

## Robert Lincoln Inherited Much Of His Ability From His Mother

It Was Mrs. Lincoln's Ambition That Caused the Immortal Abe To Run for Congress Which Finally Put Him in the White House—But Mrs. Lincoln's Life Was a Sad One.

By Wayne Whipple.

New York, Aug. 28.—"I can't understand it," I heard a writer say after calling on Robert Todd Lincoln in his office in the Pullman building, Chicago—"he looks more like J. Pierpont Morgan than Abraham Lincoln. Instead of being 'long and lean,' he's short, thick set and stout."

"Well," I answered, "he is really more like a Morgan than a Lincoln. In spite of being Lincoln's son he is a great man in his own right—a financier in big business, and a close-mouthed diplomat. The British were incredulous when Abraham Lincoln's son was our ambassador there, that he could be the son of our greatest commander who had been so frantically on ceremonial occasions at the expense of royalty and nobility."

"How do you account for it all?" "Emily Stone used to say boys are like vipers—the more 'mother' they have in them the sharper they are." Robert Lincoln escaped being the echo and shadow of his father by being his mother's boy. This wasn't mere heredity; it was also a matter of environment. Mary Todd had inherited her father, Robert Todd's eye for the main chance. She had a level head besides her wonderful woman's intuition. Everybody thought she made a grand mistake in marrying such a happy-go-lucky country lawyer as "Abe" Lincoln instead of Stephen A. Douglas, the little giant, who was conceded nearer her own social level.

Paying Off "Debts."

"When the Lincolns were married, at last after a courtship of misunderstandings, he still was struggling to pay off what he called the national debt, which had been perpetrated upon him by shiftless and shifty partners, and perpetuated by his own acute sense of honesty. This almost absurd feeling of honor also kept him from accepting proper fees which he had not only well earned but richly deserved."

"Lawyer Lincoln also made a great point of dividing his earnings, \$0-50, with Billy Herndon, his junior partner, who was not only unable, but indisposed to keep up his end. Besides all that Herndon failed even to take care of the office and keep track of the firm's cases on the various court dockets, while his benevolent, hard-working partner was away trying cases out on the eighth circuit."

"It looked beautiful to Abe Lincoln's clients to have him refuse to take adequate retainers or fees, and it seemed too awfully lovely for any earthly bit of use to bear-eyed, besotted Herndon when the senior partner handed him 'Billy's half' although he had nothing to do with the case. All that 'listens lovely' now, but Mary Todd Lincoln didn't like it at all."

"You're always saying, 'give the boys a chance,' she remarked one morning at breakfast. 'What about your own boys—Bob, for instance? Is his chance to be worse than wasted on that drunken lout of a Bill Herndon? In her righteous indignation she threw this scripture at her husbands head: 'If any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.'"

"Robert Lincoln, boy though he was, felt the truth of this accusation, and saw his father wince under it. He was naturally in sympathy with his mother, whose passionate love for her own boys made her jealous of any outsider who interfered with their welfare."

"One of Robert's earliest recollections was the funeral of Eddis, his baby brother, and his mother's inconsolable grief."

Mary Todd's Ambition.

"If it hadn't been for Mary Todd's high ambition, her big good-natured husband would never have run for Congress; and even after that she kept spurring him forward until at last she realized her girlhood boast that she would be one day be the first lady of the land."

"Robert, as well as the neighbors, knew all that was his mother's doing. But the fates were cruel to poor Mary Todd Lincoln, for they kept the word of promise to her ear

and broke it to her lips. Before the Lincolns had lived in the White House a year Willie, the next son, was stricken and lay very ill, while below stairs there was a sound of revelry by night—a grand reception in the east room.

"The anxious mother had pleaded with the doctor to let her recall the invitations, but he laughed away her fears, so during the music and dancing, Mrs. Lincoln's heavy heart was in the little upper room, and she stole away several times to visit her suffering boy."

