

ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Published by GEORGE B. AYRES, Artist, Philadelphia.

"This is the real Lincoln."—*Bishop C. H. Fowler.*

"Yours is the Lincoln for posterity."—*A. W. Drake, of THE CENTURY.*

"The most literal and characteristic portrait of them all."—*Wm. H. Herndon. Esq.*

The growing fame of ABRAHAM LINCOLN has created a universal desire for an unquestionable, true, and satisfactory likeness of him. Indeed, no portrait-collection of our illustrious men would be at all complete if it lacked the familiar face of our typical American—the first Martyr President.

The photographs of LINCOLN which I have the honor to offer the people of the United States, have now become the accepted and *standard* portrait—and the test of all others.

My pictures are not tendered in the ordinary sense of being merely a *likeness*, but as a something wholly unique, implicitly true, positively rare, and not to be obtained from any other source; as my negatives (so far as known,) are the only ante-presidential ones—1860—in existence!

No skill of hand—whether it be a painting, engraving, or any kind of art-production—can at all compare with the realism and fidelity of these

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM LIFE!

Every line, spot, wrinkle, and peculiar characteristic of Mr. Lincoln's remarkable countenance, are found unchanged and strictly natural in my pictures.

THE ORIGINALS.

I have two negatives. They were made at one sitting, but show Mr. Lincoln from two different points of view. These were taken at Springfield, Ill., in June, 1860, immediately after Mr. Lincoln's nomination to the Presidency.

The simple incident of my having taken these negatives away from Chicago, (where I discovered them) in 1867, happily preserved them from destruction in the great fire of 1871. [See my circular, "History of the Negatives."]

MY TESTIMONIALS.

A circular copy of these "golden opinions" is furnished with every picture sold, together with an account of Mr. Lincoln's sitting for the original negatives, my unexpected discovery of them, and their fortunate preservation from destruction by fire.

No such mass of generous testimony as that which I have gathered from Mr. Lincoln's relatives and most intimate personal and political associates—those who knew him best throughout his career as citizen, lawyer, and politician—has ever been accorded in praise of any other likeness.

Negative No. 1.

Beginning with the approval of Mr. Lincoln himself, the list will be found to include only those fully competent to judge the truthfulness of any picture of him.

- William H. Herndon, Esq.—Lincoln's Law-partner.
Mrs. Harriet A. Chapman—a relative, who lived with Lincoln.
Major H. C. Whitney—Author of "Life on the Circuit with Lincoln."
Hon. John Hay—now Secretary of State, and
Col. John G. Nicolay—formerly Lincoln's Private Secretaries.
Mrs. Emily Todd Helm—a sister of Mrs. Lincoln.
Hon. Joseph Medill—Editor of the *Chicago Tribune*.
Mr. John B. Drake—Proprietor of the "Tremont House," Chicago.
Mr. Wm. Osborn Stoddard—Author, and a Secretary at the White House.
Hon. Robert M. Hitt—Congressman from Illinois, and
Horace White, Esq.—both Correspondents, with Lincoln in 1858.
Mr. Leonard W. Volk—Sculptor of Lincoln Statues, from life.
Mr. Oliver C. Fordham—a favorite companion of Lincoln's, in Chicago.
Gen. R. M. Wallace, Hon. Lyman Trumbull, David Quigg, Esq., Hon.
Jas. R. Doolittle—all professional associates of Lincoln's in Chicago.
General John M. Palmer—of Illinois, ex-U. S. Senator.
Hon. Daniel W. Voorhees—former U. S. Senator from Indiana.
Hon. Shelby M. Cullom—U. S. Senator from Illinois.
Hon. Carl Schurz—of New York, our noted German-American.
Hon. Justin S. Morrill—of Strafford, Vt., oldest in Congressional service.
Hon. Henry W. Blodgett—of Waukegan, Ill., ex-U. S. District Judge.
Col. A. K. McClure—former Editor of *The Times*, Philadelphia.
Hon. J. O. Cunningham—of Urbana, Ill., a fellow-lawyer.
Mr. T. H. Bartlett—Sculptor and well-known Art-Lecturer, of Boston.
Hon. Clark E. Carr—of Galesburg, Ill., Lincoln's Minister to Denmark.
Mr. Noah Brooks—contributor to *The Century Magazine*, New York.
Hiram Beckwith, Esq.—of Danville, Ill., a law-student under Lincoln.
Mr. Wm. B. Wilson—Lincoln's War-Telegrapher, at Washington, 1862.
Hon. John M. Scott—of Bloomington, Illinois, ex-Chief Justice.
Mr. Charles ("Carleton") Coffin—of Boston, noted War-Correspondent.
Mr. James W. Somers—Washington City, an old lawyer-friend.
Bishop Charles H. Fowler, D.D., LL D.—knew Lincoln intimately.
Hon. James F. Hughes—Judge, Mattoon, Illinois.
General John H. Littlefield—of Brooklyn, N. Y.

John J. Hall—Campbell, Ill., Lincoln's second cousin.

John T. Hanks—Canyonville, Oregon; Mrs. Amanda Poorman—Mattoon, Ill.; Mrs. Sarah Jane Dowling—Charleston, Ill.; Mrs. Nancy M. Shoaff—Paris, Ill.,—brother and sisters—aged children of Dennis T. Hanks, Lincoln's favorite cousin—all unite in personal testimony to this likeness of him they called "Uncle Abe."

Negative No. 2.

Although this negative was made at the same time with the No. 1, its technical qualities were such as to defy an old-time (1860) photographer's ability to obtain any satisfactory prints. [It was thirteen years after I began publishing the No. 1, when the hidden resources of No. 2 were unexpectedly discovered.] But modern methods have produced from it a new revelation in Lincoln portraiture, and now furnish an excellent picture, which the Great Original himself probably never saw!

The No. 2 presents a front-face view, is very complete in artistic detail of the features—more so than No. 1,—and is a most valuable addition to pictorial "Lincolnia."'

MY OWN WORK.

While my pictures are designed to pass as *plain photographs*—and do appear so to the ordinary eye—they are nevertheless the outcome of painstaking artist-work.

Accidental scratching and other damage to the old negatives—as I found them, forty years ago—make necessary a certain amount of careful and judicious *brush-work* on the prints, simply in order to render the *photograph* complete; but it is done *without affecting the accuracy of the portrait* in the least degree. This artist-work therefore necessarily prevents them ever becoming common, or *cheap* in price; but in no other way can these photographs be made presentable, and attain the *fresh and perfect condition* in which they are now offered to the lovers of Lincoln.

SIZES AND PRICES.

Platinum prints, 8x10 inches, (size of the original negatives.) \$5. Plain photographs, (aristo prints,) 8x10 inches. \$3.

Platinum prints, 8x10 size, when ordered from both negatives as a pair, \$9; Plain prints, ditto, \$5.

Platinum prints, from either negative, on best quality of heavy French paper, 20x27 inches, mounted on 22x28 card, \$~~20~~¹⁵. These are enlargements from the original negatives, made by Mr. William H. Rau, the distinguished Philadelphia photographer, are practically life-size, and beyond question the most striking heads of Lincoln extant!

All my Lincolns are Copyright!

They can be obtained through any first-class picture dealer, or direct from

GEORGE B. AYRES, Artist.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

