

LINCOLN'S STORIES AND SPEECHES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649269990

Lincoln's stories and speeches by Abraham Lincoln & Edward Frank Allen

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ABRAHAM LINCOLN & EDWARD FRANK ALLEN

LINCOLN'S STORIES AND SPEECHES

ART-TYPE EDITION

LINCOLN'S STORIES
and SPEECHES

Edited by

EDWARD FRANK ALLEN



THE WORLD'S
POPULAR CLASSICS

BOOKS, INC.
PUBLISHERS

NEW YORK

BOSTON

0-12

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

F-1-7
111
111

LINCOLN'S STORIES
AND SPEECHES

M747915

A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

I

Abraham Lincoln was not only a great American, but he was a man of outstanding personality. He was a simple man, a genial man, a human man, and an honest man. These characteristics, coupled with his rugged genius, add up to greatness.

On December 20, 1859, he wrote a letter to his friend Jesse W. Fell, of Bloomington, Ill., telling something of his life and the history of his family. This was the year before his election to the Presidency, and the letter shows that he was not anxious to cover up his humble background. Here is the letter:

"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 County, 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 Berks County, Pennsylvania. An effort to identify them with the New England

family of the same name ended in nothing more 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. He 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 (1816). 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 pressure of necessity.

"I was raised to farm-work, which I continued until I was twenty-two. At twenty-one I came to Illinois and passed the first year in Macon County. Then I got to New Salem, at that time in Sangamon, 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 through the campaign, was elated, ran for the Legislature in the same year (1832), and was beaten—the only time I have ever been beaten by the people. The next, and three suc-

ceeding biennial elections, I was elected to the Legislature. I was not a candidate afterwards. During this legislative period, I had studied law and removed to Springfield to practice it. In 1846 I was once elected to the lower House of Congress, but was not a candidate for reelection. From 1849 to 1854, both inclusive, practiced law more assiduously than ever before. Always a Whig in politics, and generally on the Whig electoral ticket 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 gray eyes. No other marks or brands recollected.

"Yours truly,

"A. LINCOLN."

Lincoln wrote another sketch of his life for campaign purposes in 1860, and from these notes and later research by his biographers, supplemented by voluminous historical records, his life story has been adequately presented.

His ancestor Samuel Lincoln came from England in 1637 and settled in Salem, Mass. Samuel was the progenitor of some other distinguished Americans, including army generals and state governors, in Revolutionary days.

Abraham Lincoln's grandfather settled in Kentucky in about the year 1781. Three years later he was killed by Indians, leaving six-year-old Thomas, who was to father a great and noble President of the United States.

It is on record that Thomas Lincoln married Nancy Hanks in Washington County, Kentucky, on June 12, 1806. Abraham was the second child of this marriage.