

Farley, Alan W. *When Lincoln Came to Kansas Territory.*

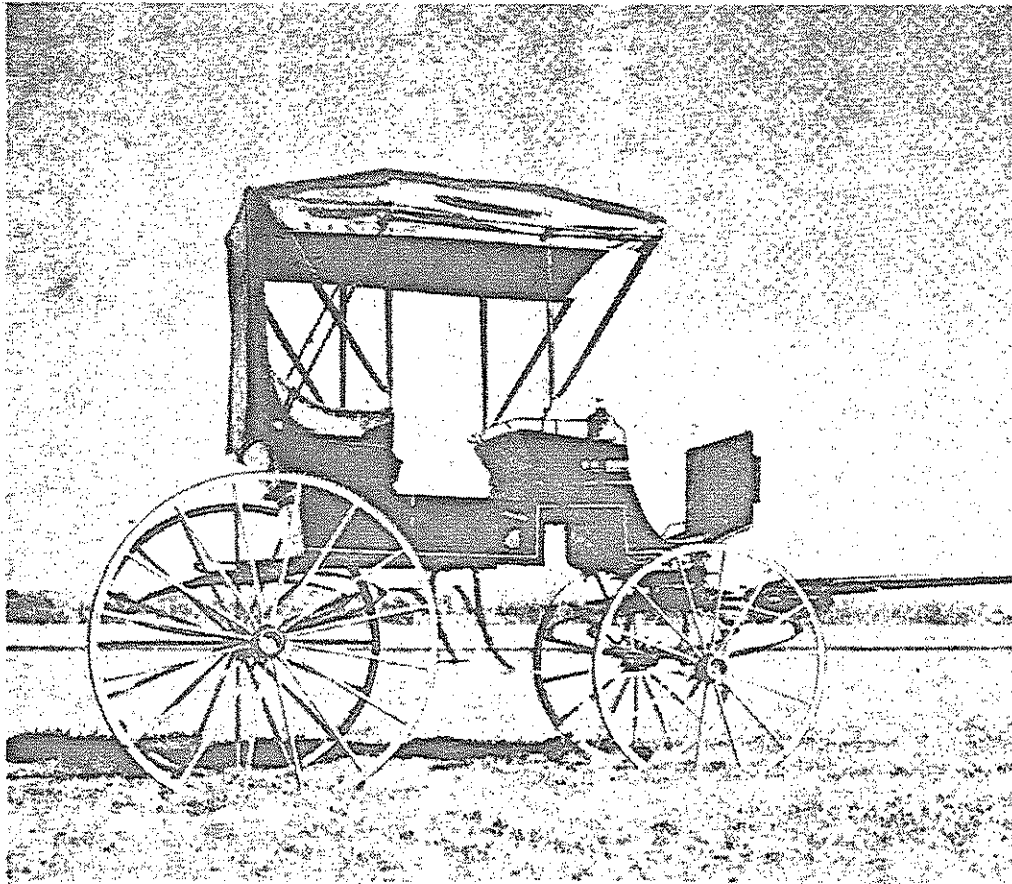
Abraham Lincoln in Kansas Territory; December 1 to 7, 1859.
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ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN KANSAS TERRITORY

December 1 to 7, 1859

KANSAS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PUBLISHED BY FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS
PARTICIPANT IN REENACTMENT OF LINCOLN'S RIDE

WHEN LINCOLN CAME TO KANSAS TERRITORY

by Alan W. Farley ^{9/63}

(Excerpts from an address to the Fort Leavenworth Historical Society, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 17 November 1959.)

In 1859, Lincoln came to Kansas Territory at the invitation of Mark W. Delahay. Delahay had worked as a traveling newspaper man and had met and married Miss Louisiana Hanks, a cousin of some degree to Abraham Lincoln, and who bore him some family resemblance, and of whom Lincoln was very fond. Delahay turned to the practice of law and was admitted to the Illinois bar about 1845 and soon became a partner of Edward D. Baker, who was later senator from Oregon. In March, 1855, Delahay moved with his family to Leavenworth where he founded the *Territorial Register*. His course there so offended the pro-slavery people that they mobbed his office and threw his printing press and type into the Missouri river, through a hole which they cut in the ice. Delahay fled to Alton, Illinois, where after two years he bought another press and equipment with which he founded the *Wyandotte Register* in 1857. The next year he returned to live in Leavenworth, the free-state party having gained control of the town.

Lincoln came to St. Joseph, Missouri, on November 30, 1859, having crossed the state of Missouri on the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad which had just been completed. The station was in the south part of town and Lincoln was met by Delahay and D. W. Wilder, publisher of the *Elwood Free Press*, and taken uptown in a hack. Lincoln wished to be shaved so they took him to a barber shop near the Planter's House and Wilder went to the news-stand and bought the New York and Chicago papers for him. Later in the day they went to the ferry-landing and Wilder thought Lincoln resembled a great grasshopper with his long legs protruding as they squatted on the levee waiting for the boat to come over from the Kansas side. They crossed to Elwood, K. T. and registered at the Great Western Hotel, a large, rambling, frame building. Lincoln was feeling the effects of his journey, yet he consented to speak that night in the hotel dining room. During his remarks he referred to old John Brown and the Harper's Ferry affair, for the next day they hung Brown in Virginia:

"We have a means provided for the expression of our belief in regard to slavery—it is through the ballot box—the peaceful method provided by the constitution. John Brown has shown great courage, rare unselfishness, as even Governor Wise testifies. But no man, North or South, can approve of violence and crime."