"The story of Willie's death and his mother's anguish was told by the colored seamstress who acted as the lady's nurse during those anxious days and nights:

"'In one of her paroxysms of grief the President bent kindly over his wife, took her by the arm and gently led her to the window. With a solemn, stately gesture he pointed to the lunatic asylum, saying:

"'Mother, do you see that large, white building yonder? Try to control your grief or it will drive you mad, and we may have to send you there.'"

"Though they needed not go to that extreme, the heartbroken mother could never be induced to enter the bedroom in which Willie died or go into the Oval room where the simple funeral services were conducted."

"During the four years of her sad life in the White House, Mrs. Lincoln was the object of widespread envy and malice. As she was born in Kentucky she was suspected and accused of sympathizing and even aiding and abetting the Confederates, and she was treated almost as shamefully as the Empress Frederick of Germany had to suffer because she was born in England. But instead of turning against his mother, injuring and insulting her even in the midst of her grief at the loss of his own father, Robert Lincoln's love and loyalty to his mother became the passion of an angry grief. When the bullet of Booth translated the 'Martyr Chief' from all his suffering, and her anguish was increased almost to the breaking of her brain, Robert was her standby—husband at once, and son."

"After the national tragedy the hearts of the people instead of pouring out love and consolation for the first lady of America, as the British tried to comfort their bereaved queen, the tongue of detraction drove Mrs. Lincoln to foreign lands, under pretext of seeking health in the waters of Germany, 'Little Tad,' the child of the nation, went with her, and contracted typhoid fever from the impure water in the city of Frankfurt."

"Driven out of Europe by the opening of the Franco-Prussian war, the widow and youngest son of President Lincoln left the Fatherland on the last boat down the Rhine before the closing of all German ports for the desperate struggle with France. Hurrying home to Chicago her youngest son was taken desperately ill and died within a few weeks."

"As often in paralysis the third stroke was fatal, yet Mrs. Lincoln's wonderful vitality survived her reason for 11 lingering years. Instead of being sent to an asylum she was kept, through Robert's tender care, in the old house at Springfield surrounded by her devoted relatives. For years she had a horror of the home."

"Another mania was her old terror of poverty. I was told by her niece that after her passing out they found \$70,000 in United States bonds quilled in one of Aunt Mary's silk petticoats. "Was it any wonder that the White House held no lure for Robert Todd Lincoln after such memories of sorrow and suffering there? Several times when he was offered the nomination for the presidency, as in 1884, two years after his mother's death, he whispered his refusal almost as furtively as if to ward off the committee not to speak of it outside, just about as his father ordered the coachman never to tell of an attempt to assassinate him on the lonely road to the soldiers' home in the summer of 1863."

"Natural as was Robert Todd Lincoln's devotion to his father's memory, even that is outclassed by his tender love and loyalty to his beautiful, unhappy mother."

## MOON MAY BE NOTHING BUT AN ICY SNOWBALL

Astronomer Forbes Thinks Theory Would Explain Problem of Surface Streaks.

London.—That the moon may be a ball of snow and ice, with a small rocky core, is the daring and enterprising theory advanced by Prof. George Forbes, famous astronomer and scientist, in his latest book, "The Wonder and Glory of the Stars," just published here.

Prof. Forbes, who incidentally was chief electrical engineer for the first Niagara Falls power project, has written numerous books on astronomy and other scientific subjects, and his latest work is written with a vigor and lack of technicalities which is refreshing in a book dealing with such a technical problem.

"Three things strike the eye in the first look through a telescope at the full moon," he says—"the great surfaces white as snow, the black belt like clean ice, and the streaks like ice cracks. The whole of the white regions are broken up and disturbed and covered with lunar craters. The most common feature of these craters are the flat floor, level with the general surface of the moon, the rings of crags inclosing it, and a hill or cone rising from the very center of the floor."

