conduct the greatest and bloodiest of our wars; and who, in his heart the best friend of the defeated South, was murdered because a crazy fanatic took him for its most cruel enemy.

It is almost needless to rehearse the events in the life of this illustrious hero. He was born in what is now La Rue County, Ky., on February 12, 1809, and all readers are familiar with his early life in that State and in Indiana and Illinois, his career as a rail splitter, soldier in the Black Hawk War, as student, storekeeper, postmaster, surveyor, lawyer and statesman.

As time passes the character of Lincoln becomes mellowed and almost sanctified by the growing generation, and it is interesting to record the estimates placed upon him by associates and those who had been from time to time brought into personal contact with the great American. The tributes found below are from men who had occasion to view the character of Lincoln from various standpoints, and it is notable that in all these separate views of it, there is nothing that breaks the harmony of the whole. From every side at which we are called to look upon his character we see something noble. He is small nowhere.

### A Wonder of History.

"Whether it was in the small things or in the great things with which he had to deal," said the Hon. Henry L. Dawes, former United States Senator from Massachusetts, "he was equally matchless. And all this was born in him. Neither education nor experience nor example had anything to do with the production of this great central, controlling force in the greatest of all the crises that ever came upon the nation. He grew wiser and broader and stronger as difficulties thickened and perils multiplied, till the end found him the wonder in our history."

### From His Law Associate.

From Mr. Herndon, for twenty-five years Mr. Lincoln's law partner: "Mr. Lincoln was conscientious, just, truthful and honest, and hence thought that every other person was just, truthful and honest; but in this belief he was often sorely disappointed. He had an infinite faith—trust—in the people, and in their instinct of, and mental insight into, the fundamentals of government. He trusted the people and saw no creature made purposely to rule them without



the grand sublime passages in literature were familiar to him. And yet, so strong was his sense of humor that no ridiculous event or situation escaped his notice."

Hon. John T. Morgan, United States Senator from Alabama, and an ex-Confederate general: "The character of Mr. Lincoln was clearly displayed in his conduct of the war, but he was deprived of the opportunity for its full development in a period of peace and security. His most conspicuous virtue, as commander-in-chief of the army and navy, was the absence of a spirit of resentment, or oppression, toward the enemy, and the self-imposed restraint under which he exercised the really absolute powers within his grasp. For this all his countrymen revere his memory, rejoice in the excellence of his fame, and those who failed in the great struggle hold him in grateful esteem."

Carl Schurz: "There never has been a President in such constant and active contact with the public opinion of the country as there never has been a President who, while at the head of the Government, remained so near to the people. Beyond the circle of those who had long known him, the feeling steadily grew that the man in the White House was honest Abe Lincoln still, and that every citizen might approach with complaint, expostulation or advice, without danger of meeting a rebuff from power-proud authority, or humiliating condescension, and this privilege was used by so many and with such unsparring freedom that only superhuman patience could have endured it all."

### General Sherman's Tribute.

General Sherman: "Lincoln was the purest, the most generous, the most magnanimous of men. He will hold a place in the world's history loftier than that of any king or conqueror. It is no wonder that the parliaments of Europe, that the people throughout the civilized world should everywhere speak of him with reverence; for his work was one of the greatest labors a human intellect ever sustained. I have seen and heard many of the famous orators of our country, but Lincoln's unstudied speeches surpassed all that I ever heard. I have never seen them equalled, or even imitated. It was not scholarship; it was rhetoric; it was not elocution; it was the unaffected and spontaneous eloquence of the heart. There was nothing of the mountain torrent in his manner—it was rather the calm flow of the river."

Henry Watterson, at the recent banquet of the Confederate veterans, held at New York: "His was the genius of common sense. Of perfect intellectual aplomb, he sprang from a Virginia pedigree, and was born in Kentucky. He knew all about the South, its institutions, its traditions and its peculiarities. From first to last throughout the angry debates preceding the war, amid all the passions of the war itself, not one vindictive, proscriptive word fell from his tongue or pen, whilst during its progress there was scarcely a day when he did not project his great personality between some Southern man or woman and danger. Yet the South does not know, except as a kind of hearsay, than this big brained, big



EASTMAN JOHNSON'S PASTEL, "THE BOY LINCOLN," Presented to Berea College by Mrs. Mary Billings French.

emergencies to stand forth as a man of true greatness, which makes the consideration of him as fresh, invigorating and timely as it was when those great affairs of which he was the master were occupying the country's eye."

