

## WALDO LINCOLN

Waldo Lincoln, whose death occurred at his house in Worcester, April 7, 1933, was a notable figure in the history of the American Antiquarian Society. President of the Society for twenty-five years, none who ever held the office gave more time to the duties of the position or exerted a more active interest for the good of the organization. With a love for the work which his office made possible, he inspired the members with his own enthusiasm and served as an example for other officers to follow. The Society is proud to commemorate his services and his career.

Mr. Lincoln was born in Worcester on December 31, 1849. His ancestry was notable, taking an important part in the history of the community, the State, and the nation. His great-grandfather, Levi Lincoln, was prominent in Worcester affairs during the Revolution, served in both houses of the State Legislature, was a member of Congress, and held the office of Attorney-General in the cabinet of President Jefferson. His grandfather, Levi Lincoln, was a member of both the Massachusetts House and Senate, Lieutenant-Governor of the Commonwealth, Governor from 1825 to 1834, member of Congress from 1834 to 1841, first Mayor of Worcester in 1848, overseer of Harvard for twenty-seven years, and a founder and vice-president of the American Antiquarian Society. His father, Daniel Waldo Lincoln, was a representative in the Massachusetts General Court, Mayor of Worcester in 1863-1864, president of the Boston & Albany Railroad, director and trustee of important Worcester organizations, and one of the leading horticulturists of his day.

Daniel Waldo Lincoln married Frances Fiske Merrick, daughter of Francis T. Merrick of Worcester, November 30, 1841. They had four children, Frances Merrick Lincoln who died in 1928, Mary Waldo Lincoln who married Joseph E. Davis, Anne Warren Lincoln who died in infancy, and Waldo Lincoln who was born at the Lincoln farm on Pleasant Street, December 31, 1849.

Waldo Lincoln was educated in the private and public schools of Worcester and at Harvard College, where he was graduated in the class of 1870. After graduation, he studied chemistry for one year in Lawrence Scientific School at Cambridge. In January 1872, he entered into partnership with his cousin, Joseph Parker Mason of Worcester, under the firm name of Mason & Lincoln, for the sale of iron, steel, and heavy hardware. This business proving uncongenial to Mr. Lincoln, he sold his interest two years later to his partner, and with William Everett Cutter, Harvard 1869, engaged in the manufacture of copperas and Venetian red from the waste sulphuric acid of the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company of Worcester, manufacturers of wire. He then retired from active business and devoted the remainder of his life, for forty years, to historical and genealogical research, to aiding in administering the affairs of many Worcester institutions, and to travel. In 1894-1896 he spent two years abroad in England and on the continent, in 1903 he visited southern Europe and Algeria, in 1908 he made a trip partly around the world, and in more recent years he journeyed frequently to the West Indies during the winter months. He married, June 24, 1873, Fanny Chandler, daughter of Dr. George and Josephine (Rose) Chandler, of Worcester. They had five children, Merrick who died in 1923, Josephine Rose who married Frank F. Dresser, Daniel Waldo Lincoln, George Chandler Lincoln, and Dorothy who died at Singapore in 1909 when accompanying her parents on a trip around the world.

Mr. Lincoln occupied many positions of trust in Worcester organizations. He was for several years a director of the Merchants and Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Worcester, of the Worcester Gas Light Company, the Central National Bank of Worcester, and of the Providence and Worcester Railroad Company and, for ten years, trustee and treasurer of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He was vice-president of the Worcester County Institu-

tion for Savings, a trustee of the Memorial Hospital, the Home for Aged Men, and the Proprietors of the Rural Cemetery, and chairman of the trustees of trust funds of the City of Worcester. From 1910 to 1913 he was chairman of the Massachusetts State Art Commission, to which position he was appointed by Governor Draper in 1910. From 1889 to 1895 he was director of the Worcester Public Library. In politics he was a Democrat until the breaking up of that party over the silver question, since which time he had no strong party affiliations. In 1892, he was a delegate to the Gold Democratic convention at Indianapolis, and was a candidate for Secretary of State of Massachusetts on the Gold Democratic ticket of that year and received a highly complimentary vote. Thereafter he was not a pronounced political partisan, although he generally favored Democratic policies and was in full sympathy with President Wilson during his administration. During the World War he aided the registration board in selecting men under the draft, and as president of the Worcester Club did much to direct its patriotic services. His three sons were in active service in the War, two in the medical service, retired with the rank of major, and one in the infantry, retired with the rank of first lieutenant. In religion, Mr. Lincoln was a Unitarian, and was a member and active supporter of the First Unitarian Church of Worcester, which he liked to call "The Second Parish in the Town of Worcester."

