

The Doc Lincoln House

Wiltonville, New York



The Doc Lincoln House – North side
May, 1969

by
A. J. Clarke II

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Fifth edition, revised June 2018

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Dedication

This document is dedicated to Ken and Carrie Petteys, lifelong residents of Wilton, who were good friends and fantastic resources.



Ken and Carrie Petteys

Preface

This is the fifth edition of this document. The first was self-printed in 2000. It contained errors and the quality was less than acceptable. A second edition was self-printed in 2003. It was much better in terms of quality, but some errors remained. Both editions contained data, based on an erroneous assumption that the house was built by Dr. Murray shortly after the lot was purchased in 1881. Data was uncovered by Rachael Clothier (Corinth Historian) which has proved otherwise. The house was actually built by Dr. Lincoln in 1898. Subsequent editions have been revised to reflect that information.

Document

This document is printable. It contains two oversized pages (the two floor plans). While on the print control page, be sure to select the “shrink oversized pages” option before printing.

Foreword

Many years ago I was privileged to meet and become friends with Clayton Brown, well-known educator and historian of Greenfield, New York. I continue to be amazed at the frequency with which his name occurs regarding local records and information that has been collected and preserved.

Having been actively involved in the development of an archive, for my former employer, I am particularly thankful for the records available for this project.

As an individual you should photograph it, develop the habit of labeling those photos, and document the sources of written material. An agency should develop and maintain archives.

Someday, a hundred years or more from now, someone you will never know will thank you!

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following for maintaining records (or knowing where to find them) and their many courtesies extended to me: Mary DeMarco, Greenfield Town Historian; Michael Noonan, photographer, Saratoga Springs, New York; Jean Woutersz, Wilton Town Historian; Saratoga Springs Public Library, newspaper microfilm; Glens Falls Public Library, newspaper microfilm; Rachael Clothier, local historian, Corinth, New York; Jerry Orton, local historian residing in Syracuse, New York; Larry Petteys, local resident and previous owner; Dolores Petteys, sister of Larry Petteys, and also a previous owner; Pamela Vogel, Warren County Archives; Karen Campola and Lynn Calvin, Saratoga County Archives; Cindy Cameron, local historian, Stony Creek, New York; Mary Ann Johnson, Greenfield Town Clerk; David Petteys and Christine Gibson, children of Lawrence Petteys.

Special thanks to Wayne McGatrey, son of Dolores Petteys; and Ken Petteys, brother of Dolores Petteys. Also, to Charles Van Rensselaer and Katherine Lincoln Winderlin, who are direct descendants of Nedabiah Lincoln Sr and Sarah "Sally" (Hodges) Lincoln. Unfortunately, several of these people that were valuable resources, are no longer here to help us.

My apologies to others, past and present, who are a part of this work and have gone unmentioned.

Suzanne DeVries became an essential partner in preparing



Editor, Suzanne DeVries

Volume I of the Nedabiah Lincoln story, and in the process, became an enthusiastic member of the "Doc Lincoln Hunters". Now a family friend, her skills are shining in this fifth edition of what started the hunt. She has become an integral part of Volume I, Nedabiah's story, which was published in 2008; and its successor Volume II, the story of the Lincoln Family in Hawaii, which was published in 2015.

Part I
The Owners

Ida and Byron J Murray

Original Purchasers of the Lot and Owners 1881 - 1891

In 1878, Dr Murray purchased a 17-acre parcel of land in Wilton on the south side of Mt McGregor. In 1881, Mrs Ida V (Stowe) Murray purchased a one acre lot which was to become the site of the



Dr Byron J Murray
circa 1898

house that is the subject of this history. (It is interesting to note that Mrs Murray was also the owner of their North Broadway residence in Saratoga Springs). Unfortunately, the available history focuses on the good doctor and thus, as is too often the case, his wife becomes the silent partner.

Byron J Murray's family has a rich history extending to well before the Revolutionary War. His great-grandfather, General Murray, served in the British Army and settled in Connecticut after the war. His father, Dr George Murray Jr married Angeline Canfield and they had four children. His son Byron Murray became a doctor, and his practice was in Luzerne, New York.

Byron was born February 27, 1850 and was the youngest of the siblings. His father died on May 22, 1863 and Byron was left to his own resources at the tender age of 13. At that time he went to Glens Falls where he worked in the summer and attended school in the winter, until 1866. Looking for better circumstances, he migrated west to Alean, Michigan, where he repeated his Glens Falls experience, working in the summer and attending school in the winter. His summer work consisted of scaling logs for the Stockbridge & Johnson Company at Sagautuck, on the mouth of the Kalamazoo River, a great lumber shipping port (near Alean).

In 1869 Dr Byron began reading medicine with a Dr Cook of Sagautuck and continued until the spring of 1870. He then entered

into a partnership participating in the operation of a drugstore with Dr Charles Kimber of Hamilton, Michigan. He read medicine with Dr Kimber for nearly two years. During this time in history, reading medicine with a doctor was common practice, a first step similar to an apprenticeship, which preceded more formal study.

Business and health reasons influenced Mr Murray to sell his part of the drugstore. In the meantime he had made an acquaintance of Dr Thomas L McColough who was a graduate of Edinburgh University, Scotland. Mr Murray began reading medicine with him in 1872. After two years of study, Mr Murray attended the medical college at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. In Ann Arbor he married Miss Ida Viola Stowe, born October 21, 1850 in Batavia, NY, who was also residing in Sagautuck. A double wedding on January 14, 1874 involved Miss Stowe's brother and his fiancée. The Reverend Dr Cooley performed the ceremony in Battle Creek, Michigan.

On August 24, 1874, a son (and only child), Stowe Leon was born. Dr Murray received his medical degree on March 29, 1876. A long line of assistance, some financial, credited to Senator Frank Stockbridge, partner in Stockbridge & Johnson, indicated that Dr Murray was an honest, pleasant and dependable person.

Dr Murray served as an intern in a variety of hospitals for about a year and then returned to Corinth, Saratoga County to visit his mother, who had remarried. She insisted he open an office near Corinth so on April 2, 1877, he went to Wiltonville, hired a house and opened a practice. He had three patients the first day! In 1878 he bought a lot (about 17 acres) on Mt. McGregor and on April 12, 1881 his wife purchased the 1 acre lot for the house for \$155. The lot was purchased from Edwin and Sarah Hodges, a prosperous local farming family, and was located at what was then known as the lower road to Saratoga; the lower road is now known as Ernst Road and the upper road is now Parkhurst Road.

A newspaper biography of Dr Murray in The Saratogian, Friday, February 26, 1932, states that in 1878 he bought a lot and built a house in Wilton. This was not the "Doc Lincoln House" that was later built on the one acre lot purchased in 1881. The two lots were on one deed when they were sold by Dr and Mrs Murray on January 28, 1891.

Dr Murray served as town supervisor from 1882 to 1883. He and his wife enjoyed a pleasant life and active practice until the spring of 1886. His practice extended over a 35-40 mile area including Northumberland, Moreau, Glens Falls, Corinth and Luzerne. On Saturday, February 6, 1886, their son Stowe Leon was in a coasting (sledding) accident when he ran into a load of wood; it took five stitches to close the wound. It soon became obvious it was a very severe injury to the brain and on Wednesday, February 17, 1886, he died.

The death of his son put an end to Dr Murray's practice in Wilton. By late spring he had obtained the services of Dr Harry Martin Lincoln to cover his practice and Dr Murray moved to New York City where he took up residence at 372 West 32nd Street.

During the winter of 1886-87 Dr Murray matriculated at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons intending to graduate from that institution. However, he became ill and upon the advice of a Dr Murtland, left New York City and moved back to Saratoga Springs. There he hired the William Carpenter House, 67 Caroline Street, and returned to excellent health rapidly. Later in the winter Mrs Murray bought the home at 495 Broadway from George H Pardue, and they moved in January 24, 1888.

Dr Murray resided at 495 Broadway for the rest of his life. These houses no longer exist; the Caroline Street address is a vacant lot and the Broadway address is the southern part of 497 Broadway now known as The Saratoga Arms. Saratoga County deeds book 179 page 337, dated January 24, 1888, lists Mrs Murray as the purchaser (for \$10,000) and George Pardue the seller. This and other information indicates Mrs Murray frequently handled the real estate transactions for the family.

Dr Murray developed a very successful practice and was active in the community and the profession. At various times he was a member of the State Medical Society, contributor to prominent medical journals, member of the Odd Fellows and Masons, a Republican in politics, and a Presbyterian in religion.

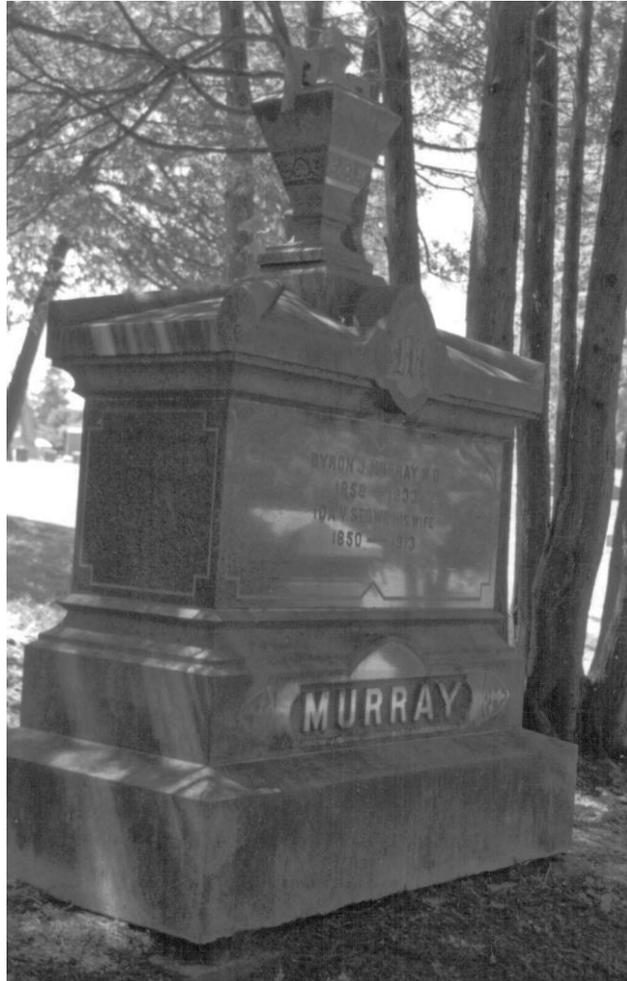
He helped prepare four students for medical college including his older brother, George, Carleton Potta, Fred Shirsch of Saratoga Springs and Henry VanRensselaer of Wilton (Wiltonville). Henry VanRensselaer was the brother of Charles C VanRensselaer.