The theory that the craters have been formed by meteorites "falls entirely," he says for it does not explain the white streaks that radiate from Tycho (one of the craters) across the moon, and which "must hold the key of the problem," he thinks. If the moon were made of ice and snow, everything would be explained, contends Prof. Forbes, who goes on to say:

"Travelers in India who have seen the full moon rising over the snow-capped Himalayas have said that the equality of whiteness left them in doubt for a moment whether the moon were not a part of the snow mountain range. Moreover, experiments in the highlands of Scotland, with snow, have shown that every type of lunar crater can be reproduced by dropping snowballs on snow. Supposing the moon were composed of water with a small rocky core, and subjected to such terrific cold as prevails in the lunar atmosphere, the whole surface would become covered with a shell of ice. This shell would gradually thicken to a depth of 100 miles or more. Water expands in freezing, and if inside the shell a new layer of ice is added by freezing it expands. This must either burst the shell or compress the remaining water. Finally the accumulating water pressure becomes insupportable. Then comes the cataclysm. The ice cover gives way at its weakest point. This happened to be where we now have the crater Tycho."

"Enormous masses of water are shot up thousands of miles to the sky, freezing instantly into objects which vary from the size of a rain-drop to the size of a mountain, and then fall back on a surface that is covered with snow from the smaller fragments of this ejected water. Thus the lunar crater may be formed."

The theory fits the facts, according to latest scientific data, but the author goes on if the moon is made of snow and ice may it not melt? And he answers the query by saying it may be melting with no apparent visible result. "In rare atmosphere, as in the Himalayas, snow does not melt into water but evaporates in vapor as camphor does. Then this must be re-deposited on the mountains of the moon, as it is on the snow peaks of the Alps."

## Tris Suicide, Will Lose His Eyesight

Wilson, Aug. 25.—Charles Batta, 40 year old Stantonburg man who fired a shot from a .32 calibre pistol into his left temple Sunday afternoon in an attempt to commit suicide is recovering in a local hospital and unless complications set in he will recover but will lose his eye sight.

Declining health is advanced as the cause for the attempted suicide by friends and relatives who say that he had threatened to end his life several times. The bullet entered the left temple and the left eye was torn loose from the muscles and nerves, while the nerves of the right eye were cut. The bullet was removed by physicians.

## SURRY COUNTY FARM AND POULTRY NEWS

By H. E. White, Surry County Farm Demonstration Agent

The rain in the different sections of the county has put enough moisture in the ground to greatly aid the preparation of the soil for fall sown grains. Ground should be ploughed as soon as possible and all vegetable matter turned under to increase the organic matter in the soil thus help in increasing the water holding capacity of the soil. Soy beans and cow peas can often be well sown before turning under and some with good results, disk the vegetable in the top soil and then sow small grains. In last week's paper a general letter of instructions was given. This letter should be carefully read over and filed for future reference.

Care should be taken in getting a good inoculation on vetch for if you do not money is thrown away on seed sown without inoculation. In a very few exceptions will a good growth of vetch be secured by sowing without inoculation. Soil inoculation is the best and this can be secured from fields where vetch has been sown successfully. If you cannot get the soil then you can get cultures from the state or the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture or you can buy the commercial preparation with fair results. A thousand farmers of this county should seed at least one acre of vetch in combination with some small grain. Vetch with Tenn. No. 6 beardless barley makes splendid hay and they mature at about the same time for harvesting.

There is one suggestion that farmers should heed and that is getting your fall crops in at the right time. Too many wait too late in the fall and the seeding will winter kill and thereby reducing the yield. Fall sown oats should be gotten in not later than October 15 in order to get a good growth before cold weather. Wheat should not be planted later than November 1. Last year some seeded late in December with fair results on account of this being an exceptionally good wheat year. It is important to observe the proper dates of seeding the fall grains in order to take advantage of the moisture and growth conditions to withstand the frost of the winter months.

September is a good month to select seed corn. Stalks selected while still green and passed the roasting ear stage will probably give the best results because you can get a better idea of the characteristics of the plant. Such stalks selected should be marked by tying a string to the stalk. Later we can make the ear and grain selection.

