

Learning From Lincoln - EDUCATION

September 2011

As the back-to-school season begins, we might gain perspective on education by reading Lincoln's words.



"Upon the subject of education, not presuming to dictate any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in."

March 9, 1832, First Political Announcement

Lincoln's own formal schooling was very short, and he described his education in an autobiography written in 1860. Note that he wrote about himself in the third person.

"Abraham now thinks that the aggregate of all his schooling did not amount to one year. He was never in a college or academy as a student, and never inside of a college or academy building till since he had a law license. What he has in the way of education he has picked up. After he was twenty-three and had separated from his father, he studied English grammar-imperfectly, of course, but so as to speak and write as well as he now does. He studied and nearly mastered the six books of Euclid since he was a member of Congress. He regrets his want of education, and does what he can to supply the want."

This method of self-directed study Lincoln used to prepare for a career in law. He described that process in a letter to John M. Brockman on September 25, 1860.

"The mode [of studying law] is very simple, though laborious, and tedious. It is only to get the books, and read, and study them carefully. Begin with Blackstone's Commentaries, and after reading it carefully through, say twice,

take up Chitty's Pleading, Greenleaf's Evidence, & Story's Equity &c. in succession. Work, work, work, is the main thing."

Want to learn more about Lincoln?

October 26-28, 2011 - 3-day seminar in Gettysburg, PA
"LEADERSHIP FOR TIMES OF CHANGE: LESSONS FROM LINCOLN"
For program details: www.HistoricLeadershipTraining.com

-OR-

Bring your group to Gettysburg for a customized seminar (or let us bring the seminar to your location). Contact us at www.HistoricLeadershipTraining.com.

Sincerely,

Antigoni and Everett Ladd

Historic Leadership Training, Gettysburg, PA
717-334-9089 - Office
717-334-6388 - Fax
www.historicleadershiptraining.com