He was a founder and vice-president of the Worcester Club and later its president; founder and first president of the Tatnuck Country Club; member and for two years president of the Quinsigamond Boat Club; a member for fifty-three years of the Worcester Fire Society and at the time of his death its senior member; a member for twenty-six years of the St. Wulstan Society, and a member of the New York Democratic Club, the New York Reform Club, and the Tavern and Union Clubs of Boston. Of commanding presence and readiness of speech, he was an excel-

lent presiding officer, and his geniality and good-fellowship made him a welcome visitor at all social functions.

Much of Mr. Lincoln's time during the latter part of his life was devoted to the compilation of two important and comprehensive family histories—"The Genealogy of the Waldo Family," published in two volumes in 1902, and the "History of the Lincoln Family," published in 1923. These two works were models of what family histories should be. They were careful and exhaustive, and they were scholarly. Not mere schedules of names and dates, they included thousands of biographies, written with literary style and effectiveness. His study of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, not only furnished new and important information on the mooted question of Lincoln's ancestry, but provided a remarkably excellent and succinct sketch of the President's career. The decimal letter system of notation used in both genealogies, although not so familiar as the numerical system generally used, Mr. Lincoln always defended, as he thought it the most simple and explanatory plan devised for genealogies.

Mr. Lincoln's other published work was chiefly in the field of bibliography. He contributed to the Proceedings of this Society in 1923 a "Check-List of the Portraits in the American Antiquarian Society," in 1924, a history of Bermuda newspapers, in 1926, a "List of Newspapers of the West Indies and Bermuda," and in 1929, a "Bibliography of American Cookery Books." The last study resulted from his having gathered in his own library the largest existing collection of American Cookery Books, which collection he turned over to this Library shortly before his death. He also wrote a monograph on "The Province Snow—Prince of Orange" in 1901, and in 1928 compiled a comprehensive history of the Worcester County Institution for Savings in connection with the hundredth anniversary of that organization. In a lighter form of writing, the many reminiscences of

early members which he contributed to the "Reminiscences of the Worcester Fire Society" showed his love of humor and the kindliness of his character. His interest in historical research brought him membership in many historical societies. He was a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society and for three years a member of its Council, a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and for several years upon its Council, and a member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Club of Odd Volumes, the Prince Society, the American Historical Association and the Worcester Historical Society.

Of his connection with the American Antiquarian Society it is impossible to speak without the most sincere feeling of appreciation and of pride, for no President ever meant more to this Society. Upon the death of Stephen Salisbury in 1906, the office of President was filled by the choice of Edward Everett Hale, with Mr. Lincoln chosen as second vice-president. Mr. Hale assumed the office for one year with the understanding that Mr. Lincoln, as head of the Library Committee, should oversee the details of administration. In October 1907 Mr. Lincoln was elected President. There were many reasons why he should have been chosen to the office. His progenitors were among the founders of the Society. He himself, elected to the Society in 1898, had occupied himself with historical research, and with freedom from business cares he was able to give the necessary time to his duties. Thus he began upon a service which was to last for twenty years, a longer term than that of any previous president except the elder Stephen Salisbury.

From the very beginning of his administration Mr. Lincoln took upon himself many responsible duties. He served as chairman of the leading committees—those on the Library and on Finance. He secured the speakers for the meetings and took an active interest in the selection of members. He wrote nearly all of the annual Council reports in October of each year, often using them as vehicles to describe and exploit some

outstanding collection in the Society's library. In the reports for 1917 and 1927 he presented a review of the progress of the Society during the previous decade. The luncheons which he gave each year at his historic mansion on Elm Street carried out the best of the Salisbury traditions and provided social relationships in charming surroundings which all members greatly enjoyed.

