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LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH
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Dr. Louis A. Warren - Editor

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THE LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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The Lincoln National Life Insurance
Company

An enterprise, planted in the soil of service, authorized to take the name of the Great Emancipator, and flowering in the sunlight of Lincoln ideals and Lincoln humanness might be expected to wish to pay some special tribute to his name.

For many years, accordingly, the officials of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company had been seeking a way to capstone their interest in Lincoln and Lincolniana with a specific, organized, and public service medium that might accomplish concretely some of the things of which they had been dreaming. This search culminated on Lincoln's birthday, 1928, in the establishment of The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

To answer questions so frequently asked concerning the purpose, scope, and work of the Foundation, this special issue of Lincoln Lore is published.

It should be noted, however, that long before the definite founding of this institution, Lincoln Life men were expressing keen interest in matters of Lincoln history and homage. President Arthur F. Hall had long been an ardent Lincoln student, enthusiast, and amateur collector. Samuel Foster, chairman of the board, and many another member of the organization had put much time and study into things Lincolnian. The establishment of the Foundation, however, enabled this interest to be centralized, organized, and developed with adequate facilities and with a noted Lincoln scholar at its head.

It so happened that, during the campaign for the Indiana Lincoln Memorial, President Hall, who was serving as director in the northern area, came in contact with Louis A. Warren, Lincoln historian, who was lecturing in the interests of the memorial project. Incidentally Mr. Hall learned of

the enormous amount of research work which Dr. Warren had done. After reading a book which presented in detail some of Dr. Warren's findings, and familiarizing himself with the author's record, Mr. Hall became convinced that he had found just the man to lead the group of Lincoln enthusiasts of his Company. The thought crystallized into action and The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation was born. Dr. Warren accepted the invitation to become its organizer and head.

Dr. Warren began his serious studies of Lincoln more than a decade ago, while editor of a newspaper at Hodgenville, the birthplace of Lincoln. A systematic research of Kentucky court records was conducted which resulted in the most valuable contribution thus far made, to our knowledge, of Lincoln's parentage and childhood. His book covering this subject, published by Century, in 1926, is the recognized authority on this phase of Lincoln's life. The same type of research was pursued in Virginia to gain a knowledge of Lincoln's ancestors, and now Indiana and Illinois fields are being approached in a scientific manner.

The information gathered by Dr. Warren has contributed much to Lincolniana, and his thorough and dependable work is being recognized in many educational circles. At the commencement exercises of Lincoln Memorial University, in 1929, he was one of a group of four, including Governor Lowden, Senator Moses, and Rev. Frederick Shannon, who received honorary degrees. The degree, Doctor of Letters, was conferred upon the director of The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation. Those who might be interested in some of the personal items relating to Dr. Warren's career may refer to the current year's issue of "Who's Who in America."

The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation, which Dr. Warren directs, is engaged in a fascinating series of enterprises: Collecting, exhibiting, publishing, research, etc. Seven bureaus constitute the organizational structure of the Foundation.

The Research bureau aims to interpret the life and ideals of Lincoln as revealed in authorized public records and original manuscripts.

The Exhibit bureau collects portraits, curios, medals, souvenirs, etc., for public display.

The Memorial bureau marks sites of historical significance associated with Lincoln, and emphasizes anniversary occasions.

The Information bureau compiles and indexes all available information bearing on the subject of Lincolniana.

The Educational bureau promotes contests, arranges programs, and stimulates interest in the study of Lincoln's life.

The Publication bureau prepares historical data for release in books,

pamphlets, and magazines. Incidentally, Lincoln Lore is a project of the Publication bureau.

Finally, the Speakers' bureau provides speakers for meetings of civic clubs, school groups, church organizations, etc.

During the short period that The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation has been established, much has been accomplished in addition to organization and planning. A vast amount of source material has been collected. The Foundation has guided the Company in the purchase of more than two thousand manuscripts of great historical value. Preparing this material for publication has been an important project for the Foundation which is far more than a mere depository.

The Foundation has devoted itself to a very full program in all the fields laid out. A vast amount of correspondence has been conducted. Hundreds of Lincoln speeches have been delivered. Many contributions have been made to magazines, to the press, and to historical publications. Lincoln Lore has been established as a connecting link with several hundred ardent Lincoln "fans". It has also been enthusiastically received by special libraries, collectors, and editors.

Dr. Warren's lecture engagements are of more than passing interest. Through them he has contacted with thousands of people in many states. His engagements have included addresses before colleges, large business organizations, learned societies, luncheon clubs, and state legislatures.

It is the desire of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, which entirely supports the Foundation without financial assistance from any other source, that the public use the facilities of the Foundation freely, and that it may help thus in the growing appreciation of that kindly, noble character. Correspondence on Lincoln subjects is invited from editors, collectors, and investigators. Dr. Warren's services are available without fee, for addresses on Lincoln subjects, where his program and itinerary can be arranged. It is expected, of course, that his actual expenses will be borne by the groups before whom he appears when lecturing.

The program of the Foundation for the future is an ambitious one. Dr. Warren is developing for publication many brochures and a series of books as well as an exhibit collection and many other items in line with the bureau organization of the Foundation.

This outline of the work of The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation is, of necessity, brief and sketchy, but perhaps it will serve its part in giving a general picture of the present organization, management, and plans of the Foundation, and some forecast of its program for the future.