

MPM

MPope Media

Lincoln's Ghetto

**The America
Many Call Home**



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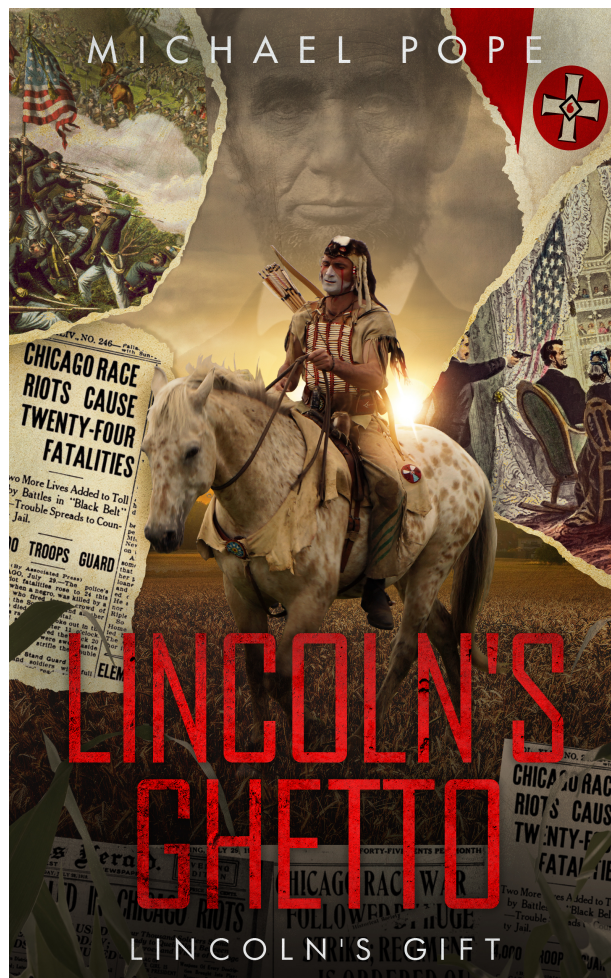
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Welcome to Lincoln's Ghetto. A place many of you will recognize.

This free download will set you up for an incredible 4-book journey. The ride is sweet, sour, bumpy and gritty. But you are here because you understand these things. Some of you may see your story. All of you will see some truths.



LINCOLN'S GHETTO

A Series by
Michael R. Pope

The Prequel

LINCOLN'S GIFT

“Silence is the moment of learning”

What is Lincoln's Ghetto?

During a dark period in early U.S. history, European migrants swarmed into the new fledgling and lawless nation struggling to find its identity. After emancipation of its slaves, a deep fracture opened an infected wound of racism and greed. Before his assassination, Abraham Lincoln left a last will and testament which will yield his descendants generational wealth and power.

However he left one requirement: they must find an African-American or Native-American to give part of the inheritance to before it can be actualized. With most of Lincoln's descendants dead and gone, one distant descendant in the 1970's seeks to attain the bounty. Grand forces of greed and racist hate will go to great lengths to grab the spoils. They are all on the hunt for the will's riches, taking this effort into a deadly direction.

In the middle of it all, an African-American Chicago South Side father and son find themselves in a fight for their lives not knowing where all of this unwanted attention is coming from. The beginnings of their journey into Lincoln's legacy will change their lives forever in LINCOLN'S GHETTO.

For History's Sake



The Earth has endured numerous climate changes and glaciations over the past one million years. Our human and animal ancestors experienced about a dozen major ice-coverings of the northern hemisphere. The greatest one, the Pleistocene Epoch, about 2,600,000 to 11,700 years ago. Greenland and Antarctica remain today.

Covering more than 5,000,000 square miles, the Laurentide Ice Sheet, centered on the Hudson Bay region of Canada, covered the entire Canadian landmass. The extreme ice buildup advanced into the North American Midwest region, blanketing the vast area with more than 67 trillion tons of ice. Reaching as high as 8,000-10,000 feet high in some areas, the ice wall pushed east, covering New England, then west to Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska. Its most southern edge pushing deep into Central Illinois.

So much ice collected that the overall global temperature was lowered by some 10°F. This most recent glaciation lasted approximately 50,000 years. The massive ice sheet had a profound effect on the landscape, shaping mountains, carving out great glacial valleys and lakes, and creating broad outwash plains around the perimeter of its extent, the Great Plains. The Laurentide Ice Sheet began to melt and retreat some 13,000 years ago.

By geological standards, colossal flooding of the melt off occurred extremely close to our times today. The catastrophic flooding events throughout North America shaped vast regions of the U.S. It created the Northeast topography, the Atlantic coastal regions of New England, and the five Great Lakes, including Niagara falls. It shaped mountains and prairies in the Midwest. It also created the Mississippi, Ohio, Illinois, and other great rivers and streams of North America.

A transition occurred as the ice receded. The evolution of frozen ground morphed into a more densely populated lush landscape of shrubbery, trees and streams, spawning fishes, birds and mammals. Core samples discovered that steppe vegetation first began to appear in the region about 13,500 years ago, followed quickly by the arrival of animals such as mastodon, woolly mammoth, giant bison, and horses. Predators like the great cats, wolves, and giant bears, began roaming the expansive grasslands. The receding southern edge of the ice rim jetted up to the sky as high as five Empire State Buildings. Grassy plains existed just south of the massive ice wall.

As the Laurentide Ice Sheet receded, a passable land-bridge corridor of nearly 1,000 miles emerged west of the Rocky Mountains from across the Bearing Sea of Alaska into Canada. The formation of the Cordilleran ice sheet has been speculated to have been the primary entryway for the first humans into North America from Asia.

Human colonization of North America by the so-called Clovis culture dates back more than 13,000 years. Some archaeological evidence suggests that humans may have been on the continent some 14,700 years ago, and possibly several millennia before that.

North America 1500-1800

Here they come!

By 1500 AD, European migration began to trickle into the new land after Columbus, Magellan, Pizarro, and other explorers reported their findings back to Spain and Portugal. North American eastern coastal villages and inland provinces emerged at major waterways in areas later known as Florida, Georgia, Carolina, and Virginia. They continued to spring up the coast into Massachusetts. France, Spain, and England rapidly claiming virgin territories.

By the year 1600, fur trappers from France descended upon the Canadian and upper Midwest Territories, discovering the fertile plains. In 1673, French-Canadian explorers, Louis Jolliet and Jesuit Father Jacques Marquette, were the first non-native people to explore and map the Mississippi River. Native tribes like the Illini, Peoria, Miami, and Winnebago of the Western Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi river, were among the many diverse tribes who have populated the region for millenniums.

