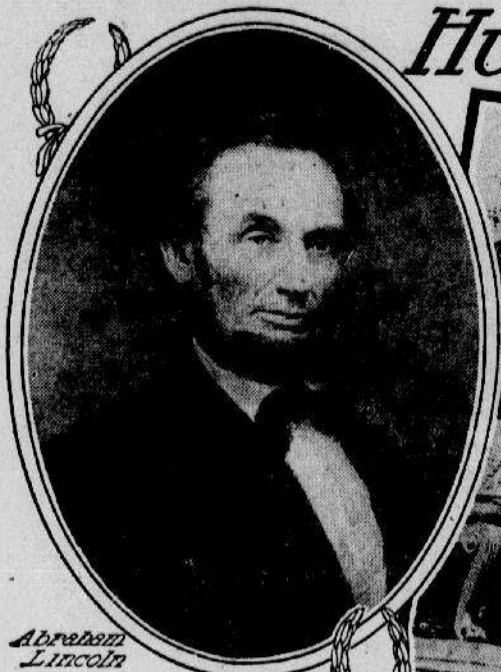


# HUMOROUS INCIDENTS in the Life of ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By Della Austrian



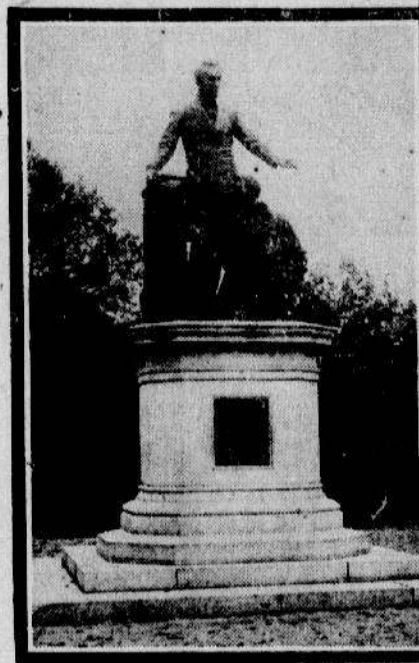
Abraham Lincoln



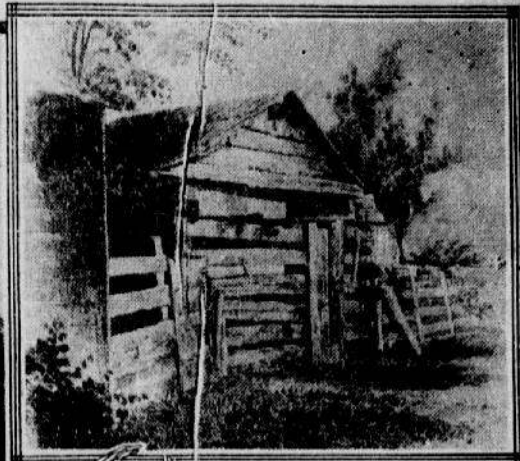
Statue by St. Gaudens  
Lincoln Park, Chicago, Ill.



Lincoln's Home at Springfield, Ill.



Emancipation Statue, Wash., D.C.



Early Home of Lincoln

It is difficult to think of Abe Lincoln, born in a small log cabin, surrounded by hardships and sorrows in early youth, who won success by hard struggling, and whose last years were full of the most serious problems that ever confronted any president, as a humorist. This is the more unusual because his countenance was extremely worn and sad-looking, and his nature was so tender and sympathetic as to often make him appear melancholy. No man ever felt the responsibilities our nation had entrusted to his care so much as he did, and no president ever succeeded in acting according to popular opinion, without being swayed by popular whims and caprices, better than did he. Though often completely weighted down by the cares and trials of the nation during the most critical period of its history, he succeeded in cheering himself, those about him and the people.

There are many charming and humorous stories intertwined with his early boyhood, several told by the colored mammy who worked for them. She says that he often sprawled himself out on the floor and worked to write his name. He was no more easily satisfied with these early efforts than with his later undertakings. But after he had worked and struggled and knew he had done his best, he got up and began to criticize his work. "Den he sez to me many a time, 'look at that, will you, Abraham Lincoln. Don't look a blamed bit like me.' And he'd stand an' study it a spell."

