STATE OF ILLINOIS :
SS
COUNTY OF SANGAMON:

AFFIDAVIT OF HENRY WIRT BUTLER CONCERNING OIL PORTRAIT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Henry Wirt Butler, being duly sworn upon his oath deposes and says that he is a resident, and has been all his life, of Springfield Sangamon County, State of Illinois.

That he is a son of William Butler, now deceased, former resident of Springfield, Sangamon County, State of Illinois for many years.

That the said William Butler was State Treasurer of Illinois during war times, and just prior thereto, and is the William Butler spoken of in the life history of Abraham Lincoln, and therein described as one of Lincoln's Particular friends and political advisers during Abraham Lincoln's residence in Springfield, Illinois.

That William Butler is the William Butler at whose house Lincoln resided for some years, up to and prior to Abraham Lincoln's marriage. That the said Abraham Lincoln was a resident at William Butler's house at the time that Henry Wirt Butler was born, and that the said Abraham Lincoln was at the time reading the life of William Wirt and for that reason suggested the name of Wirt, under which this deponent was christened. And as his father, William Butler, had an aversion to naming any of his children after himself. Abraham Lincoln made the further suggestion that he be called Henry Wirt, the name Henry being due to the interest that Abraham Lincoln at that time took in Henry Clay.

This deponent further states that the intimacy and friendship of Abraham Lincoln with William Butler and his family continued up to the time of the death of Abraham Lincoln.

This deponent further states that the friendship and intimacy existing between Abraham Lincoln and William Butler was very close and congenial, and that Abraham Lincoln always evinced great appreciation and gratitude for the many acts and kindnesses towards him by

William Butler.

This deponent further states that after the election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency of the United States, but prior to his going to Washington to assume his duties as president, that quite a number of portrait painters assembled in Springfield to paint the portrait of Abraham Lincoln.

That this deponent further states that he does not now remember the exact number, but there were from fifteen to twenty of them.

This deponent further states that the pressure of business on President Lincoln's time was such that he could not give each one of them a private sitting, so he arranged to spend twenty or thirty minutes every day in the Legislative Hall, during which time he gave a sitting for the entire number who had their easels arranged in the Old Legislative Hall where Lincoln and Douglas had served in the Legislature.

This deponent further states that at the close of the sitting, President Lincoln requested that William Butler express his opinion and judgement as to which of the portraits was the best likeness of himself.

This deponent further states that he remembers his father, William Butler, telling of the request by Abraham Lincoln concerning which portrait most resembled him at one of the family meals, and it was arranged for the family, which included William Butler and his wife, and their three children, which were Salome Butler, Speed Butler and Henry Wirt Butler, to visit the Legislative Hall and view the portraits with the prospect of selecting the one which was the best likeness of Mr. Lincoln.

This deponent further states that the visit was made and that after carefully viewing all the portraits there exhibited, united in selecting one as the best likeness of Mr. Lincoln. That the following day or the day after, William Butler informed Mr. Lincoln of their opinion as to which was the best portrait, whereupon Mr. Lincoln bought the portrait of the artist and presented it to William Butler.

This deponent further states that said portrait has ever since remained in the family and after the death of William Butler went as one of the heirlooms to his daughter, Salome E. Butler, and was by her, a short time prior to her death, given to her nephew, William J. Butler, a son of Henry Wirt Butler, and is now owned by him and at present is hanging in the State National Bank, at Springfield, Illinois.

This deponent further states as an evidence of the intimacy of the Butler family with Abraham Lincoln, and as an incident showing their qualification or at least his qualification to judge of a likeness to Abraham Lincoln that on the day of Mr. Lincoln's nomination by the Republican Convention at Chicago, and while they were waiting for news from the convention, Mr. Lincoln being more or less nervous concerning the same, suggested a game of hand ball with this deponent, which was played while waiting for said news.

This deponent further states that during his entire boyhood and manhood, up to the time Mr. Lincoln moved away he was very intimate with him and frequently played hand ball with him.

Further this deponent sayeth not.

(Signed) H.W.Butler

Subscribed and sworn to before me (Signed) Edward M. Williams
this 21st day of Nov., 1911. Notary

(SEAL)