

Tracy Article

The most distinguished group, so far in the Lincolniana clan, is known as the "Big Five." The dean of them was William H. Lambert of Philadelphia, a soldier of the Civil War, a gentleman if there ever was one (See notes).

It was due largely to the generous and courteous spirit of Major Lambert that the Big Five came into existence. There was Daniel Fish in Minneapolis, intent on Lincoln bibliography; there was Charles McLellan, in Champlain, N.Y., giving much of the days of his old age to collecting Lincoln literature.

There was Judge Stewart, who from boyhood had gathered with love and intelligence a collection which at his death in 1920 was bought by Henry E. Huntington.

There was one they called the Papa of the Big Five, Joseph Benjamin Oakleaf of Moline, Ill., the editor of the most complete Lincoln bibliography we have ever had.

These men, all rivals, worked together with finest enthusiasm, supplementing each other's wants where they could, correcting, suggesting to each other, as perfect cooperation as could exist. This generosity with one another seemed to all of them, I fancy, a part of the tribute they wanted to make to Lincoln's memory.