Though he did not mind hard work and while still a young boy could swing an ax with the ease of a grown man, he was happiest when he had a book near him. As his mammy says:

"Seems to me now I never seen Abe after he was 12 that he didn't have a book some'er round. He'd put a book inside his shirt and fit his pockets with corn dodgers an' go off to plow or hoe. When noon come he'd set down under a tree an' read an' eat. An' when he come to the house at night he'd take a cheer back by the chimney, put his feet on the rung, set on his backbone and read."

"Aunt Sally'd never let the children pester him. She always said that Abe was goin' to be a great man some day and she wasn't goin' to have him hindered."

When Lincoln started out to make a living and a name for himself, he soon learned that life is not all sunshine for the boy or girl who must accomplish everything by their own hard conscientious effort and work. Though the situation often looked exceedingly dark and his work often resulted in failure, he had more friends to help him on than he at first knew. He was wonderfully strong. What exhausted other men seemed to act on him as a tonic. Once he was working in a small town where there was a man by the name of Armstrong. When a new man came to the place his strength

and courage were sure to be tested with Armstrong. The newcomers were always put through the same ordeal, and Abe with the rest. Much to the surprise of both camps Armstrong was defeated. Everybody was of the opinion that Abe Lincoln was the best and strongest man that ever broke into the camp. To show that there was no pride and boast in this victory, he became a friend of the Armstrong family. Mrs. Armstrong soon grew so fond of him that she treated him as a relative, and the children loved to climb onto his knees and brush away the sadness from his face by hugs and kisses.

Abe Lincoln did not have to work long to discover that he was an exceedingly poor business man. One failure came after another. These showed the real strength and character of the man. He never complained nor fretted because success was not coming his way. His faith and his splendid sense of humor helped him to believe

that his affairs would better themselves after a while.

He was determined, however much luck turned against him, to be honest and keep his ledger clean. He often told his friends that he preferred to go without a square meal than to lose a night's rest disturbed by an annoyed conscience. The following story is one of the many illustrations that he lived up to this statement. It was while he was doing business as a merchant that a farmer's wife bought something of him which needed weighing and computation. She had come some miles from home. It was only after she left he discovered that he had overcharged her 29 cents, and he walked four miles to correct the mistake. A friend hearing of the incident joked with him about it. When the humorous Abe answered, "This is not a joke, but a serious matter. I know that this customer needed the 29 cents more than I do."

Though this sense of humor was nat-

ural to him, he realized when still a young boy that a pleasant way and a good joke do wonders for making life easier and sweeter. He loved to listen to a good joke and loved to tell one. He had a wonderful memory, and this helped him in making other folks' stories his own. Good stories were so highly prized by him that he stored them away in his memory with jealous care, and used them as the occasion presented itself. As he himself said: "I believe that genuine humor is a plaster that heals many a wound. I remember a good story when I hear it, but I never invent anything original. I am only a retail dealer. A pinch of mental snuff."

When his friends complimented him on the way he looked or something he had done he loved to laugh it away with a joke, to show that he appreciated their friendship and still that he refused to be spoiled by flattery. The following is a story in point. One day a friend shook hands with him and said: "Mr. President, it is sometime since I saw you in Illinois." "Yes," came the jovial answer, "I am about the same as the old horse who was put in a pasture to graze. A neighbor seeing the horse after she had been there sometime said: 'Well, you put this horse in there to recuperate, but she looks now about the same as when you first put her in. She neither recuperates nor decays!' That's just about the way it is with me."

Two qualities kept him the same unassuming man after he was made president of the United States that he was

when he began to make a career for himself. One was his sense of humor, which never allowed him to become self-conscious, and the other his wonderful faith in God and in his fellow-men. His friends never hesitated to approach him to ask him a favor nor tell him a funny story. A friend says: "One day on board ship I showed him in Harper's Weekly a funny little rhyme which was so amusing that the president sat down and sprawled himself on his back and said: 'Lend me your penknife.' I handed him the knife and he cut the piece from the paper, saying: 'Not a very dignified position for the president of the United States, but eminently comfortable for that purpose.'"

