

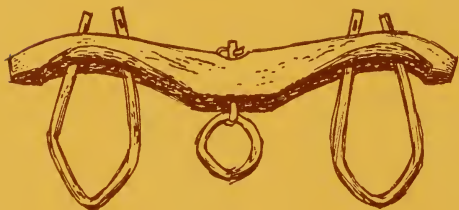
B
H5212b

Blair, Harry C.

Dr. Anson G. Henry
Physician, Politician,
Friend of Abraham
Lincoln

LINCOLN ROOM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
LIBRARY



MEMORIAL
the Class of 1901

founded by
HARLAN HOYT HORNER
and
HENRIETTA CALHOUN HORNER

Dr. Anson G. Henry

*Physician, Politician, Friend
of Abraham Lincoln*



Dr. Anson G. Henry


*Physician, Politician, Friend
of Abraham Lincoln*

BY

HARRY C. BLAIR, M.D.

PORTLAND, OREGON





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

B

H 5272 8

Lumbar Films

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Western Orthopedic Association, Portland, Oregon, October 2, 3, 4, 1950.

Q. P. 13 D 63

Dr. Anson G. Henry

FOR my talk on this occasion I have chosen to bring to your attention some highlights in the life of Anson G. Henry—pioneer Oregon physician, politician, doctor as well as life-long friend of Abraham Lincoln.

Doctor Henry would not have qualified as an orthopedist. Yet, he invaded the domain of our specialty when he undertook to treat fractures. His old ledger shows he charged \$3.00 to set a broken arm and \$5.00 to set a broken leg (Fig. 1). By today's standards these fees are low. Actually, however, they were in line with what the traffic of Doctor Henry's day would bear.

Anson Henry was born in 1804, in Richfield, New York, in the county of Otsego. He began his medical training with the customary preceptorship and concluded his education with a year's attendance at the medical school in Cincinnati, graduating in 1827. Following the custom of the day, Doctor Henry, after his graduation engaged in various ventures to supplement the meager income from his practice. An attempt at mining in Michigan failed to bring the fortune he had set out to seek. His candidacy for the Michigan legislature was likewise unsuccessful. Moving next to Louisville, Kentucky, he borrowed \$5,000.00 to open a drug store, but soon afterwards went broke. Matrimony next claimed his attention. The "lucky" lady was the talented and cultured Eliza Bradstreet who had come to Louisville from Boston. After his marriage, the doctor moved to Springfield with his bride and arrived there in October 1832 with two trunks and \$5.30.

10
 Pilled Dr
 + 10 Accomment Lady 5.00

1857 R. Guller Dr
 + 10 setting B. p. Arm 3.00

1857 Wm. Dilaney
 + 10 setting B. p. Leg 15.00

Fig. 1. Page from Doctor Henry's ledger showing \$3.00 fee for setting a broken arm and \$5.00 fee for setting a broken leg.

Professional problems were, however, soon to take Doctor Henry away from Springfield for a while. Late in 1832 St. Louis was the scene of a cholera epidemic, and the public fear of the disease became widespread. Anxious to do what he could, Doctor Henry decided to go to St. Louis, and while he was there he studied the treatment of cholera. The following summer he went to Jacksonville, Illinois to observe the epidemic of cholera which had caused the death of 50 people there. As a result of these experiences, he became an acknowledged expert in the management of the dreaded disease. His treatment consisted of blood letting, small doses of camphor and laudanum by mouth, fomentations to the stomach and bowels, mucilaginous drinks, and frictions over the whole body surface with an ointment composed

of camphor, mercurial ointment, and cayenne pepper. When, some years later, a cholera epidemic broke out in Springfield, Doctor Henry was given credit for having kept down the number of deaths. He, as well as his colleagues, made no charge for treatment of patients with cholera.

In Springfield Doctor Henry met Abraham Lincoln who was at that time an "overgrown country youth," according to a letter written many years later by the doctor's son. From the beginning, Lincoln and Doctor Henry, five years his senior, were attracted to each other. The doctor introduced Lincoln to Judge Sweet. Watching Lincoln leave one day with some law books he had lent him, Judge Sweet asked the doctor what he thought he could make of that "country Jake." "That country Jake," the doctor replied, "will prove a singe cat," (the meaning of "singe cat" in that day being "better than he seems"). Subsequent events, as is common knowledge, proved the doctor had been right. Lincoln and Doctor Henry were to become political allies, and their friendship was destined to last throughout their lives.

There were many doctors in the small town of Springfield, and competition was keen. To the further detriment of Doctor Henry's practice, politics became not only his avocation but consumed so much of his time it was difficult for him to provide the bare necessities of his household. Among the many projects which claimed his attention was the building of the state house in Springfield in 1837. He was one of the three commissioners instrumental in carrying out this venture, and much criticism was directed at him because of the expense involved. On Doctor Henry's demand, a mass meeting was called to look into his work. He was exonerated from blame by a bipartisan investigating committee appointed at the suggestion of his friend and neighbor Abraham Lincoln, who was by then a rising young politician and prairie lawyer.

