

**ABRAHAM
LINCOLN: A
TRUE LIFE**

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Abraham Lincoln: A True Life by James Baldwin

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JAMES BALDWIN

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LINCOLN: A
TRUE LIFE**

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A TRUE LIFE

BY

JAMES BALDWIN

*Author of "Fifty Famous Stories Retold," "Old Greek Stories," "The Discovery
of the Old Northwest," "The Conquest of the Old Northwest,"
"Baldwin's Readers," etc.*



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TO
THE SCHOOLBOYS
OF AMERICA

This book is dedicated to you. It is the story of a hero greater than any of the heroes of fairy tale or romance. For while these latter were for the most part ideal and imaginary, the man of whom I shall tell you was a real person who lived a true life and did truly noble things.

Concerning no other American has so much been written. Of books about Lincoln there are already scores, even hundreds. Why, then, should I presume to write another? Why, when it is plainly impossible to relate any new facts regarding our hero, should I venture to add this volume to the multitude of existing biographies?

My answer and apology is this: While I cannot tell anything that has not already been told, yet I may be able to repeat some well-known facts in a manner particularly agreeable and understandable to boys and girls, thus producing a book adapted to school reading, free from wearisome details as well as from political bias or sectional prejudice. Then, again, it is my aim in this book to trace, as briefly as may be, the progress of our government from the time of its organization to the end of the great civil war; and more particularly to make plain the causes and motives which brought about the tremendous crisis in which Abraham Lincoln bore so conspicuous a part. For to you, the schoolboys of America, the political history that centers around the life of our hero should have more than a passing interest. Although the chief issues then at stake have ceased to exist, yet the lessons of that history remain as beacon lights to guide and warn you, the future rulers and lawmakers of our country. Other issues may arise, other jealousies may cause discord, other mistaken theories may threaten the peace of the nation, — the salvation of this great republic will depend upon your unselfish patriotism. It is with the hope that this book may help to inspire you with such patriotism that I dedicate it to you.

JAMES BALDWIN.

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