

Anonymous

Drawer 25

71.205.985.00003

Reminiscences



Reminiscences about  
**Abraham Lincoln**

Newspaper clippings, accounts, and  
memories of those whose lives  
included an encounter with the 16<sup>th</sup>  
President of the United States

**Anonymous  
Anecdotes**

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2012 with funding from

The Institute of Museum and Library Services through an Indiana State Library LSTA Grant

# ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Some New Stories About One of the Remarkable Figures in American History.

His Kindness of Heart Exemplified, and Also His Truthful Nature—An Interesting Sketch.

(Written for the Courier-Journal.)

A well-known Cincinnati gentleman, who desires his name withheld, says: After the war had been in progress about a year, the Legislature of Kentucky planned to meet and force their State out of the Union. They intended then to organize all the troops they could get, and attack Cincinnati and all the southern border of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. We had among them women who kept us well posted as to their plans.

In the fall of 1862 I was sent (by Gov. Todd) with Gov. Dennison, Hon. John A. Gurley and Lars Anderson as a committee to Washington to inform Mr. Lincoln of the threatening of the border. At the White House we were informed he was at the cottage at the Soldiers' Home.

We drove out there and found Mr. Lincoln had gone to bed. I sent him a card stating our business, and we were taken upstairs.

We were informed that Mr. Lincoln would see us in a few minutes.

He soon followed the messenger. Mr. Lincoln had on only his drawers, shirt, slippers without socks, and a long robe *de chambre*. He sat down, crossed his long limbs, then threw his robe over him. He dissipated any ideas of royalty we might have had. We then told him our business; among other things I told him if the rebels knew how exposed we were they would soon be upon us.

We had no trained soldiers, and we had rebels in our midst whose treacherous communications might bring the South upon us any day.

When we had finished Mr. Lincoln said: "Well, what would you advise?" "Advise, Mr. President, we did not come here to advise the President of the United States; we came here only to tell." "Well, what would you do if you were I?"

I said: "Mr. President, as you ask me, I will tell you what we have thought. We need gunboats on the Ohio and the border States of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois should be organized into one military department and put under the control of a good soldier and sensible man. And, further, if the soldiers could be sent when recruited to Cincinnati, and drawn from there as needed, it would at least afford us the appearance of defense, and restore the feeling of security to our citizens."

Mr. Lincoln replied: "I will think of your first suggestion, but I have tried the camp business and do not like it. It is all draw but and no put in. I do not like it. I have no regiments to put there. The fact is, I do not carry any regiments in my trouser pocket."

He then gave us a card to the Secretary of the Navy, whom we went to see the next day.

We had lived on the Ohio all our lives. We told the Secretary that the Ohio is a treacherous river, sometimes being forty feet deep and sometimes only two, and would need a peculiar kind of gunboat. The Secretary said to us most superciliously, "This Department is differently informed."

The Secretary afterward found out by expensive experiments what he could have learned by that morning talk.

But nothing was immediately done for us. It was not until Cincinnati was invested with rebel troops and all Northern Ohio that could carry a shot-gun came to the border to protect the State that Ohio grit was understood and our danger appreciated. Then we had just about what we asked for in that interview.

MRS. LINCOLN.

A current story in Washington circles even yet is that at the funeral of Col. Baker, Mrs. Lincoln wore a lilac silk dress with bonnet and gloves to match. She was much ridiculed at the time by the papers, and Washington society circles felt outraged. So much was said of it that ladies who wooed her well at last persuaded an intimate friend of Mrs. Lincoln's to tell her of the impropriety. The friend went to see her barely worked up to the point of remonstrance.

Mrs. Lincoln met her in the vestibule, exclaiming: "I am so glad you have come; I am just as mad as I can be. Mrs. Crittenden has just been here to remonstrate with me for wearing my lilac suit to Col. Baker's funeral. I wonder if the women of Washington expect me to muffle myself up in mourning for every soldier killed in this great war."

The lady here said, "But, Mrs. Lincoln, do you not think black more suitable to wear at a funeral because there is a great war in the nation?"

"No, I don't; I want the women to mind their own business; I intend to wear what I please."

Further remonstrance was not offered.

Ohio Border  
Funeral of Col. Baker

1862

(over)

I then inquired if Mr. Lincoln was a spiritualist, and if it were true there were seances at the White House during the Lincoln Administration.

"Mr. Lincoln had no sympathy with spiritualism. But poor Mrs. Lincoln's mind, never very strong, was no doubt affected by Willie's death.

"There was in Georgetown a woman medium whom she used to consult. Mrs. Lincoln sent for the medium to come to the White House, because the President's carriage was so conspicuous Mrs. Lincoln could not go to her in Georgetown. There were several seances at the White House. Mr. Lincoln first heard of them in the newspapers. As soon as he found out what was being done he put a stop to them immediately."

I inquired concerning the newspaper statements that Mrs. Lincoln talked "news" and politics injudiciously.

"Mrs. Lincoln was an injudicious talker. I was with her once on Pennsylvania avenue, when a New York politician was in the carriage with us. The man immediately began talking politics, and soon brought the conversation around to one of the Cabinet officers.

"Mrs. Lincoln said, 'I do wish we could get rid of him. I have been trying to have Mr. Lincoln make him a Judge in the Court of Claims'—(then being organized).

"Even to my inexperienced eyes the politician had gotten what he wanted and soon got out of the carriage.

"I shall always believe Mrs. Lincoln's mind was even then slightly affected, or else she was a woman in whom judgment was totally wanting. This I do not believe."

I inquired if Mr. Lincoln was a fine talker.

"One of the best I ever heard. I have seen both him and Stephen A. Douglas at my father's table. They were both fine conversers. They never disputed their thought to suit the feminine brain as some men of less genius seem to think it necessary to do."

Judge Usher, of Lawrence, Kan., probably the last surviving member of the Lincoln Cabinet, relates this incident:

"After Faine was incarcerated for his attempted assassination of Seward, he, for a long time, kept a stoical silence. But one day after his sentence, he broke into tears as he made his sorrowful confession to Gen. Eckert. Among other things he said about this: 'I was appointed to assassinate Lincoln, and fully intended to do so. Everybody knew his custom was to go over to the War Department after all the duties of the day were over, for the latest news from the seat of war, and I expected to shoot him on one of these trips. But after I took the contract he did not go over at night for two weeks, and I was reprimanded; so I determined to find an opportunity. I stood behind a tree the night after my reprimand, when Mr. Lincoln and another man unexpectedly passed me. I waited for their return. As they passed, Mr. Lincoln was telling a story, of which I caught a sentence. I followed, with my pistol cocked, but waited to hear the rest of the story.' There he related the story. 'The delay saved him, for they were soon joined by others, which prevented my shooting. It was a night when the sheet ice on the ground made so much noise it was not easy to hear.'

"By this and the particular story mentioned, Gen. Eckert identified the night as one on which he had accompanied Mr. Lincoln to and from the War Department."

Anonymous

Drawer 25

Revised Sciences

Martial Law: what is  
it? Who Can Declare  
it? by Tatlow Jackson  
1862