Other European explorers found their way to this northern region where a large tributary near the Great Lake (Lake Michigan today) started and wound its way through the virgin landscape, ultimately intersecting with the Mississippi River. The explores new discovery of this virgin winding river found them many lakes, creeks, and streams, providing beaver the perfect environments to build dams. Richly fertile soil, broad expanses of prairies, and thick woodlands, attracted bear, elk, deer, wildcats, swan, geese, and ducks. Explorers at the Great Lake shores engaged with the Illini and Miami tribes who settled at the headwaters confluence of the Great Lake, which explorers called the Chachagouce River.

The French and other European explorers learned some of the native peoples' vocabulary of plants and animals in the area. The Miami people introduced the plant "Shikaakwa" to them. It's what the tribe called the plant that grows tall and upright in the understory of towering shade trees. Tall with bulbous blooms, the plant is deer resistant and smells like skunk when trampled. Given the accent and dialect of the French, the explorers pronounced the word as "Shicagou." The word related closely to the name of a Michigamea tribal Chief they met during their explorations of the northern territories. The French named the unique smelly plant Chicagou.

By 1682, Fort St. Louis was built on the now tagged, Illini River close to where it convulses with the Chachagouce River at Starved Rock. Built to bolster the fur trade, the fort protected the Miami tribe from attacks by the Iroquois.

By 1718, the Illini River is mapped by European settlers. Villages of the Miami tribe dotted the area of confluence near the Chicagou River by the shores of the Great Lake. Jean Baptiste Point du Sable built his farm at the mouth of this newly named Chicagou River.

In 1763, the French went to war against the native peoples in the French and Indian War. Chief Pontiac lead his tribe's fight against the Europeans taking over their lands.

In 1776, the colonists beat back the British colonizers. This opened the floodgates of the Atlantic crossing. By 1780, unchecked Western Europeans poured upon this open borderless territory for the next 100 years.

The French introduced African Slaves to the Illini region early in the 1700s. They instituted the Black Code (Code Noir) that regulated behavior and treatment of slaves and free people of color, in their self-proclaimed French Colonial Empire. They kept and traded slaves in Illinois until 1783. By then,

the largely French occupied Illinois territory transferred to the new United States.

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 banned slavery in Illinois and all of the Northwest Territory.

Laws were few, lawlessness aplenty. The Irish, Germans, and Scandinavians descended upon the open Midwest region by boat across the Great Lake, up the Mississippi, and across the many Midwest rivers. Navigating up the now Chicago River, the settlers created the Chicago Settlement. This became an unregulated hard living community of taking for the takers.

By 1795, the Miami, Illini, Kickapoo, and other tribes ceded the area of Chicago to the newly planted Europeans. Tribal wars amongst the Native peoples persisted over age-old territorial rights. Tribes were forced to align with the French, British, Irish, and New American settlers, creating even more conflict and uncertainty of loyalties. Double-dealings, scarring of the land, creation of savory relationships with the old and new inhabitants, increased the confusion of who or what had rights. Beaver, fox, elk, lynx, skunk, cougar, and other animal hides were some of the first commodities trafficked.

In 1776 the new American Republic formed. This created a justified taking of the native peoples' lands, giving rise to more war with the tribal peoples in the Mid-West—the Northwest Indian Wars.

The New Confusing Way, 1800-1900

It's this and that! No! I say it's those and ours!

By 1803, the young U.S. Government built Fort Dearborn in the mixed Native and White settlers territory of the virgin Chicago. It sat where Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive is today. The Fort was built as part of a lucrative trading zone the British previously established there.

The Brits enjoyed commerce from the fur and other local products traded by the Irish, French, Canadians, Germans, Scandinavians, and Americans. The new United States needed government presence there quickly. As tensions mounted, the U.S. and Great Britain went to war again in 1812. Indian tribes like the Potawatomi, allied with the British to stop the U.S. from expanding westward and to recover their lost lands.

August 15, 1812, the day the war began, 50 U.S. soldiers, 41 civilians, including 18 children and nine women, evacuated Fort Dearborn for their own safety. This group made up the entire population of U.S. citizens in the Chicago area. The rest were mostly Native Americans, Irish, French, and British.

The group left the fort, seeking safety and shelter, only to be ambushed and slaughtered on their way out of the fort by 500 Potawatomi warriors. Sixty of the U.S. evacuees and 15 Native Americans were killed. The massacre site took place at today's northeast corner of 18th St. and Prairie Avenue in Chicago.

1818 - Illinois becomes a state

During these confusing times, many Africans remained slaves in Illinois, even after the banning of slavery with Illinois statehood. During the 1850s, an Anti-Black law was adopted in the state, which made it difficult for new Black immigrants to enter or live in Illinois.

In 1845, the Great Potato famine and wide spread diseases in Ireland, forced thousands of Irish families to migrate freely and undocumented into the United States. Many of them found their way to Chicago. Racial diversity and political uncertainty in the growing windy city spawned racial tensions, bigotry, and hate. The different factions of races scurried for territory trying to protect their cultural identities. Blacks, Irish, British, French, Native peoples, and firstborn Americans, made up the majority of the population in the growing lakefront city. Where the Irish were given land access as they freely

flooded the city, they desperately moved to hold on to their racial, cultural, and Catholic identities.

Former slaves sought clarification of their freedoms and equal access while under oppression by all communities. They lived in a limbo status as part-free-part slave. The Native peoples fought with each other. Their various factions fought for land and cultural preservation. The U.S. government developed all kinds of racially motivated laws to determine their futures as an aside to the future plans of the nation.

Throughout the decade of the 1850s, much unrestricted and unregulated European immigration flooded into the newly formed states of America. This free flow of immigration compounded societal issues year by year. As each faction of racial and cultural communities grew within their own philosophies from Florida to Illinois, tensions rose as political and racial lines were being drawn. Divisions had taken place. Brother began to fight brother based on personal, religious, and political beliefs. Various groups began to organize political gangs, criminal gangs, racist gangs, religious gangs, nationalist gangs, white rights gangs, underground slave railroads, and various Indian alliances.