Charles married Jennie Lincoln, a second cousin of Doc Lincoln. Dr Murray also provided financial support for the college education of several others.

Dr. Murray specialized in maternity cases and was very successful as he lost only one mother. Later in his practice he discontinued maternity work and continued in a general practice. After Mrs Murray expired on April 10, 1913, Dr Murray went on an extended trip to Central America including visits to Bogota, Columbia, and was in the Canal Zone when the Panama Canal was being worked on. His trip included the Culebra Cut where water was first let into the canal and when the great slide occurred, blocking the Culebra Cut.

Dr Murray's practice ended as a result of a stroke and about six months later, on Friday, September 22, 1933, he passed away at his home at 495 Broadway, Saratoga Springs.

Dr Murray was asked about his longevity and was quoted as saying, "I do not know of any one thing, but think it is due to all things put together. Honesty, right living, activated by the thought that I had a family to support, myself to take care of, and that I must leave a good will and a good name for future generations. I have always abstained from wines, liquors and narcotics, have used tea and coffee moderately, and medicine very seldom." While little is known of Mrs Murray as a person, the following poem, authored by her, is included to help the reader understand her as an intelligent and sensitive partner with Dr Murray.



Gravesite – Dr Murray, Ida Murray and son Stowe Leon
Greenridge Cemetery, Saratoga Springs, NY

*The Origin of Mt. McGregor,
A Protest at the Building of the Mt.McGregor Railroad.*

<i>In a grand primeval forest Growing on a mountain tall.</i>	<i>But a broad expanse was needed For great minds have thoughts to lend</i>
<i>Came an energetic gentleman. A resident of Glens Falls</i>	<i>Then invitations soon were given To each town the country o'er</i>
<i>And viewed this grand old forest That for centuries had passed</i>	<i>Just to warm this grand old mountain Where no one had dined before</i>
<i>Unmolested in its grandeur Never ax had there been cast.</i>	<i>Hundreds came, with shouts and laughter Well-filled baskets, too, they brought</i>
<i>As his eyes surveyed its beauty And the pure air filled his lungs</i>	<i>Both was pig and turkey, also, From their host, each table fraught</i>
<i>What invigorating feelings Do these breezes give his sons</i>	<i>Then a hotel first be builded, Large and airy, free to all</i>
<i>And to those who are ailing How beneficial-and how glum.</i>	<i>Who, the beautiful ride had taken On its precincts first to call</i>
<i>He stood soliloquizing, Thinking of the time to come.</i>	<i>Welcome, welcome was his password Young and old, twas the same;</i>
<i>Soon, how soon, the woodsman's ax Slew the tall and lofty pine</i>	<i>And no one ere left the mountain Could forget the renowned name.</i>
<i>Then a highway right was granted For a road along the line.</i>	<i>Now, another road they're building Adown this mountain's southern side;</i>
<i>Toiling fast to reach the summit Here the clearing did not end,</i>	<i>Passed far into oblivion's chambers Death, the founder soon will see.</i>
<i>Earth upheaved, to fill its passes, Iron rail they too engage;</i>	<i>Then only a name, a memory, To us will still remain,</i>
<i>And when it is all completed Its name will be "The Narrow Gauge"</i>	<i>That name to our children's children Will go, noted with honor and fame</i>
<i>As the years shall come in apace Where will this noted one be?</i>	

Note: The Mt McGregor Railroad was opened July 17, 1882, the Hotel Balmoral (on Mt McGregor) burned December 1, 1897.

Jennie A. and George I. Humphrey

Lot Owners from 1891 - 1893

Ida Murray sold the 1 acre and 17 acre lot package to Jennie A Humphrey on January 28, 1891 for \$2,500. Mrs Murray held the mortgage; once again, we see the wife as being in charge of the real estate department.

Mrs Humphrey's maiden name was Waterbury which was a name of note in the Village of Saratoga Springs. Her father, Nathaniel Waterbury (1834 - 1906), married Catherine L Winney (1833-1912) and was active in the hotel business. He managed the Spencer House and an establishment at #2 Matilda Street. Jennie was born in 1855. She married (in 1881) George I Humphrey who was born in 1853. They had one daughter and four sons, two of whom died in early childhood.

Mr Humphrey's family was also prominent in Saratoga Springs. George's father, Henry was a successful contractor who built cottages at the United States Hotel, William Gage's residence on North Broadway, and many others. George had one sibling, a brother, Dr John Humphrey, who was residing in Saratoga Springs in 1927. George's father lived until 96 years of age and died March 29, 1921.

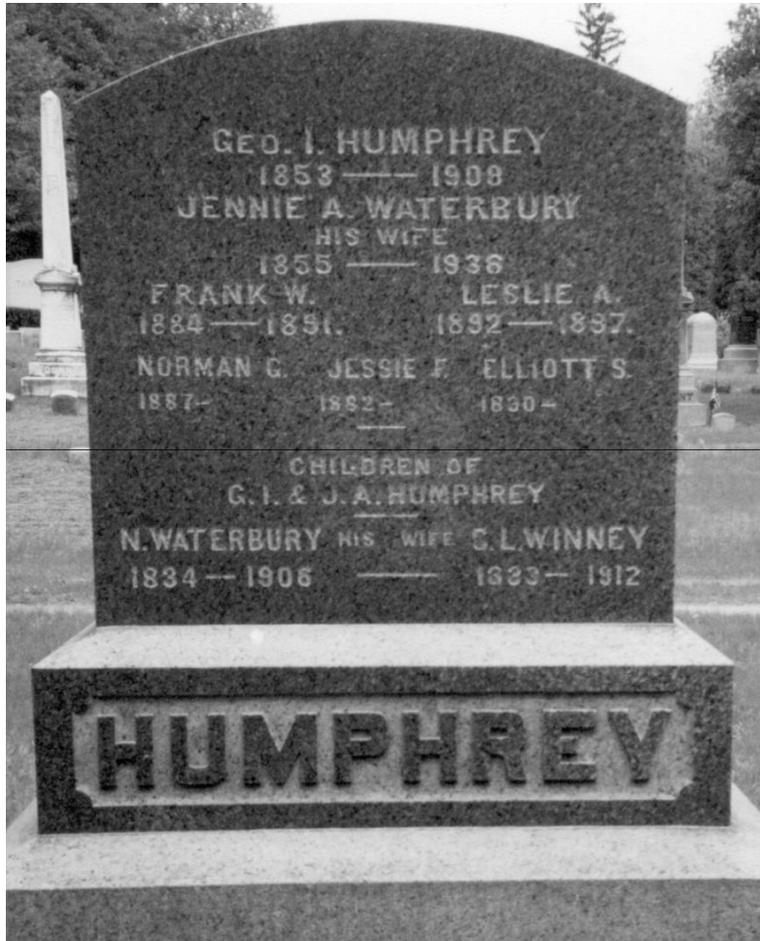
George was very prominent in local railroad circles, holding several jobs with various railroads, including the Minneapolis, St Paul & Pacific RR, Sault Sainte Marie RR, West Shore RR, St Louis & San Francisco RR, Union Pacific RR, Chicago & Northwestern RR, and was employed as a tourist passenger agent by the Chicago & Northwestern RR, and Union Pacific railroads. He was widely traveled and apparently worked mostly in the areas of tourism and excursions. At one point he also managed to slip in a stint as a general agent for the New York Casualty Insurance Association.

Mr Humphrey passed away at his home at 93 Van Dam Street due to pneumonia, on March 1, 1909. Both his death and funeral notices were extensive. One stated that he was, ... "one of the best known railroad men of the country." His funeral coverage noted floral pieces from hundreds of friends and the attendance of dozens

of railroad executives from places such as Boston, New York City, Albany, Buffalo and Utica.

Later in life, Jennie went to live with one of her sons, Elliott S Humphrey in Morristown, New Jersey, where she died on June 28, 1936. She and her husband and other family members are buried in the Greenridge Cemetery in Saratoga Springs.

The history of many of the transactions relating to the property will never be factually known, but the Murrays and the Humphreys had other real estate transactions. Whatever the reason, on March 28, 1893, Jennie A Humphrey sold the 1 acre and 17 acre lots to John Higgins of Troy, New York.



Gravesite - Jennie A. and George I. Humphrey
Greenridge Cemetery, Saratoga Springs, New York

John Higgins

Lot Owner from 1893-1896

John Higgins and Jennie Humphrey had real estate dealings prior to this transaction. When Mr Higgins bought the property on March 29, 1893, he assumed the mortgage owed to Ida Murray. Apparently his financial matters disintegrated and on May 24, 1893, Ida Murray assigned (sold) her mortgage to a major player in Saratoga County real estate; Jesse Billings Jr of Northumberland.

By early 1895, Mr Billings, despairing of his mortgage and fearing for the safety of the uninsured property, filed a complaint with the Supreme Court in Saratoga County in Ballston Spa. Mr Billings' attorneys, Miner & Hill, were not going to miss any opportunities so they named the following as defendants: Jennie A Humphrey, George I Humphrey, John Higgins, George Steenburgh, Platt Steenburgh, Thomas Breslin, (as executor of the last will and testament of Phillip J Heartt, deceased) and Abram Hayes. (The defendants were believed by Jesse to "have or claim to have some interest in or lien upon, the said mortgaged premises or some part thereof, which interest or lien, if any, has accrued subsequently to the lien of the said mortgage.")

In court, Mr Higgins agreed to pay the interest on the mortgage plus court costs and to obtain an insurance policy with Billings as beneficiary for at least \$910 (the mortgage value) and the complaint was dismissed.

By late 1895, the above settlement unraveled and Jesse was back in court on January 27, 1896. This time Dr Lincoln and James H Sullivan were added as defendants. Summonses were served on: John Higgins - City of Troy; George and Jennie Humphrey - Saratoga Springs; George and Platt Steenburgh and Thomas Breslin -Waterford; Harry M Lincoln - Wiltonville; James H Sullivan and Abram Hayes - City of Albany. Attorneys Warren, Patterson and Faalkner, 17 First Street, Troy, NY, represented John Higgins, and John L Henning, 400 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, represented the Humphreys.

