



Charles Shippen Lincoln

Born: January 30, 1827 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Died: April 11, 1901 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Clerk of Court: 1875-1901

Mr. Lincoln served as the Clerk of the Court for a period of twenty-six years, from 1875 to 1901.

At the time of his death in 1901, the following obituary notices appeared about him that summarize his life and career:

Charles Shippen Lincoln.¹

Charles Shippen Lincoln, Clerk of the United States District Court, passed away Thursday morning at his home, 1610 Master [S]treet, Philadelphia. His death was not unexpected, as he had been ill in bed since last October, when he was stricken with paralysis while on duty in his office in the Post [] office Building and removed in an ambulance of the Jefferson Medical College Hospital to his home.

He was born in Philadelphia, January 30, 1827. For over forty years his father, Abel Lincoln, kept a grocery store at Fifth and Callowhill streets. His mother's maiden name was Rachel Housekeeper. After being graduated with high honors from the High School, he read law in the office of the late Judge Cadwalader, and was admitted to the Bar. In 1857 he was appointed Assistant Coiner in the Mint. While holding this office, it is said, he was instrumental in detecting large frauds which were being perpetrated on the Government by the theft of bullion. He continued to be Assistant Coiner till 1862, when he was appointed Deputy Clerk of the United States District Court, under Gilbert R. Fox, who was then Clerk.

¹ *Charles Shippen Lincoln*, THE OXFORD PRESS (OXFORD, PENNSYLVANIA) (Apr. 18, 1901), <http://www.newspapers.com/image/1033354539>

When Mr. Fox resigned, in 1875, Judge Cadwalader appointed Mr. Lincoln to succeed to the office of Clerk, and he continued to hold the office till his death, having been reappointed successively by Judge Butler and Judge McPherson.

Mr. Lincoln was often commended by the Government examiners who visited this district for the efficient manner in which he conducted his office, and he was highly esteemed by members of the Bar as a courteous gentlemen and one thoroughly conversant with both the practice of the Court in general and the cases in his district in particular.

He leaves his wife, who was Miss Anna Reynolds, formerly of Rising Sun, Md., and four sons—Henry P. Lincoln, Principal Assistant Engineer of the Buffalo Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad; Dr. William R. Lincoln and Dr. Walter R. Lincoln, who are specialists in Cleveland, Ohio, and George W. Lincoln, at present a student at the Jefferson Medical College.

Charles S. Lincoln Succumbs to Paralysis² For a Generation He Was Clerk of the U.S. District Court

Charles S. Lincoln, clerk of the United States District Court, died at his home, 1610 Master [S]treet, early yesterday morning after an illness of six months. His death was caused by paralysis, resulting, it is said, from overwork.

Although 73 years old, Mr. Lincoln was, when stricken, one of the most active men in the office. His continued close application taxed his endurance, ending with a total collapse last October.

Mr. Lincoln was born in Philadelphia January 30, 1827. After graduating from the High School he began the study of law and some years later was admitted to the bar. From 1857 until 1862 he was assistant coiner at the Mint. In the latter year he was appointed deputy clerk of the United States District Court. In 1875 he was appointed clerk. During the many prize money cases heard in the United States Court in this city following the Civil War Mr. Lincoln handled millions of dollars and was highly commended by the government for his [faithfulness].

A wife and four sons survive him, two of whom, Dr. William R. and Dr. Walter R., are well known medical men. Henry P., another son, is the principal assistant engineer of the Buffalo division of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The fourth son, George W. Lincoln, is a student at Jefferson College. The funeral services will be [held] on Monday afternoon at the Church of the Restoration, Seventeenth and Master streets.

² *Charles S. Lincoln Succumbs to Paralysis*, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA) (Apr. 12, 1901), <http://www.newspapers.com/image/168183549>

Charles S. Lincoln Buried³
Late Clerk in United States District Court Laid to Rest.

Charles S. Lincoln, clerk of the United States District Court, who died a few days ago of paralysis, was buried yesterday afternoon from the Church of the Restoration, Seventeenth and Master streets. The Rev. J. Clarence Lee, pastor of the church, conducted the funeral services, the pall-bearers being Cornelius Moore, Louis J. Hood, Delmar Colflesh, J. Clarence Conroy, William Ruff and Isaac Bangan. The interment was made at Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Lincoln was born in Philadelphia January 30, 1827. He was graduated from the Central High School and soon after began the study of law and was admitted to the bar a few years later. He was assistant at the Mint from 1857 to 1862, and was appointed deputy clerk of the United States District Court in the latter year, and in 1875 was appointed clerk. A widow and four sons survive him, Dr. William R., Dr. Walter R., Henry P. and George W. Lincoln.

A large number of the junior and senior members of the bar gathered in the United States Court early in the afternoon to take action in regard to the death of Mr. Lincoln. An eulogistic address was made by Henry R. Edmonds to the court on behalf of the bar. Judge McPherson replied and the court adjourned for the remainder of the afternoon.

Death Takes C.S. Lincoln⁴
He Was the Oldest United States Court Clerk in the Country.
Had Served for 39 Years

Charles S. Lincoln, clerk of the United States District Court, died yesterday morning at his home, 1610 Master [S]treet, having been afflicted with paralysis caused by overwork.

On October 19, 1900, he was first stricken while at work in his office. He was hurried to the Jefferson Hospital, where he rallied and was moved to his home, to which he had been confined since that time.

Lincoln had the distinction of being the oldest clerk in any United States District Court, having reached the advanced age of 74 years. He was born in this city January 30, 1827, his parents being Abel and Rachel Lincoln, who for more than forty years conducted a grocery at Fifth and Callowhill streets, and both of whom also reached an advanced age.

³ *Charles S. Lincoln Buried*, THE PHILADELPHIA TIMES (PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA) (Apr. 16, 1901), <http://www.newspapers.com/image/52581785>

⁴ *Death Takes C.S. Lincoln*, THE PHILADELPHIA TIMES (PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA) (Apr. 12, 1901), <http://www.newspapers.com/image/52581712>

He received his education in this city's public schools. After graduating with high honors from the High School, Lincoln began the study of law with John Cadwalader and was admitted to the bar. He followed the practice of his profession until he was appointed assistant coiner of the Mint, a position he held from 1857 to 1862.

Appointed Clerk in 1862.

In the latter year he was appointed deputy clerk of the United States District Court, acting under Clerk G. R. Fox, whom he succeeded in 1865, receiving his appointment from Judge Cadwalader.

Since that time he has been retained continuously in the office, receiving reappointments from Judges Butler and McPherson. His first extended absence was caused by his illness, which terminated fatally.

During the period immediately after his appointment as clerk in 1865, the court was overrun with prize money cases growing out of the war, and Lincoln was highly commended by the United States examiners at that time for his efficient handling of the accounts, aggregating millions of dollars.

At all times most courteous and affable, he filled a position in the court in a way which, together with his wide knowledge of the law, will make his loss a most serious one to the government officials.

Four Successful Sons.

Besides his wife, Lincoln leaves four children. Henry P. Lincoln, principal assistant engineer of the Buffalo division of the Pennsylvania Railroad; Dr. William Lincoln and Dr. Walter Lincoln, both of Cleveland, Ohio and George W. Lincoln, a student at Jefferson Medical College.

Funeral services will be held Monday afternoon in the Church of the Restoration, Seventeenth and Master streets, the burial being private.