The next morning a blizzard was raging when the party left Elwood for Troy. On the road to Troy they met a man bundled up in buffalo robes, with icicles hanging from his heavy beard, driving a heavy two-horse wagon. It turned out to be Henry Villard, a famous newspaper correspondent who had been to the Colorado goldfields, and had driven his vehicle all the way from Denver. After talking a few minutes, Villard exclaimed, "Why, Mr. Lincoln, you are blue and shivering from the cold!" Lincoln had on an overcoat which failed to turn the bitter Kansas wind. Villard handed him a buffalo robe, which Lincoln later returned. The

party arrived at Troy, chilled to the bone, despite the additional wrap. There they met another party which had come up from Leavenworth to welcome Lincoln, one of whom had frozen his hand. They also met Albert D. Richardson, the author of "Beyond the Mississippi."

Mr. Richardson records that Troy then consisted of a few shanties, a tavern, and a frame-built court house, small and shabby. These buildings were rocked and shaken by the terrific wind. Lincoln spoke in the court house for an hour and three-quarters and held a small audience spellbound. When he had finished, the customary question was asked if anyone else had anything to say. Andrew J. Agey, reputed to be the owner of more slaves than any other man in the Territory, got to his feet:

"I have heard, during my life, all the ablest public speakers, all of the eminent statesmen of the past and present generation, and while I dissent utterly from the doctrines of this address, and shall endeavor to refute some of them, candor compels me to say that it is the most able, the most logical speech, I have ever listened to."

Following the Troy address, Lincoln rode on to Doniphan where the party rested that night. Colonel D. R. Anthony joined the group at Doniphan. Lincoln made a speech there but no particulars have been preserved. On Friday morning, the accumulating party then escorted Lincoln to Atchison, one of the principal towns of the Territory and one which retained much of the pro-slavery crowd that formerly dominated the political life of the region. The town had notice of his coming. A local committee received him and conducted him to the Massasoit House, Atchison's best hotel. Citizens flocked to the hotel to pay their respects. Lincoln fixed himself comfortably near the great stove to meet the people, among whom were John J. Ingalls, John A. Martin and B. F. Stringfellow. Ingalls had recently returned home after playing an important part in framing the Wyandotte constitution; John A. Martin was later to become colonel of the Eighth Kansas and governor of the state. Stringfellow was a leader of the old pro-slavery faction.

A handbill had been circulated advertising the evening meeting at the new Methodist Church. Franklin G. Adams, who was secretary of the Kansas State Historical Society for more than twenty years, left an account of the meeting:

"I still remember the appearance of Mr. Lincoln as he walked up the aisle on entering the church and took his place at the pulpit stand. He was awkward and forbidding, though it required but a few words for him to dispel this unfavorable impression, and he was listened to with the deepest of interest by every member of the audience."

The late Frank A. Root was foreman in the printing plant of *Freedom's Champion*, the principal newspaper of the town. Here is something of what Mr. Root said of the meeting:

"As Mr. Lincoln arose from his seat on the rostrum, at first many seemed disappointed in him. But this was owing, no doubt, to the rather uncouth appearance he presented. It was only a little while after Mr. Lincoln began his talk, until the audience almost to a man realized that it had been mistaken in its hurried and previous estimation formed of the noted speaker, then almost unknown in Kansas. Most of the listeners were

shortly convinced that they were not only being entertained by the plain 'Honest' Abe Lincoln, but found he was a man possessed of vast information and far advanced opinions and ideas—one of the ablest men then in the Great Middle West, an orator of renown—in short, one of the wisest and most profound minds the nation had ever produced."

After the meeting closed, most of the audience followed the band which escorted Mr. Lincoln back to the Massasoit House. Afterward there was a prolonged reception at the parlors of the hotel, for the people were fascinated by this personality. Free-state and pro-slavery adherents vied with one another in expressing respect, compliments and good will. This quality of popular favor was probably the reason that no mention of the meeting was carried in the local newspaper, for John A. Martin, the editor, was devoted to Seward for president.

Lincoln felt completely at home with these people. There was a mutual bond of understanding between him and the pioneers; their needs, their problems and their aspirations, were instinctively comprehended, for he had lived all his life among such folk in Indiana and Illinois. More than a few pro-slavery men went on down to Leavenworth with Lincoln the next morning. He arrived about noon, after another bitterly cold trip, and was escorted by a marching band and parading citizens to the Mansion House for a rousing public reception. He could not have wished a more cordial welcome.

The meeting on Saturday evening, December 3, was at Stockton's Hall. The Hall was filled even as to standing room, for this was one of the largest political assemblies that had met up to that time in Kansas. After a discussion of the policy of the Republican party, Lincoln said to the pro-slavery listeners:

"You are for the Union; and you greatly fear the success of the Republicans would destroy the Union. Why? Do the Republicans declare against the Union? Nothing like it. Your own statement of it is, that if the black Republicans elect a president you won't stand it. You will break up the Union. That will be your act, not ours. To justify it you must show that our policy gives you just cause for such desperate action. Can you do that? When you attempt it, you will find that our policy is exactly the policy of the men who made the Union. Nothing more and nothing less. Do you really think you are justified to break up the government rather than have it administered by Washington and other good and great men who made it, and first administered it? If you do, you are very unreasonable; and more reasonable men cannot and will not submit to you. While you elect the President, we submit, neither breaking or attempting to break up the Union. If we shall constitutionally elect a President, it will be our duty to see that you submit. Old John Brown has just been executed for treason against a state. We cannot object, even though he agreed with us in thinking slavery wrong. That cannot excuse violence, bloodshed, and treason. It could avail him nothing that he might think himself right. So, *if constitutionally we elect a President, and therefore you undertake to destroy the Union, it will be our duty to deal with you as Old John Brown has been dealt with.* We shall try to do our duty. We hope and believe that in no section will a majority so act as to render such extreme measures necessary."

Mr. Lincoln also referred to the border troubles with a word of caution:

"If I might advise my Republican friends here, I would say to them, 'Leave your Missouri neighbors alone. Have nothing whatever to do with the white people, save in a friendly way. Drop past differences, and so conduct yourselves that, if you cannot be at peace with them, the fault shall be wholly theirs.'"