Music was another of his favorite recreations. He loved to hear the boys sing their songs in camp. He loved homely ballads and simple ditties. The greatest favor a friend or soldier could show him was to sing simple tunes. As one friend admits: "Often have I seen him in tears while I was rendering in my poor way a homely melody."

He found great delight in the laughter and pranks of children. He allowed his own boys great freedom in the White House. He often let their misdeeds go unpunished because everything about children gave him recreation and pleasure. The keeper in the White House tells this story showing his love for children: "We were walking over to the War department. Just as we got to the door a nurse holding one infant and having

another at her side got in our way. I took hold of the little tot gently and put her to one side so the president could pass.

"That's all right, that's all right," the president said, as though he was displeased that I had disturbed the child.

It was his sense of humor that enabled him to bear poverty lightly. Elegant surroundings did not appeal to him, he was as content in the log-cabin where he was born as in the White House. The plainest suits pleased his tastes. Greediness of wealth was wholly unknown to him; if he was greedy about anything it was knowledge and nothing more. The following story is told about him and well proves this point. He was asked to give a lecture in the Illinois college for the library fund. When the lecture was over and the people passed out he went up to the librarian and said: "I notice that there are not many listeners here tonight; I don't think we made much on this lecture." In reply the official said: "When we pay for the rent of the hall, music and advertising and your compensation there will not be much left for the library." Lincoln replied: "Well boys be hopeful, pay me my railroad fare and the 50 cents that my supper cost me and you can have the rest."

This joviality was largely because he felt the sorrows and hardships that come to most men and women, and he did everything in his power to lighten their burden. As he said to a friend: "When I am dead I wish my friends to remember that I always pluck a thorn and plant a rose when possible."

He was beloved by thousands and thousands of people. Many who believed in slavery appreciated the grand character of the man. And it was his strong personality that converted thousands of men to believe that slavery was wrong. But no one loved him so well as the colored people, his words were always on their lips. An old

Continued on Page Ten.

Any Missoula Real Estate Is Good

# DALY'S ADDITION IS BEST

There is a reason for Missoula's Excellence and There Is a Reason for Daly's Addition's Supremacy.



SEE HERE



AND HERE



## MISSOULA

Is good because her natural location and the enterprise and vigor of her citizens have made her so; and she is getting better every day. The postoffice receipts of Missoula for 1909 showed a greater percentage of gain than those of any other city in the northwest. The telegraph companies did twice the business in 1909 than they did in 1900. The gain in the telephone business was correspondingly great. These are items that measure the business of the city more accurately than anything else could do. One other item that is significant in this connection is the report of the county treasurer for the year, which shows a gain of more than 68 per cent in the fees received by the county officers over the report of the year before. This is another pretty good indication of the amount of business done in the county. These are all official figures; they tell the story more accurately and more impressively than we could possibly do it in pages of argument. The figures show that Missoula is good and they tell why.

## DALY'S ADDITION

Is the best opportunity in Missoula for a good many reasons. In the first place, its location is directly in the path of the expansion of the city; this season's building of residences will be in Daly's addition; this is because the city is built close up to the line of this addition and has already begun to crowd over; it is also because the electric cars will run through the central avenue of Daly's addition, affording rapid transit for residents there; it is also because there is city water at every lot in the addition and the electric light and telephone utilities are immediately available; it is also because the addition is in a good neighborhood, close to churches and to schools; it is also because the location is healthful and the soil is rich; it is also because there has been no advance in the price of these lots over last year, despite the improvement in conditions. All in all, Daly's addition, under present conditions, is the best real estate offering that we have ever known; all we ask is that you investigate the proposition; you'll be pleased.

Lots Are Only \$125; the Terms Are Easy

Write or Call or Telephone and We Will Show You  
the Lots and Explain the Terms---You'll Be Pleased

# SOUTH MISSOULA LAND CO.

Telephone 617



Frank P. Keith, Secretary



Florence Hotel Block