Not one of the defendants showed for the hearing and the foreclosure went to Mr Billings. For some reason, perhaps a full docket, the determination of the case was moved to the Supreme

Court in Amsterdam where that judge, on May 23, 1896, via referee H V Borst, found for Mr Billings: \$978.13 plus \$102.89 court costs and Ted Hamilton, a well-known attorney in Saratoga Springs was appointed sale referee. On July 13, 1896 on the courthouse steps in the village of Saratoga Springs, Mr Hamilton sold the property to the highest bidder, Jesse Billings (surprise!) for \$1148.

The Humphreys and Mr Higgins being named in the suit is understandable. The others all had had real estate dealings, several with the Humphreys and Higgins and this is the probable connection. It is known that earlier, Abram Hayes was a Justice of the Peace in Wilton.

This segment of the history represents the author's greatest



Attorney Theodore Hamilton
ca 1898

disappointment because of the inability to identify the specific John Higgins in question. Several facts are known: Mr Higgins lived in Brunswick in 1889; he lived in Troy in 1893 and again in 1895-6. Mr Higgins was reported as unmarried in 1893 and he had real estate deals with the Humphreys, Sullivans, and Steenburghs, and probably with Heartt, Breslin and Hayes.

Unfortunately, at that time, there were a large number of John Higgins's living in the Troy area as well as southern Saratoga

County. Some were married, some did not appear to have the financial wherewithal to be in the real estate market and others seemed to be living in the wrong place. If anyone can help shed light on this dilemma it would certainly be welcome.

Jesse Billings Jr

Lot Owner from 1896 - 1898

Jesse Billings Jr owned the two lots from the foreclosure date of July 13, 1896 until he sold them to Doctor Lincoln April 1, 1898 for \$1100.

Mr Billings, born May 7, 1828, was a very colorful and



Jesse Billing Jr
Date Unknown

extremely wealthy farmer and lumber merchant who lived in Northumberland. He appears to have had a very egocentric personality, and was used to cutting sharp deals and getting his way. Between 1878 and 1880 Mr. Billings was tried twice for the murder of his wife. He was acquitted both times. *“To Spend Eternity Alone”* by Dr. Hollis A. Palmer, a historical biography focusing on Billings two trials, gives a very interesting coverage of these events.

Ken Petteys, who is now deceased, was a lifelong Wilton resident and fantastic Wilton history resource. He told this writer that his father worked for Jesse Billings for \$1 a day cutting ice for New York City. On pay day, while paying off his employees, Jesse would make a point of lighting up his cigars with a five-dollar bill! Mr. Billings was a very powerful man, feared by some, hated by others. He died Sunday, December 4, 1905 at his home in Northumberland and is buried in the Prospect Hill Cemetery in Schuylerville, New York.



Jesse Billings' gravesite
Prospect Hill Cemetery, Schuylerville, New York

Doctor Harry Martin Lincoln and Carrie Lincoln

Owners from 1898 - 1937

Harry Martin Lincoln was born May 12, 1859, in Greenfield, New York. His parents were John D Lincoln and Lydia Adelia Martin. John D was the son of Henry and Hannah Lincoln and grandson to Sarah and Nedabiah Lincoln Sr, (a Revolutionary War soldier). The Martins were an early family in the area. At that time, the Lincoln family was very prominent in the Greenfield - Corinth area, adjacent to the Town of Wilton. There were several uncles and cousins owning large and prosperous farms, particularly in the Lincoln Mountain Road area.



Doctor Harry Martin Lincoln
1892

On October 5, 1862, Harry's mother and younger brother Frank passed away. In February, 1864, John

D remarried, this time to Carrie Cooper, whose father, Robert, was from an early family in Corinth. Two stepsisters, Delia and Kitty, were born before John D passed away on June 6, 1874. Shortly after, Carrie took the two girls and moved to Corinth to be near (or with) her parents and Harry was sent to live with his maternal grandfather, Amasa Martin, in Greenfield. At this point, it is appropriate to insert a comment regarding caution when citing newspapers to report events. One local paper reported Dr Lincoln as living with his paternal grandfather, Martin Lincoln, but there

was no Martin Lincoln; he was with his maternal grandfather Amasa Martin. In another case while researching a local Lincoln name, the person was reported as being born in Fort Sill (usually thought of as in Oklahoma). After much work, a relative was located who knew that the person was born in Fortsville (a small community in Saratoga County, New York).

What is clear from the research, however, is that Harry, a small but energetic man, was quite intelligent. With help from relatives, he attended Troy Conference Academy of Poultney, Vermont and read medicine with Dr C S Grant of Saratoga Springs. He graduated from Albany Medical College in 1886. Something special happened to the Lincolns on August 4, 1886 as Harry's step-mother Carrie wrote the following in the family bible: "God has answered August 4, 1886". Was it Harry's graduation from Albany Medical college?

As previously discussed, Dr Murray discontinued his practice in early 1866. Highly recommended to Dr Murray, Dr Lincoln was sought out and brought to Wiltonville to assume Dr Murray's practice. (The recommendation would seem to be adequate evidence that Dr Lincoln's "affliction" developed after the spring of 1886.) This move was quite logical as Dr Lincoln's family farm was less than three miles up the mountain from Wiltonville, just over the Wilton-Greenfield boundary, and he had many relatives in the area.

Having stepped into an established practice probably made things easy for Dr Lincoln. Later, one newspaper reported that "no young man ever started with brighter prospects." By 1891, Dr Lincoln was a member of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors following in Dr Murray's footsteps. Dr Lincoln was a charter member of Kayderosseras Tent #69 International Order of Rechabets, a temperance organization instituted March 7, 1876, and a Mason. Because of deaths on both sides of the family, he began to accumulate real estate and he became engaged to a distant cousin, Nina Chamberlin, a teacher in the Glens Falls Schools.

Unfortunately, a fatal weakness reared its ugly head; as early as 1890 Dr Lincoln was showing clear signs of drug usage and addiction. Miss Chamberlin broke off their engagement in 1890, later stating that, "his habits were not what I considered they

should have been”, and his stepmother eventually moved in with him to try to help him shake the problem. Nothing seemed to help.

By the late 1890's, Dr Lincoln was in extreme straits. Dr Patterson of Gansevoort was consulted and after much turmoil, Dr Lincoln and a nurse left late in the year for a sanitarium in Norfolk, Virginia. It was later reported that while in Norfolk, “he also became involved in a matter in Norfolk, Virginia which brought him considerable newspaper notoriety.” Over the years, extensive time was invested trying to uncover the details of this story with no results. Then, in late 2017, the veil was removed.

There exists, an extensive website, titled Fulton County Post Cards (apparently relating to Fulton, NY). It is a searchable site and, at the present time, covers forty three million pages of old newspapers from the United States and Canada; with a large section from New York State. It was founded in 1999 by Tom Tryniski, owner and sole operator. This site is under constant expansion and it was revisited last fall - it was this revisit that solved the mystery. Of the new hits, one was for the March 16, 1901 Mechanicville Saturday Mercury of Mechanicville, NY. Under the headline of “Dr Lincoln Drugged”, a column on page 1 (based on a dispatch from Norfolk, VA) told the story.

“Dr. H. M. Lincoln, of Saratoga, N.Y., appeared in the police court on Saturday as a complainant against Zera Haret, an actress, and W. H. Stewart and James Sullivan, attaches of Barton’s Auditorium Theatre, who he charges with drugging and robbing him.

Dr. Lincoln, who had been traveling in the south for the benefit of his health, testified that at the invitation of the woman he met her in the theatre, where they had several drinks, and that Stewart and Sullivan gave him “knock out drops”. While he was unconscious, the doctor says he was robbed. The defendants were held in \$400 bonds.”

Dr Lincoln is a resident of Does Corners, in the Town of Wilton, where he has practiced medicine for about fourteen years. For the past few years, it is alleged, he has been addicted to morphine and cocaine. Several months ago his health became so impaired that it was thought best to send him south for the winter. He was accompanied by Roy P. Schermerhorn [a neighbor], who remained with him for several weeks and then returned. A part of that time

Dr. Lincoln was in New Orleans, La., where he received treatment. Just when he went to Norfolk is not known.

Dr. Harry M. Lincoln was the republican supervisor of Wilton in 1891 and 1892, and for several years has been a member of the board of pension examiners in Saratoga. Perhaps the absence of Dr. Harry on town meeting day, caused Hon. Bart B Grippin's own town of Wilton to elect a democratic supervisor. Actress Zera was a naughty girl."

Dr Lincoln returned home in the spring of 1901 in much improved condition. Very quickly he reverted to old habits and by late summer, was wandering from camp to resort "up north" under the total control of his drug habit (occasional questions surfaced



Photo of some of the many medicinal bottles excavated in and around the "Doc Lincoln House". Approximately half of those found were like the one on the left, embossed as follows: "Dr. McMunn's Elixir of Opium."

regarding use of alcohol but all discussions eventually focused on drug usage; usually morphine was mentioned)