Lincoln in his turn had occasion to call on Doctor Henry for help. When, on the 1st of January 1841, Mary Todd released him from their engagement, Lincoln sank into deep despondency

and took to his bed. It is said that only the large doses of brandy given him by Doctor Henry aroused him from his morbid lethargy.

Lincoln recognized the doctor's value both to their common political party and to his personal well being. And he used whatever political influence he had to have the doctor appointed postmaster in Springfield so that he could add to his income from the practice of medicine. In a letter to Congressman Stuart, Lincoln stressed it was "necessary to his existence" to have Doctor Henry remain in Springfield.

Doctor Henry was not appointed postmaster. Nevertheless, politics continued to claim his interest and his time. He was active in the affairs of his party, and came to be regarded as a party leader in Springfield. In 1848 he spoke every day for a month on the same platform with Lincoln on behalf of Zachary Taylor. Along with politics, Doctor Henry maintained an active interest in local medical affairs. He took a major part in the formation of the first state medical society in Illinois, in 1850, and was elected a vice-president. The income from his practice, however, was never apparently adequate for the needs of his growing family.

On June 24, 1850, Doctor Henry received the appointment of Indian Agent for the Oregon Territory. But he got no farther than the Isthmus of Panama, where he probably acted as physician for the company building a railroad there. Early in 1851 he was back in Springfield. When he left Springfield again, on April 6, 1852, his destination was Oregon. According to the historian Bancroft, the Oregon Congressional Delegate Samuel Thurston had severely criticized the practice of appointing easterners to positions in Oregon, contending that they drew the salaries but never appeared in the west.

When he left this time, Doctor Henry took with him his wife and their five children, all of whom had been born in Springfield. They went by the Overland or the Covered Wagon Route, and were accompanied by other family groups. Eighteen hundred and fifty-two was the year of the greatest migration west, and it



Fig. 2. Steamer Multnomah on which the Henry family made the trip from the Cascades of the Columbia river to Portland, Oregon.
Courtesy The Portland Oregonian

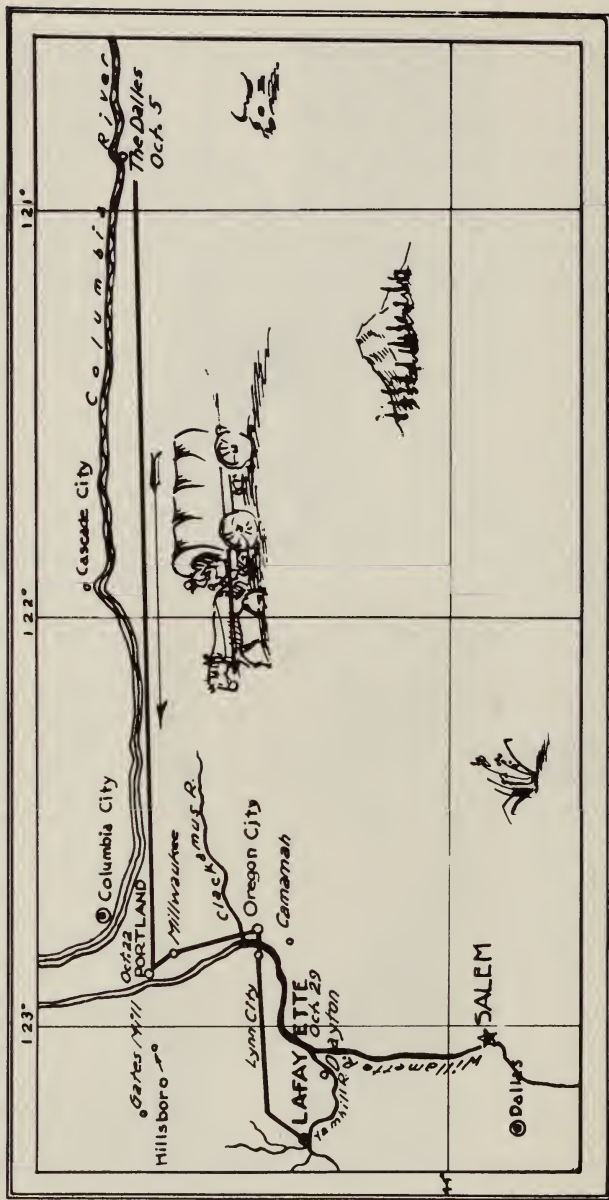


Fig. 3. Approximate route Doctor Henry took from The Dalles to Lafayette.

was also the year when cholera was most severe on the Oregon trail. Thousands of people died. Strangely enough, Doctor Henry's diary has no mention of his treating anyone on the journey west. His diary was written on the blank pages of the ledger in which he kept his accounts when he was practicing medicine in Springfield. And it seems to have been prepared for the use of future travelers because it contains mostly descriptions of the grass, the availability of water at the camp sites, the distances traveled, and the condition of the terrain.