Among his greatest services was the raising of funds, so necessary for any institution that wishes to grow. In 1912, he conceived the Centennial Fund to which he obtained contributions to the amount of nearly \$34,000. In 1921, he began upon a building fund of \$100,000 which culminated in 1924 with the erection of an addition to the library stack capable of shelving two hundred thousand volumes. In 1927 he raised a fund of \$100,000 to be added to the endowment, and secured solely from Worcester members and friends. To all of these funds he gave from his own resources—\$1000 to the Centennial Fund, \$1000 to the Building Fund, and \$2500 to the Endowment Fund. It is true that in raising funds, he had the help of interested members, notably Clarence W. Bowen, Charles G. Washburn, and Henry W. Cunningham, but it was his own undismayed perseverance that was always the guiding force.

As an administrator he wisely governed the Society, yet no detail was too small to claim his attention. He presided at the meetings with grace and dignity. When the Society held its Centennial in 1912 he conducted the public exercises at the Meeting-House of the Second Parish where he made an eloquent introductory address, and at the dinner at the Worcester Club in the evening he acted as toastmaster and introduced the speakers who included President Taft and Ambassador Bryce. Both speakers he entertained at his house on this occasion.

Mr. Lincoln found the time to do much bibliographical work to aid the Library. His most important undertaking of this kind was a card index to the Society's

collection of some five thousand maps—a catalogue which has been constantly used and found extraordinarily accurate. He also arranged with skill and discrimination the printed ephemera of the Society's collection, such as broadsides, posters, views, and portraits. He was a frequent donor to the Library. At the outset of his administration he carefully went through his own library and selected those titles, early and recent, which the Society most needed. Then, on his several trips to the West Indies, he bought files of newspapers and other printed productions of the Islands and presented them to us upon his return. His collection of American cookbooks, the largest in the country for the period previous to 1870, he donated in 1929, and in the same year his collection of United States postage stamps. Miscellaneous books he was always giving, and he was ever on the watch for possible gifts of rare volumes to the Library.

In 1927, Mr. Lincoln decided to resign from the Presidency. A slight deafness interfered somewhat with his conducting the meetings and he wished to retire, as he stated, before his activities should be really curtailed. But he remained on the Council and on the important committees, where his counsel was continuously of service to the Society. In 1930 a few of his friends grouped together to acquire for the Society his portrait, painted by Frank O. Salisbury and one of the best portraits ever painted by that capable artist.

And now for a note of personal reminiscence. Almost every working day for twenty years, except when he was absent from the country, Mr. Lincoln visited the Society's library. Invariably he came into my office and sat down for a chat regarding the Society's affairs or some social or personal matter. I grew to like and respect him as much as anyone I have ever known. He was kindly and remarkably thoughtful of others. I never knew him to speak unkindly of anyone, without an adequate reason. He was just and fair to an unusual degree, even when it was not to his advantage. His love of society and of fellowship made him the best

of companions, as was testified by the many social affairs at Clubs where, especially in his later years, he was the central figure. He sometimes decried old age and said that he had outlived most of his friends, but this assertion was always in a whimsical vein, for his love of companionship and his association with the young kept him youthful. He had his share of adversities, but he bore them bravely and without complaint. A verse which I read at a gathering assembled to honor his eightieth birthday, still stays in my memory:

Courage such as few inherit  
 Will of iron to conquer care  
 Resolute with mind unflinching  
 Although the cross is hard to bear.

Mr. Lincoln has gone from us and the familiar figure which we were all accustomed to see has disappeared. His place officially has been filled, and others carry on the work. But always, so long as this Society shall exist, it will feel the impress of his administration and the influence of his service. C. S. B.

#### CHARLES MARTIN THAYER

Charles Martin Thayer, one of the leading members of the Worcester bar, died at Worcester, November 27, 1932. The son of Judge Adin and Caroline Weld (Kendrick) Thayer, he was born at Worcester, December 4, 1867. After graduation at the local Classical High School, he entered Harvard from which he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1889, followed by the degree of LL.B. at the Harvard Law School in 1892. In 1892 he returned to Worcester, was admitted to the bar and remained in his chosen profession throughout his life. For twenty-two years practicing alone, in 1914, he joined with Frank C. Smith, Jr., and George A. Gaskill to form the partnership of Thayer, Smith & Gaskill. Particularly interested in corporation law, he was allied with many of Worcester's leading manufacturing interests and be-



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