DR. H. M. LINCOLN
WILTON, NEW YORK

PHONE 174 M 1

OFFICE HOURS: 12 to 1

Name _____

Address _____ Date _____

R

M. D.

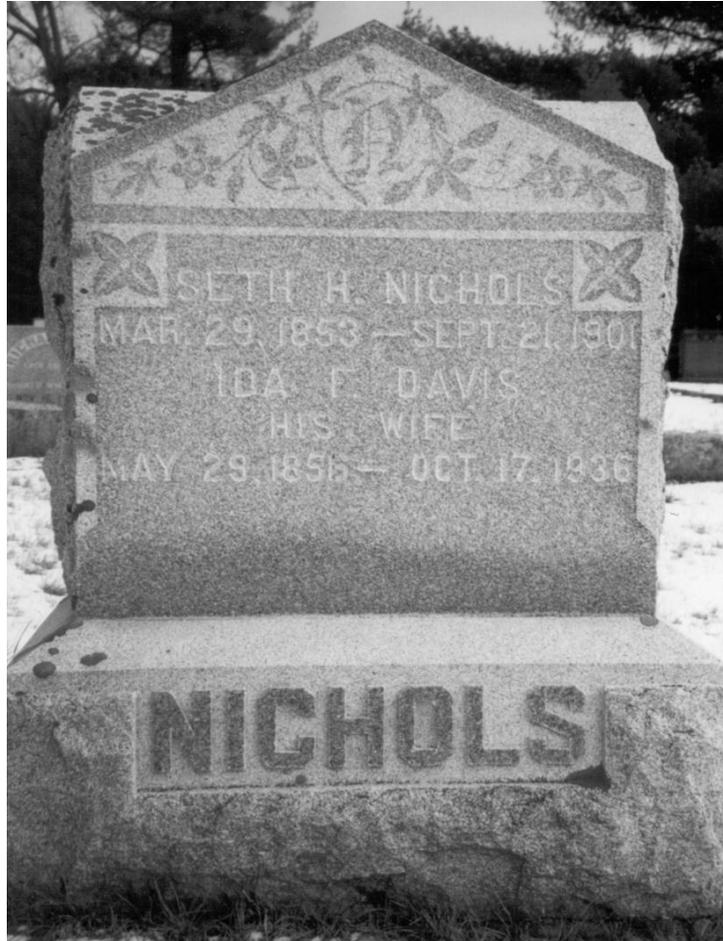
MENGES & CURTIS, Pharmacists
" The Old Store "
Opp. Adirondack Trust Co., Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

Dr Lincoln's Prescription Pad

In mid-September, Dr Lincoln was at the Lake House, Harrisburg Lake, Stony Creek, a lodge owned and operated by Seth Nichols, a man well respected in the local community. Early Tuesday morning, September 17, 1901, between 7 and 8 am, Dr Lincoln came downstairs. He had a .38-caliber American Bulldog revolver in his pocket. What caused the subsequent events is not clear. The guests had complained about Dr Lincoln and Mr Nichols had threatened to have Dr Lincoln “go”. Perhaps Dr Lincoln’s besotted mind was reacting to his being the butt of many jokes and teasing, probably all of the above and more. Dr Lincoln and Mr Nichols got into a tussle when Mr Nichols saw the exposed revolver. It discharged and Mr Nichols was fatally shot. He died Saturday at 10:20 am.



Lake House, West Stony Creek, NY, viewed from side of store across the Harrisburgh Road. Note horseshoe court, small pines, cleared hillside. Date - prior to 1913 (postmark on postcard). The Lake House burned September 30, 1915.



Seth Nichol's gravesite
Chester Rural Cemetery, Chestertown, New York

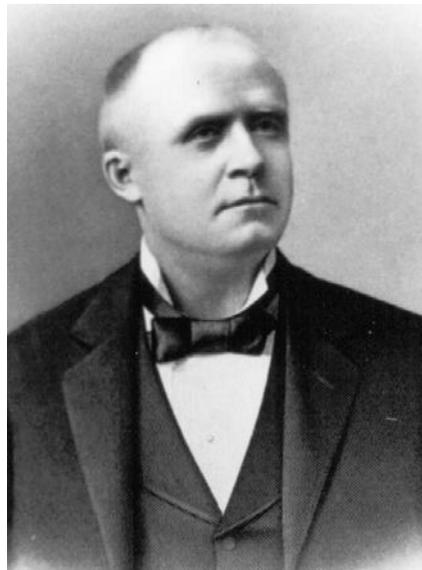
Dr Lincoln was promptly subdued by Mr Nichols' son and others and held for the authorities, who arrived much later due to the remoteness of the area. Mr Nichols, 48 years of age, left a widow, the former Miss Ida Davis of Bolton, and seven grieving children - Jennie Austin, Susie, Leslie, Seth Jr, Esther, Jesse, and Lense. On October 31, 1901, Dr Lincoln was indicted and held over for trial at the June 1902 Supreme Court session in Caldwell (now Lake George), Judge M L Stover presiding.

Dr Lincoln's family rallied to his support, a family reported as "very prominent in the area". An impressive array of legal talent

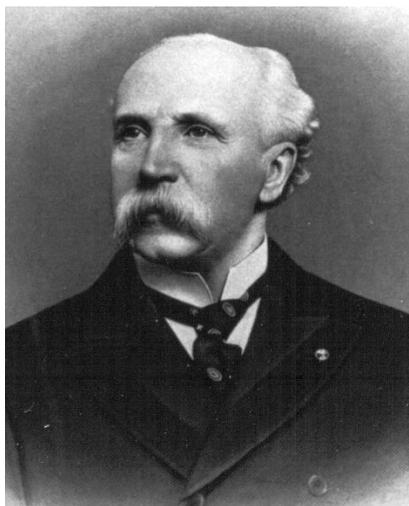
was assembled to battle District Attorney W L Kiley and assistants George S Raley and Col H H Howard. The defense team consisted

of Attorney and Senator Edgar Brackett of Saratoga Springs (a very powerful and well-liked man), Judge Whitman of Sandy Hill (now Hudson Falls), the law firm of Winsor P French & Son (a well-known and respected firm from Saratoga Springs), and Beecher S. Clothier, attorney (a cousin to Dr Lincoln), from Glens Falls.

The trial began June 16th and proceeded speedily, arousing much local interest, probably more so than any since Jesse Billing Jr's trial of nearly 25 years earlier. Jury selection



Edgar Brackett
ca 1898



Winsor B French
ca 1898

was completed on the 17th and the testimony began. The defense contended that it was an accident. The indicted charge was of first-degree murder. Apparently, at that time, lesser charges, such as diminished capacity, were not available.

Extensive testimony was taken from Mr Nichols' relatives and the guests present at the Lake House. The consensus was that Dr Lincoln was irrational and consistently exhibiting bizarre behavior. He occasionally wore two hats claiming one had a hole in it. Every afternoon he became sleepy and glassy-eyed. Mrs Nichols reported bottles of morphine and strychnine in his room. Guests reported him eating green corn on the cob with a rusty knife. (He would go into the woods with a rifle and shotgun cartridges and wore his cartridge belt upside down. He said his dog was a fishing dog). Others described him sleeping it off. Dr Patterson testified that Dr Lincoln was using 8-12 grams of morphine a day and was covered with needle scars at the rate of 25 per square inch!

His stepmother, Mrs Carrie Lincoln, and his former fiancée' Miss Nina Chamberlin, both testified to his addiction. Many character witnesses were brought forward to state that over the last five years he had "transformed from the kindest of men to an irresponsible condition".

Dr Hall of Saratoga Springs, a member of the Board of Pensioners, of which Dr Lincoln was a member, reported the following: At a meeting shortly prior to the shooting, Dr Lincoln was totally incompetent-taking a half hour to sign his name to a document – "little better than an imbecile." Testimony continued to build up, all telling the same story, of the "ruin of his mind and character by the excessive use of morphine."

During the trial, the family took action to protect Dr Lincoln's finances. The house and other properties were signed over to Mrs Carrie Lincoln, stepmother. A trust was set up with Chester Lincoln, older cousin, controlling other assets. It was learned, following a review of over 200 mortgages and deeds of the extended Lincoln family that two deeds were signed over to Edgar Brackett by Dr Lincoln, obviously as (partial?) payment for legal fees relating to the trial.

Long before the trial reached a conclusion, the jury found itself in a quandary; Dr Lincoln was not insane and the defense never said he was. They took the position it was an accident. If the jury

accepted the accident defense, Dr Lincoln would have to be released to return to his bad habit and maybe another “accident”, and there was no legal way to send him to a sanatorium for treatment. Late on Friday evening, June 20, after many ballots, foreman Black reported a verdict of “guilty of manslaughter in the First Degree with a recommendation of mercy.” Everyone understood that this was the jury’s way of insuring Dr Lincoln would be in an environment which would have the best chance of breaking his habit. Judge Stover responded with a revised sentence of four years and six months at Dannamora. Dr Lincoln could be released as early as 1905, with good behavior.

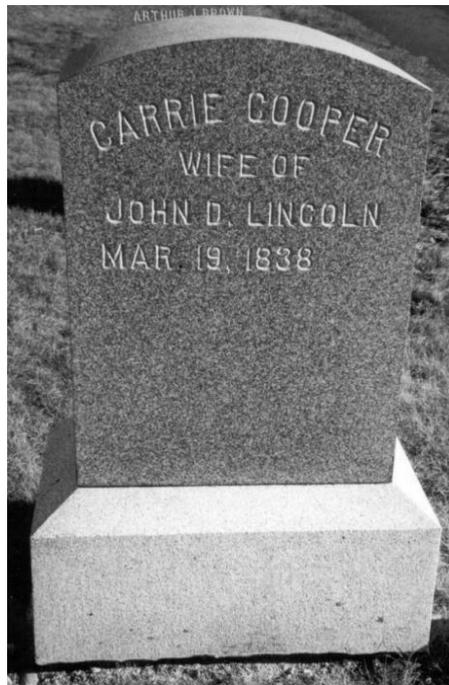
Dr Lincoln became a model prisoner and soon was able to assist the prison doctor. It was reported that he was cured within one year. As this information became available, interest arose in getting a release for Dr Lincoln. Petitions were circulated and all jurors signed a request for release. Judge Stover, District Attorney Kiley, and many others sent letters to the governor’s office requesting leniency. Then Governor O’Dell issued a pardon (commutation and restoration) and on November 16, 1904, Dr Lincoln was released from prison. He and his stepmother arrived at Saratoga on the 3 PM Delaware & Hudson train and they were greeted by many friends. “As soon as the little reception was over, he and his [step] mother retired quietly to their home in Wilton.”

Dr Lincoln resumed his practice and again became active in community affairs. In 1914 he was trustee of the local school and again active in real estate. It must be understood that at this time, small rural communities were not well served by such financial institutions as the stock market or banks. It was quite common for some of the more affluent of the community to invest their money by making loans to neighbors and friends, usually via a mortgage or a note. Most mortgages were recorded and are available as public documents. Dr Lincoln was active in this area most of his adult life. Some of the actions involved deeds. At one point Dr Lincoln owned the former Wilton Village Hall. It, and an adjacent dwelling owned by James Senecal, were destroyed by fire April 26, 1923.