Right Man, Right Time

By 1860, the union looked headed towards chaotic fracture. To mend this inevitable broken destiny, it would take a unique person with an opposing vision to this undefined norm. There was a need for a person with broad experiences, diverse exposures, and a natural ability to lead with straightforward honesty. A person with an innate ability to convince the purveyors of the new twisted norms to consider a better, fairer alternative to social and economic issues. A person who could command respect through credibility, yet influence compromise over narcissistic, racist, nationalistic, or personal gains. A person who understands farmers, land owners, urban dwellers, traders, politicians, businessmen, natives, and lawyers. A person who can interface with the old, the new, and diverse groups in Illinois and other states. Someone who can agree to a compromise to appeal the Anti-Black laws of Illinois. Someone having the ability to carry the argument, making Illinois the first state to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States abolishing slavery.

Born February 12, 1809, on Sinking Spring Farm in rural Hodgenville Kentucky, that person became America's 16th President of the United States. He

led the nation through its bloodiest war and greatest moral, constitutional, and political crisis.

The namesake of God's chosen one from the Biblical Old Testament, Abraham Lincoln came of age as the nation became. His well documented early life story sculpted his character foundation. No formal education; the loss of his mother at the age of nine; despised by his father; living out his youth in abject poverty; performing multiple types of manual labor from splitting wood for fence rails, to hauling produce up and down the Mississippi River.

He became a postmaster, shop owner, land surveyor, military officer, trusted leader, and spokesperson for others. He accomplished all of this prior to becoming a lawyer, then politician.

His vault of ideas were unlocked as a youth by his love of reading everything he could. He was noticed and respected by others of higher authority and education wherever he went. Convinced to go to law school after he became a state elected official four times, he became a lawyer, judge, and ultimately, U.S. president.

Lincoln's Rise

His path to that title of highest government official in the land, ultimately passed through a little town in Central Illinois where the native peoples once thrived and the early settlers began to fully inhabit. The town of Postville, in Logan County Illinois, became his first adult home and incubator of ideals.

By 1845, the lawyer Lincoln travelled a 15-county circuit for the Illinois 8th circuit court doing his lawyering from his base in Postville. He represented the early settlers in cases from boundary disputes, breaches of contracts, and indebtedness to ownership of strayed livestock.

Lincoln's compassion for others did not start as a lawyer for the masses. His first lessons in morality came as the son of a poor farmer. These critical youthful teachings enlightened him early in life. His father, Thomas Lincoln, was poor and uneducated. He could not provide many resources for his sons. In the wake of the death of his wife, he did demonstrate to Abraham his first lessons in morality and decency.

Let's rewind a bit...

Back in 1792, Kentucky was admitted to the Union as a slave state. For Thomas Lincoln, a religious man, he considered slavery as morally unacceptable. By 1816, the best option for him was to move his family across the Ohio River into Indiana, a state that was excluded from slavery by the Northwest Ordinance. In Indiana, the Lincoln family settled in unoccupied land in Little Pigeon Creek. The property was so remote that there was no trail leading to their little house. Abraham, then eight years old, was put to work, clearing bushes and trees, fencing the property, building a log cabin, planting, and plowing.

Tragically, in 1818, Thomas Lincoln's wife, Nancy, died of brucellosis—a commonly known illness referred to as milk sickness. It inflicts those who drink milk from cows that had eaten the poisonous white snakeroot plant. Three other Lincoln family members also died from the white snakeroot cow's milk that same year.

Raised by his 11 year-old sister, nine year-old Abraham attended little to no schooling. But he loved to read and write poetry. His father needed him to work the farm, especially during his declining health and eventual blindness. But Abraham did as little work as possible. His father considered him lazy

and became very dissatisfied with him. His father remarried to Sarah Johnson. She liked Abraham, supporting his reading and writing interests.

When Abraham turned 21, he left his father's log cabin, moving to New Salem, Illinois. He lived in New Salem for six years from 1830 to 1836. During these years, he spent his time reading and learning about law and becoming an entrepreneur, hauling goods to New Orleans on a boat he built with a partner. This is when he first encountered slaves and began working with Black laborers.

After work on the river dried up, he joined the Army, fighting in the Black Hawk War as an officer. These experiences taught him about leadership as well as Indian hardships. After the war, he ran for the Illinois state legislature but lost to a more experienced opponent. He ran on a platform of better navigational facilities for river commerce. He argued that a new railroad should stop in New Salem to bolster the local economy.

He became Postmaster of New Salem, delivering mail, collecting fees, and getting to personally know his community. He later became the Deputy County Surveyor, learning geometry and trigonometry, seeing much of Central Illinois. With all of these jobs, Abraham worked hard, met a diverse

cross section of people, and learned their needs, earning a reputation for honesty. People began calling him “Honest Abe.”

Before the 1840s, Lincoln did not think much of slavery, other than it was morally incompatible with his principles as well as being founded on both injustice and bad policy. He was antislavery but not an abolitionist. Abolitionists considered slavery anti-Christian and sought the end of slavery and to assimilate African slaves into society. They were not interested in working within the frame of the Constitution or the political system.

During this time, Lincoln elaborated more on his views and stated that slavery was a dying institution. Though he understood the economic advantages of slavery, he believed that if slavery would expand, it would become so unprofitable that it would eventually be abandoned.

As a practicing lawyer, Lincoln represented slaves in several cases. In 1841, he represented a Black woman and her children who were free and could not be sold back into slavery, in *Bailey vs. Cromwell*. In 1845, he defended Marvin Pond for giving help to a fugitive slave, John Harvey, in *People vs. Pond*. He also had no problem with representing the other side, the slave

owner. In 1847, he represented a slave owner and lost in *Matson vs. Rutherford*.

In 1834, he ran for the state legislature again and won. He ran and won again in 1836. He won four consecutive terms when he decided to call it quits and seriously study law. In 1837, he became a self-taught lawyer and was admitted to the Illinois Bar. Hired as a Junior Law Partner with John Stuart in Springfield Illinois in 1841, he partnered with John Logan. They specialized in bankruptcy after the new Bankruptcy Act was passed. Lincoln appeared in the Illinois Supreme Court more than 300 times.

In 1844, he started his own firm and became senior partner with John Henderson. He travelled throughout 15 Central Illinois counties for the 8th Judicial Circuit court where he met thousands of people and future political supporters. He handled hundreds of cases in Sangamon County, especially railroad cases, acquiring the moniker, Old Honest Abe.

By 1850, his mounting trust amongst the common man of all races and the social and economic elite, exposed many investment opportunities to him.

By this time, he had tried many railroad cases in court. His understanding of

the critical economic importance of the expansion of the railroad throughout Illinois was far reaching, leading him towards his final destiny.

