

Note;

In 1860, J. Henry Brown, Artist was commissioned by Hon John M. Read, Judge of the Supreme Court of Penna, to go to Springfield and paint a likeness of the Presidential Candidate, Abraham Lincoln, the following are the copies of *letters of* introduction presented to Mr and Mrs Lincoln by the Artist from Judge Read (these letters I have marked "1" and "2")

The copy of Mr. Brown's Journal as published on page 400 of McClures for March will show how he was received *and* Letter "#3" is one from the Artist to his wife in which he speaks of how the picture was received and what was thought of it.

Letters Nos "4" and "5" are copies from Mrs Lincoln and the President to John M. Read, expressing their views of the miniature.

Letter "6" is from John G. Nicolay to J. Henry Brown in reference to the picture and how it was regarded by those near to Lincoln.

In 1876 it was the intention of the Artist to exhibit at the Centennial Exposition a collection of his work and desired among others to have the *one* painted of Judge Read and wrote to the Judge's son, who was at that time American Counsel at Athens, and in reply Mr Read suggests that Mr Brown apply to Hon Robt T Lincoln for the painting of the late President, after *by* receiving which Mr Brown wrote to Mr *Robert T.* Lincoln in reference, and I send you a copy of both these letters Numbers "7" and "8".

You will see by these letters that the last know of this miniature stops with 1876, when it was in the possession of Mrs Lincoln at Springfield, Ill.

J. Howard Brown.

#1  
COPY.

Philadelphia, Aug, 7th, 1860.

Dear Sir;

Mr. J. Henry Brown of this City, a miniature painter of great eminence proposes to go to Springfield, and with your permission take a likeness of you.

It would oblige him and myself very much if you would give him the necessary facilities to accomplish his object.

Mr. Brown is not only greatly distinguished in his profession, but is thoroughly a gentleman in his manners and deportment.

I am very truly,

Yours,

JOHN M. READ.

Hon. A. Lincoln,  
Springfield,  
Illinois.

COPY.

Philadelphia, Aug., 7th, 1860

1119 Chestnut St, #2

Madam;

Mr. Brown, who will hand you this, is desirous of taking a faithful, accurate and speaking likeness of your husband. I know by experience that he is perfectly capable of doing it, but a good deal must depend upon the opportunities given him, which it will be in your (power) to afford him.

Mr. Brown will explain the reasons of his journey as it is intended to have an engraving of the miniature executed by Mr. Samuel Sartain of this city.

Mr. Brown is the first miniature painter in the United States and I believe in the World.

I am with great respect and esteem,

Your obedient servant

JOHN M. READ.

Mrs. Lincoln,  
Springfield,  
Illinois.

Springfield, Sunday, Aug, 26th, 1860

My dear Ada;

I finished the picture yesterday, I took it up to Mr. Lincolns house about 3 oclock with some misgivings as to how it would be liked. Mrs Linclon spoke of it in the most extravagant terms of approbation, I went for it in the evening with Charles, (the late Charles Vandyke Brown) we spent a short time there. Notwithstanding Mrs Lincolns approbation of the picture, I do not feel as well satisfied as I should like.

This morning I gave the picture to Mr. Nicolay, to show to some of his friends at the executive chamber. At the dinner table he told me that but few had seen it. Mr. Cheyneys family have not yet seen it.

We met Mr. Lincoln at Church this morning. This afternoon we will pack and to-morrow we will be off for home.

I must call on Mr. Lincoln to-morrow morning to get a letter from him and Mrs Lincoln to Judge Read and then if possible we will leave here at 11 o'clock for Chicago.

Our love to all

Your Affectionate and devoted husband  
J. HENRY BROWN,

Mrs J. Henry Brown.

P. S. I have opened the letter to say that every person who has seen the picture this afternoon is delighted with it. It is pronounced to be by far the best that has ever been taken of him.

COPY.

Springfield, Aug. 25th.

Hon. John M. Read,

Dear Sir;

Mr. Brown of your City, has taken a minature likeness of my Husband, which I think is perfect. I see no fault or defect whatever. Allow me to express the great pleasure it afforded us of seeing so excellent a representation of yourself.