After the meeting, Lincoln and Delahay went with Col. D. R. Anthony to his room and there a small group talked far into the night and until all the firewood in the room had been devoured by the stove. Anthony wrote of this occasion:

"It was a cold night as I remember it, and nobody was willing to leave the room long enough to go for wood. Mark Parrott, the territorial representative, has sent us great sacks full of patent-office reports from Washington to distribute to the boys. Times were not dull enough in town to make government reports popular reading matter, and many sacks full of bound paper were unopened in the room. Some had already served for fuel, and when the fire died down, two or three bulky books went into the stove. One of the men said:

'Mr. Lincoln, when you become President, will you sanction the burning of government reports by cold men in Kansas territory?'

'Not only will I not sanction it, but I will cause legal action to be brought against the offenders,' said Lincoln, smiling good-naturedly.

Lincoln spent the next few days visiting with the Delahays, meeting and talking with the townspeople and interesting himself in the election on Tuesday, December 6, of the first state officers to be elected under the Wyandotte Constitution. He was asked to address the citizens again on Monday. He spoke at Stockton's Hall at 2:30 in the afternoon. The day was reported to be "fearfully unpleasant, but the hall was filled to overflowing—even ladies being present." Later there was a great public reception for him at the Planter's House. So many people gathered that he was called upon to talk. He consented, and went out and stood on the broad steps of the entrance and spoke for over an hour to a multitude which packed the streets adjoining. The next day the Delahays gave a party for Lincoln and on Wednesday, December 7, he departed, probably going by stage to St. Joseph. He arrived home at Springfield on December 9.

ALAN W. FARLEY
Kansas City, Kansas

THE LINCOLN EXHIBIT. Among the collections of the Fort Leavenworth Museum are several items of known association with Abraham Lincoln during his visit to Kansas Territory in December, 1859. In recognition of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial (1809-1959) and the pre-State Centennial celebration, including the reenactment on December 5, 1959 of Mr. Lincoln's visit, the Museum has installed a special exhibit, the first to be presented under the reorganized and expanded Museum program, now in process. The exhibit was designed by Anna Belle Cartwright; it was constructed and installed by Anna Belle and Joseph Cartwright, and Earl Harrison. (4)

Hindman, Albert H. *Abraham Lincoln Voiced in Kansas Ideas That Would Make Him President.*

Kansas City Times. Kansas City, MO. February 12, 1952.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN VOICED IN KANSAS
IDEAS THAT WOULD MAKE HIM PRESIDENT

Comfortable Old House Near Tonganoxie Is Believed to Have Been Used for Overnight Stay in His Visit With Mark W. Delahay and His Tour of Frontier Towns in the Cold December of 1859.

BY ALBERT H. HINDMAN.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN slept one night during the first week of December, 1859, in a large farmhouse about twenty miles west of Kansas City, Kansas, and five miles northeast of Tonganoxie. So say the old settlers in Tonganoxie and vicinity, who have referred to the house as "Lincoln's Rest" for scores of years.

The house and the 240-acre farm on which it stands are owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. Leslie Lawing, 2907 West Fiftieth street terrace, in Johnson County, Kansas. Mr. Lawing is principal of the Benton school at 3004 Benton boulevard, Kansas City, Mo. The house is now occupied by an energetic young couple in their twenties, Mr. and Mrs. Billy McGraw, and their 2-year-old son, Mike.

The house is spacious and comfortable, and is in excellent condition. It has five rooms downstairs, five rooms upstairs, four fireplaces and a solid walnut stairway. It reflects the careful fitting and building of a century ago, when labor and materials cost only a small fraction of what they do now. It faces south, toward a pioneer trail used then, but the traces of which have since been obliterated. The southeast corner bedroom on the first floor is the one in which Lincoln is reported to have slept.

Old Residents Are Confident.

Among the many older settlers who regard Lincoln's association with the house as no

mere tradition are J. C. Laming, 82 years old, of Tonganoxie, who lived in "Lincoln's Rest" from 1883 to 1895, and William Heynen, 85, who has lived in Tonganoxie seventy-five years, and who published the Tonganoxie Mirror thirty-four years.

Records in the Leavenworth public library, and the issues of the Leavenworth Daily Times of the first week in December, 1859, tell of Lincoln's visit to Kansas. It is mentioned that Lincoln was a guest of Mark W. Delahay for a part of his 4-day stay in Leavenworth. Delahay owned a large house at 305 Kiowa street in Leavenworth, and also the country house of this story. Lincoln, as Delahay's guest, logically could have spent a night in the country house.

Some historians say that Delahay's wife's grandfather, Joshua Hanks, was related to Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks. Delahay was a close friend of Lincoln. He had been a lawyer in Springfield, Ill., at the time Lincoln was practicing there. He moved to Kansas in 1854, and on July 7, 1855, began to publish the Leavenworth Register, which advocated free-state policies.

On December 20, 1855, while Delahay was meeting with other free-state men in Topeka, a band of men calling themselves the Platte County Regulators crossed the Missouri river, wrecked his printing press and strewed the type in the street. A price of \$500 was placed on Delahay's head, and he and his companions were forced to

leave the country. He returned to Illinois, and his family followed in July, living in Alton.

Back to Wyandotte.

In 1857 Delahay returned to Kansas without his family, and located at Wyandotte, which is now Kansas City, Kansas. There he practiced law, ran a hotel and published a new paper called the Wyandotte Reporter. About a year later he moved back to Leavenworth and sent for his family. He was a mem-

ber of the Osawatomie convention of May 18, 1859, which founded the Republican party in Kansas.