Lincoln Town is Born

In 1852, the Illinois state government was looking to expand the Chicago - Mississippi railroad line from Springfield to Bloomington. This critical stretch between these two cities was to be a key commerce rail line to pick up the agriculture crops in Central Illinois and deliver them to the bustling hub of Chicago. A grand idea; however, the steam-powered trains in those days needed to fill up with water every 30 miles at a passenger depot. The Springfield to Bloomington run is about 60-miles. The need for a new railroad stop was required at the 30-mile point.

Postville was not exactly along the planned train route, but it is about 30-miles from Springfield. Thus, a new depot was discussed and a new town was needed close to Postville in order for the location to be an official rail depot. This became an instant opportunity for the right investors.

Seizing this opportunity became the goal of three businessmen—Virgil Hickcox, a director of the railroad; John D. Gillett, a cattle raiser known as the Cattle King of the World; and Robert B. Latham, the Sheriff of Logan County. They created the Town Site Company. The first step in creating the

new town was obtaining the rights to the land. The new Company needed to purchase the land from Isaac and Joseph Loose of Pennsylvania.

Sheriff Latham traveled to Franklin County, Pennsylvania, where Isaac Loose lived. On February 3, 1853, Sheriff Latham purchased the land from Isaac and Joseph Loose for \$1,350. In order to continue with the development of the new town, the Town Site Company realized they needed extensive legal assistance. So, Virgil Hickcox called on his friend and trusted neighbor to help with the legal matters, Abraham Lincoln. Only 12 days after purchasing the land, Abe Lincoln created all of the necessary documents for the proposed town, including the critical railroad depot. The new town was to become the new Logan County Seat, moving it from Mt. Pulaski.

The next step in the process was to design the town. With the help of Lincoln, who had extensive surveyor experience, he and the County Surveyor, Conway Pence, designed the town around the newly planned railroad depot. All of the new streets would run parallel and perpendicular to the incoming railroad line. In addition, they designed a four block Town Center for the County Seat. In these four blocks were to be two parks, the courthouse, and jail. Now that the city was planned, it was time to bring in the people.

On August 27, 1853, the first lots of the new town were sold. The men of the Town Site Company met with Abraham Lincoln in an unceremonious event on the site of where the new railroad depot would be built; near the corner of Broadway and Sangamon streets today. Sheriff Latham was appointed as representative and announced that the new town would be named Lincoln in honor of the man who brought the deal together.

With a small delegation of the three men of the company, Lincoln, and a young boy, all sat on a lumber pile at the construction site. Sheriff Latham asked Lincoln to officially christen the town. Lincoln reached into a cart full of watermelons and picked up one, saying, *“Nothing with the name of Lincoln has ever amounted to much.”* He took his pocketknife and precisely peeled off half of the melon rind. Bumping the melon on the lumber pile, it opened with the entire core on one side exposed. He cut the core, squeezed the juice into a tin cup saying, *“Gentlemen, I am requested by the proprietors of this town site to christen it. I have the juice of a melon for that purpose. By pouring it on the ground, therefore, in your presence and hearing, I now christen this town site. Its name is Lincoln and soon to be named the permanent capital of Logan County. I have also prepared a feast for the occasion.”*

He gave the other half of the melon to 13-year old John Stevens and invited him to feast with him and the rest for the occasion. He pulled back the tarp over the melon cart and invited the rest of the gentlemen to join in the feast. They laughed in celebration.

This would be the first town named after Abraham Lincoln before he became president.

The Deal of the Century

(An alternate version)

On the first day of land sale to the public, over ninety lots were sold with prices ranging from \$40.00 to \$150.00. The Town Site Company's proceeds were over six thousand dollars. As for the company lawyer, Lincoln processed the legal documents settling all of the contracts of the land sales. He wondered why most people were only purchasing the land around the railroad depot and along the planned streets leading to the new courthouse to be. He saw that there were hundreds of thousands of acres wrapped around the new town of Lincoln that were not purchased. He asked one new owner, Sheriff Latham, about this, and the sheriff advised him that there was no interest in these areas due to the cost of farming such vast expanses. The train would pass through much of this vast undeveloped territory. As well, most people were only interested in the immediate income they saw around the depot.

Sheriff Latham appreciated all that Lincoln had done to facilitate the development and sale of the new town properties. He offered Lincoln the rest of the entire surrounding acreage, a total of +1,000,000 acres, at a discounted

price of \$1,350.00, the original selling price. Lincoln agreed to the purchase and immediately sold off \$3,500.00 worth of the land to pay the bill.

At 44 years old, Lincoln was one of the largest private landowners in the nation. However, he had greater ambitions than being a landowner of this magnitude. Still, he did understand the economic importance for his family because of it. This being his only tangible asset, he drew up his will. He split the land amongst his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, and his sons, Robert Todd Lincoln, William Wallace Lincoln, and Thomas Tadd Lincoln.

He designed various contingencies in the will after their deaths such as: who will be in line of succession for the land; the rights of the benefactors to re-write the will for the land as they see fit; require that whichever family member or members or benefactors receive the land at any time.

As a request from his wife, Mary Todd, Lincoln also devised a contingency in the will to help repair some of the damage done to the Negro race by slavery and the damage done to the Native Americans through the taking of their land and the uprooting both races cultures'. He decided to install a reparation in the will that the eventual benefactor cannot take full ownership of the land until they give 1/4 or more of their portion of the land to a former slave or

slave descendant or a Native American. He agreed to this contingency to ensure his legacy and his commitment to helping others and those who were victimized by the American system.

Sons William and Thomas died before their 18th birthdays from diseases. After the assassination of President Lincoln on April 15, 1865, his wife, Mary, carried the will. She moved in with their sole surviving son, Robert Todd Lincoln, in his Chicago home, where he was attending Law School at the Old University of Chicago. After Mary Todd Lincoln's death, Robert Todd automatically inherited all +1,000,000 acres. However, he too was not interested in developing the land, nor the difficult task of assigning portions of it to a Negro or Native American. He had greater ambitions than farming in Central Illinois. He believed that developing a serious business relationship with one of those people of color would have a negative impact on his career.

The Legacy Transfer

In 1868, three years after the horror and final acceptance of President Lincoln's assassination in 1865, Robert Todd Lincoln married Mary Eunice Harlan, they had two daughters, Jessie Harlan Lincoln and Mary "Little Mamie" Lincoln and one son, Jackson Lincoln or Jack.