General Egbert L. Viele: Mr. Lincoln was a man of the highest degree of self-culture, in so far as regards a knowledge of the most beautiful and sublime writings in the English language. His memory was photographic in character. He could repeat from memory almost any passage after he had read it once, and nothing delighted him so much as to sit down on an evening among his immediate friends and repeat whole stanzas from Byron or Browning or the plays of Shakespeare. Most of

souled man was a friend, a friend at court, when friends were most in need, having the will and the power to rescue it from the wolves of brutality and rapine whom the history of all wars tell us the lust of victory, the very smell of battle, lures from their hiding to prey upon the helpless, the dying and the dead."

From a public address by Ralph Waldo Emerson: "He is the true history of the American people in his time. Step by step he walked before them; slow with their slowness, quickening his march by theirs; the true representative of the continent; an entirely public man; father of his country, the pulse of twenty millions throbbing in his heart, the thought of their minds articulated by his tongue."

### REELFOOT LAKE.

Strange History of Spot Where Night Riders' Crime Occurred.

The physical history of Reelfoot Lake of night rider fame is not without a certain interest of its own. The lake came into existence as the result of a series of earthquakes which began in December, 1811, and continued until June, 1812.

Some authorities say that the earthquakes merely heaved up a great ridge of land across the path of the Reelfoot River, which runs into the Mississippi, and that this dam caused the water to back up and broaden out and form a lake, but the favorite account in the neighborhood is to the effect that the ground sank, springs were opened up, neighboring creeks diverted from their course and the overflowing waters of the Mississippi rushed in during the flood season of the spring of 1812.

It is said that for an hour and a half the waters of the Mississippi flowed up hill while filling up the depression caused by the earthquakes. Both accounts likely have this much of truth in them that the entire configuration of the ground was changed by the earthquakes. Big Lake, west of the Mississippi, in Arkansas, is said to have been formed in the same way at the same time.

Reelfoot Lake is sixteen or eighteen miles long, writes Don Marquis, in Uncle Remus's Magazine, very irregular in shape and covers from 35,000 to 40,000 acres of land. It varies in width from a mile in some places to four or five miles in others. The northern end is extended by a series of sloughs and bayous into Kentucky.

The most distinctive feature of the lake's appearance, the feature which first impresses and stays longest with the observer's fancy, is a certain grotesque effect as if a set of crazy men had been operating a pile driver there for the last century, for the trunks, stumps and stark branches of dead trees stuck out of it everywhere in desolate parody of some such human handiwork; far below the surface the fish dart among the boles and branches where the squirrels frolicked a hundred years ago.

There are beautiful spots here and there, but the effect as a whole is not beautiful; at its best, when the mist rises and myriad protruding tree trunks are white and ghostly in the moonlight, it is weird; the general remembrance is of something uncouth. It is a kind of sloven lake that has preferred to sit down with its hair uncombed all day long, but at night it does manage to achieve a touch of wizard dignity.

### Are You Long-Lived?

It is a generally accepted fact among doctors that every person bears physical signs of his prospect of a short or a long life. By the practiced eye, a long-lived person can be distinguished from a short-lived one at a glance.

"The primary conditions of longevity," says a physician, "are that the heart, lungs and digestive organs, as well as the brain, should be large. If such be the case, the body will be long and the limbs short. Therefore, the person will appear tall when sitting and short when standing. The hand will also have a long and rather heavy palm, but short fingers.

"The nostrils denote large lungs if large and open. A small or pinched nostril usually indicates a weak chest. These are, in general, the signs of longevity, but, of course, there are the usual individual exceptions."

Bacon, the philosopher, believed in outward signs of long life. He put his faith in the following: Slow growth, coarse hair, a rough skin, with deep wrinkles in the forehead, firm flesh, a large mouth, wide nostrils, strong teeth set closely together and a hard, gristly ear.—Answers.

### Cleaned the Stables.

At one army post where a number of recruits were temporarily stationed, an old sergeant was ordered to ascertain to what religious sect each man belonged, and to see that he joined the party told off for that particular form of worship. Some of the men had no liking for church, and declared themselves to be atheists. But the sergeant was a Scotsman and a man of experience. "Ah, weel," said he, "then ye hae no need to kape holy the Sabbath, and the stables hae na been cleaned out lately." And he ordered them to clean out the stables. This occupied practically the whole day and the men lost their usual Sunday afternoon's leave. Next Sunday a broad smile crept over the face of the sergeant when he heard that the atheists had joined the Church of England.