Another active leader of the new party in Kansas was D. W. Wilder, known as "Web" Wilder, who ran a free-state paper in Elwood, Kas., just across the river from St. Joseph. Delahay and Wilder had long urged Lincoln to visit Kansas. A new railroad across Missouri, from Hannibal to St. Joseph, ran its first passenger train February 14, 1859, and Lincoln arrived by this railroad the following December 1.

As Delahay and Wilder sat with Lincoln on a log, waiting for the ferry to take them from St. Joseph to Elwood, Wilder

was fascinated by Lincoln's long legs. He wrote in his newspaper later:

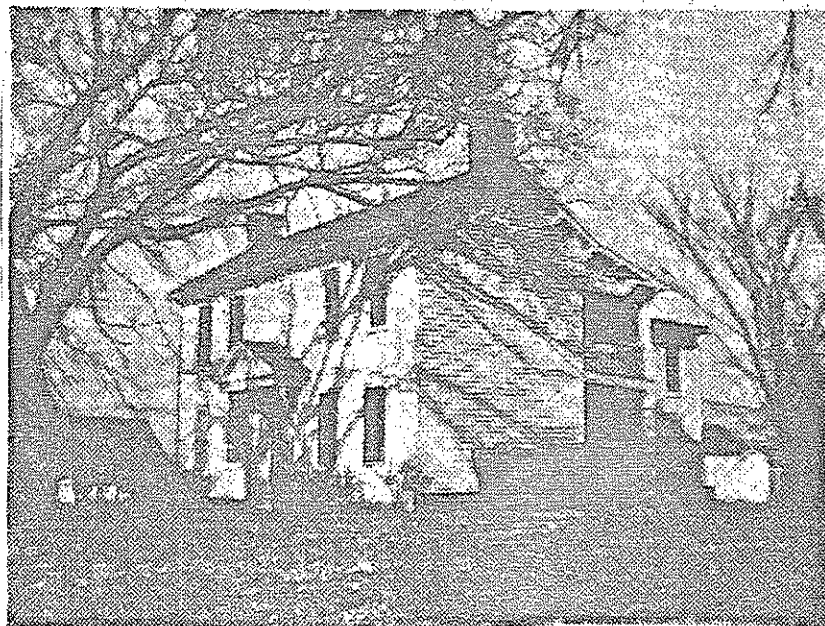
"The knees stood up like the hind joints of a Kansas grasshopper's legs. He wore a hat of stovepipe shape, but made of felt, unglazed. The buttons were off his shirt. . ."

The three crossed on the ferry, and went to the Great Western hotel. A man went up and down the streets, ringing the hotel dinner bell, and crying that Abe Lincoln would speak in the dining room that night. Lincoln made only a short speech there.

Warmed by Buffalo Robe.

The next day, December 2, was bitterly cold, but Lincoln rode across the country in an open buggy thirty miles to Troy. As he and his party rode along, they met a team and wagon, driven by a bearded man in corduroy clothes. He was Henry Villard, a newspaper correspondent returning from Denver. He recognized Lincoln and, noticing that Lincoln was blue and shaking with the cold, he loaned him a large buffalo robe, in which Lincoln wrapped himself for the remainder of the trip.

At Troy, Lincoln spoke to



THIS HOUSE FIVE MILES NORTHEAST OF TONGANOXIE, KAS., IS COMMONLY CALLED "LINCOLN'S REST" . . . TRADITION AND SUPPORTING EVIDENCE SAY ABRAHAM LINCOLN SLEPT IN THE DOWNSTAIRS CORNER ROOM WHICH IS NEAREST THE CAMERA IN THIS PICTURE BY ALBERT HINDMAN.

about forty persons in the court-house. He next spoke in Doniphan, the home of Jim Lane, and that night in the Methodist church in Atchison. On that day, John Brown had been hanged in Charlestown, Va. Lincoln spoke of the fact, and while sympathizing with the cause for which Brown fought, did not condone his seizure of the arsenal at Harper's Ferry, which he said was treasonable.

Lincoln arrived in Leavenworth the next day, December 3, and was met at noon on the outskirts of the city by a large procession, consisting of a band, citizens on foot, carriages and horsemen, who escorted him through the streets amid loud cheering, and the deep-throated whistles of the steamboat, Kickapoo, on the Missouri river. He

was officially received on the balcony of the Mansion House, a hotel, by Col. J. C. Vaughan, publisher of the Leavenworth Daily Times, who welcomed him on behalf of the Republicans of Leavenworth.

Lincoln made a short speech there, alluding briefly to political matters, giving a sketch of the progress of the Republican party and the trials of the free-state men. That night he spoke at Stockton's hall. The Leavenworth Daily Times reported the hall was filled to overflowing and that "Mr. Lincoln was introduced to the audience by Colonel Delahay, amid enthusiastic cheering." "He showed conclusively," the Times continued, "that the Democratic

party of today was not the Democratic party of a few years ago . . . that the Republican party was the only party in the Union that attempted to carry out the principles of Washington, Madison, Jefferson, and the founders of this government." In a second speech in Stockton's hall, December 5, he assailed the indifference of the Democratic party on the slavery question, saying that if a house were on fire, there could be but two parties, one in favor of putting out the fire, the other in favor of letting it burn.

Advice to a Girl.

Delahay's daughter, Mary, was just a little girl at the time of Lincoln's visit, but she remembered it well, and in later years told that while Lincoln was a guest at her father's house, her father arose to carve, as was his custom, and said "Gentlemen, I tell you, Mr. Lincoln will be our next president," to which Lincoln replied modestly, "Oh, Delahay, hush." Mary said that among the guests that night were Judge Pettit, Marcus J. Parrott, S. N. Latta, Jim Lane and others she did not remember. Before she retired, Mary produced a little autograph album and asked Lincoln to write something in it, and Lincoln wrote:

"Dear Mary: It is with pleasure I write my name in your album. Ere long some younger man will be proud to bestow his name upon you. Don't allow it, Mary, until you are fully assured he is worthy of the happiness. Yours, Abraham Lincoln."