Robert Todd Lincoln became Secretary of War from 1881 to 1885 under the administration of President James Garfield. From 1889 to 1893, he served as U.S. minister to the United Kingdom under President Benjamin Harrison. At the end of his assignment, he returned to his private law career in Chicago and Vermont.

He discussed the terms of his will with his daughters and son. They too were under the same conditions from Grandpa Abe that a Negro or Native American person must own at least 1/4 of the land as a reparation before a Lincoln family member could take ownership, live on, develop, or sell it. Once they grew to the age of understanding, only his son, Jack Lincoln, wanted the land and agreed to all of the terms. But he was only 16 years old.

His daughters opted out of the land, not wanting anything to do with it.

Robert Todd established a trust for both of them. For Mamie, he deposited 375 shares of Commonwealth Edison stock worth slightly more than \$38,000 (equivalent to \$567,000 today) and 1,000 shares of National Biscuit stock worth \$85,000 (equivalent to \$1,269,000 today).

For Jessie, he deposited 1,000 shares of Commonwealth Edison stock worth \$101,750 (equivalent to \$1,519,000 today) and 1,000 shares of National Biscuit stock worth \$85,000 (equivalent to \$1,269,000 today). In 1920, he deposited another 1,250 shares of Commonwealth Edison stock worth \$100,000 (equivalent to \$1,292,000 today) into Jessie's trust fund.

An Uncommon Legacy

While performing his Minister of Great Britain duties in London in 1890, Robert Todd Lincoln's youngest child, Jack, died from disease at the age of 19. However, prior to his death, he had an illegitimate son with a local Brit girl from Liverpool. The baby boy, Tyler Todd Lincoln, born 1891 in London, was immediately adopted by the Lincolns, sparing the Lincoln's and the young girl's family the shame of having a baby outside of marriage as well as to protect the Lincoln name.

They brought the baby boy back to the United States. The child, Tyler Todd Lincoln, was raised in Vermont and Chicago by his grandfather Robert Todd Lincoln. The Will for the land was now passed down to Tyler.

Tyler did not grow into the government accomplished official as his grandfather, and infamous great grandfather, Abe. He made his living as a newspaperman in Vermont and was a lover of the new technologies of photography and bicycle racing.

His father, Robert Todd Lincoln, died in his home in Vermont on July 26, 1926. He was 82 years old. He is buried at the Arlington National Cemetery. At 35 years old, Tyler, the remaining Lincoln, had to fend for himself.

Starting out as a beat reporter for a small newspaper in Burlington Vermont, he covered farm issues, sports, sold advertising, and was the only staff photographer. Not able to make a decent living, he decided to move into his father's other home in Chicago to find his way onto the Chicago newspaper scene and pursue bicycle racing in the big city.

Motivated by Hate

The 1906 Atlanta Georgia Massacre of Blacks and the 1908 Springfield Illinois Race Riots, were both initiated by angry White Americans and Europeans destroying Black businesses and homes; murdering Black citizens in the streets. These racially motivated riots ramped up the racist rhetoric towards the newly freed slaves and their descendants who were trying to find their way into society post slavery.

By 1919, WWI forced societal changes on the nation. Black war veterans began returning to the cities. The sociopolitical atmosphere began to reshape. Overcrowding of cities, including Chicago, bloomed. The Great Migration of former slaves from the South saw millions of them and their descendants moving into the city, seeking jobs in the Chicago stockyards and meatpacking plants on the South Side.

The Red Summer of 1919 was a dark period of U.S. history. Racial riots and white supremacist terrorism spiked across three-dozen cities, including Washington D.C and Chicago. Whites of Irish culture began to fiercely defend their territory and political power against all newcomers, especially

Blacks in Chicago. Racism and tensions caused inter-community friction, especially in the competitive labor and housing markets amongst the two groups. Chicago ethnic gang intimidation and police neglect further exacerbated racial tensions.

That year, the murder of a black teenager, 17-year-old Eugene Williams, sparked an intense race war between Blacks and mostly Irish in Chicago. Williams, who was enjoying beach time on the “Black Side” of the Lake Superior beach near 29th street, was diving from a homemade raft with friends. The raft inadvertently drifted into the “White’s Only” swimming area. One White beach-goer hurled rocks at the diving young men, striking Williams in the head. Williams drowned while trying to swim back to shore injured. Black witnesses accused Whites of attacking the swimmers with rocks.

Violence erupted on the beach. It expanded into Black neighborhoods where White mobs attacked Black residents. White Irish gangs attacked Black workers going to work. Black groups began to organize and fight back, protecting each other. The Chicago Police did very little to help, often siding with the Irish gang violence and taking part in the anti-Black violence along with the Illinois National Guard.

New Lincoln Era Begins

Great Grandpa, Honest Abe, was a close friend of Joseph Medill, the Managing Editor of the Chicago Tribune since 1840. Medill was very pro-Republican Party, anti-slavery, aiding Old Abe in attaining the presidency.

By 1920, the Lincoln name still had credibility with the paper, allowing great grandson, Tyler Lincoln, a foot in the door at the Tribune. The fast pace of urban story-telling, volatile political and cultural philosophies inside and outside of the paper, all proved to be difficult terrain for young Tyler. The pace of the sleepy Vermont newspaper life was no comparison to this Chicago whirlwind. With a greater interest in sports and cycling, he gravitated toward covering sports. Tyler's love of cycling and the athletes who were the top racers, lead him to believe he had a niche beat with the Tribune.

He continuously fought with his editor, Colonel Robert McCormick, who wanted him to focus on Irish criminal activity in the city. Tyler considered the Irish a bigoted racist violent thuggish people and had no interest in covering their lurid lifestyles. Colonel Robert McCormick wanted him to cover

the Market Street Gang. Tyler knew they were a bunch of pickpockets, sneak thieves, and labor sluggers working in the 42nd and 43rd Wards.

Lead by Dion “Gimpy” O’Banion from the Little Hell neighborhood on the Irish North Side of Chicago, the Market Street Gang was a nasty group of Irish thugs. The gang specialized in theft and robbery, supporting Chicago’s Black Market.

Tyler’s editor, Colonel McCormick, wanted coverage of reports from many people claiming being robbed at the McGovern’s Liberty Inn. Gang member, Gimpy O’Banion, who worked at the Inn as a singer, would get the patrons’ attention with his smooth singing voice, while his gang of boys picked the pockets of the patrons coats in the coat room.