The doctor was taking his family to Lafayette, Oregon where several families from Springfield had already settled. On September 30 his caravan reached a point on the Columbia river, 10 miles below The Dalles. Here they rested the cattle and built a raft of logs. Being by this time out of provisions, the doctor had to pay 35 cents for flour and 20 cents for beef. About two weeks later the raft was ready to be loaded. Four men started down the river trail with the livestock. Doctor Henry and three

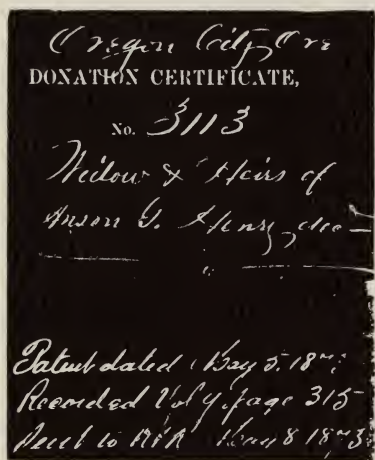


Fig. 4. Donation certificate for land claim patented in 1873 by the heirs of Doctor Henry. The old Henry home site is now the property of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Hall. The Halls transformed the land into a beautiful farm and orchard. A few years ago they constructed a portion of their house with lumber salvaged from the original Henry home.

men went on the raft to look after the women and children and manage the raft. A strong wind prevented their progress. On the seventh day, when their provisions were reduced to a few potatoes, the doctor sighted a large canoe with two indians and a squaw coming up the river. Hailing them, he made arrangements with the Indians to take the women, the children, and two men down to the cascades. He and the third man continued the journey on the raft.

NO. 16, UP STAIRS.
Portland, Oregon, Dec. 1 1:tf

DOCTOR A. G. HENRY
OFFERS HIS SERVICES IN THE PRACTICE OF
MEDICINE AND SURGERY
TO THE CITIZENS OF YAMHILL COUNTY AND VICINITY.
He can be found at his office in Lafayette, during the day; and at his residence, four miles east of town, at night.
Messages left in town in the evening or night will be attended to next morning.
Lafayette, Dec. 1, 1855. 1:tf

DELAZON SMITH,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW,
AND SOLICITOR IN CHANCERY,
Will attend to all business pertaining to his profession in the First Judicial District, and before the Su-

Fig. 5. Doctor Henry's professional card which appeared in *The Oregonian*.

Against an increased gale and on a rough river, the Indians had difficulty making headway. But before night, they succeeded in landing the canoe and its passengers safely. The next morning the canoe was loaded again, and by 10 o'clock the travellers arrived at the falls. By noon the men and livestock arrived, and shortly thereafter the raft came into sight. The following morning the party set out once more, everyone going on foot on a rough road along the river. Before night they reached the falls where they saw the steamer Multnomah at anchor (Fig. 2). Boarding her, they were taken to Portland the following morning, October 22. When they arrived, everyone was in good health and in good spirits.

Springfield, Ill. Nov. 19. 1858

Dr. A. G. Henry

My dear Sir

Yours of the 27th of Sept was received two days ago - I was at Crowsfoot, Hamilton Co. on the 9th of October, and I may then have seen Major A. N. Armstrong; but having no-thing then to fix my attention, I do not remember such a man. I have concluded, as the best way of serving you, to enclose your letter to E. A. Paine, Esq., of Mount Vernon, Ill., a reliable lawyer, asking him to do what you ask of me. If a suit is to be brought, he will correspond directly with you.

whole canon. On the contrary, John and George Nelson, and several such old democrats were feriously for me. As a general rule, out of Sargeant's men, as well as in it, friends of the plain old democracy is with me, while nearly all the old exclusive rich-flocking whiggy is against me. I do not mean nearly all the old whig party. But nearly all of the plain exclusive sort. And why not?

There has been nothing in politics since the Rev. Father so congenial to the nation, as the present position of the great democratic party.

I am glad I made the late party. It gave me a hearing on the great and durable questions of the age, which I could have had in no other way; and though I now sink out of view, and shall be forgotten, I believe I have passed some moments which will tell for the cause of civil liberty long after I am gone.

The doctor sent his family on to Lafayette, and he remained behind to wait for the cattle. As soon as they arrived he set out with them and the wagon for Lafayette (Fig. 3). Travelling mostly along the Willamette river, he made the trip to Lafayette, a distance of about 25 miles, in three days. When he arrived he learned his friends from Springfield had not only provided a good house for him and his family in Lafayette, but they had also selected a claim for him within three miles of the town (Fig. 4). The doctor wrote in his diary that he was much pleased with the country. His concluding note in the diary was that they had been on the road 152 days and had travelled an average of 13 miles a day. Their rest periods, sometimes a whole day, sometimes part of a day, amounted to a total of 32 days.

