



Ostendorf collection
Tintype Variant (Reversed) O-14

WIDELY REPRODUCED on campaign ribbons of 1860, this portrait underscores the determination in the candidate's face. Lincoln liked it and often signed photographic prints for admirers. He gave a copy to his stepmother in 1861.

Fifty years of research have failed to fix beyond doubt the date or the place where it was taken. Some of the early prints bear contemporary inscriptions on its origin, but these asser-

tions do not gibe. Ascribed to Monmouth, Springfield, Peoria, and Pittsfield in Illinois; Dayton, Ohio; and Hannibal, Missouri--this photograph has only one city to go before it equals Homer's record of being claimed by seven cities.

By far the strongest claim comes from Peoria, visited several times by Lincoln in 1858. Here Henry H. Cole opened an ambrotype and photographic gallery about 1857. In his old age, Cole claimed to have photographed Lincoln. But his brother, Roderick M. Cole, listed in the 1856 city directory as a daguerreotypist, was more likely the cameraman. On July 3, 1905, R. M. Cole wrote to Judge McCulloch, one of the founders of the Illinois State Historical Library: ". . . the Photo you have of Abraham Lincoln is a copy of a Dagueratype [*sic*], that I made in my gallery in this city [Peoria] during the Lincoln and Douglas campaign.

"I invited him to my gallery to give me a sitting . . . and when I had my plate ready, he said to me, 'I cannot see why all you artists want a likeness of me unless it is because I am the homeliest man in the State of Illinois.'"



Meserve collection Variant O-14