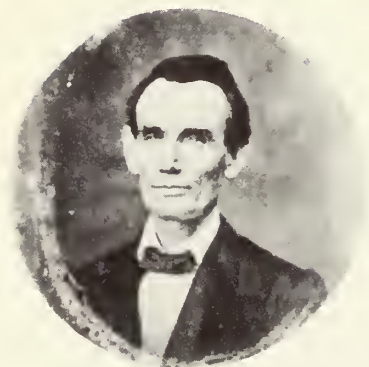


WHILE TRAVELING the circuit in 1857, often by buggy or on horseback, Lincoln attended court in Vermilion County, Illinois. Although an indifferent lawyer who lost as many cases as he won, he gained friends by his geniality and his humorous tales. One such friend lived in Danville and was the deputy sheriff of Vermilion County. His name was Thomas J. Hilyard, and it was for him that Joslin took this glass ambrotype.



Actual size, Reverse image O-3

In 1934, Hilyard's son, William, then a ninety-year-old man, told how the circuit lawyer and his father had "passed a photograph gallery, and Mr. Lincoln suggested that they have their photographs taken and exchange them.

"When father returned [to his home at Ridgefarm, near Danville], after the term of court where he and Mr. Lincoln had exchanged photos, he showed the picture with great pride to his family and stated that at his death it was to be mine.

"On June 1, 1861, I enlisted in Company A, 25th Illinois Infantry. Father died while I was in the Army, and when I returned home in February, 1866, after my honorable discharge, I made inquiry for the coveted picture. My aunt gladly turned it over to me."

Although some historians have dated this photograph during the court session of November 13, 1859, and others have placed it as early as 1853, most authorities now believe it was taken on May 27, 1857.