I have the honor of being,

Yours Respectfully,

Mary Lincoln.

COPY.

Springfield, Aug. 27th, 1860.

Hon. John M. Read,

My dear Sir;

The Minature likeness of myself, taken by your friend, J. Henry Brown, is an excellent one, so far as I can judge-To my unpracticed eye, it is without fault.

Yours very truly,

A. Lincoln.

COPY;

~~11~~ 6.

Springfield, Ill, Oct, 5th, 1860

J. H. Brown, Esq.,

Dear Sir;

Your letter of 28th came duly to hand, and this morning Mr. Lincoln received by express two copies of Mr. Sartain's engraving of your miniature. The engraving is a very faithful copy of the original and entirely satisfies both Mr. Lincoln and his friends here.

The "Journal" of to-morrow morning will contain a good notice of it; I will forward you about two dozen copies of the paper, by mail. which

I feel under many obligations both to Judge Read and yourself for the pains you have taken to get out a good picture of Mr. Lincoln, and hope and expect it will rapidly displace the many miserable caricatures which have been issued up to this time.

Mr. Lincoln sends his regards.

Yours truly,

JNO. G. NICOLAY.

Legation of the United States of America,  
Athens; February 11th, 1876.

#7

Dear Sir;

Your note by some misfortune has only recently arrived. I regret extremely to say that the very admirable miniature of my father is in one of the fifty boxes deposited at my bankers and in my apartments in Paris so that it will be impossible for me to send it to you. If the picture were accessible I would at once forward it to your address.

I can only regret, as it is, my inability to comply with your request. It has occurred to me that it would perhaps be well for you to apply to Mr. Robert Linclon for the beautiful miniature of President Lincoln which you painted at my father's request. Before Mr. Lincoln's death the Chief Justice gave him this miniature; and when young Mr. Lincoln was in Paris several years ago--he stood before a copy of Sartain's engraving, which was hanging in my drawing room and exclaimed; "My dear General!. I am delighted to see that engraving for I now possess the original picture!" I rejoiced to hear this, for both my father and myself feared that perhaps it might have disappeared in the confusion which ensued after President Lincoln's assassination.

Is it not a little curious that I have received recently from Mr. William Henry Rawle the correspondence which took place between Mr. Lincoln and my father touching your likeness of the former. There are also several of your letters written to Chief Justice Read from Springfield.

It is now a little less than a hundred years since General Washington at the request of my great grand father sat to one of the best miniature painters of that day. This portrait of Washington also remained in our family for a number of years--but about fifty years ago it was stolen. While residing in Paris I happened to mention the circumstance and to describe the miniature to a gentleman recently returned from Italy. After listening with interest for some minutes, he suddenly cried out; "I have seen that miniature in one of the galleries in Italy"! Upon pressing him to try to remember the locality he was unable to do so, but he still persisted in his assertion, and from his description of the picture I am convinced that he had met with it in the course of his travels.

When General Jackson was President my father commissioned a well known artist to go to Washington and paint a full length portrait cabinet size, and that still belongs to me.

I think this account of three portraits painted for my family--one of Washington--one of Jackson and one of Linclon may interest you.

Believe me, Dear Sir ,

Faithfully Yours,

(signed) JOHN MEREDITH READ.

To

J. HENRY BROWN, ESQUIRE,  
etc, etc,  
914 Chestnut St,  
Philadelphia,  
Penna.

#8  
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COPY.

ISHAM & LINCOLN,

Counselors & Attorneys,

Edward S. Isham.  
Robert T. Lincoln.

31 Portland Block,

Chicago, March, 4th 1876.

J. H. Brown Esq.,

Dr Sir:

Your favor of the 2nd inst is received.

I very well recollect your portrait of my father and  
have always liked it very much.

It is now in my mother's possession at Springfield, Ill.,  
where she is living with her sister Mrs. N. W. Edwards.

I would be very glad to aid you in procuring it for the  
purpose you mention but I am not able to do so for reasons  
growing out of events of which you have doubtless heard.

Very Truly Yours,

Robert T. Lincoln.