As we have seen, real estate transactions were not limited to the male gender. However, it is interesting to note that the legal system seemed to feel that there existed a need to protect the typical

housewife of the day. Therefore, it was quite common to see some form of the following at the end of a deed: “ And the said Sarah K ----- on a private examination by me apart from her said husband acknowledged that she executed the same freely and without any fear or compulsion of her said husband, Lewis -----, Justice of the Peace.” If she said no, I wonder what would have happened to the wife later.

Unfortunately, Dr Lincoln’s dark cloud returned and he remained an addict for the rest of his life. Ken Petteys and his father used to help Dr Lincoln put in ice in the winter and hay in the summer. During haying, it got quite hot and the Doc would remove his shirt and Ken stated that Dr Lincoln’s arms were covered with needle marks and this was after his release from prison. This probably explains why Dr Lincoln’s stepmother never returned ownership of the house to her son. He got it back via her will when she died of cancer January 13, 1918. She is buried with her husband John D Lincoln in the Corinth Rural Cemetery.



Carrie Cooper - gravesite
Corinth Rural Cemetery, Corinth, NY

Dr Lincoln's health began to fail and this, coupled with the size of the house, necessitated housekeeping assistance. A series of "hired girls" became residents of the house, including Daisey Woodworth and Lucy LaFountain. As was the custom at that time,



Joseph Gennell
ca 1923

these girls were often indigents who hired out for room, board and a small salary, moving on as their status changed. Later in life, Dr Lincoln became friends with Joseph Gennell and had real estate transactions with him. At one point, Joe and his family lived on the lower road south of Dr Lincoln. By late 1936, Joe had married Dolores (Petteys) McGatrey (Doc's housekeeper) and was living with Dr Lincoln. As Dr Lincoln's health further declined on October 7, 1936, he signed over the house to Mr. Gennell, reserving tenancy with a life use provision. By this time,

the 17-acre lot was no longer part of the deed.

In September, 1937, Dr Lincoln became quite ill and died of cancer on September 24, 1937 at 78 years, 4 months, and 2 days of age. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Wilton and was buried in the Ballou Cemetery, Greenfield well away from the lot with his mother and other maternal relatives. Of interest is the



Dolores (Petteys) McGatrey Gennell Timko
ca 1940

fact that on the family monument, his name is spelled “Harri”, a spelling/nickname from his younger years.

As was the custom of the day, Dr Lincoln was “laid out” in the front room/parlor (currently the author’s den/office) of his home; undoubtedly the same room used for the funeral of his stepmother Mrs Carrie Lincoln. Ken Petteys, a bearer, reported that the funeral procession got lost on the way to the cemetery and ended up at a fence at the end of a dead-end road. The procession had to turn around and retrace its steps. Undertaker Mr Bortle said, “I guess old Doc won’t mind the extra ride.” Dr Lincoln built the house and lived there for nearly 40 years. It bears his name and rightfully so.



“A Successful Hunt” - Dr Lincoln second from right
ca 1895



Dr. Lincoln's gravesite
Ballou Cemetery
Greenfield, New York



The Martin Family grave marker
Ballou Cemetery Greenfield, NY

Joseph Gennell and Dolores Petteys McGatrey Gennell Timko

Owners from 1936-1953

By the late 1920's, Dr Lincoln's health began to deteriorate and he sought housekeeping assistance. He approached Carrie Petteys, wife of Ken Petteys, and she declined. Politely put, she felt the job was a little more than she wanted! However, Ken's sister Dolores, born July 13, 1907, took the job. She, her husband William



Wayne McGatrey
ca 1944

McGatrey (they were married in the spring of 1925) and young son, Wayne, moved into the house about 1929. In 1932, Mr. McGatrey died from tuberculosis at Middle Grove Sanatorium and was buried in the Southside Cemetery in South Glens Falls. Dolores then married Joseph Gennell on October 15, 1936 and they lived with Dr Lincoln until his death in 1937.

Joe Gennell was born October 14, 1900, in Philadelphia. Most likely his parents were Guiseppe (Joseph) and Rose Ginelli,

who in 1926 were listed as living in Rochester, New York. They later sold a parcel in Saratoga Springs to Dr Lincoln. (Joe Gennell's obituary stated that he had resided in the area since age eight). In 1930 Dr Lincoln sold the same lot to Joseph Gennell of Saratoga Springs. Joe Gennell operated Joe's Taxi Service which was located on the north side of Lake Avenue in the block east of City Hall. In 1929, Joe also purchased a lot from Dr Lincoln on the "lower road" south of Dr Lincoln's home and the two apparently became good friends.

In 1936 Dr Lincoln granted Dolores a parcel on the Saratoga-Glens Falls Road (Northern Pines Road), retaining life usage. Later that same year he granted his home to Joe Gennell, retaining life usage as stated earlier. When the doctor died in 1937, Joe assumed full title. On January 16, 1938, Joe redid the deed to include Dolores.

About 1944, Joe and Dolores sold the taxi business and bought a restaurant on the Wilton-Glens Falls Road (Route 9) and operated it under the name of the "Chatter Box." The property was purchased from the Wm McAdam family, previous owners of Moreau Lake, and had been constructed from materials salvaged from the McAdam's home on Moreau Lake. The two lions at the entrance came from that home. Joe and Dolores moved into the road house and it was probably about that time that the Doc Lincoln house began its life as a rental unit. The "Chatter Box" is now called the "Chez Pierre."

On May 8 (at about 6:50 am), 1948 Mr. Gennell, Mrs Gennell and Mr & Mrs Green, (apparently on their way home from a ride after closing their road house and then closing the road house where the Village Inn is now located on Route 9N) sideswiped a tree on the Kings Station - Greenfield Road. The left side of the vehicle was demolished, killing Mr. Gennell (the driver) and Mrs Green. Mr Gennell was buried in the Ellsworth Cemetery, Gurn Springs, New York.

About 1950, Dolores married her third husband - John Timko. They sold the Chatter Box and moved to South Glens Falls. In 1953 Dolores sold Dr Lincoln's house to her brother Lawrence Pettys. Mr Timko died April 5, 1975 and Dolores died April 19, 1986. She is buried in the Ellsworth Cemetery, Gurn Springs, New York.



Gravesite, Ellsworth Cemetery
Gurn Springs, New York

Lawrence Petteys

Owner from 1953 - 1968

Lawrence Petteys was born July 25, 1921, and was a brother to



Lawrence Petteys
ca 1943

Ken Petteys and Dolores Petteys. He and his wife Iris (Peg) rented the Doc Lincoln house from his sister Dolores for several years prior to purchasing it in 1953. They had two children, Christine and David. The author became acquainted with both Lawrence and Christine while we worked at BOCES in Saratoga Springs in the 1960s and 1970s.

Lawrence made several improvements in the property, lowering ceilings and raising floors (to make it easier to heat) and installing the current

drilled well to replace the original dug wells (no longer safe and drying out in the summers). He later added an upstairs bath and made other changes to create a two-apartment (upstairs/downstairs) building.

The Petteys moved to another residence on Mt. McGregor Road in 1967, and sold the house the next spring. Both Christine, who lives in Missouri, and David, of Saratoga Springs, have been helpful in preparing this document. Iris passed away October 8, 1991. Lawrence, now deceased, used to live with his son David and his family.

Michael Hagadorn

Owner from 1968 - 1969

On October 2, 1968, Michael Hagadon purchased the Doc Lincoln House as an investment. Mr Hagadon, a forest ranger, lived just up the road and never occupied the premises. His tenants moved out in the middle of the winter without notice. All the pipes froze and broke. He lost interest, and sold the property the next spring. Later, Mr Hagadorn lived in Chestertown, New York. He is now deceased.

Albert John II and Sheila Ann Clarke

Owners from 1969 - Present

The author, Albert John Clarke II, was born April 28, 1939, in West Carthage, New York His father, Albert Sr, was from Harrisville and his mother, Marjory Grieb from Carthage, New York. A brother, Stephan, was born in 1945 and resides in Churchville, New York, near Rochester.

In 1941 Albert's parents moved from Harrisville to 550 West End Avenue, Carthage, where they resided with Marjory's parents. Albert Sr worked for the Crown Zellerbach Paper Company. After retirement, they moved to Wilton and are now deceased.

Albert II graduated from Carthage High School in 1956, Albany State University in 1960 and received his Master's Degree in 1962. He taught at Carthage Central and Fort Plain Central Schools. On December 29, 1962 he married Sheila Ann Tethers, originally from Saratoga Springs, and later of Roslyn, Pennsylvania. Her parents, James and Agnes Tethers, originally from Saratoga Springs are now deceased. She has a brother Michael, of Santa Clarita, California. A sister, Joan (Tethers) Gindhart, and two older brothers, James and Thomas are deceased.

Albert went back to college for advanced study and in 1965 was hired by F Donald Myers, District Superintendent of Schools, to work at the Saratoga - Warren County BOCES. Thanks to the mentoring of such excellent educators as Dr Myers, John Ryan, of Schuylerville, and Clayton Brownell, also a District Superintendent, Albert became Director of Occupational Education. After that he

then became Assistant to the District Superintendent before retiring in 1995; having spent 51 of 56 years in a school building, on one side or the other of a desk.

By 1968, he was looking for a permanent home and purchased a house in Wilton that the locals called the Doc Lincoln House. He moved there in June, 1969 with his wife and three children, Albert John III, age 4; Mary Ann, age 2; and James William, aged 9 months.

The first summer was real fun! Remember the frozen pipes from the earlier chapter? That was just the start. The house had no insulation and that winter there were temperatures down to 30 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. (That was the winter of a terrible disaster when the Wilton Academy burned with the loss of several lives. The huge brick building was built in the 1850's and was located across the road from our home.) The furnace would run for 24 hours and the house would be 2 degrees colder than the previous day! The kitchen cabinets consisted of one wooden cupboard, hardly more than an orange crate nailed to the wall. Over the next several years extensive renovations were performed, many of which would not be repeated (or at least done differently). Unfortunately, at that time, the author had a poorly developed sense of history! Much of this is reviewed in Part II.

In the spring of 1999, Jean Wouters (Wilton Town Historian) asked if the Clarkes would be interested in participating in an "Open House Tour" and they agreed. Thus a long dormant curiosity was activated regarding Doc Lincoln and his house. The result is this document and a significant collection of Lincoln genealogy, the accumulation of which has kept Albert out of the house for considerable amounts of time; Sheila, his wife, says to say thanks to Jean!

