

John C. Ackerman

Tazewell County Board

Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service

February 11th, 2010

***** News Update *****

**[Introduction of Abraham Lincoln to the
Jr. High Students in Tremont and Dee-Mack Schools](#)**

Good morning/afternoon students.

Tomorrow we will be celebrating the birth of by far one of the most complex, intriguing, influential individual America has ever seen. His life and history is by far one of the most written about and studied of all time. While he was the 16th President of the United States, history has recorded him as easily in the top three, if not the top, Presidents this county has every had lead.

One of things Abraham Lincoln is best known for is using stories, many of which involved his earlier life here in Illinois, in discussions with others. In that light, let me share one with you.

Once while visiting the army's telegraph office in Washington DC., the President came across three lost kittens. He picked up one of the mewling kittens and said, "Where's your mother?"

An officer overhearing Lincoln said, "Sir, the mother is dead."

"Well," said Lincoln, stroking the kitten, "she can't grieve as many a poor mother is mourning for a son lost in battle."

Gathering the other kittens in his lap, he petted them and said gently, "Kittens, thank God you are cats and can't understand the terrible strife going on."

Then he turned to the officer in charge. "See that these poor little motherless waifs are given plenty of milk and treated kindly."

Earlier that day, the hand that was then caring for three motherless kittens had signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Students please stand and help me welcome the 16th President of the United States and your speaker today, Abraham Lincoln.

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