Almost simultaneously Doctor Henry started the practice of medicine and accepted the appointment of deputy surveyor of

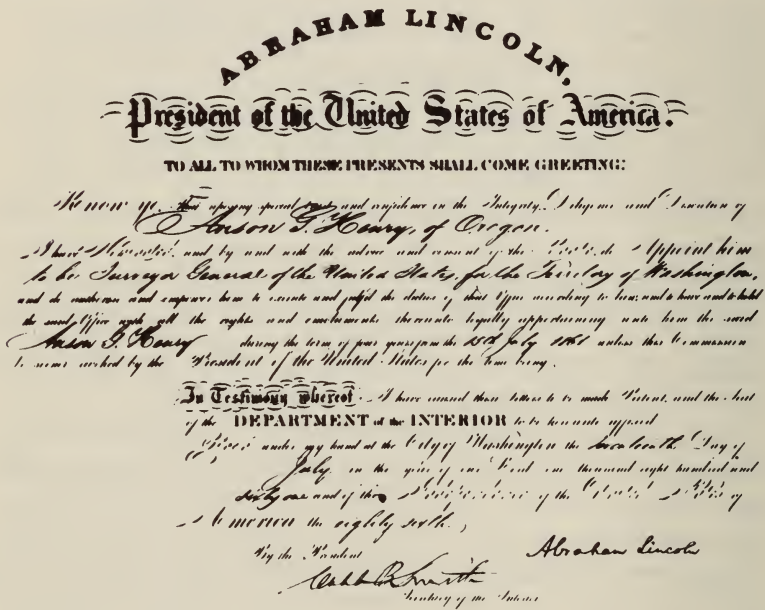


Fig. 7. Photostat of Doctor Henry's commission as Surveyor General of the Territory of Washington signed by Lincoln.

Yamhill county (Fig. 5). So as not to neglect his politics, he ran for and was elected to the Oregon legislature in 1853. Two years later he participated in the Indian war in the Rogue River country. According to some authorities, he acted as commissary during the war; according to others, he served as surgeon under Colonel Ross.

In 1856 he was appointed physician to the Grand Ronde Indians, receiving \$2,000.00 a year for his services. As one of his biographers pointed out, this was more profitable than farming. In the next two years he was elected city surveyor of Portland and was appointed Deputy United States Surveyor for the Territory of Washington.

During the years of his absence from Springfield, Henry and Lincoln kept up their friendship by correspondence. After Lincoln had been defeated for United States senator by Douglas, the doctor sent him a letter of confidence in his future success. Lincoln's reply to the doctor included these less than prophetic words: "I am glad I made the late race. It gave me a hearing on the great and durable question of the age, which I could have had in no other way; and though now I sink out of view, even shall be forgotten, I believe I have made some marks which will tell for the cause of civil liberty long after I am gone." (Fig. 6). Two years later Lincoln was President.

One of the first appointments Lincoln made after taking office on March 4, 1861 was that of surveyor general of the Territory of Washington (Fig. 7). For this position he named his friend Anson Henry. After the outbreak of the Civil War, Henry offered his services as surgeon directly to Lincoln and to the government, explaining he was on his farm doing little or nothing. But the arrival of his appointment as surveyor general kept him in the west.

After his new appointment Doctor Henry moved to Olympia, Washington Territory, which then also included Idaho and part of Montana. Shortly afterwards he began his efforts to secure the territorial organization of what is now Idaho, and was

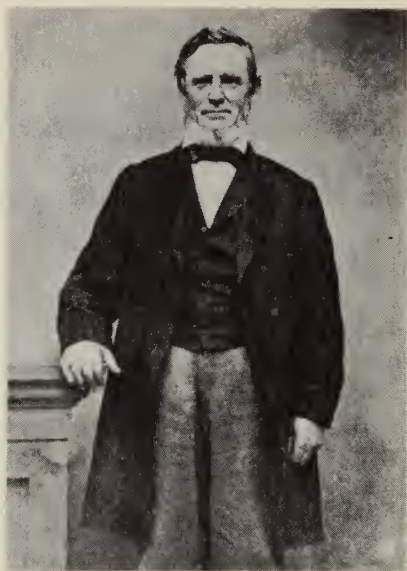


Fig. 8. *Doctor Anson G. Henry.*

probably more instrumental in interesting Congress in the formation of this new territory than any other person. To aid in his endeavor, he went to Washington, D. C., traveling by way of San Francisco and Panama and arriving at his destination in April, 1863, after a journey of approximately four months.

The doctor had other irons to put in the fire than the organization of Idaho. One was to get his avowed enemy, Victor Smith, out of the office of collector of customs at Port Townsend. Smith, who was a friend and appointee of Secretary of the Treasury Chase, had antagonized the people in Port Townsend when he obtained federal permission to move the customs house to Port Angelus. Doctor Henry brought to Washington almost a trunk-load of protests from prominent territorial people, but Secretary Chase refused to pay any attention to them. Lincoln finally sent a note to the Secretary asking him to see his friend Doctor Henry, whereupon Chase sent a curt note to the President resigning his important commission. Lincoln, however, refused to accept the resignation.



Fig. 9. *Mrs. Anson G. Henry.*

It was while Henry was on this trip to the Capital and living in the White House that Lincoln decided to visit General Hooker whom he had a short time before appointed commander of the army of the Potomac. Lincoln notified the general he would arrive at Fredericksburg (Hooker's headquarters) on April 3, and stated "our party will not exceed six persons." This included Mrs. Lincoln; their son Tad; Attorney General Bates; Doctor Henry; and Noah Brooks, another close friend of the President and Washington correspondent of the *Sacramento Union*. Brooks was slated to be Lincoln's next secretary.