Lincoln left Leavenworth on December 7, and returned to the east. Two months later he made his famous speech at Cooper Institute, New York, which historians agree is the speech that won him the Republican nomination for the presidency. He had said essentially the same things at Elwood, Troy, Atchison, Doniphan and Leavenworth that he said later at Cooper Institute.

Delahay, Mary. *When I Knew Lincoln*

National Historical Magazine. Feb. 1941. Vol. 75, No. 2. Pp. 25-33.

of outrages. He had an opinion as to the relative guilt of the parties, but he did not care to say then who was most to blame. He thought there was a peaceful way of settling the question.

There is no press account of Mr. Lincoln's address in Troy, a frontier town with a courthouse, a few shanties and a tavern. But Albert D. Richardson, author of "Field, Dungeon and Escape," gave an account of the speech which was the first one he had ever heard Mr. Lincoln make. "He began not to declaim but to talk in a conversational tone, he argued the question of slavery in the territories. Lincoln spoke with little gesticulation and that little ungraceful. There were not fifty people present to hear this address which lasted nearly two hours."

"I thought," says Mr. Richardson, "if the Illinoisans considered this a great man, their ideas must be peculiar. But in ten or fifteen minutes I was unconsciously drawn by the clearness of his argument. Link by link it was forged and welded like a blacksmith's chain."

In Atchison, Mr. Lincoln spoke in the Methodist Church. This was arranged after some argument that a church was not a suitable place for a political meeting.

In Leavenworth, Mr. Lincoln spoke twice, but there is only one account of this in print. The speech recorded was made in Stockton Hall on December 3, 1859. My father introduced Mr. Lincoln who immediately reverted to the fact that soon the people of Kansas would secure admission to the union and that they would have to take some course in regard to slavery. He went on to say that the policy of squatter sovereignty under the Kansas-Nebraska act was bad; that it had proved false to its promises.

The day Mr. Lincoln arrived in Leavenworth to be our guest was surely of great significance to all of us. Our home was in Kioway Street, third door from Third Street. Everything was shining with welcome. We were not surprised when we saw Pa and Mr. Lincoln drive up, behind the expected schedule, since there was delay incident to formations of new friendships, ever helpful in political achievement.

I was quite impressed with the way mother did honor to our guest. The French china with gold bandings, and silver and crystal, brought out only on state occasions,

were used at every meal. We were allowed to partake of company supper every night instead of the usual simple repast good for growing children, and to wear our Sunday best, even to new shoes that were bought a premium.

In thirty minutes after his arrival, Mr. Lincoln had made friends with all the children in the family, and was on close terms with them; I was fifteen and not considered bold or forward. He was a great story teller, and loved to tell humorous things that his boys had said. One of his sons was named for Colonel Edward Baker, my father's law partner.

In personal appearance, Mr. Lincoln was not at all prepossessing. But he was very magnetic. He was so tall he had to stoop as he went up the stairway that led to a guest room. He was always informal, and when nobody but the family was present I would always remove his shoes after supper as we sat about the fire in the back parlor. He asked my father to lend him some slippers, laughing heartily, and said: "I clean forgot to bring my slippers." I enjoyed the joke of having feet too large for any shoes about the place. Removing his shoes was a signal to us children that stories were forthcoming. We would gath about him, my sister Julia (later wife of Thomas Osborne, Governor of Kansas, 1872-6 and minister to Chile and the Brazil), my brothers, Edward Baker, Robert, Charles and I, to listen to fascinating stories. Mr. Lincoln preferred to sit in a low rosewood rocker which was not at all correct for his great length of six feet and four inches. But he always settled in the chair and before he had removed the second shoe we were around him. Such home shoes he wore, and such long-footed gray wool socks with white heel and toe.

I remember one night Mother allowed me to stay up past bed time as the story telling was too absorbing to come to an untimely close. Mr. Lincoln interspersed references to his boys with the action of the story, making it seem so real he would laugh. "Shall I give them to you girls? Mar there is Robert for you, and Julia, you may have Willie. But what about Tad? What shall I do about him—there is no girl for him." Then he chuckled and repeated what Tad said when people asked him

Rowe, Fayette. *Lincoln Accomplished Aim in Rugged Kansas Trip*

Independence Daily Reporter. Independence, KS. February 6, 1955
KSHS Library and Archives Microfilm Reel number: NP 3473

LINCOLN ACCOMPLISHED AIM IN RUGGED KANSAS TRIP

By PAVETTE ROWE

On February 11th, Republicans of nine southeast Kansas counties will pay homage to the titular chieftain and founder of their party, Abraham Lincoln, at the annual banquet of the Third District Lincoln Day Club in Independence, ninety five years after the Illinois rail splitter visited Kansas to boom his darkhorse candidacy as Republican nominee for President of the United States.

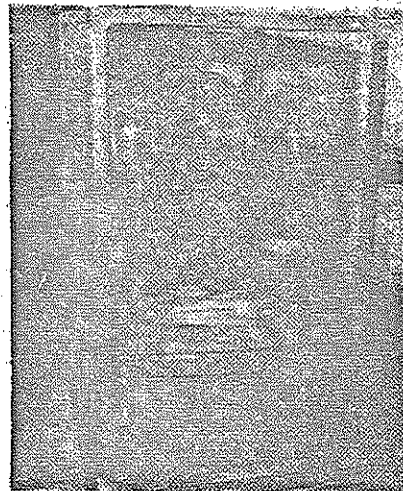
The club, one of the largest Lincoln Day Clubs in America, was organized in 1935 by Hugh Powell, former publisher of the Coffeyville Daily Journal; C. A. Daubin of Baxter, former Cherokee County deputy sheriff; Jay Scovell, Independence attorney and the late Harold McGugin, former Congressman of the Third Kansas District.