### A Time Limit.

A New England man tells of an elderly citizen in a New Hampshire town who long bore the reputation of being the meanest man in the country. This old chap was proprietor of a hotel, the rules whereof provided that everything should be kept under lock and key, the result of which was that no hanger-on could get his hands on a newspaper, a bit of hotel stationery, a free wash, or, in fact, anything free at all. To cap the climax, the old man one day came in and posted the following notice above the only clock in the place: "This clock for use of hotel guests only."—Harper's Weekly.

### Uncle Allen.

"I've noticed," remarked Uncle Allen Sparks, "that the fellow who really swears off from his bad habits doesn't go around advertising it beforehand."—Chicago Daily Tribune.

# PENNSYLVANIA

Interesting Items from All Sections of the Keystone State.

### NEW CHURCH DEDICATED

Pittsburgers Take Part in Exercises at Sharon.

Sharon.—At exercises attending the dedication of the United Presbyterian church last Sunday morning the sermon was delivered by the Rev. Dr. J. K. McClurkin of Pittsburg. In the afternoon the Rev. R. M. Russell, president of Westminster college, preached and Dr. McClurkin spoke again in the evening. E. Curtis Clark, vice president of the Mozart club of Pittsburg, sang at the morning and afternoon meetings. The church is of buff brick with stone trimmings. It is of Gothic design and cost \$32,000. It has a seating capacity of 1,000. The church had a membership of 180 when the Rev. L. K. Peacock assumed the pastorate four years ago. It now has a membership of 670.

### CONFESSES MURDER

Arrested for Stealing Soap, Little Tells of Killing Man.

Philadelphia.—Arrested on the charge of stealing soap and vegetables, E. R. Little confessed to the police authorities that he was guilty of killing John Scott on the 15th of last July. Scott had been knocked down and his skull fractured. Little says that he struck Scott because the latter has sold him a worthless pawn ticket. A man named Sweeney, who had been arrested at the time, but subsequently discharged, said that Scott and he had been held up and robbed by two men, one of whom had struck the fatal blow.

### FOUR BABES IN 14 MONTHS

Wilkes-Barre Wrests Championship from Pittsburg.

Wilkes-Barre.—Mr. and Mrs. Bernard McCabe, a young couple living in the East End section of this city, have beaten all available records as the parents of twins, and have quite put in the shade the Pittsburg parents, who were boasting of two sets of twins in 20 months.

Fourteen months ago Mrs. McCabe gave birth to two girls, who are now well and hearty, and today presented her husband with twin boys. They are strong well-formed little chaps.

### LEROY G. CANNON FREE

Roosevelt Saves Pennsylvanian from Death in Honduras.

Harrisburg.—A telegram received here states that Leroy G. Cannon, son of a resident of this city, has been released from prison in Honduras, where he was arrested as a revolutionist. When arrested the government confiscated his plantation and sentenced him to death.

Through a letter to President Roosevelt his mother obtained the invention of the United States Government, and he was set free.

### Mill Officials Quit.

Sharon.—Five department superintendents of the American Steel and Wire Company's plant here have resigned. The reasons are not given out. The retiring men are E. M. Billings, superintendent of the wire mill; Frank I. Carney, superintendent of brick construction; Benjamin Jarrett, superintendent of labor; John Cole, superintendent of boilers; Thomas Thomas, superintendent of the field fence department.

### Blind Musician Robbed of \$500.

Washington.—It was learned that Charles Bakody, a blind street musician, has been robbed of \$500, all his savings of 20 years. Bakody, who is often seen in Pittsburg street, employed a boy to lead him. The boy of his job the boy last week quit. Bakody and his wife say while they took someone entered their home and looted their savings from a trunk.

### One Result of Gipsy Smith's Work.

New Kensington.—With a view to bringing every adult of Parnassus into the church ranks, the pastors together with a committee of 50 workers, will take a religious census this week. In the house-to-house canvass denominational leanings will be learned. The project is a result of Gipsy Smith's recent meetings in Pittsburg.

### Marianna Mine Ready Again.

The work of overhauling the Agnes shaft of the Pittsburg and Buffalo Company at Marianna, following the disastrous explosion on November 28, has been completed and a large shipment of coal will be made soon. The shaft has been cased from top to bottom and the framework strengthened wherever required.

### Woman for School Controller.

New Castle.—Mrs. Isaac Harlan has been nominated by the Democrats of Scott township for the office of school controller. If she is elected she will be the first woman to hold such an office in this county. Scott township is normally Democratic and her chances appear good.