The party left Washington in a little river boat. Heavy weather and a snowstorm made it necessary to anchor the boat in a small cove opposite Indian Head on the Potomac river. Sandburg, in his book, *The War Years*, related that Henry, Brooks, and Lincoln sat up until long after midnight "telling stories and discussing politics and war in a free and easy way. Doctor Henry finally yawned, dozed, and went to bed." The little cove in which the tiny ship had sheltered its famous com-

pany so many years ago was pointed out to me on a beautiful clear evening last June by an officer on the chartered excursion steamer which left Washington, D. C., for Norfolk with members and guests of the American Orthopedic Association.

During the visit of Lincoln and his party General Hooker privately read to Doctor Henry the now famous letter he had received from the President when he assumed command of the Army of the Potomac. Lincoln had not hesitated to criticize the general for some of his past actions, but he had also indicated his confidence in Hooker's judgment and in his ability to carry on in his important command. Doctor Henry thought so much of the letter he later wrote his wife "it ought to be printed in letters of gold." In 1941 this letter was sold for \$15,000.00.

After his re-election in 1864, Lincoln notified the doctor of his success on two occasions by magnetic telegraph and invited him come to Washington. On his arrival at the Capitol, Doctor Henry escorted Mrs. Lincoln to the Hall of Congress for the official counting of the electoral votes.

Lincoln had evidently asked Henry to attend his second inauguration with the idea of placing him in at least a subcabinet position. The doctor hoped to be appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and had the support of all the senators and representatives from the Pacific Coast. But the President kept putting Henry off with promises. In a final interview, however, he told the doctor he disliked removing Mr. Dole, who was then Commissioner of Indian Affairs, just to replace him with another friend. Disappointed, Doctor Henry went to Richmond, Virginia. He was in Richmond when Lincoln was assassinated, and did not receive the news until the following day when he took a trip to City Point. Later, in a letter to his wife, which he wrote from Washington, Doctor Henry said he had followed the hearse in the funeral procession in the third carriage as one of the family. He explained that the place had been assigned to him by the marshall at the suggestion, he supposed, of Mrs.

Lincoln. And he added that he had sat with the mourners in the east room where the funeral ceremonies were performed.

With the death of his friend Abraham Lincoln the whole course of Henry's life seemed destined to be changed. He returned to the White House where he remained for six weeks, during which time he again became the physician and cared for the distracted, mentally unstable Mrs. Lincoln. He finally accompanied her to Chicago. On his return to Washington he placed his case in the hands of Senator Williams of Oregon. President Johnson, on assuming office, had promised to carry out Lincoln's policies. In writing to President Johnson some time later, Mrs. Henry mentioned that her husband had gone to Washington at Lincoln's request. (Figs. 8 and 9).

Convinced he could do no more than Senator Williams, Doctor Henry left Washington and sailed from New York to San Francisco where he was to get another ship to take him



Fig. 10. *The Brother Jonathan.*

home. When he arrived at the port in Panama and was ready to embark for San Francisco on the steamer Constitution, he learned to his dismay that his bitter enemy, Victor Smith, was there too. Smith, together with a company of shipwrecked passengers from the steamer Golden Rule, had been given passage on the already crowded steamer Constitution. As usual, the two men declined to recognize each other. Soon after leaving Panama Bay Doctor Henry accosted his friend Noah Brooks, who was also on the ship, with the information that in the new allotment Victor Smith had been given a berth in his, Doctor Henry's, own stateroom.

"I wouldn't dare sleep in the same room with that viper," the doctor sputtered. "He might get up and kill me in the night. I don't care who else is in my room, but Smith I will not have!"

Brooks started to find the purser when he was intercepted by Victor Smith who said: "They have put me in the same stateroom with that old devil Doctor Henry. I wouldn't dare sleep in the same room."

Brooks was able to get the purser to separate them. This was on July 12; 1865. On July 25, thirteen days later, the *San*

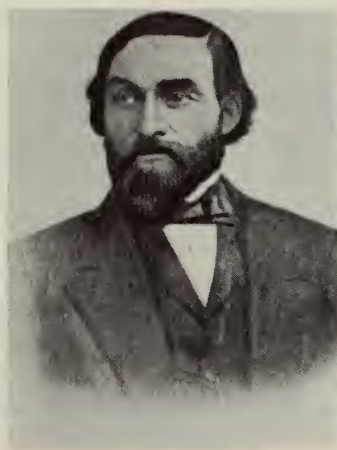


Fig. 11. *Captain DeWolf.*

San Francisco Bulletin reported the arrival of the Pacific Steamship Constitution from Panama.

General Rosencranz, who had achieved great fame for his activities in the Civil War, had also been on board the Constitution. Two nights after the ship docked in San Francisco, members of the Ninth Infantry Band serenaded General Rosencranz at his hotel. Visiting him at the time was General Wright, who had been in command of the Pacific Coast Federal Troops during the Civil War period.