Gimpy O’Banion would also tend bar and drug his patrons' drinks. Known then as, *slipping them a Mickey Finn*. When the intoxicated patrons left the club, O'Banion and his pals would often rob them. This was dangerous work for Tyler Lincoln. He was not a very courageous journalist.

Tyler frequented McGovern’s Liberty Inn, gathering information. After a week or so, he drew suspicion from the gang members. On one visit to the

Inn, Tyler struck up conversation at the bar with a tall redhead he had seen several times. He thought she was familiar with the gang members, but after observing her over his many visits, he determined she was not one of them.

Constance McDougle is the daughter of the owner of McGovern's Liberty Inn, Shamus McDougle. College educated, mostly soft spoken, she knew Tyler had taken a liking to her. Wanting to probe her for information about the O'Banion boys, Tyler backed off the questioning because he wanted to get to know her personally and not endanger her.

He began to sense the gang may be on to him. When confronted in the restroom by two of the gang members, he told the thugs a cover—that he was there because he was in love with Constance. The thugs backed off.

More conversations with Constance over more evenings at the Inn, Tyler discovered she was a bicycle enthusiast also. She admitted that the current U.S. and World Champion and fastest cyclist in the world, Major Taylor, was her favorite cyclist. Tyler became even more drawn to her as Major Taylor is his first and strongest cycling influence. Major Taylor, an African-American athlete and World champion. After three weeks of investigation, Tyler had not filed a story about the gang.

Tyler told his editor, Colonel McCormick, that he thought the gang was on to him and he was afraid to publish a story about them in fear of his life. McCormick agreed to let someone else pick up the story but told Tyler that a bigger story was unfolding with the gang. Sources revealed that the gang had been recruited by the Chicago Examiner to beat up newsstand owners who sold the Tribune and not the Examiner. Recruited by Examiner publisher Moses Annenberg, the sluggers' attacks on newsstands started the Chicago Newspaper Wars.

This full year of newspaper drama for Tyler hit a crossroads of career confusion and life decisions for him in 1932. Devastating news that his iconic sports and life hero, cycling champion and *Fastest Man on Earth*, Major Taylor, died of a heart attack in Chicago, hurt him deeply. Tyler wanted to work his way through the Tribune with the soul desire to meet and interview Major Taylor; to tell his life's story of the athlete's worldwide success. How the greatest American athlete's success became a great American tragedy.

A Major Problem

Before Jack Johnson, Jackie Robinson, Althea Gibson, and Jesse Owens, Major Taylor was America's first great African-American international sports champion; defeating every cycling champion around the world multiple times.

The son of a former slave, Major Taylor showed interest and love of the new technology of the bicycle in the 1880s. He grew up with White friends of affluence in Indiana, who had access to the new bicycle technology. Taylor mastered the bike with them. As he grew, he developed speed and bike tricks like no other. Always the only Black person to ride in his area near Indianapolis, he was befriended by a White cycling enthusiast and bike manufacturer, Birdie Munger, who believed the young Major Taylor could one day be an American cycling champion. And he did.

Suffering inexplicable racism from riders, fans, promoters, media, etc., Taylor went on to win the American Cycling Championship, the European Championship, and the Australian championship.

Taylor suffered hatred, death threats, cheating, and physical violence from many jealous and racist cyclers, promoters, and fans in the U.S. Yet, he thrived and was beloved in Europe where he was a hero, defeating all European Champions.

Tyler Lincoln revered Major Taylor. He learned of his greatness as a young boy in Vermont and saw one of his races in Boston Massachusetts. Tyler's life fantasy was to be the next Major Taylor but he did not have the athleticism to compete at the highest levels. So, he took pictures with the new photographic devices of the early 20th Century, teaching himself the techniques of fast paced cycling photography.

He hoped to make this his life's work when he moved to Chicago but his editor had other plans for him. With the devastating news of Major Taylor's death, Tyler's ideal career plans were destroyed. Upset with all of this, Tyler took a chance and asked for an interview with a new upstart newspaper, the Chicago Defender. The first African-American owned and operated newspaper in America.

The Chicago Defender

Once considered the most important newspaper of its kind, the Chicago Defender, founded in 1905 by Robert S. Scott, was a critical tool in influencing Blacks in the South to migrate North, creating the Great Migration.

The paper campaigned, and reported on and against the Jim-Crow era violence, urging Blacks in the South to come North. With positive stories about living and working in Chicago aimed at the Southern Black readership, the Defender used graphic depictions of Southern lynching's and killings of Blacks to lure readers. Robert Scott was able to deliver his newspapers to Black Southerners through the Chicago railroad's Black Pullman Porters who worked the southern lines. Placing the Chicago paper into the hands of Southern Blacks.

With the old Republican Party of Abe Lincoln transforming from the Party of the Free to a party of the Ku Klux Klan, the Defender began running articles in opposition to the party and its lack of support to advance Black civil rights. In a final editorial before they switched their allegiances to the Democratic Party, the paper released this statement:

“We want justice in America and we mean to get it. If 50 years of support to the Republican Party doesn’t get us justice, then we must of necessity shift our allegiance to new quarters.”

This marked the beginning of the fall of Black support for the Republican Party.

During this period, the Defender hired writer Langston Hughes to take on these and other critical issues for the Black community. Hughes, who went to primary school in Lincoln Illinois, was the shining star who encouraged Tyler Lincoln to apply for a job at the Defender.

Lincoln's Defender

Tyler's first assignment for the Defender was to cover the funeral of the great American cyclist, Major Taylor. Excited for the assignment, his new love, Constance McDougle, attended with him. Tyler quickly discovered the event to be a horrible experience. The burial for this international superstar was held in a pauper's graveyard at the Chicago's Mount Glenwood Cemetery for Blacks. Aside from being the holder of seven world records for 28 years, Tyler's research discovered that Taylor's life after cycling resulted in the breakup of his family, loss of his race winnings due to failed business investments, and constant racist altercations, discrimination, and pressures.

His declining health and loss of all his earnings, found him living out his remaining days in a South Side Chicago YMCA, penniless. Tyler was devastated that hardly anyone came to the funeral. The greatest athlete in the world was a forgotten man. No press, no family, only a few fans, including the funeral director attending.

Tyler and Constance were mortified at the event. They left the funeral sad, hurt, ever changed, and forever bonded. Their relationship kick started from

this point. However, Constance eventually admitted to Tyler that she was pregnant with Market Street Gang thug, Bugsy Moran's child. She did not want anything to do with Moran nor he her. Tyler's love for her helped him accept the entirety of the situation and he was with Constance every step of the way during her pregnancy and childbirth.

