

FOREWORD.

Among the many who have written of Abraham Lincoln, none surpass in interesting statement and forceful expression, his long time law partner, Wm. H. Herndon. This remarkable address of Mr. Herndon's has never before been published, and is practically unknown to collectors of Lincolniana. It was delivered as a lecture, on an evening in November, 1866, to a very small audience gathered in the old Sangamon County Court House, on the east side of the public square, in Springfield, Ill. It was afterwards printed at length, as here given, as a broadside, but owing to this unfortunate choice of form, it quickly disappeared and at present but three copies are known to exist—one in the Illinois State Historical Library, where it was placed by the late Dr. A. W. French, another in the library of Dr. William Jayne, who purchased it from the late Joseph Wallace, and a third which the publisher, such is his faith, hopes soon to add to his private collection.

Newspaper comment, made at the time of its delivery, was invariably unfavorable, and this reception of his carefully prepared lecture, doubtless determined Mr. Herndon in not repeating it.

For exactness and detail in statement; for careful study of natural forms in and about New Salem; for courage in giving "the unvarnished truth" as he saw it, and in other traits which the reader will easily discover, this lecture stands as a most unusual and remarkable effort.

In connection with some of Mr. Herndon's statements, an extract is here given, from a letter addressed to the publisher under date of August 9th, 1904, which makes clear the party concerned, and the circumstance of Ann Rutledge's double engagement.

"My father and Abraham Lincoln were associated together at New Salem, about three miles south of Petersburg. My father became engaged to marry Miss Ann Rutledge. He went back to New York after his mother, brothers and sisters, to bring them out to the new country. While absent he was taken with a fever and was away three years. In the meantime Ann and Abraham Lincoln became engaged, they thinking my father dead. My father, however, returned before the wedding came off. Ann took sick and died. My father has pointed out the spot to many where the lovely Ann's remains rest. Mr. Herndon was at my father's house soon

after Lincoln's death and obtained many points concerning his early history. * * *

ANDREW McNAMAR.

Two later lectures by Mr. Herndon, one on "Lincoln's Religion," the other on "Lincoln's Character and Personal Appearance," were likewise allowed to perish for lack of permanence in printed form. Their subject matter, however, was embodied in the extended Life of Lincoln published in 1872 by Ward H. Lamon, and in the still later Life of Lincoln written and published by Mr. Herndon in 1889.

H. E. BARKER.

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