

Lindsay as School Teacher

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Abraham Lincoln and Education

Lincoln as a School Teacher

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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LINCOLN AS SCHOOL TEACHER

Charles Miller, Cousin of Emancipator Leared of Students.

Marshalltown, Iowa, April 11, 1912.
—The death this week in northern Iowa of Charles Miller, of Liscomb, this county removes one of the nearest of kin of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln and Miller were boys together in Kentucky and were fast friends. Their mothers were cousins and, strange as it may seem, both had the same name before their marriage—Nancy Hanks.

Mr. Miller could have related many an interesting tale of his boyhood recollections of Lincoln had he been so inclined, but he was modest in his statements from the fact that he was of the same family and he feared people would consider him in the light of a braggart. One story he did tell, however, and it goes to illustrate the gameness in Lincoln's character that became so prominent after he grew to manhood.

When Miller was a pretty good chunk of a lad down in Kentucky "Abe" Lincoln was employed to teach the district school in the Miller neighborhood. Naturally, the young schoolmaster went to the home of his cousin, Nancy Hanks Miller to live.

It was the custom in those days for the "big boys" of the school to make every teacher "treat" on the first day of school, or at least to promise a treat. This was agreed upon by the youngsters, who planned their capture of the "new teacher", with Miller as their leader or captain. Miller was chosen because the boys realized that if they were unsuccessful the punishment would probably not be so severe to the ring-leader, he being Lincoln's kinsman.

The first day of school rolled around and the boys were all on hand early. The boys had locked the door, awaiting the arrival of the schoolmaster. Presently a lank form appeared and tried the door. When it failed to open the weight of the young man's body was thrown against it. The door didn't budge. A voice commanded to open and the answer was that Lincoln must treat. Lincoln made no reply. In a few moments a noise was heard on the roof and a little later down the chimney came the soot-begrimed form of the new schoolmaster. His eyes snapped fire. He entered the physical combat that was impending and it was a task for even their numbers for the boys to handle the teacher. They managed to overpower him, however, and demanded that he promise to treat.

He refused. Then the struggling form of Lincoln was borne to a nearby creek, and just before the ducking was forthcoming, Lincoln capitulated. He promised a treat on the marrow and kept his word.

The new teacher never had a stancher lot of friends in his life than these boys. Every one of them admired the teacher for his pluck in putting a defense against such heavy odds.

Taught By Lincoln ^{2/3/35}

Lawton, Okla., Feb. 2. (AP)—Mrs. Mantie Rogers, 92, of Lawton, was a student in the tenth grade when Abraham Lincoln taught a term at Taylorville, Ill. *Muncie Star*



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