In the winter of 1932, the red-headed Constance McDougle gave birth to a red-headed son, Howard McDougle, *Little Red Howie*. After 10 months of being together and tending Little Howie, Tyler and Constance marry and Constance gives birth to a black-haired second son, Robert Abraham Lincoln, *Little Black Robbie*.

The family settles in Chicago. Tyler explains the Lincoln Will to Constance. They would often take the train from Chicago to Lincoln Illinois to visit the Logan County area and see what they were potentially going to absorb. The magnitude of the vast acreage of undeveloped land was overwhelming. They knew per the will, that they could not even speak to anyone about establishing any use of the land until the agreement of an African-American or Native-American transfer was resolved. They visited the tiny town of Lincoln often to reflect on great-great-Grandpa Abe's legacy and their potential gain.

As the two baby brothers grew in Chicago and Lincoln, the differences between them emerged. Howie or *Little Red*, liked playing with the rough Irish kids at school and in the neighborhood. *Little Black Robbie* liked playing with the Black kids at school and in the neighborhood. The parents did not think much of it until the boys reached 12 and 13 years old. The divisions started to show. Howie would get in more and more trouble with the Irish street kids. Robbie would find himself defending the Black kids when he saw unfairness towards them.

When they traveled to Lincoln, Howie hated the place. Too many cows, pigs, horses, and corn. Robbie, on the other hand, enjoyed the animals and spacious environment. He enjoyed going to cow auctions, sheep competitions, tractor pulls, and the county fair in Lincoln.

As the family spent their summers in Lincoln, Howie continued to get into more trouble there. He would steal watermelons and soybean bushels trying to sell them. He would steal a cow or horse and ride them down the street. He'd bully the local boys and girls. This infuriated his brother, Robbie. He loved the animals and playing with the kids in Lincoln who would show him their farmland world of fun.

Back in Chicago, Howie joined a gang and got caught up in their mischievousness. As the boys reached 16-years old, Howie's gang would harass Robbie's Black friends even more. Robbie would defend them even if it meant getting in fights between the Blacks and Irish.

One son a redhead, the other with a jet-black mane like his great-great-grandfather, their differences just as polar opposite. Though their father, Tyler Lincoln, raised both boys, he tended to give his natural son, Robbie, more focus. As Howie ran the streets, Robbie focused on his studies and close friends. His father taught him to ride a bicycle and they often rode together around the streets of Chicago. Of course, Tyler taught Robbie about Major Taylor and his great accomplishments and perseverance to stand up to racial bigotry and injustice. Taking Robbie to cycle competitions in Chicago and Indianapolis throughout his youth. This obvious separation from Howie affected Constance's mental and physical well-being, as she fell into depression and ill bodily health.

The boys were very different and so were their parents' techniques of raising them. Where Constance allowed them to be free ranging in their development, Tyler was more rigid. Of course, Howie pushed back the rigidity, eventually causing a deeper strain in the relationship. As Tyler tried to emo-

tionally connect with Little Howie, Howie often resisted or acted uninterested. Constance struggled with this dynamic, wanting the boys to be closer with each other and their father. This strained her relationship with her husband.

Once Howie turned 18 and learned who his biological father is, the notorious gangster, Bugsy Moran, Howie's attitude towards Tyler grew coarser. He preferred the relationships of his Irish street gang families. He felt entitled amongst his crew, and they treated him with street respect based on his notorious father. He picked up the nickname Bugsy Boy.

Robbie had a Black girlfriend in high school. At 18, she became pregnant with Robbie's child. This was a big controversy. The girlfriend, Burnadette Sizemore, was forced to leave town by Tyler and his lawyers. She was moved to Lincoln Illinois and set up with a job and small home. Tyler considered actualizing the will terms with her and setting her up with some of the land in Lincoln when the baby arrives.

Consulting his lawyer, he was advised that she did not count as an African slave descendant, but a mixed breed. So she could not receive any of the land. Tyler sent money to Burnadette monthly in agreement to not return to

Chicago before the child was 18 years old. The mother gave birth to a daughter, Barbara Sizemore. This strained the family even more. Constance suffered the most.

A Changing Legacy

By 20-years old, Robbie attended the University of Illinois Champaign near Lincoln. Howie found work in the trades on the Chicago lakefront and in nightclubs. He became known as the street wise-guy, *Bugsy Boy*. Running first with street gangs then with organized crime groups that support various political candidates.

Bugsy Boy was known as a street leader who rubbed elbows with shady Chicago politicians, law enforcement, business, and organized crime characters. He was a ladies man and fathered three children with three women. He ensured that his *guys* look out for his women and children. He was particularly fond of his third child, Howie Jr., born in 1945.

Howie Sr. swore that Howie Jr. would not end up like his father and grandfather, Bugsy Moran. That he would have the best of things. Howie Sr. was constantly on the make to get the up on the next guy. He protected Howie Jr. and paid for the best trade schools in Chicago for him. Howie Sr. was more than happy to show Jr. the ropes of the streets but tried to steer him clear of the worse Chicago swine. A delicate and difficult dance Howie Sr. found

himself having to perform due to his scrupulous life style. Jr. was a sponge, collecting his father's best and worse dirt.

With his illegitimate daughter out of the way, Robbie graduated from Northwestern University of Chicago with a law degree in 1954. He was a track and field athlete all the way through law school, competing in pole vault and the high jump. His famous Lincoln name and scholastic credentials helped him land his first job with the Chicago law firm of Hubbard, Williams, Carter and Hancock; a law firm specializing in prosecuting the streams of Chicago high profile corruption crimes.

However, Robbie worked agriculture and railroad industry cases. He loved visiting clients at their farms throughout Illinois. He married Cora Gene Silver, and in 1950, they had one daughter, Elizabeth Mae Lincoln, they all called her *Liz*.

Early on, Robbie and Howie exposed Howie Jr. and Liz to most of the Chicago landmarks like, the Lincoln Park Zoo, Grant Park, Millennium Park, Buckingham Fountain, Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, the Navy Pier, etc., creating strong bonds between the children.

As the years passed and the children grew, the brothers remained on either sides of the law. Robbie wondered what would happen if Howie Sr. or Jr. were indicted and his firm received the case. The thought of this scenario weighed on Robbie but he never brought it up considering the strong bonds the children were developing. He felt it was only a matter of time before his brother would ask for his help. He knew those bonds could be sacrificed if this happened. Brother's bond teetering.

