

**PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF  
PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN,  
GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT  
AND GENERAL WILLIAM T.  
SHERMAN**

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Personal Recollections of President Abraham Lincoln, General Ulysses S. Grant and General William T. Sherman by Grenville M. Dodge

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**GRENVILLE M. DODGE**

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WILLIAM T. SHERMAN**



# PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS

—of—

President Abraham Lincoln,  
General Ulysses S. Grant  
—AND—  
General William T. Sherman

BY  
MAJOR-GENERAL GRENVILLE M. DODGE

GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA, U. S. A.  
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## PREFACE

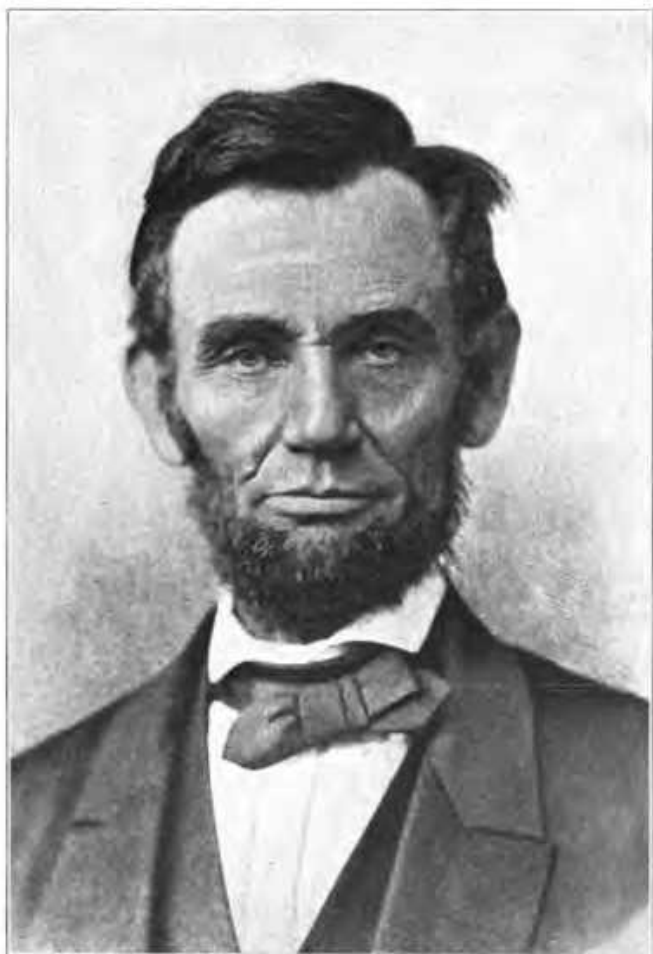
My personal recollections of President Lincoln and Generals Grant and Sherman, all three of whom, up to the time they died, showed their personal friendship to me in many ways and many acts.

Many years ago I had compiled data and written most of the following pages, and from time to time I have read papers before different patriotic gatherings upon each of these distinguished men, and have had many requests for copies and have also been urged to publish my recollections.

During this summer while on my vacation, I have compiled my data and rewritten the recollections, adding letters and official documents that I thought would be of interest.

GRENVILLE MELLEN DODGE.

September, 1914.



PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN, 1864



## PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF LINCOLN

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If there is any person living who should be grateful for an opportunity to pay his tribute to Abraham Lincoln, it is myself, for as President he raised me from a citizen to the highest command and highest rank in the army. He was my friend from the time I first met him until I helped to lay him away in Springfield, Illinois.

No one can appreciate what that friendship and what his acts were to me, unless they have experienced the benefit of it as I have.

Now, before I take up the subject I am to write upon, I want to give you Abraham Lincoln's own biography of himself, to show you from what a simple and low station he arose to be a great Statesman, a great Commander, a most just and kind ruler—the best of this era.

In a letter to Mr. F. Fell he writes:

I was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin county, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia of undistinguished families--second families perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks, some of whom now reside in Adams, and others in Macon counties, Illinois. My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Rockingham county, Virginia, to Kentucky about 1781 or 1782, where a year or two later he was killed by Indians, not in battle but by stealth, when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest. His ancestors, who were Quakers, went to Virginia from Berka county, Pennsylvania. An effort to identify them with the new England family of the same name ended in nothing more definite than a similarity of Christian names in both families, such as Enoch, Levi, Mordecai, Solomon, Abraham, and the like.

My father, at the death of his father, was but six years of age, and he grew up literally without education. We removed from Kentucky to what is now Spencer county, Indiana, in



my eighth year. We reached our new home about the time the state came into the union. It was a wild region with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up. There were some schools, so called, but no qualification was ever required of a teacher beyond "readin', writin', and cipherin' to the rule of three."

If a straggler, supposed to understand Latin, happened to sojourn in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizard. There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for education. Of course, when I came of age I did not know much, still somehow I could read, write and cipher to the rule of three; but that was all. I have not been to school since. The little advance I now have upon this store of education I have picked up from time to time under the present necessity.