Nearly twenty years of collecting Lincoln genealogy and history has resulted in this house history and two books: "Ancestors and Descendants of Nedabiah Lincoln, Sr. Taunton, Massachusetts October 25, 1758 Greenfield, New York May 6, 1834 Volume I" published 2008; and "Ancestors and Descendants of Nedabiah Lincoln, Sr. Volume II The Lincolns of Hawaii" published 2015. In addition to the preceding, a website (www.doclincoln.com), and a genealogy database of nearly 6,000 names has also been

developed. Much of the development can be credited to a super editor - Suzanne Devries.

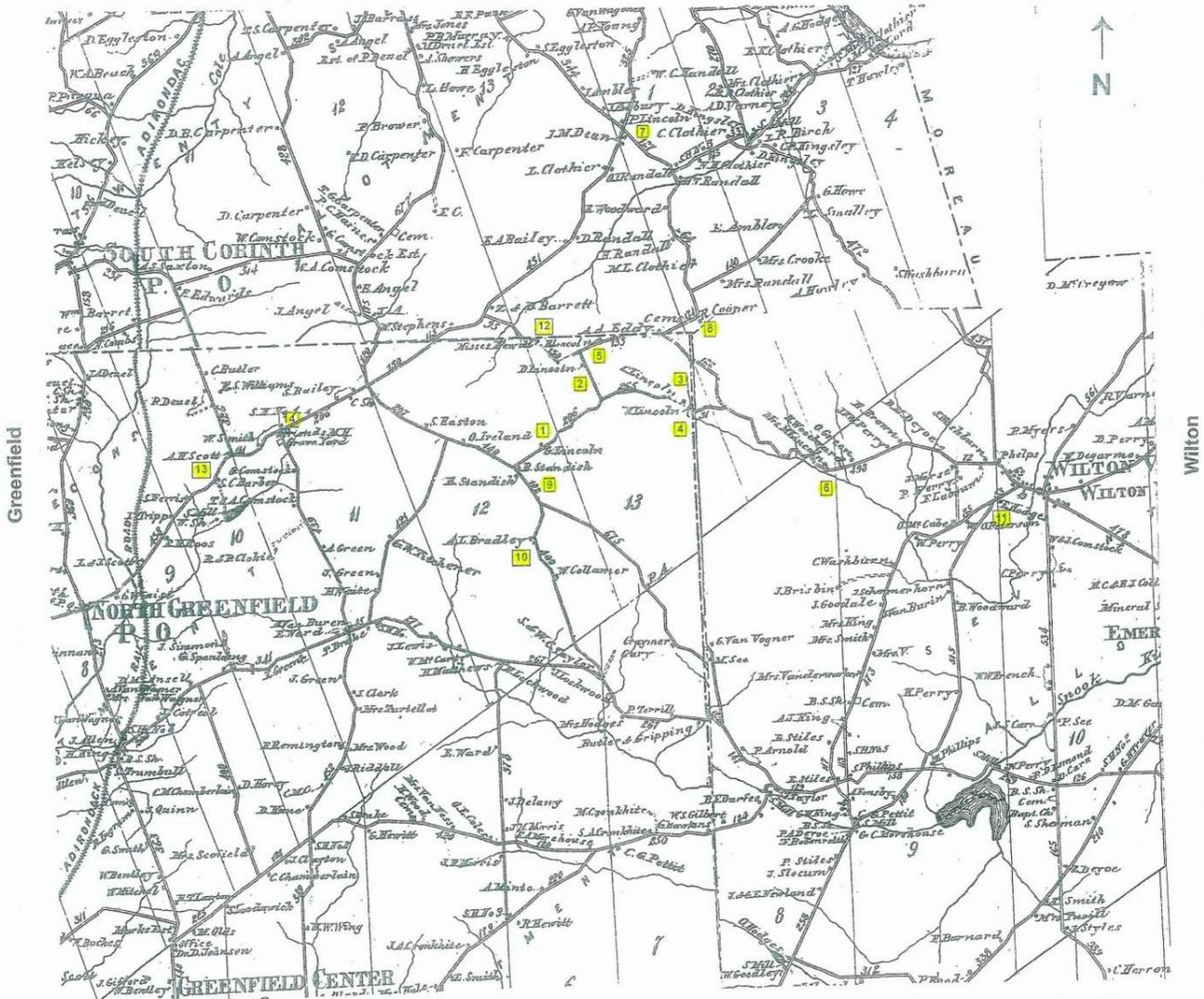
It is mandatory that I acknowledge the contributions of the multitude of people who are responsible for the success of this endeavor. To properly do so would require the listing of names. The listing of some names would be unfair and the listing of all would be impossible so this will have to do:

To all who have contributed to this family history - thank you and mahalo nui loa.



Albert John Clarke II - Sheila Ann Clarke
1994

Corinth



"The Ridge" — 1866 Beer's maps — portions of the towns of Corinth, Greenfield and Wilton, Saratoga County, New York

Map Highlights

1. G Lincoln - George W, son of Charles. From 1866 map, see # 10.
2. D Lincoln – Dexter, son of Henry Lincoln.
3. C Lincoln – Charles, son of Nedabiah Sr.
4. W Lincoln – Williams, son of Nedabiah Sr. Earlier, this also was home to Nedabiah Sr and youngest son Warren. Fanny (Lincoln) Tucker and her husband Eseck lived three houses from here in the 1820 census.
5. H Lincoln – Henry (Harry) Lincoln, son of Nedabiah Sr, first of the family to arrive in Greenfield, Saratoga County in 1795. Also the home of John D Lincoln, son of Henry, and later, Harry Martin Lincoln M D son of John D. Henry’s first home was a log cabin nearby.
6. Mrs W Lincoln - Melinda (White) Woodard Lincoln. Williams was her second husband and this home, from her first marriage, was still in her name.
7. P Lincoln - Esias (Peter) Lincoln, son of Charles. This area is known as Randall Corners, and is the area where Joseph W Lincoln, son of Warren, lived. After her marriage, Peter’s daughter, Jennie, lived across the road from the Wilton Methodist Church.
8. R Cooper – This house is still standing. Robert was the father of Caroline “Carrie” who was Dr Lincoln’s stepmother.
9. B Standish – reputed to be a descendant of Miles Standish. In 1870, Chester Lincoln (son of Dexter, grandson of Henry) and his new wife Julia Eddy were in Missouri. By 1880 they had returned and were living with his parents (see # 2). By 1890 this was the site that was their home.

10. A Bradley – By 1890, this was the home of George W Lincoln (son of Charles). This home had a rather unusual stone walled double cellar which was divided into two sections with a stone wall.

11. Dr Harry Martin Lincoln – This is the site of the future home of Dr Lincoln, built in 1898 and purchased by the author in 1969.

12. H S Lincoln – Henry S Lincoln, son of Henry (1856 map). On the 1866 map, it was the residence of the Misses Hewitt. This was probably the original log home of his father.

13. John Scott Lincoln – see paragraph below. Between 1865 and 1870 he left Fort Edward, Washington County and returned to Greenfield. In 1870 he was operating a farm at this location.

14. John Scott Lincoln – By 1880 he had moved to this site and the family was operating a farm owned by Martha Di(y)keman.

Not shown – Eseck Tucker (husband of Fanny Lincoln who died ca 1832) lived in the Town of Corinth, less than a mile north of the Greenfield town line. His son Samuel lived about a mile and a half south, just inside the town of Greenfield. Both are shown on the 1866 Beer's map.

Many other sites in this area were occupied by various Lincoln relatives prior to and subsequent to this map date. One great uncle, George Washington Lincoln Sr (and family including sons George Washington Jr and John Scott) moved to Washington County prior to 1866.

Part II
The House

Foreword

The following section has been included for the sake of completeness and documentation. With major exceptions noted, most of the renovations and repairs described were done by the author while trying to live in the house; not a process that endears one to his spouse.



The Doc Lincoln House –North Side
Winter 1970-1971

The Basement

When the house was purchased in 1969, there was considerable work needed in the basement. The first task was to shore up the house. There were two main carrier beams on either side of the stairwell that went through the center of the house on a north-south axis. Both had been severed. The east one had a 2- to 3-foot splice from a hole cut for a one-register furnace, previously removed at some point, probably a coal burner. The west beam had an 18" piece missing near the north wall, cut out to install a duct for a later oil furnace with plenum and ducts. One other beam, an exposed 12' section of the west sill, had also been cut through for a heat duct. Thus all three beams that were not completely on a foundation had been cut through! To say the house was not level or plumb is an understatement. One area had a 7" sag. After considerable jacking, mostly to restore structural stability, the rest was left to "character."

The cellar walls needed repointing and in two sections, a 3' high, 12" thick inner wall was poured to stabilize the old stone wall. The old wall consisted of an outer and inner layer of laid-up field stone with the center filled with rubble. The wall was nearly 3' thick. The back cellar entrance had to be rebuilt, including retaining walls, as the basement floor is approximately 3' below grade at the rear of the house.

Being at the base of Palmer Ridge, the water table is quite high (within 2 feet of the surface in the spring). A 10-inch deep channel was cut along the uphill (west) cellar wall and a crushed-stone drain channel was put in. This was connected to a defunct dug well in the cellar which had a drain line into the backyard. The basement is still quite damp, but no longer serves as an indoor pool.

Services

As mentioned earlier, when the Clarkes moved in, none of the pipes would hold water, so the first task was a patch job for plumbing. At this point, all of the galvanized iron pressurized pipes have been replaced. The hot water heater was in the house when it was purchased and only required replacement of a couple of elements, it lasted until the summer of 2003!

The electrical system, installed in the early 1930s, showed signs of its age with old fabric covered wire and in some cases porcelain based outlets, knob and tube leftovers and push button switches. There were two main boxes to service the two apartments (upstairs and down). Over the next 3-4 years, as renovations progressed, about 90% of the wiring was replaced. The two electrical feeds were retained but the fuse boxes were replaced by modern circuit breaker boxes and they were joined as a single service.

Indoor plumbing and a septic system had been installed (about 1937) and the tank was buried under the back of the house, in the area that was used for an enclosed wood shed. As soon as the Clarkes moved in, it issued them a liquid greeting! There was no overflow elbow in the discharge end of the tank! After digging out the tank and sections of the line, a repeated snaking opened the line. The dry well at the end of the leach field was redone and a second dry well was dug in the side yard (all of this by hand!) for the gray water. Only one other backup has occurred since. Considerable replumbing of waste interior lines was done during renovations.

