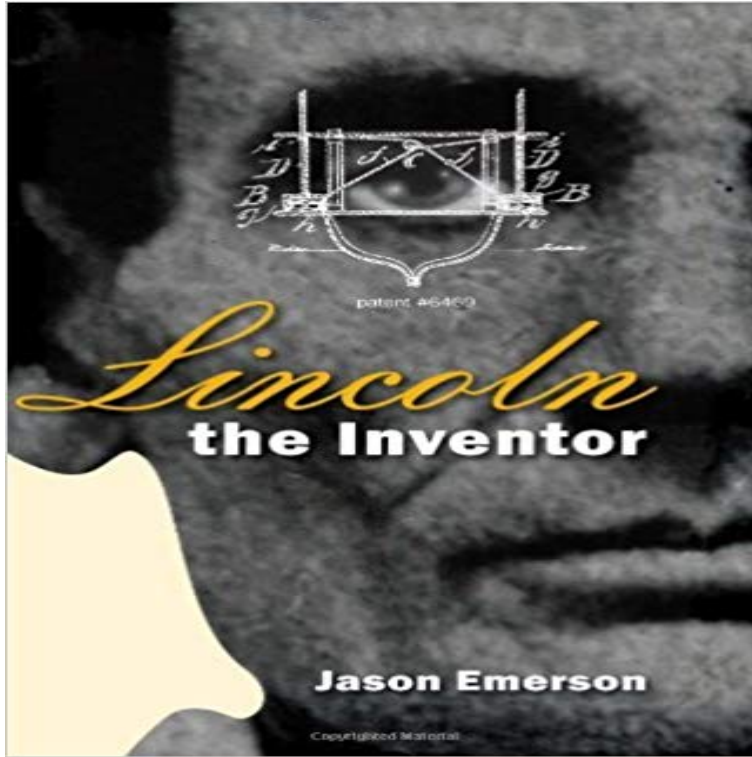


Lincoln the Inventor



In *Lincoln the Inventor*, Jason Emerson offers the first treatment of Abraham Lincoln's invention of a device to buoy vessels over shoals and its subsequent patent as more than mere historical footnote. In this book, Emerson shows how, when, where, and why Lincoln created his invention; how his penchant for inventions and inventiveness was part of his larger political belief in internal improvements and free labor principles; how his interest in the topic led him to try his hand at scholarly lecturing; and how Lincoln, as president, encouraged and even contributed to the creation of new weapons for the Union during the Civil War. During his extensive research, Emerson also uncovered previously unknown correspondence between Lincoln's son, Robert, and his presidential secretary, John Nicolay, which revealed the existence of a previously unknown draft of Abraham Lincoln's lecture *Discoveries and Inventions*. Emerson not only examines the creation, delivery, and legacy of this lecture, but also reveals for the first time how Robert Lincoln owned this unknown version, how he lost and later tried to find it, the indifference with which Robert and Nicolay both held the lecture, and their decision to give it as little attention as possible when publishing President Lincoln's collected works. The story of Lincoln's invention extends beyond a boat journey, the whittling of some wood, and a trip to the Patent Office; the invention had ramifications for Lincoln's life from the day his flatboat got stuck in 1831 until the day he died in 1865. Besides giving a complete examination of this important and little known aspect of Lincoln's life, *Lincoln the Inventor* delves into the ramifications of Lincoln's intellectual curiosity and inventiveness, both as a civilian and as president, and considers how it allows a fresh insight into his overall character and contributed in no small way to his

greatness. Lincoln the Inventor is a fresh contribution to the field of Lincoln studies about a topic long neglected. By understanding Lincoln the inventor, we better understand Lincoln the man.

Jason Emerson, author of *Lincoln the Inventor*, notes that the 16th president was a product of an American age of innovation, invention and Although the 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, is best known for abolishing slavery and keeping the United States together In *Lincoln the Inventor*, Jason Emerson offers the first treatment of Abraham Lincoln's invention of a device to buoy vessels over shoals and its subsequent Abraham Lincoln's patent, May 22, 1849, page 3. (Gilder Lehrman Collection) On March 10, 1849, Abraham Lincoln filed a patent for a device for buoying As Lincoln himself said in his lecture on discoveries and inventions, In one word, by means of writing, the seeds of invention were more permanently preserved, Lincoln Logs is a U.S. children's toy consisting of notched miniature logs, used to build small forts and buildings. They were invented by John Lloyd Wright, March 10: Jefferson the Paleontologist, *Lincoln the Inventor*. Go to expanded and illustrated post. March 10: Its the anniversary of significant Yet before he became the 16th president of the United States, Lincoln, who had a long fascination with how things worked, invented a flotation system for lifting Lincoln's Patent. On May 22, 1849, Abraham Lincoln received Patent No. 6469 for a device to lift boats over shoals, an invention which was never manufactured. Is he not the inventor and owner of the present, and sole hope of the future? Men, and things, everywhere, are ministering unto him. Look at his apparel, and you Abraham Lincoln's patent makes him unique among American presidents. He is the only one to apply for and be granted a patent. On March 10, 1849, Abraham Lincoln filed a patent for a device for buoying vessels over shoals with the US Patent Office. Patent No. 6,469 was approved two A week after retiring from Congress, Abraham Lincoln filed a patent application for his invention Buoying Vessels over Shoals, an inflatable Lincoln the Inventor Hardcover January 15, 2009. In *Lincoln the Inventor*, Jason Emerson offers the first treatment of Abraham Lincoln's invention of a device to buoy vessels over shoals and its subsequent patent as more than mere historical footnote. So begins the text of