

LINCOLN LORE

No. 91

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

January 5, 1931

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF
THE LINCOLN
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



ENDOWED BY
THE LINCOLN
NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE
COMPANY

Dr. Louis A. Warren

Editor

DEDICATION OF LINCOLN MUSEUM

It is timely to announce in this initial 1931 bulletin an event of special interest to every reader of Lincoln Lore, and all admirers of Abraham Lincoln. On February 11, just on the eve of Lincoln's birthday, the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation will dedicate its Lincoln Museum.

The museum occupies the fourth floor of the company's beautiful home office building and offers the research worker every possible advantage to be found in a modern library equipment. Special attention has been given to its card index files which allow an immediate approach to the thousands of Lincoln items systematically arranged in its manuscript files and book cases.

The enormous amount of source material which has been assembled assures those interested in Lincoln Lore that the editors of this bulletin have an inexhaustible supply of important Lincoln data from which to compile their contributions week by week.

It is difficult in the limited space allowed by this bulletin to visualize the great mass of literature and illustrative items of various kinds which have been brought together.

The most important collections which comprise the complete exhibit are briefly described in the paragraphs which follow:

Executive's Collection

For many years officials of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company have been gathering items associated with and referring to Abraham Lincoln. The famous Brady photograph of the president, which was presented to Mr. Arthur F. Hall at the time he organized the company twenty-five years ago, formed the nucleus of the collection. Such items as the original Pickett bronze, a replica of the Lincoln bust by Volk, also many portraits and curios have been gathered during the life of the organization. The presence of these rare and valuable items encouraged the establishment of the present museum.

Foundation Collection

For the past three years a concerted effort has been made to build up an outstanding collection of Lincolniana. Many valuable items, such as Lincoln letters, rare broadsides, medals and much current literature, have been

secured, augmenting greatly the memorials gathered in years past. Representatives of the company out in the field have supplemented the contributions made by the home office force.

The director of the foundation brought to its archives at the time of his appointment three valuable collections of records known as the Helm-Haycraft collection of early Kentucky manuscripts, the Hitchcock collection of Hanks family papers, and the Warren collection of copied court records.

Helm-Haycraft Collection

The early Kentucky manuscripts in the Helm-Haycraft collection, about 2,000 in number were gathered over 100 years ago by John Helm, the surveyor, and Samuel Haycraft, the historian, in the communities where Lincoln's parents lived.

These old records provide a documentary background for the activities of Thomas Lincoln and his neighbors. The signatures of hundreds of early citizens who were directly associated or related to the Lincolns appear on these papers.

Hitchcock Collection

The Hanks papers, including 1,200 genealogical lists of Hanks families and hundreds of letters and records of the family were brought together thirty years ago by Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock. This is by far the largest collection of Hanks papers and pictures extant.

These records were gathered on both England and America while many of the older members of the Hanks families who remembered Abraham Lincoln still lived.

Warren Collection

The Warren collection of Lincoln source material represents the personal efforts put forth, during the past ten years, by the director of the foundation, in the county court houses of Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, where thousands of records bearing on the Lincoln and cognate families were copied.

Thompson Collection

About two years ago the foundation purchased the Richard Thompson collection of manuscripts consisting of some Lincoln letters and valuable correspondence contemporaneous with Lincoln's term in Congress and his years as president. There are more than 2,000 manuscripts in this collection.

This is practically all unpublished material and will help materially in showing the political status of the western country over a period of many years.

Daniel Fish Collection

During 1930, two remarkable collections of Lincolniana have been purchased. The Daniel Fish library at Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the David

H. Griffith collection at Fisk, Wisconsin.

The collection of Lincoln literature gathered over a period of a great many years by Judge Fish and undisturbed since his death in 1924 need not be described to Lincoln collectors. Fish was one of the original "Big Five" Lincoln collectors and the first bibliographer to publish an exhaustive list of Lincoln publications. It is needless to say that his collection up to the time of the publication of his work in 1906 was as complete as he could make it.

With this collection came hundreds of letters chiefly the correspondence carried on between Fish and his four associates, Lambert, McLellan, Stewart and Oakleaf. The Fish collection also contained a large number of Lincoln portraits, and miscellaneous Lincoln items.

David H. Griffith Collection

Another library, not so well known, but in some respects a more remarkable collection than the one gathered by Daniel Fish, was purchased from David H. Griffith, of Fisk, Wisconsin. It proves to be an excellent supplement to the Fish collection as it has been brought up to date, few Lincoln numbers of recent years escaping this most diligent collector.

One of the features of the Griffith collection is the enormous amount of periodicals it includes. The newspapers and magazines containing Lincoln articles literally running into tons. Hundreds of programs, catalogs, broadsides; in fact, everything that in any way related to Lincoln was eagerly sought by Mr. Griffith.

Program

The program, now in the process of construction, guarantees to all of our guests a maximum contribution of both inspiration and information.

A formal invitation to attend this celebration will reach all of our Lincoln Lore friends in due season.

It is needless to say that the assembling of these many collections of Lincolniana in a modern fire-proof building is in itself an accomplishment of which the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company can feel proud. To make this source material available to Lincoln students for research purposes under the most agreeable working conditions possible is another contribution worth while.

The interest which hundreds of Lincoln students are taking in the work of the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation promises, at the dedication of the museum and library, one of the largest gatherings of noted Lincoln students which has ever assembled in the Hoosier state.

This preliminary announcement of the event is sent out to the readers of Lincoln Lore, anticipating that many of them will want to mark this day on their new calendars