General Wright was waiting for the steamer The Brother Jonathan (Fig. 10) to leave San Francisco on her scheduled trip north. His destination was Vancouver, Washington Territory, where he was to take command of the Department of the Columbia, the military forces of which were busily engaged keeping the Redskins in place. He had with him \$250,000.00 in gold to pay his soldiers. Accompanying him were his wife and his paymaster, Major Eddy, who by his own request had replaced Major Fay, the officer originally assigned to the post. Before proceeding to "the wild and woolly northwest," Major Eddy had taken the precaution to make a final will and settle his estate. Mrs. Wright, also cautious, sewed tags with her name on her clothes.

Other distinguished persons on the passenger list of The Brother Jonathan were the two enemies Doctor Henry and Victor Smith and James Nesbit, the brilliant and beloved editor of the *San Francisco Bulletin* who wanted to see for himself the rapidly growing country of the north. Less distinguished personalities on the list of almost 200 passengers were seven courtesans. The cargo included two camels.

On the 27th of July, when The Brother Jonathan was being prepared to sail, her master Captain DeWolf (Fig. 11) endeavored to induce the agent to stop receiving cargo. He warned the agent that the ship was already as deeply laden as she could be to run with safety even without the large number of passengers that were expected. In answer to the captain's complaint the vice-president of the steamship company intimated that he



Fig. 12. Aerial view of Crescent City looking out on Point St. George beyond which The Brother Jonathan was wrecked. The jagged rocks in the background are similar to those on which she struck. (Photograph courtesy of United States Army Engineers).

could find someone else to take the ship out. DeWolf said no more, but expressed his misgivings to a friend on the dock a few minutes before sailing.

The steamer swung out from her mooring at noon on the 28th of July. At 4:26 p.m. the tide was high, the wind was northwest and strong, and a heavy sea was running. Being overburdened the ship made difficult progress through the Golden Gate. Even in midsummer the North Pacific ocean could be a test for the most sturdy vessel. The Brother Jonathan was an ordinary ship. She was even a little underpowered because she had been built for trade in the Long Island Sound, the waters of which were fairly well protected.

On the morning of the 30th, barely holding her own in her fight against an increasing gale, the steamer passed Crescent City, California. Sixteen miles farther on Captain DeWolf, realizing the futility of attempting to proceed further, ordered the vessel put about. In the words of the steerage steward, David Farrel, "On Saturday the wind commenced blowing fearfully. The captain took the sun. Finding the storm likely to continue he rounded with the hope of making Crescent City where he intended to lay at anchor until the storm abated. After we rounded we ran for about thirty or forty minutes when we struck. She struck very hard, apparently about halfway between her stem and foremast. The next sea that struck her carried her as far on the rock as her foremast. Her bottom was badly torn to pieces. Her foremast dropped through until stopped by the yard arm. She remained swinging at the mercy of the waves until she sank."

The first two lifeboats lowered were swamped. "The captain who was standing on the hurricane deck just aft the wheelhouse spoke to me and told me to put the plugs into the boat swinging at the starboard davits just astern the last that had been swamped. I did so. Then he told me to remain in her and told me to take as many women as would go. I did so . . . Allen then commenced heaving us down. . . .

“When we struck the water, the ship rolled over on us and nearly struck us. We had hard work to clear the ship which we could only do by pushing the boat around under the ship’s stern. In this manner we managed to get steerage-way and the use of our oars. We started immediately for shore. We were running quartering to the waves which broke over us with nearly every crest, at times nearly filling the boat. . . .



Fig. 13. *Newspaper account of sunken treasure.*

“After we left the ship we looked back and saw her smoke-stacks go by the board. We then went into the trough of the sea so far as to make it impossible to see the ship. When we arose on the next crest I saw the signal of distress flying from the mizzenmast head. We were again let down into the trough of the sea and when we came up again the ship had entirely disappeared. We were about three hours getting to Crescent City.” (Fig. 12).



Fig. 14. Tombstones of survivors of *The Brother Jonathan* resting against a tree in the cemetery at Crescent City.

This last boat contained 19 people, the only survivors of the almost 200 persons who had boarded *The Brother Jonathan*. One of the survivors, third officer James Patterson, related that as he left the boat Captain DeWolf gave his last order. "Tell them in San Francisco that if they had not overloaded us we would have gotten through all right and this would have never happened."

Before the boat sank, James Nesbit, editor of the *San Francisco Bulletin*, had sat down on a hatch and calmly written his will in his notebook. Then he tied it in a small package, fastened it to his body, and awaited the end. The document was later found on his body. The clearness with which he expressed his wishes proved he met his fate without flinching. His body was placed in a steel case and shipped to San Francisco for burial in the Lone Mountain Cemetery.

As she entered the boat in which the survivors escaped, the wife of General Wright observed her husband would not follow. She insisted on returning to him and paid with her life for her devotion. Her body was later found and identified by the name tags she had so carefully sewed to her garments before embarking. Major Eddy, the paymaster who at his own request had

been assigned to the duty of another officer, was lost too. Also lost were the \$250,000.00 in gold assigned to his care (Fig. 13). This, by the way, is one of the larger sunken treasures of the world.