I was raised to farm work, which I continued till I was twenty-two. At twenty-one I came to Illinois and passed the first year in Sanganaw, now in Menard county, where I remained a year as a sort of clerk in a store. Then came the Black Hawk war and I was elected a Captain of Volunteers—a success which gave me more pleasure than any I have had since. I went into the campaign, was elected, ran for the Legislature the same year (1832) and was beaten—the only time I ever have been beaten by the people. The next and then succeeding biennial elections, I was elected to the Legislature. I was not a candidate afterward. During the Legislature period, I had studied law, and removed to Springfield to practice it. In 1846 I was elected to the lower house of Congress. Was not a candidate for re-election. From 1849 to 1854, both inclusive, practiced law more assiduously than ever before. Always a Whig in politics, and generally on the Whig electoral tickets (making active canvasses). I was losing interest in politics when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused me again. What I have done since then is pretty well known.

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 one hundred and eighty pounds; dark complexion with coarse black hair and grey eyes; no other marks or scars recollected.

My first acquaintance with Mr. Lincoln was in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in August, 1859, I think the 11th day, right after his great debate with Douglass. He came here to look at some property in the Riddle Tract on which he had loaned some money to Mr. N. B. Judd, the attorney for the Rock Island Railroad. Mr. Judd was also the manager in the campaign

with Douglass. Mr. Lincoln, accompanied by Mr. O. M. Hatch, Secretary of State of Illinois, came from Springfield to St. Joseph by rail, visited Kansas, then came up the Missouri River by steamboat. He found here two old friends who had lived in Springfield before they came to Council Bluffs, W. H. M. Pusey and Thomas Officer. While he was here the Hon. W. H. M. Pusey gave a reception at his residence that enabled our citizens generally to meet the two distinguished visitors. He was also induced to make a speech in Concert Hall, and the local paper notices of that speech and the comments were as follows:

From the Council Bluffs "Weekly Nonpareil," August 13, 1859.

HON. A. LINCOLN SPEAKS AT CONCERT HALL THIS  
EVENING AT HALF PAST 7 O'CLOCK—  
GO AND HEAR HIM.

Hon. Abe Lincoln and the Secretary of State of Illinois, Hon. O. M. Hatch, arrived in our city last evening, and are stopping at the Pacific House. The distinguished "sucker" has yielded to the earnest importunities of our citizens—without distinction of party—and will speak upon the political issues of the day, at Concert Hall this evening. The celebrity of the speaker will most certainly insure him a full house. Go and hear "Old Abe."

From The Nonpareil, August 20, 1859.

#### ABE LINCOLN.

This distinguished gentleman addressed a very large audience of ladies and gentlemen at Concert Hall in this city, Saturday evening last. In the brief limits of a newspaper article, it were impossible even though we wielded the trenchant pen of a Babbitt, which we do not, to give even an outline of his masterly and unanswerable speech. The clear and lucid manner in which he set forth the true principles of the republican party, in the dexterity with which he applied the political scalpel to the democratic carcass—beggars of all description at our hands. Suffice it, that the speaker fully and fairly sustained the great reputation he acquired in the memorable Illinois campaign, as a man of great intellectual power—a close and sound reasoner.

The Bugle, edited by Lyronder W. Babbitt, had this notice:

The people of this city were edified last Saturday evening by a speech from Honorable Abe Lincoln of Illinois. He apologized very handsomely for appearing before an Iowa audience during a campaign in which he was not interested. He then, with many excuses and a lengthy explanation, as if conscious of the nauseous nature of the black Republican rostrum, announced his intention to speak about the "Eternal Negro," to use his own language, and entered into a lengthy and ingenious analysis of the "nigger" question, impressing upon his hearers that it was the only question to be agitated until finally settled. He carefully avoided going directly to the extreme ground occupied by him in his canvass against Douglass, yet the doctrines which he preached, carried out to their legitimate results, amount to precisely the same thing. He was decidedly opposed to any fusion or coalition of the Republican party with the opposition of the South, and clearly proved the correctness of his ground in point of policy. They must retain their sectional organization and sectional character, and continue to wage their sectional warfare by slavery agitation; but if the opposition in the South would accede to their views and adopt their doctrines, he was willing to run for president in 1860, as southern man with northern principles, or in other words, with abolition proclivities. His speech was of the character of an exhortation to the Republican party, but was in reality as good a speech as could have been made for the interest of the Democracy. He was listened to with much attention, for his Waterloo defeat by Douglass has magnified him into quite a lion here.

Among others, I listened to his speech, which was very able, attractive and convincing. His manner of presenting his argument was very simple, his points so clear and well defined that it was easy for anyone to comprehend it. It was his method that made him so attractive as a public speaker. The crowd, as well as myself, was absolutely convinced that what he had said was true, and that his policy in the negro question in national affairs should be adopted.

During the summer of 1859 I had been engaged in making reconnaissances west of the Missouri River for the Union Pacific Railroad. I came back to Council Bluffs with my party, arriving here some time in August. Mr. Lincoln heard from