

# LINCOLN LORE

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## LINCOLN LORE

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Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

### MANSHIP'S STATUE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The ceremonies to be observed here in Fort Wayne on Friday, September 16, upon the dedication of the Lincoln statue will serve a dual purpose. Not only will "Abraham Lincoln, the Hoosier Youth" by Paul Manship be unveiled but it is hoped that this event will serve as an incentive to a more dependable interpretation of Lincoln's early years.

Statues of Abraham Lincoln occupy prominent sites in many cities, and some are to be found far withdrawn from centers of population. They represent Lincoln in many poses and several of them are directly connected with historical events which occurred on or near the spot where they stand. Other statues have attempted to preserve certain characteristics in the life of the president.

The statue at Fort Wayne, which is by far the finest exhibit associated with the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation, points to a whole period in Lincoln's life, the important formative years.

While the statue presents Lincoln at the age of twenty-one, just as he reaches manhood, and is the first attempt in bronze to portray him as a youth, in reality it memorializes those fourteen years between seven and twenty-one which he spent in the Hoosier state. It will be observed that one-fourth of his whole life is covered by his Indiana residence.

This study in bronze is by no means a matter of guess work, although it is admitted that no actual portrait of Lincoln is available before his thirty-seventh year. It is the creation of a skilled workman who exhausted every scientific means within his reach to portray Abraham Lincoln as he must have looked in 1830. The heavily muscled rugged woodsman whom Herndon described as a young giant weighing 210 pounds and of florid complexion, is here portrayed in a mood which overshadows these purely physical features.

In this day when so much attention is being given to the studying of the formative years of youth, too much emphasis cannot be placed on this period in Lincoln's life. Many of the secrets of his later achievements are wrapped up in the experiences of his youth.

The location of this statue in Indiana is timely indeed as Lincoln might be said to personify the early history

of the state. Lincoln was born the same year that Indiana was set apart as a separate territory. He came into the state the same year Indiana was received into the Union as a state. While he was growing up from a small child to the height of six feet four inches Indiana was growing in population from 63,000 to 341,582. Lincoln left the state in 1830, the

date chosen by the Indiana Pioneers' Association as the year concluding the pioneer history of the state.

This statue might well represent the rugged pioneer youth of that early day who lived so close to nature in the great wilderness. While most of them lived on plain food they were not under-nourished; although formal schooling was of brief duration they were not illiterate; and, granted that their first and often their life's task was clearing the forests, they were men with souls as well as men of muscle.

Paul Manship's "Hoosier Youth" may well claim kinship to Lorado Taft's "Pioneer Group" at Elmwood, Illinois, or Bryant Baker's "The Pioneer Woman" at Topeka.

While every effort will be made at the dedication of this masterpiece to give to the sculptor and those directly responsible for its creation, their well deserved praise, it is felt that there should grow out of these ceremonies a deep and abiding conviction that Abraham Lincoln was neither an under-privileged child nor a child prodigy.

It is hoped that this statue will convey the impression that Lincoln was a typical pioneer youth, not so much unlike the other boys who grew up at that time in the pioneer communities of the west. If Lincoln is going to be preserved as an ideal for American youth he should be presented as a very human young man. If the Manship bronze shall become, as we very much desire, the medium through which Lincoln as a youth is to be visualized, then much progress will have been made in removing the purely legendary character who bears the name Abraham Lincoln.

There is one more milestone in the study of Abraham Lincoln which it is hoped that this statue will memorialize, and that is a better understanding of his parentage and ancestry.

This figure created by Manship is not the descendant of "poor white trash," "migratory squatters," or "drifting, roaming people struggling with poverty." This Hoosier youth is the child of respectable parents whose ancestry on both sides will compare favorably with the best class of immigrants who came to the western country in the latter part of the 18th century.

This youth of Manship's is not the son of unknown parents nor the descendant of irresponsible individuals which have been brought into the Lincoln picture with no more authority than idle gossip can furnish.

In other words this statue, associated with The Lincoln Historical Research Foundation, will stand as a monument to the constructive studies which the foundation is trying to make and which it hopes will give to the world a dependable foundation on which to build an enduring story of Abraham Lincoln.

### DEDICATION OF LINCOLN STATUE

Friday, September 16, 1932  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Unveiling, 11:30 A. M.

#### Music

Military Band.  
Cyrena Van Gordon, soloist.

#### Salute

Presidential salute by the National Rifle Corps of the American Legion.

#### Addresses

Hon. Arthur M. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States.

Hon. James E. Watson, United States Senator from Indiana.

Dr. Joseph R. Sizoo, Pastor, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C., the church Lincoln attended while president.

Mr. Arthur F. Hall, President, The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.

Lincoln Student's Assembly 1:30 P. M.

A symposium of brief addresses by prominent visitors has been arranged for the assembly room in the Company building.

The Youth's Hour, 2:30 P. M.

Convocation of school children of Fort Wayne with addresses by prominent leaders of youth.

#### Notes

Reservation for seats will be made for those who will advise the local committee in advance that they expect to attend. These tickets may be secured upon arrival at the registration desk in the foyer of the Lincoln National Life building.

The Pennsylvania Railroad will run a special train from Chicago to Fort Wayne and return, which will give rapid and cheap transportation for those attending the dedication from Chicago and nearby points.

The train will leave Chicago at 7:15 a. m. arriving in time for the ceremonies. Other details about this special train can be secured by writing to the director of the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

Every person on our Lincoln Lore mailing list will receive an invitation to attend this dedication. We will be pleased to invite anyone interested in Lincoln whose name is forwarded to us.