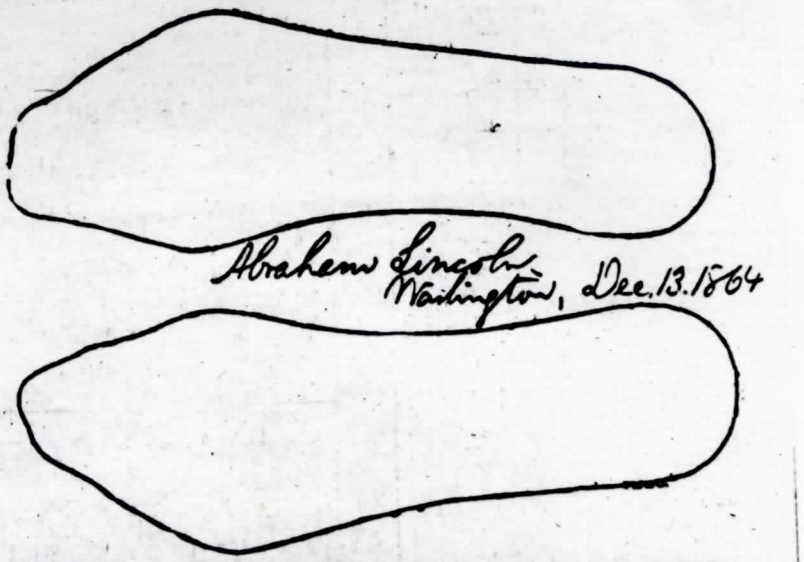


OUTLINE OF LINCOLN'S FEET MADE BY FAMOUS BOOTMAKER.

and his story about the latter sheds some interesting light on the character of that great man. "Lincoln, as we know," says Dr. Kahler, "was our leader in one of the most trying periods of our history. Complete comfort is absolutely essential to calm, judicious thinking. No man or woman can retain a sound mental poise with aching feet. Lincoln recognized this. Shortly after the outbreak of the civil war, he sent for my father, who had established quite a reputation as a bootmaker. He also inclosed his card, which we have today, with this notation for his secretary on the back: 'When this man comes show him right in.'

Measured as He Talks.

"My father arrived at the White House in the morning. Lincoln was in session with his Cabinet. A crowd of people were in the reception room waiting to see him. Soldiers were brusque and abrupt—it seemed as though everybody wanted to see Lincoln and he scarcely had a moment to himself. My father presented his card. He was ushered into the Cabinet meeting. Lincoln was speaking at the time. His secretary quickly apprised him of my father's business. Lincoln slipped off his boots without pausing once during his address. My father spread a piece of paper on the floor. Lincoln stepped on it and my father quickly traced the outlines of his feet. Not once did he cease his pleadings to Cabinet members. When my father had completed his job, Lincoln stepped off the paper and slipped on his boots, talking all the while.

"Lincoln seemed scarcely conscious of the operation. Certainly he did not allow the measuring to distract or disconcert him. Not once did he address a word to my father. The whole thing was like a pantomime.

"On another occasion, in 1864, he suddenly turned to several of his Cabinet members and remarked dryly that the state of their minds indicated they needed to be measured for new shoes. Almost instantly my father had four new customers.

Dr. Kahler has a photograph of his father's original tracing of Lincoln's feet.

"Lincoln's feet were not normal, but nearly so," he said. "The late President Harding had the best pair of feet of any man who has sat in the President's chair in the last sixty years. They were absolutely normal."