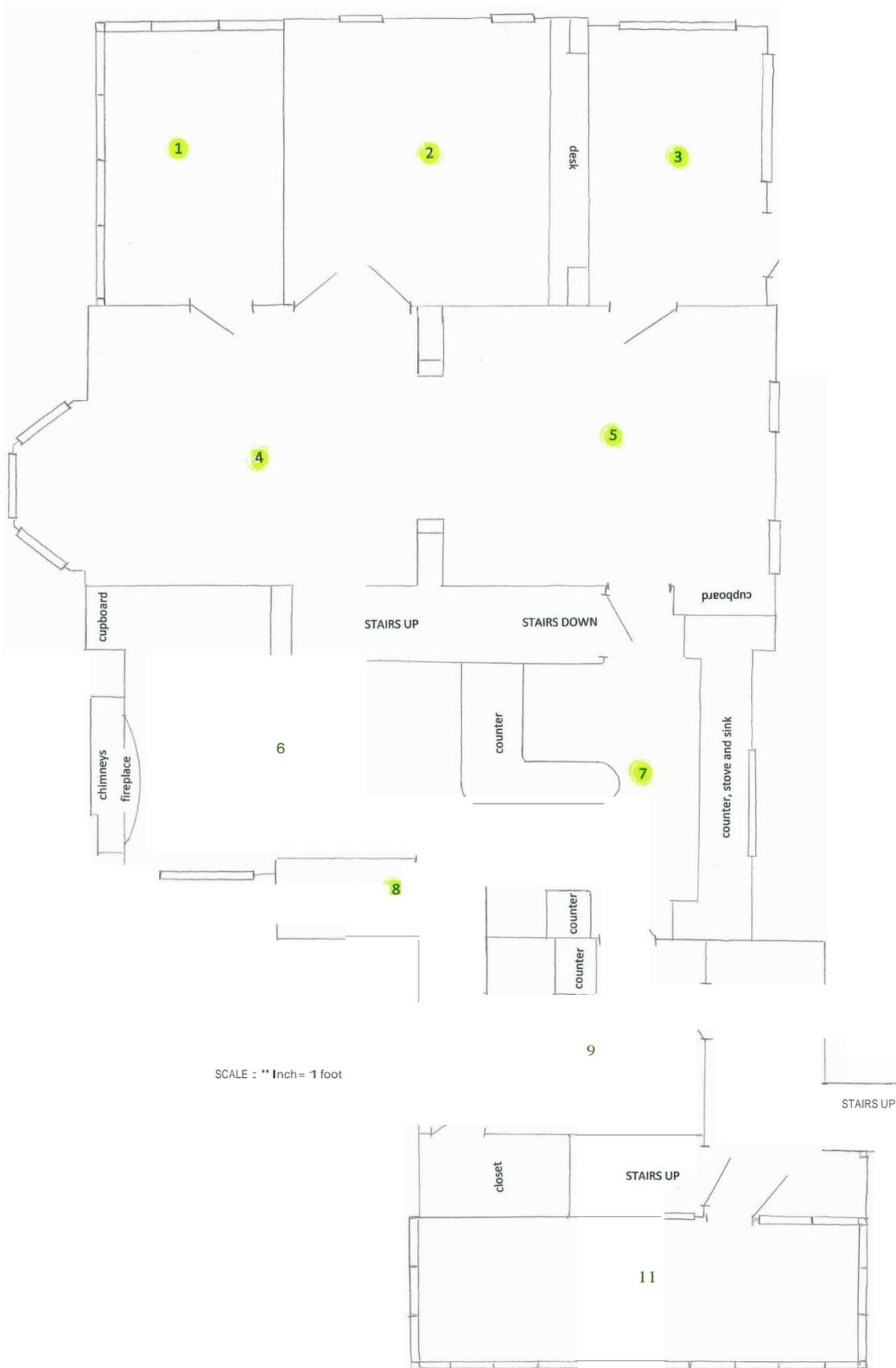
When the dug well in the side yard went dry, Larry Petteys had a well drilled in 1959, a cinder block well pit was built in 1965. The well has a high flow rate and with the exception of replacing the foot valve, it has never been a problem although the water is quite hard, so a softener was installed in 1994. The original pump and pressure tank were replaced in the early 1980s and then again in 2017. The dug well in the side yard (since filled in) and the dug well in the cellar were both within 50 feet or less of the septic tank. When tested, both were found to be unfit for human use.

The oil furnace burned out within two years as someone had placed an in-plenum humidifier in it. The moisture rusted out the fire box. It was replaced in 1971 and the current oil furnace was

put in about 1994. In 1975, a wood furnace was installed and connected to the duct work. It was replaced in 1994 and again in 2003. Wood has been the major heat source for the past 40 years. Some reworking of the duct system was done during renovation as there was only one heat duct to the entire upstairs; two more were added but are seldom used.

A magneto telephone was installed prior to 1930 (the doctor shared a line with Grant's cottage) and it was later replaced with a battery model. Dr Lincoln's phone number was 174 M1.

First Story Floor Plan



SCALE : 1/4" = 1 foot

First Floor Renovations

1. Southwest porch with a roof and deck (an exact copy of #3).

This was the family entrance. It was in poor condition and during the extensive renovation of 1969 - 1975 it was removed and replaced with a greenhouse. It has windows on the west and south sides, cold water and a passive heating system. Extensive renovations were done by my son-in-law Frank Laquidara in 2009.

2. Front room or parlor. Originally it was used to entertain guests or the parson, but not relatives. It was the room where Dr Lincoln was laid out and very likely served the same purpose for his stepmother. With the exception of a full wall bookcase/desk area on the north wall, the room is much the way it was when constructed over 120 years ago. The wide pine plank floors have been restored and the double doors replaced with a new set. With 9 foot ceilings in much of the house, 88" doors were used, compared to modern 80" doors. During Dr Lincoln's time, the floors would have been carpeted.

3. Northwest porch. This was the entrance to the doctor's office. It too had a roof and deck design with the deck about two feet above ground level. In tune with the times, it was enclosed during the author's renovations.

4. Family living room. Much of the original woodwork remains as do the pine plank floors. The original lath and plaster walls and ceiling have been replaced (or covered) with sheet rock. The door (mid-wall) between this room and room #6 was removed. The former access between this room and room 6 was restored by removing a curved wall at the foot of the stairwell. The construction of the bay window on the south side of this room gives indication of an afterthought. Its brick supporting wall is an addition to the house's stone wall and the floor boards butt over the house wall, rather than having staggered joints.

5. Office/Dining room. This room was used for the doctor's office and had wainscoting - probably Chestnut. It was discarded because of the many coats of paint. It has been replaced with cherry

wainscoting installed by my son James. (The lumber was obtained by the logging activities of the author and younger son. A 1930 Ford doodlebug and a 1931 Ford dump truck did the hard work.) The two front doors (to the porches) are massive: 36" wide, 2" thick and 88" tall with a large glass center pane in each door. One is currently used as the entrance to the greenhouse. The other was replaced Christmas of 2000 (and placed in storage) by a solid cherry door of the same size and design, made by James, youngest son of the author. (Again, the lumber came from logging activities.) The cupboard in the northeast corner of the room was used by Dr Lincoln to store medicines. The floor is pine plank-continued from the living room. The wall between these two rooms was double thickness (about 10") and housed a pair of pocket doors that covered the same opening. If one was opened by accident the second (being closed) would protect the doctor/patient privacy. This wall was replaced with a large archway joining the two rooms. A double-door privacy system between this room and #7 (kitchen) was replaced by a pair of café doors. Typical of most older houses, all rooms were originally separated by a six paneled door.

6. Family room. This room is currently being used as a family (TV) room. Previous to our purchase in 1969, it was set up as a bedroom. It had also been used as a bedroom for Doc Lincoln in the final stages of his illness and he died in this room. The floor was tiled and now is carpeted. The south wall contained a large double window which was removed and placed in the east wall directly over the basement entrance. It was replaced with a fireplace installed by Mr. John DeRidder, Sr, and later renovated by John DeRidder Jr. There are many unusual jags or pockets in the house (e.g., the medicine cupboard). When tearing open the inside wall to relocate the window, it was discovered as a false wall. The outside wall was 10" further east! The cupboard west of the fireplace is another example of the niche resulting from the peculiar placement of foundation and house walls. The wall between the family room and kitchen was removed and replaced with a dining counter to create a combination kitchen family room.

7. Kitchen. This room also had painted wainscoting, like the office, and it was also removed. The floor was covered with

linoleum and the ceiling with twelve inch square tile and fascia. The pair of floor-to-ceiling windows on the north wall were replaced with an over-the-counter casement unit. Over 30 cupboards and cabinets were built in on the north, east and west walls as well as under and over the dining counter. The door into the bathroom was moved from its north wall to the west wall. During the winter of 1999-2000 all the cabinets were resurfaced and had new doors and drawers installed by my youngest son Jim. At the same time a pantry was built into the west wall beside the cellar door.

For the sake of convenience and speed, most of the restoration work in the kitchen and family room was hired out. Local craftsmen Don Coons and Bob Sweet (and their helpers) did an excellent job. This work was done at the same time as the fireplace was installed. Most of the renovations were completed by 1974. The other work described in this part was done by the author nights and weekends, resulting in 60-80 hour work weeks!

8. The downstairs bath. This was originally the pantry. It was completely redone - flooring, ceiling, walls (a large double-hung window replaced with a small casement unit) and new sink. The metal shower stall was replaced with a built-in tiled unit.

9. The mud room and laundry room. This originally used to be a summer kitchen and contained the doorway to an "indoor outhouse". 2014 renovations uncovered the door frame to the "indoor outhouse": the foundation piers are still under the back porch. The room was stripped and new walls, ceiling, and flooring installed. A replacement double-casement window was put in the south wall and the room was set up to house the washer and dryer (previously in the basement). There's a small closet on the east side under the back stairway. The original back stairs ran west to east along the south wall, to a landing and then south to north to the upper floor. They had been replaced by a set running north-south on the east wall, probably done by Lawrence Petteys in the 1950's to provide exterior access to the upstairs apartment.