This month is good for fall sowing of all kinds of grasses and clovers. Fall sowings on the average give better results than spring sown. We should use both fall and spring so we can get a good stand of the pasture grasses and clover.

Probably the best time to cut corn is when the shucks turn yellow. About 125-150 stalks make a good size shock. There are three ways of satisfactory harvesting corn, making silage, cutting, shocking, and hogging down. These give splendid results.

Late molters are the best layers according to some recent figures from the Kentucky Extension Division. Hens beginning to molt in August laid 134 eggs and missed 151 days. Those beginning to molt in September laid 137 eggs and laid off 143 days.

The October molter laid 153 days and rested 94 days. The November molter laid 171 eggs and laid off 89 days, while the December ones produced the highest number by producing 174 eggs. While a hen is molting she is resting and will not lay eggs until she is through this period. The most successful poultrymen hustle off the early summer molters for such birds are unprofitable.

It is a good time to get poultry houses in repair and in good condition for winter. If you are expecting to make money out of poultry it means that you must have adequate housing facilities in order to get the best results. Letting the hens spend the nights out in trees and in cold houses will materially reduce your profits and in many cases will cause an entire loss of profits. Many are not making any profit on poultry but it is largely due to poor birds, houses and bad care and feeding. We should make every effort to get

## The Law That Protects Surry County's Game

as large amount of roughage saved as possible in order to prevent the shipping of hay from outside points. Every bit of hay that we can grow means more money that we will have to spend for other things or to put in the bank for a rainy day. We should grow enough wheat to feed the entire county and that should be about the goal we should strive for as we cannot compete with the west in the foreign market in wheat growing, but we can and must become independent of the outside grower.

Here is a copy of a letter from the J. C. Penny-Gwinn Institute of Applied Agriculture, Green Cove Springs, Florida.

"You have no doubt read about the J. C. Penny-Gwinn Institute of Applied Agriculture. In order that you may know more about the plan and purpose of this institute as outlined on pages 10, 11 and 12 of the catalogue, I am sending a copy to you with this letter.

In every community there are earnest, hard-working, upright young men and women who would be glad indeed to know of a place where they could receive applied instruction in all phases of agriculture and home-making for three days in each week and then work the other three days of the week in gardens, the fields, poultry yards, groves, dairy and vineyard, for which they will receive a sufficient wage to meet their expenses.

In short, here is an Institute where young men and women will work their way through and have the theoretical and practical experience that will fit them for a successful agricultural career."

Any one over 18 years of age can apply for admission and will be admitted if the applicant can profit by the instructions.

Altho this is a new school I think you will be able to do good work with very little expense. If any one is interested get in touch with me and I will be glad to show you the catalogue and give you blanks to make out an application.

H. E. White, County Agent.

## The Sheriffs Should Not Be Tax Collectors.

Chapel Hill Weekly. The county commissioners of North Carolina had their convention in Morehead City last week, and one recommendation they approved was that in every county the board of commissioners should be empowered by law to appoint a tax collector responsible to the board.

This is a blow to the sheriffs, and even while the commissioners were meeting on the coast, the sheriffs gathered in Oxford, were preparing to fight back. "They went on record," says the Raleigh Times, "as opposed to any such change and voted to hold another meeting in Raleigh during the meeting of the general assembly."

The commissioners are right. The present system under which the sheriff, elected by popular vote, collects taxes is a bad one. This is a function of government that should be under the control of the men who are charged with firing the assessments and spending the money.

One of the commonest scandals connected with county government is crookedness or incompetence in the sheriff's office. More often than not the man elected to the place is unfit for it, and every little while the public learns through the newspapers of a sheriff who has misappropriated the tax money or otherwise abused his trust.

At the close of its article the Raleigh Times says that "it will be no mean scrap the sheriffs will put up, for in nine counties out of ten is a political leader who can go a long way toward electing or defeating a candidate for the general assembly." But on the other hand, the county commissioners are also frequently possessed of political influence, and, if any underground work at Raleigh is going to figure in this contest, they should be able to deliver as good a wallop as the sheriffs.