When the survivors reached Crescent City, a soldier was dispatched to the nearest telegraph office, which was in Jacksonville, Oregon, 80 miles away, to notify Colonel Drum in San Francisco of the loss of The Brother Jonathan and the military personnel. Mrs. Henry had come down from Olympia and was waiting in Portland for her husband. The news of his death reached her there by telegraph on August 5. On August 13 Mrs. Lincoln was informed of the tragedy and wrote Mrs. Henry: "The terrible news that our beloved friend is gone has been received by us. My sons and myself have been overcome by the startling and heartrending intelligence. We consider that we have lost our best and dearest friend."

Approximately 40 bodies were recovered in the vicinity of Crescent City. In this quaint and beautiful California town a graveyard was set aside for them. Today their burial ground is overgrown and unkempt. Only two tombstones remain of those which had marked the resting places of the persons lost on The Brother Jonathan. Both have been removed from their respective graves and now lean against opposite sides of a tree in the cemetery (Fig. 14).

The bodies of Doctor Henry and Victor Smith were never identified. In commenting on the disaster, Noah Brooks, who had remained in San Francisco, wondered if in the supreme moment when the waves engulfed them and certain death yawned before the two determined enemies they may not have clasped hands and forgiven the past.

Records of his activities bear witness to the fact that Doctor Henry led a busy and a useful life. Though he never became a rich man, there is ample evidence that he was held in high esteem. In his book, *Idaho of Yesterday*, Donaldson wrote: "From Doctor Henry's intimates I have heard splendid tributes

to the man's character and ability. His entire life was spent in advancing the efforts of his friends, in contributing to their progress perhaps more than his own. As a result he lived and died in very moderate circumstances, but his associates, the few that are now living are always ready to speak with reverence of the Doctor." Abraham Lincoln, when he was President, had said of his lifelong friend, "What a great big-hearted man he is. Henry is one of the best men I have ever known. He sometimes commits an error of judgement, but I never knew him to be guilty of a falsehood or of an act beneath a gentleman. He is the soul of truth and honor." The most touching tribute to this pioneer Oregon physician and politician appears in the autobiography of his brother William written in 1891. William spoke of the unselfishness of his brother Anson, and epitomized his life with the statement: "It is needless to say, he was always poor in worldly good, but in deeds of charity above all price I believe he was rich."

The End

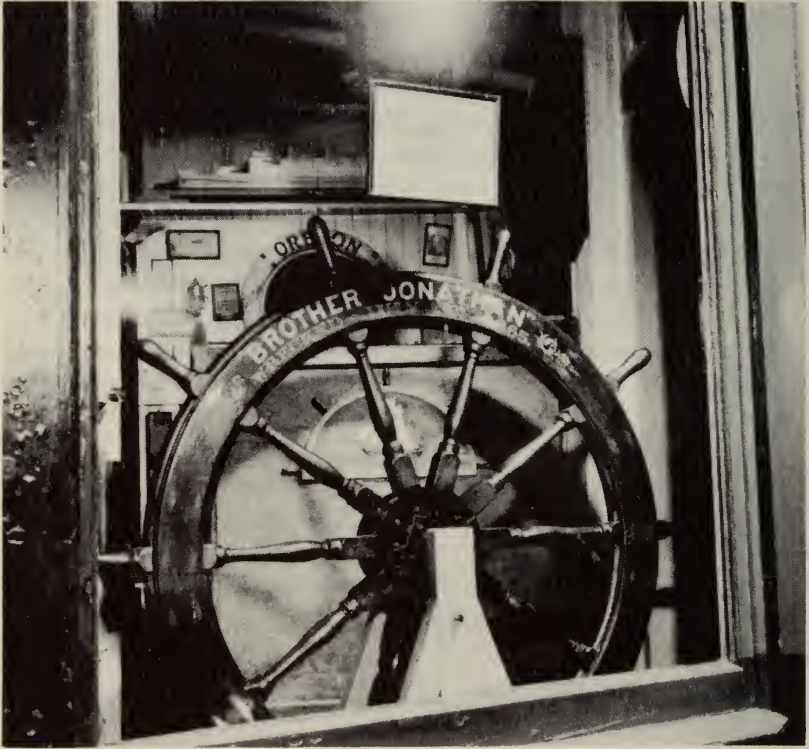


Fig. 15. *This steering wheel, displayed in a restaurant in Portland, Oregon, is said to have belonged to The Brother Jonathan.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Letters:

- Lincoln to Congressman Stuart, Springfield, Jan. 20, 1841. "Necessary to my existence."
- Henry to Lincoln, Sept. 27, 1858. Confidence in Lincoln's future success.
- Lincoln to Henry, Nov. 19, 1858. "I am glad I made the late race."
- Henry to his wife, friends, and other letters to Lincoln. Some were original letters, others were photostats.
- Photostat of letter from Mrs. Anson G. Henry to President Johnson.
- Photostat of letter from Mrs. Lincoln to Mrs. Henry, Aug. 13, 1865.
- Personal communication from J. Monagan, Sept. 9, 1950, regarding "Otsego" county. Monagan is state historian in the Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, Ill.
- Personal communication from J. P. Shaw, June 1950, regarding The Brother Jonathan.
- Personal communication from Milton H. Shutes, June 1950.
- Personal communication from The National Archives General Service Administration, Washington, D. C., 1950.