Shivering in cold, bleak, frigid early winter weather, Lincoln campaigned in Kansas during the first week of December, 1859, to try out on audiences of the Free Soil Territory his famous Cooper Union speech. Reaction of Kansans to his ideas convinced him that his speech was everything he had hoped it would be. Giving the same address less than three months later before a New York City audience of 1,500, including many New York editors, he won such public acclaim that his speech clinched for him the Republican nomination and the presidency. The address was delivered in the Cooper Union building, a large structure built by Peter Cooper, inventor of the first American steam locomotive. He erected the building to house classes for instruction of laborers in the arts and sciences. Sought Kansas Votes

Lincoln had in mind another objective in visiting Kansas. He hoped to win the votes of the six Kansas delegates to the Republican National Convention in Chicago the next summer. In this mission, the Illinois lawyer failed. A horse and buggy he drove across the sere, frozen Kansas prairie might well have proved a Lincoln band wa-

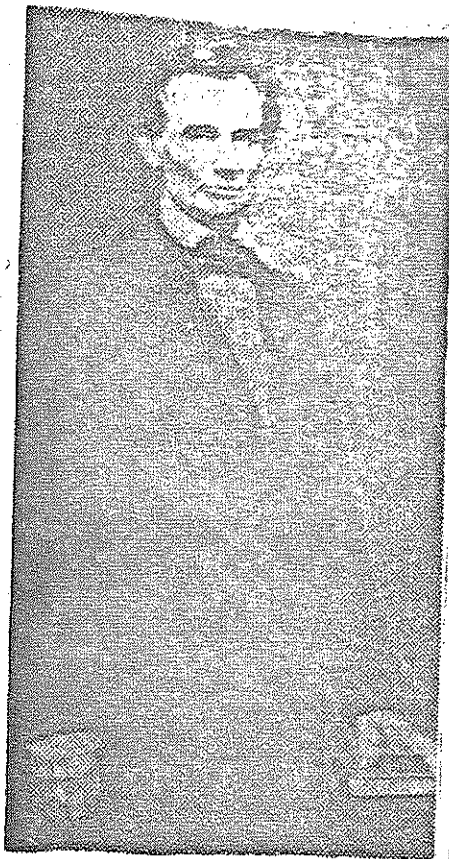
gon, but the Kansas delegates ignored the tall, lanky visitor from Illinois. They placed their votes on William H. Seward, the loser at the Chicago convention and Lincoln's future Secretary of State.

The future president had long labored on his New York speech, the one that soon would win the praise of virtually all editors of metropolitan newspapers in Northern United States. On invitation from Kansas friends and believing the Kansas prairie provided an ideal section for the experiment of



THE CHAIR IN WHICH LINCOLN WAS SITTING WHEN ASSASSINATED — This high-backed fabric covered chair is located in the court room shown at the left. Stains of Lincoln's blood are clearly discernible at the top of the chair where he was leaning his head when shot. The chair is housed in an air tight glass case.

practicing his address, Lincoln hastily packed his carpet bag and boarded a train in his home town of Springfield, Illinois, and started his trip three hundred miles southwestward to the land of the Jayhawkers. When he reached the end of the railroad, he ferried across the Mississippi to Hannibal, Missouri, and purchased a ticket for St. Joseph, Missouri, terminus of the newly constructed Hannibal St. Joseph line completed the previous February.



The above picture of Abraham Lincoln was taken about the time he made his visit to Kansas, and may be a photograph of him taken in New York City at the time of his famous Cooper Union speech.

Stopped At Elwood

A boat ferried the backwoods lawyer and his friends across the Missouri River to the little Kansas town of Elwood, whose chief distinction was possessing the largest Kansas hotel, consisting of seventy five rooms. A small but applauding and enthusiastic crowd greeted the man born in a Kentucky log cabin when he spoke on Thursday, December 1, 1859, in the Great Western Hotel in Elwood at a time when he was fatigued by his long trip to Kansas and momentarily ill.

Friday, December 2, a bright, cold wintry day, with icy blasts of north wind sweeping unbrokenly across the Kansas plains, found Lincoln seated in a buggy driving a horse toward Troy, Kansas, about twelve miles distant, in company with friends riding in another rig. At the time, there was not a single foot of railroad track in all of Kansas. The stove pipe hat and short coat afforded him scant pro-

tection from the frosty, biting prairie wind and Lincoln turned blue with cold. He was surprised when a bearded man in an approaching wagon called Lincoln's name and heartily greeted him. Behind the thick growth of whiskers, the dark-horse candidate recognized the famous newspaper correspondent Henry Villard who was returning from the gold and silver rush at Pike's Peak in Colorado on an assignment for an eastern newspaper. Villard lent Lincoln a heavy buffalo robe which Lincoln wrapped around himself and rode in comparative comfort the remainder of his trip to Troy.

Hecklers proved troublesome in Troy and Lincoln was disappointed in the crowd of forty who listened to him. His next speech was to a small crowd at Doniphan.