The statement is made that the "sheriffs realize that without the tax-collecting authority one of their mainstays in building their political machines will be lost." In this they are correct—and that fact in itself is reason to put the sheriffs out of business as tax collectors.

An act to amend chapter one hundred and sixty-eight of the Public-Local Laws of the session of one thousand nine hundred and nineteen is related to the hunting of game in Surry county.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

That the fine for the violation of any provision of this act shall not be less than fifteen dollars (\$15.00) nor more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for the first offense; not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the second offense; and not less than ten days nor more than thirty days in jail for the third offense.

Open season and bag limit. The game birds and game animals named in the following table may be taken only during the period set opposite the name of each species, and in numbers not greater than that shown in the table for each person taking or hunting them, both dates included:

Name: Squirrel, open season September 15-February 1st, bag limit 10 per day.

Rabbit, October 15th-March 1st, bag limit, none.

Gray and red fox, October 15th-March 1st, bag limit, none.

Quail, December 1st-February 1st, bag limit, 15 per day.

Grouse or Pheasant, December 1st-February 1st, bag limit, 5 per season.

Woodcock, December 1st-February 1st, bag limit, 5 per day.

Dove, open season, none.

Opossum, October 1st-February 15th, bag limit, none.

Exception and extra provisions.

It shall be lawful for any person or persons to trap rabbit or other game animals during the open season, but it shall be unlawful to trap, snare, or net the game birds protected by the provisions of this act. It is further provided that if any of the game animals protected in this act shall become a menace to the community upon receipt of a petition signed by fifteen (15) citizens of the community so affected the Chief Game Warden may allow the killing of such animals out of season until such conditions are removed.

Licenses. Each person taking or hunting game birds or game animals protected by the provisions of this act shall procure from the Clerk of the Superior Court of Surry county an annual license, the fee for which shall be as set out in the following section; provided, however, that where such persons taking or hunting game birds or game animals shall be hunting on his own land exclusively, he shall not be required to secure a license; and, provided, further, that the minor dependent children of any person securing a license shall not be required to hold a license in their own name;

For a bona fide resident of North Carolina, but not of Surry county, five (5) dollars per annum; for a non-resident of the State of North Carolina, fifteen (15) dollars per annum. The Clerk of the Court shall deduct a fee of twenty-five (25) cents for each license issued and turn the balance over to the county commissioners to be used in protecting the game of Surry county. Each hunter shall at all times while hunting carry on his person his license, and shall exhibit same when asked to do so by any warden or other officer requesting that he do so.

Duties of Game Warden and powers delegated to him. It shall be the duty of the chief game warden to perform the duties imposed by the provisions of this act, and to that end he shall be required to file with the Clerk of the Court for Surry county a bond in the amount of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars, conditioned that he so perform these duties. The chief game warden and each of his deputies shall have power to execute all warrants issued for the violation of any provision of this act and to serve subpoenas for the examination, investigation or trial of offenders against any of the provisions of this act, to arrest without warrant any person violating the provisions of this act in his presence and take such person immediately before a court having jurisdiction for trial.

## KILLED AS CAR GOES TO BOTTOM OF CLIFF

Fred Moore of Canton, Lenoa Life When Automobile Leaves Highway.

Marshall, Aug. 21.—Fred Moore, of Canton, was killed and W. O. Murr and Newman James of the same place were injured early this morning when the automobile they occupied left the highway at Walnut Gap and plunged 100 feet to the bottom of the cliff, about 10 miles from here.

Murr was seriously but not dangerously hurt, while James was only slightly injured. The latter walked ten miles to Marshall to summon aid as no car was passing due to the early hour of the day. The party was en route to Thompson for a week-end trip and had left Canton about four o'clock in the morning. Moore was 25 years old and leaves his widow, two children, his father, Homer Moore and other relatives.