A Restructured Legacy

As he grew into an elder state, Tyler still had not told the boys, now men with their own children, about the will. He struggled with how and when to tell them about it. Even though Howie Sr. is not his biological son, he considered him a benefactor of the will. He did not want to tell Howie about it due to his lifestyle and sketchy connections. But he knew he could not hide it from him and only tell Robbie.

In an ill state and having lost Constance to Alzheimer's dementia and pneumonia, his health now in decline. Tyler decided to tell his grown sons what awaited them. However, he restructured the will to allow Robbie to have authority over it and that he alone can give Howie as much of the land as he desires as long as Robbie executes the requirements of Old Abe; an African-American or Native American must be gifted $\frac{1}{4}$ of his portion of the land. If the requirements were not executed prior to Robbie's death, then Robbie's wife Cora and daughter, Liz, would be next in line to execute the land deal. The same requirements and options would be sustained; to give any portion they desired to Howie. In the event of the demise of Robbie's wife, Cora, daughter Liz will be sole executor of the will. In the demise of Liz prior to

her execution of the will, the land would go to the state of Illinois, where state lawmakers could change the will as they saw fit.

Tyler and his firm worked for three decades with Illinois probate courts and many lawyers to restructure the Lincoln Will to meet these requirements, even though he never executed it. Normally an illegal act, as the will did not allow for any adjustments prior to execution. Tyler was able to work deals with various state and Chicago City lawyers, finding loopholes and creative ways to influence judges and other lawyers to benefit them and the state of Illinois by changing the will in the state's favor. Many of the lawyers wanted to eliminate the Black or Indian clause but Tyler was adamant about the clause. This delayed the process for decades but he was finally able to work deals to eliminate the Black/Indian clause only after all relatives were deceased. Howie Sr. or Jr. were still not guaranteed any land without Robbie's or his descendant's or the State's approval.

The big reveal completely changed the dynamic of how Howie and Robbie related to each other. With so much at stake, Howie was much more careful with his behaviors, contacts, business dealings, family relations, and personal foibles. He knew his brother the lawyer, had the power to change his future.

He frequently brought little Howie Jr. to Robbie's house for Sunday dinners. He disassociated himself from the street level low life's. He stopped being on the make all the time. This was not easy for him as his entire life was dirty. He struggled to act and behave differently and it showed. Robbie knew what was going on but he appreciated Howie's attempt to change his ways. He knew it was most likely an act. He hoped in time the act would be permanent.

Howie was anxious for old man Tyler's death, so he could ramp up his efforts to schmooze Robbie into his portion of the land. He knew he could not constantly bring up the Lincoln land subject to Robbie; he didn't want to appear anxious. He wanted a large share and knew everything depended upon his relationship with Robbie.

Howie dreamed of the dollar signs once Robbie released his portion. He also knew he could not screw this thing up with Robbie or he would be out of the deal. He was cocky-confident that he would be successful in convincing Robbie that he was a loving brother and father after a life lived counter to everything Robbie was about.

Howie's Ultimate Hustle

Tyler Lincoln passed on November 1, 1960, All Saints Day. The loss of their grandfather was devastating to young Liz and Howie Jr. A great day for Howie Sr., kicking his family friendly persona into full gear. Robbie now controls the will.

The next year, Howie Jr.'s mother dies of syphilis. Howie Sr. became a full time father. As much as he tried to be the dutiful dad, he often dropped off Howie Jr. at Robbie and Cora's house so he could, 'take care of a few things.' Robbie and Cora loved Howie Jr. and always glad to take him in. They wanted to break the negative influences his father had on him. Realizing with him always at the house it was easier to get the kids to school and after-school activities together. Cora willingly mothered the children full time. Robbie taught them discipline and how to study. Howie Jr. loved being older cousin to Liz by five years.

Howie Sr. would be with his son on the weekends, holidays, and special events. Those father/son moments continued to influence Howie Jr., exposing him to the true ways of his father. He took him to Arlington Park and

Hawthorne horse racing tracks and to off-track betting parlors. He brought him to the Reagan Colt Club for Men in South Chicago. Spending time at the former Reagan Colts gang hang-out, later becoming the Athletic Organization for men and boys. The club was founded by the original Colt Gang who once worked with mob boss, Al Capone, as Irish bootleggers. Young Howie Jr. engaged with many of the once notorious gang members like; William "Gunner" McPadden, Joseph "Dynamite" Brooks, Hughey "Stubby" McGovern, and Davy "Yiddles" Miller of the Sheldon Gang.

Young Liz looked up to her cousin Howie Jr. As they grew, he showed her things around the city her father would not approve of—his father's influence strong in him. After high school, Howie Jr. attended the American University in Washington D.C., thanks to Robbie's training and influence.

Howie Sr. struggled with accepting higher education for his son, rather wanting him to learn a trade, but he tampered down his emotions to not upset Robbie. Liz attended the University of Chicago, studying anthropology.

Howie Jr. went on to Northwestern Law School like his surrogate step-father, Uncle Robbie, while Liz settled as a researcher at the Field Museum of Natural History in downtown Chicago.

November 1, 1965, Howie Sr. was found dead. Shot 10 times in an alley behind a gambling house and brothel in Calumet. The devastating news ripped the family apart as Robbie blamed Howie Sr. for leading a lurid life. Howie Jr. resented Uncle Robbie's attitude towards his father now. The intensity of it all became too much for Robbie's wife, Cora. She flew home to Rocky Mount North Carolina and never returned.

Howie Jr. took a staff attorney job for an international trade corporation, traveling the world. Liz began to hate Chicago. With her new Chicago husband, Chuck Wagner, they moved to Lincoln, ground zero for the land inheritance. Her father, Robbie, began to depress, aging rapidly.

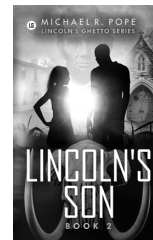
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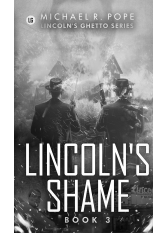
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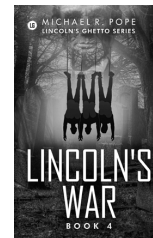
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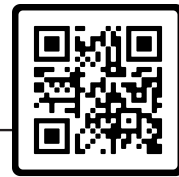




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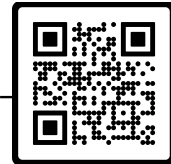
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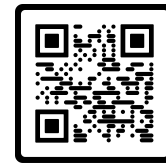
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