Diary:

- Written by A. G. Henry on his way to Oregon over the Overland Route in 1852. Original is in the Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, Ill.

Documents:

- Proceedings of the City Council, Portland, Oregon, June 23, 1857.
- Photostat of Dr. Henry's commission as Indian Land Agent, Territory of Oregon. Original, in possession of the Oregon Historical Society, was a gift, in 1950, from Mrs. F. H. Foster.
- Photostat of Dr. Henry's commission as Deputy United States Surveyor, Territory of Washington, 1858. Original is in possession of Mrs. F. H. Foster.
- Photostat of Dr. Henry's appointment as Surveyor General, Territory of Washington. Property of Mrs. F. H. Foster.

Newspaper Articles:

- Autobiographical sketch by A. G. Henry, Sangamo Journal, June 6, 1835.
- Arrival of Steamship Constitution from Panama, San Francisco Evening Bulletin, July 25, 1865.
- Notice of departure of The Brother Jonathan from San Francisco, The Daily Oregonian, July 29, 1865.
- Welcome to General Rosencranz, San Francisco Evening Bulletin, July 31, 1865.
- The Brother Jonathan, San Francisco Evening Bulletin, Aug. 2, 1865.
- The Brother Jonathan, The Daily Oregonian, Aug. 3, 1865.
- The Brother Jonathan, Oregon Statesman, Aug. 14, 1865.
- Picture of The Brother Jonathan, The Daily Oregonian, Aug. 14, 1865.
- Special Correspondent Reports Regarding Finding of Camel's Body Near Eureka, California, San Francisco Evening Bulletin, Aug. 15, 1865.

- Sinking of The Brother Jonathan, *The Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 25, 1865.
 Burial of James Nisbet in Lone Mountain Cemetary, *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*, Aug. 28, 1865.
 Lincoln's Oregon Friends by David W. Hazen, *The Portland Oregonian*, Feb. 12, 1939.
 Lincoln was his Hoodoo by David W. Hazen, *The Portland Oregonian*, Feb. 8, 1942.

Books and Pamphlets:

- Bancroft, Huber H.: *History of Oregon*, Portland, Oregon, Bancroft Publishing Co., 1886, vol. 2, p. 207, Footnote 6. (Thurston's criticism of practice of sending easterners to fill appointments in the west.)
 Brooks, Noah: *Washington in Lincoln's Time*, New York, D. Appleton-Century Co., 1894.
 Lewis and Dryden: *Marine History of the Pacific Northwest*, Portland, Oregon, 1895, pp. 131-134. This book is the property of Durham and Bates, marine insurance company in Portland.
 Nelson, O. C.: *Medicine in the Illinois Country*, *Transactions of the Illinois Historical Society* for 1925, p. 91.
 Sandburg, Carl: *Abraham Lincoln. The Prairie Years*, New York, Harcourt, Brace & Co., Inc., 1926, vol. 1, pp. 219-220 (Controversy over construction of statehouse); pp. 261-262 (Lincoln seeks Dr. Henry's professional advice).
 Sandburg, Carl: *Abraham Lincoln. The War Years*, Harcourt, Brace & Co., Inc., 1936, vol. 2, p. 84 (Visit to Hooker's headquarters).
 Shutes, Milton H.: *Lincoln and the Doctors. A medical Narrative of the Life of Abraham Lincoln*, New York, The Pioneer Press, April 15, 1933.
 Angle, Paul M.: *Here I have Lived, The Story of Lincoln's Springfield*, Springfield, Ill., Abraham Lincoln Association, 1935, p. 42.
 Angle, Paul M.: *New Letters and Papers of Lincoln*.
 Donaldson, Thomas: *Idaho of Yesterday*, Caldwell, Idaho, Caxton Press, 1941.
 Shutes, Milton H.: *Lincoln and California*, Palto Alto, Calif., Stanford University Press, 1943.
 Pratt, Harry E.: *Dr. Anson G. Henry, Lincoln's Physician and Friend*, *Lincoln Herald*, vol. 45, Nos. 3 and 4, 1943. Reprinted by the Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn., 1944.
 Larsell, O.: *The Doctor in Oregon*, Portland, Oregon, Binfords and Mort, 1947, pp. 214-216.
 Wells, Merle W.: *The Creation of the Territory of Idaho*, *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, April 1949.

Note: I am indebted to Mrs. Frances Henry Foster, of Los Gatos, California, great granddaughter of Dr. Anson G. Henry, for making available to me letters from Doctor Henry to his wife, to Abraham Lincoln, and to other contemporaries, as well as various documents connected with his career. Many were photostats, others were originals in Doctor Henry's holograph. Some of Doctor Henry's letters had been written from the executive mansion in Washington, D. C. Mrs. Foster also allowed me to examine an original letter from Lincoln. Much of the material Mrs. Foster lent me forms the background of this paper.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA

B.H5212B

C001

DR. ANSON G. HENRY, PHYSICIAN, POLITICIA



3 0112 031844340