10. Early back porches. When purchased, there was a small, narrow back porch with a roof. The stairs were along the side of

the house and had eight or ten steps because at that point, the first floor was about five feet above ground level. This porch provided access to the back door and mud room as well as to the door to the upstairs apartment. The porch was in poor condition and was replaced in the mid 1970's. The replacement was slightly larger and the stairs were perpendicular to the house wall.

11. Latest back porch. A third version of the porch was constructed about 1990. It was still larger and wrapped around the back of the house. This back section (#11) provided a three-season back sitting porch 8' x 22'.

Second Story Floor Plan



Second Floor Renovations

1. Front bedroom. This was used by Christine Petteys when her father Lawrence owned the house. The walls were paneled and the ceiling dropped from nine feet to eight feet with insulation. The lowered ceiling was a panel-grid type. A subflooring was put down over the pine planks and then carpeted. It was the author's oldest son (Albert's) bedroom as well as Wayne McGatrey's when he and his family were residents.

2. Master bedroom. The walls were stripped, insulated and sheet rocked. The ceiling was lowered and insulated and sub flooring was put down and carpeted. This was the bedroom used by Dolores McGatrey, Wayne's mother.

3. Bedroom. This was used by the author's daughter, Mary Ann. The adjacent hall area had the worst floor sag; mostly corrected with sub flooring which was carpeted. Again, the walls were stripped, insulated and sheet rocked and the ceiling lowered. A heat duct was added. The original upstairs doors were refinished and re hung. This was Dr Lincoln's bedroom.

4. Hall. This area received the same treatment as the front three bedrooms in the early 1970's (except the walls were paneled). The original wooden stair well railing (in poor condition) was replaced with a wrought iron railing (ugly!). At that time an access door was cut from the hall into the bathroom (Number 6) as the only access prior to this was through room Number 7. In the early 1990's, the hall was completely redone. The walls and ceiling were sheet rocked and an oak railing installed around the stairwell. The work (and the bathroom renovation done at the same time) was done by Mr. Ed Durie, a talented craftsman.

5. Master bedroom closet. This was redone and because of its size (7x10), a shelved storage area was built inside. One of the tenant's daughters used this "cave" as a bedroom.

6. The upstairs bathroom. Originally a storage room, it was converted to a bath when the house became a two apartment unit

ca 1950. It has seen two revisions. In the early 1970s the original claw-foot tub was built in along the east wall. Because of roof pitch (the back half of the upstairs does not have 9 foot ceilings), a false wall was built between the bathroom and the master bedroom closet. Then a white birch counter with double sinks and a closet at the end were put on the south wall. (The lumber for this project was also derived from the author's logging activities.) A linen closet was built on the north wall. In the early 1990s (when the hall was being redone) the claw-foot tub was removed and a fiber glass tub/shower unit installed by Ed Durie.

7. Bedroom. This was used by the author's youngest son, James and has a sloped ceiling on the north side because of the roof line. At the time of purchase in 1969, it served as a kitchen for the upstairs apartment. The ceiling was insulated and some tiles (1' x 2') were replaced. Walls were sheet rocked and a subfloor with carpeting installed. (The family room, stairs, hall and all upstairs rooms except the bath are carpeted). A small closet was built into the northwest corner of the room. A built-in study area and dresser were constructed on the southwest wall by using some of the space from the oversized bathroom.

8. Back room. This was not insulated and served as a large entrance area to the upstairs apartment via the back stairway. It was painted and carpeted and is now used for storage. In earlier years it was used as a playroom for our children. In 2014 this room was stripped, insulated and completely refinished. The old back porch entrance was preserved and the room is still used as a storage/playroom. The recent renovations to this room revealed the remnants of a window encased in the common wall between this room and the bathroom. This would clearly indicate that the back section of the house, which includes this room and the mud room on the first floor, was a later addition. The crude construction of this section, compared to the main house, reinforces this conclusion.

Exterior

Considerable changes to the outside have occurred since 1898. About 1940, the tarred metal roof was replaced with an interlocking metal shingle roof. The work was done by Herbert and Bill Ernst. (There is evidence that the original roof was cedar shingles.) By 1969 it was in poor condition due to lack of paint and was prone to severe ice dams in the winter. Despite heating cables, two expensive paint jobs and more insulation, the problems remained. In the early 1990's, the metal roof was replaced with shingles but heating cables were still necessary. In 2012 a new roof was installed. An extensive ice/water underlayment was installed to eliminate the need for heating cables, it did not work. When the upstairs was redone, three half chimneys were removed; two from the hall area and one from the bathroom. There was also a thimble into the main chimney in the wall of the master bedroom closet.

The old partially rotted double hung windows were replaced, over a two-year period, in the early 1990s. This did much to reduce the heating bill. At the same time, the trim was covered with aluminum to cut maintenance. When painting the back of the house, it required a 40-foot ladder to reach the house peak!

At some point, probably in the mid-1950s, the original clapboard siding was covered with aluminum siding and as we noted, the two porches received major changes in the early 1970s. There is some evidence that at one time the house had shutters.

The barn received a new metal roof installed by Mr Don Coons in the early 1970s. Since then shed roofs have been attached to the barn on the north, east and south sides. The east side was roofed first when the author was raising pigs and fowl. Now all three areas are used for storage. The back room of the house received a new aluminum roof in the late 1970s installed by Mr Bill LaPolt. About 2008, this roof was replaced with a galvanized metal roof installed by Mr Mike Scarincio, an excellent roofer.

The barn (about 32' square and with two and a half stories) having seen hard usage, has been the recipient of several major repairs. Support piers have been installed, (after excavation of the back of the barn where the barn floor is about four feet above ground level)) floor joists replaced, sills replaced, one third of the floor rebuilt and tie rods installed between the north and south

walls to reinforce broken mortise and tennon joints. The latest sill and foundation work was done by the author and his son-in-law Frank Laquidara. When Dr Lincoln was alive, the upstairs of the barn was used to store hay and there was a chicken coop under the back. The ground floor was used for horses and carriages and then later a car. Doc was not a good driver and Joe Gennell acted as chauffeur and used Dr Lincoln's 1925 Model T (Joe's family lived just down the lower road a few hundred yards).

Since 1969, the author has purchased four additional parcels around the original lot, increasing its size to about two and a half acres. The largest parcel (about 1 ½ acres) was bought in 1972 and shortly thereafter a 1/4 to 1/3-acre pond was dug. About 12 years ago a 20 x 40 pole barn was built to store lumber and antique vehicles.

There is one dug and brick lined well in the cellar, probably the original well. It is contaminated and currently used as part of the cellar drain. There were two dug and stone lined wells outside the house; as earlier mentioned, the one near the kitchen was filled in. A second, just north of the original lot, was used for the barns on the Hodges farm before the house lot was sold in 1881. When the author bought the first of two small parcels to the north, that well was filled in and is now under the driveway. Considerable trenching (by hand) has been done in the backyard for drains from the dry well and the wet well in the cellar. At one point a two-segment detached ice house was in the back yard about where the wood pile is currently located.

The grounds have been "improved", also. A small orchard was an early project followed by sidewalks, flower beds, berries (raspberry, blueberry, currant and gooseberry) and shade trees. Several very pretty maple trees have been lost to blight. In 1969 the lower road (Ernst Road) was still a dirt road, much as it was in 1881. Around 1988 the road was paved which cut down on the dust but increased quantity and speed of traffic (and salt damage to the trees). A rail fence with shrubs has been put in to help reduce traffic noise. In 2002, the driveway was paved (blacktop) and a blacktop sidewalk to the back cellar door was added.

While many changes to the home have occurred, most were in the form of repairs. We certainly hope that if Dr Lincoln walked through the door today, he would feel at home.

The author has had a lifelong interest in history. Since his retirement in 1995, he has had time to indulge that interest. Two trips to Europe have produced many interesting moments. One of his three recent trips to Alaska was used to research (with no luck) an ancestor who disappeared on his way to the Alaska Gold Rush. For four years he was a member of the group doing the Fort William Henry Archeology Excavations under the supervision of Dr David Starbuck. During the winter of 1999-2000 this project and a genealogical study of the Lincoln family (Dr Lincoln's relatives) made the winter a busy time. As of this edition (2018), the Lincoln family database has grown to nearly 6000 names, including the branch in Hawaii, started by Lorenzo Lincoln in 1836. Lorenzo was the first Lincoln to settle in Hawaii and was Doc Lincoln's elder cousin.

As previously mentioned, this journey started in the late 1990's as part of an open house project. The data collected spurred a quest that is still (and always will be) without end. The data for the open house (and Dr Lincoln's personal history) was preserved in a first edition of this document. Not an accurate or satisfactory product, a second edition was produced a couple of years later, followed by updates that created a third, fourth and now this fifth edition.

In the interim, a detailed genealogy of Dr Lincoln's "Mainland family" was researched and published in 2008 as: "Ancestors and Descendants of Nedabiah Lincoln, Sr. Taunton, Massachusetts Oct 25, 1758 – Greenfield, New York May 6, 1834 Volume 1". .

In the process of researching Dr Lincoln's genealogy, it became clear that the east coast branch of the Lincoln Family may be coming to a close (although the possibility of unidentified male Lincoln descendants does exist). There are many Lincoln family members on the west coast; some quite reluctant to become part of this family history. However, it was discovered that the family is alive and well in Hawaii – so the pursuit continues.

As can be seen from the title mentioned above, a Volume II was being planned well before 2008. Originally, Volume II was to be a genealogy of Lorenzo B Lincoln and his Hawaiian descendants. Lorenzo was Nedabiah Lincoln's grandson and the first Lincoln to settle in the Sandwich Islands (1836). However the task rapidly got out of hand. Much of the Hawaiian search involved a process of elimination, revealing much about the families of George Walter

Lincoln and Lyman Lincoln, (other Lincolns to settle in Hawaii prior to 1900) and other unrelated families. Also discovered (as is the usual case) were many bits of unconnected data, which I call “Unlinked Lincolns”. The author did not wish this data to be “relost” but rather to be of some possible use to future researchers. Therefore it was incorporated into Volume II. Naturally the focus remains on Lorenzo’s family, but Volume II as well as the entire endeavor is no longer a genealogy; rather it has become a family history. “Ancestors and Descendants of Nedabiah Lincoln, Sr. Volume II The Lincolns of Hawaii” was released in February of 2015.

Considerable information regarding this quest can be found on the author’s website www.doclincoln.com.

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