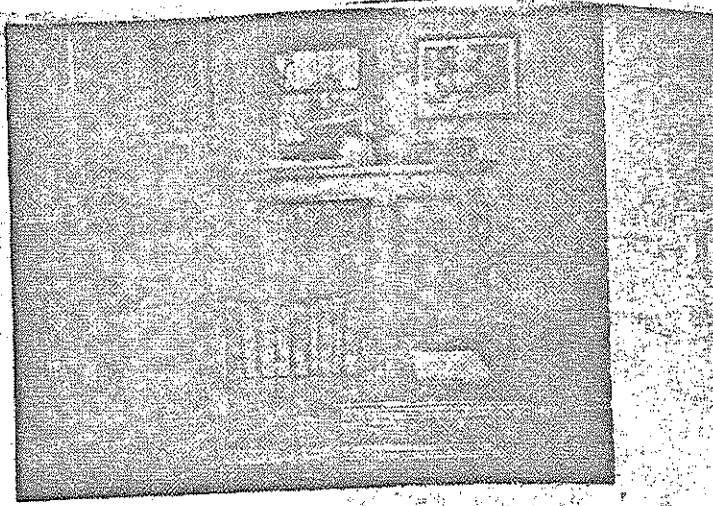
When Lincoln sought permission to speak in the Methodist church in Atchison, a lively fracas ensued in the staid congregation containing many members of the opposition party. The Northerners won in the scrap and Lincoln was

granted permission to appear in the church pulpit, a concession for which he showed his appreciation in the White House by rewarding the newly founded Baker University organized by Kansas Methodists in 1858 at Baldwin, Kansas.

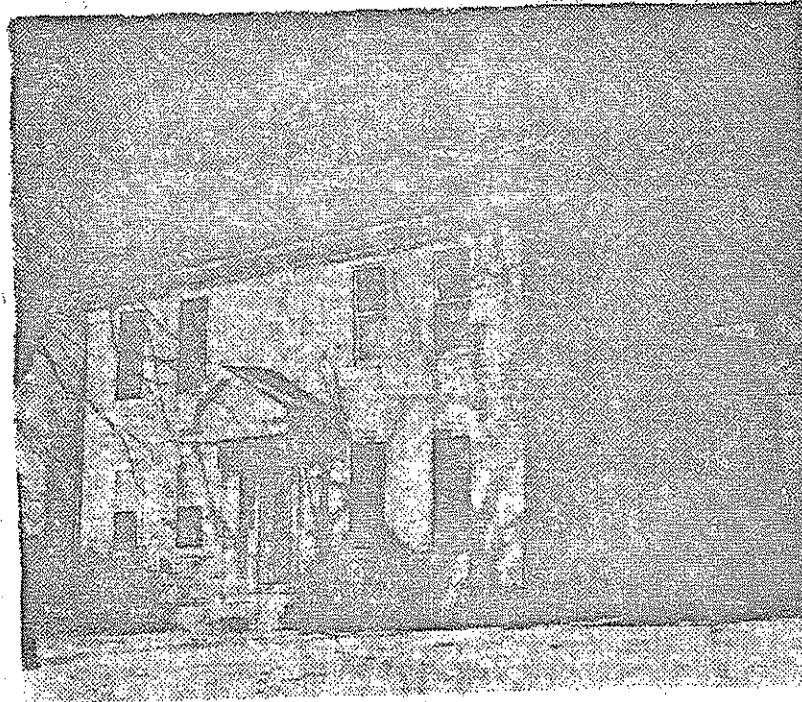
Atchison's mayor, Samuel C. Pomeroy, a future United States Senator from Kansas, and destined to be Lincoln's most bitter enemy in Congress, introduced the man from Illinois to a large crowd in Atchison. Pomeroy was supporting Seward for the Republican presidential nomination and to show his disdain for Lincoln, the Atchison mayor pretended to forget Lincoln's name as an unknown and referred to notes in his hand, feigning to refresh his memory in naming and introducing the guests of the evening.

Among the crowd was a young man who later wrote the famous poem "Opportunity," and the Kansas motto for the state seal, "Ad Astra per Aspera—To the Stars Through Difficulties," and became Kansas' renowned United States Senator, John J. Ingalls.

Spellbound, the huge audience listened to the first rendition of the Cooper Union speech. When Lincoln announced the conclusion of the address after an hour and a half,



COURT ROOM—The court room of the structure shown at the left is typical of early-day court rooms in which Lincoln practiced law in Illinois while riding the circuit. In such court rooms while swaying juries, he gain valuable experience in public speaking. This speech-making ability later carried him to the presidency.