### Great Decrease in Typhoid.

The health bureau's report shows there were 74 cases of typhoid fever in Greater Pittsburg during January, as compared with 418 cases in January, last year. Deaths from this disease last month were five, as against 43 in January, 1908.

### Poisoned His Child by Mistake.

Philadelphia.—Thomas Sargeant, aged 26, administered a teaspoonful of carbolic acid in mistake for cough medicine to his three-year-old son. The little boy died within two hours.

### LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

Harrisburg.—The senate passed finally a bill authorizing the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial association, created by the Legislature of 1907, to transfer the proposed memorial to be erected at Gettysburg by the State of Pennsylvania to the United States Government.

Bills regulating the rates of interest to be charged by household loan companies and making the divorce laws of Pennsylvania uniform with those of other States were introduced.

The house passed finally the following bills:

Extending the provisions of Section 14 of the township classification act of April 28, 1899, to all taxes collected by treasurers of first-class townships, so that the compensation by them shall be the same as provided by the said section.

To prevent fraudulent practices upon or by keepers of sanitariums or private hospitals.

Providing that the last will of any decedent be effective against bona fide conveyances or mortgages of the real or personal estate of the decedent must be offered for probate within three years from the date of the death of the testator or before the date of the recording of such conveyance or mortgage.

Appropriating \$40,000 to the attorney general department to make up the deficiency incurred in prosecuting the capital graft cases.

By a vote of 54 to 99 the house defeated the bill providing for criminals to deposit money in lieu of bail.

The following bills were passed finally:

Appropriating \$82,000 to replace military stores at the state arsenal destroyed by fire last November.

Providing for issuing writs of estreatment in actions of trespass.

Authorizing the department of forestry to grow and distribute young forest trees to persons who will plant and care for them.

Validating sales of real estate upon writs of levari facias awarded upon judgments obtained upon writs of scire facias sur mortgage issued subsequent to the passage of the act of April 23, 1903, and prior to the passage of this act.

Appropriating \$90,000 to the state live stock sanitary board to defray the expense of the recent campaign against apthous fever.

Providing for the election and compensation of four additional committee clerks in the house and four in the senate.

Limiting the right of action against sureties on the bonds of administrators and guardians and authorizing the sureties upon such bonds to make any defense when sued in the common pleas that they may make in the orphans' court.

Appropriating \$75,000 to cover the deficiency in the normal school appropriation.

Empowering clerks designated by county controllers to administer oaths.

The act constituting the commissioners, controller and treasurer of Allegheny county, a board having the power to appoint depositories of county funds was postponed for the present from the third reading calendar.

### Make Districts Conform.

Harrisburg.—To readjust the senatorial and legislative lines of Greater Pittsburg to conform with the reapportionment of the wards in that city, bills have been prepared by Senators Joseph A. Langfitt and Charles H. Kline which will be presented soon. It is their purpose to have the districts described according to the new wards and election districts. No change will be made in the present lines.

### \$100,000 to University.

Philadelphia.—At a meeting of the board of trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Esther Gowen Hood gave the university \$100,000 to establish graduate fellowships in the law department. The gift is a memorial to her father, the late Franklin B. Gowen, formerly president of the Reading Railway Company.

### Dairy and Food Deficit.

Harrisburg.—The report of Dairy and Food Commissioner Foust for the year just closed shows that the division received as much from licenses and fines for violation of food laws, \$54,580 62. The expenditures of the division, which are made by direct appropriation, were \$69,968.20.

### Baggage-master Arrested.

Harrisburg.—A. F. Rinenolt, a baggage-master on the Northern Central Railroad, was arrested here and held by Federal authorities on a charge of tampering with closed mail pouches. Rinenolt lives in Baltimore and runs irregularly between here and Baltimore.

### L. S. Sadler Named Trustee.

Harrisburg.—Governor Stuart announced the appointment of Lewis S. Sadler of Carlisle, Cumberland county, to be a member of the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania state lunatic hospital at Harrisburg, vice Charles H. Mullin, deceased.

### AGED WOVAN QUILTS OFFICE

Oldest Postmistress Resigns After Holding Position 40 Years.

Greenville.—Mrs. Mary McCoy, aged 86, said to be the oldest postmistress in the United States, has resigned her position at Sheakleyville. She served 40 years. Mrs. McCoy was appointed by President Johnston, and in the early years of her service carried mail from Meadville in addition to performing her other duties.