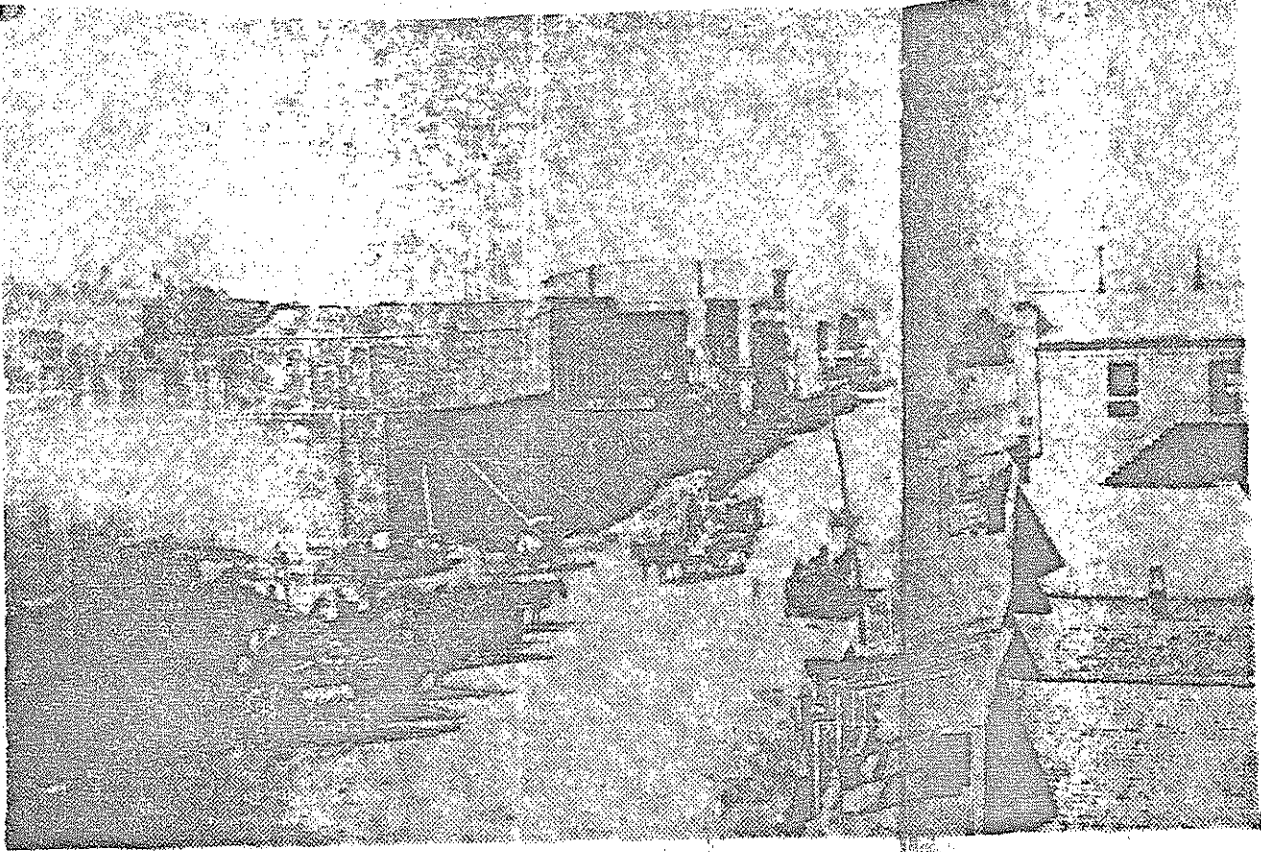
KANSAS FARM HOUSE WHERE LINCOLN SPENT A NIGHT—The farm house shown is located five miles northeast of Tonganoxie, Kas., and in December, 1859, Lincoln stayed all night in the downstairs corner bedroom nearest to the photographer taking the picture. The house appears today much as it did ninety-five years ago when Lincoln was a guest.

the roaring crowd demanded that he continue, and he spoke a total of two hours and twenty minutes. Was Day John Brown Hanged

The same day the future president spoke in Atchison, the fanatic, John Brown, of Osawatomie, Kansas, was hanged by the State of Virginia on a conviction of treason for the famous John Brown raid on the arsenal at Harper's Ferry in that state. Old Brown seemed to enjoy his martyrdom with the eyes of the whole nation upon him

and when convicted, wished for a quick execution. In reply to his executioner's request if he desired a warning before the trap was sprung, Brown replied, "No, only get it over quick." In his Atchison speech, Lincoln stated he sympathized with the principles for which Brown stood but Brown was guilty of treason and should be hanged.

Accompanied to Leavenworth by a delegation, the former country store clerk was met by a brass



ATCHISON, KANSAS—This picture was taken about the time Lincoln spoke in Atchison in 1859.

band and many vehicles at the edge of that stronghold of Southernism and a parade shoved its way through crowded streets. At Leavenworth Lincoln addressed the largest mass meeting ever held on Kansas soil until that time.

In the files of the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka reposes an aged and faded copy of the Leavenworth Weekly Herald for December 10, 1859, containing an account of Lincoln's speech. This highly critical opposition paper published "Lincoln responded in a short speech- the pith of which was he could not speak long as he was to address them at night. He was probably afraid he would explore his one idea and leave no capital for the evening. So far from appearing old, he bears the appearance of a man well in his prime, but without dignity or grace, he has the lank, loose stamp of a six foot Egyptian sucker who has had his supply of whiskey cut off in his growing days and therefore suddenly ran to seed."

The newspaper criticized Lincoln's language as "totally at variance with all rules of grammar" and stated that Lincoln appealed

to Kansans to "let the slaves in Missouri alone," a barb of the editor at Kansans who stole slaves in Missouri for the underground railroad trip to freedom to Canada.

Praised in Leavenworth

But the daily Leavenworth Times of December 6, 1859, a copy of which also is in the files of the Kansas Historical Society, glowed with praise for Lincoln and his speeches.

On Sunday, December 4, Lincoln had lodging in the Atchison hotel, the Massasoit House, where he had an opportunity to be better acquainted with citizens of the prairie. He threw admiring Kansas into gales of laughter with his seemingly inexhaustible supply of funny stories, apparently formulating most of them spontaneously without his having previously heard them.

Lincoln remained in Kansas for election day and started home the next day, Wednesday, December 7, 1859.

While he rode in a carriage across the Kansas prairie to the Missouri River, he had time to reflect about Kansas, its sod houses and log cabins, its people with an

indomitable spirit, and he concluded that the Territory of Kansas had a great future.

As President-Elect, he helped raise the first American flag over Independence Hall in Philadelphia on Washington's birthday in February, 1861, containing the added American star for the new state of Kansas, the thirty-fourth star of the flag.

Mindful of past favors, after occupying the White House for two years, Lincoln chuckled when a financial agent of Baker University requested a donation for his school. The Civil War President recalled the hard fight waged by his Methodist friends so he might speak in their church at Atchison and he wrote his check for one hundred dollars as his contribution to the new Baker University.

Tradition claims that had Lincoln been defeated for the presidency and had he tired of Illinois, he undoubtedly would have made Kansas his future home. Horace Greeley, a famous New York editor, for years advised, "Go West, young man, go West." It was the same Greeley who visited Kansas and on May 18, 1859, at Osawatomie addressed a convention that organized the Republican party in Kansas.

Three months after his trip to Kansas, in response to a letter from an Illinois lawyer seeking a new location in the West, Honest Abe replied, "If I went West, I think I would go to Kansas to Leavenworth or Atchison. Both of them are, and will continue to be, fine growing places."