

LINCOLN LORE

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THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN'S BIRTH

February 12, 1934

The one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth occurs on February 12, 1934, and it is not too early to make preparations for a general observance of this day.

It might be said that the nation-wide celebration of the centennial of Lincoln's birth in 1909 did more to draw the attention of the American people to this outstanding personality of the nation than any other event since his assassination.

The one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary must not go by unnoticed but should be utilized to acquaint a new generation with the high and noble ideals which have made Abraham Lincoln one of the great characters of all time.

Some announcements of events already planned and suggestions for other anniversary gatherings are presented in this copy of Lincoln Lore.

Religious Services

The fact that Lincoln's birthday comes on Monday makes a Lincoln sermon on Sunday, February 11, especially appropriate in any pulpit. There is scarcely a religious body that did not make some contribution to Lincoln, the composite Christian. Lincoln, while President, was a regular attendant at the Presbyterian church; his wife was originally an Episcopalian; his father died a loyal member of the Disciples; his mother was a Baptist; both his mother and his step-mother were married by Methodist clergymen; his ancestors came under a Quaker influence; his early American forebears were Puritans; and his first school teacher was of Catholic faith.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation will be pleased to forward a list of books bearing on the subject of Lincoln's religion to any one who may desire such information.

Boy Scout Pilgrimage

The following clause is copied from the by-laws of the Boy Scouts of America:

"Anniversary week shall take place annually during the month of February so as to include February 8, the day of the original incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America, and to continue through February 12th, Lincoln's birthday."

It is further recommended by the Boy Scout executives that some Lincoln program be arranged each year for Lincoln's birthday.

With this very interesting and inspirational background a Lincoln Statue Pilgrimage has already been planned by the Lincoln National Life Foundation by which every boy scout making a pilgrimage on February 12 to some statue of Lincoln will receive an award in the form of a portrait of the bronze statue "Lincoln the Hoosier Youth." The Foundation has already

been assured of the hearty co-operation of the director of publications for the Boy Scout movement.

The following cities which have Lincoln statues will be the magnetic centers for these pilgrimages: Alliance, O.; Boise, Idaho; Boston, Mass.; Brooklyn, N. Y.; Buffalo, N. Y.; Bunker Hill, Ill.; Burlington, Wisc.; Chicago, Ill.; Cincinnati, O.; Cleveland, O.; Clinton, Ill.; Detroit, Mich.; Dixon, Ill.; East Orange, N. J.; Fort Wayne, Ind.; Frankfort, Ky.; Freeport, Ill.; Gettysburg, Pa.; Hodgenville, Ky.; Jefferson, Ia.; Jersey City, N. J.; Kenosha, Wisc.; Lincoln, Nebr.; Lincoln, N. J.; Long Beach, Calif.; Louisville, Ky.; Madison, Wisc.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Muskegon, Mich.; Newark, N. J.; New York, N. Y.; Omaha, Nebr.; Pana, Ill.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Portland, Oreg.; Rochester, N. Y.; San Francisco, Calif.; Spokane, Wash.; Springfield, Ill.; Tacoma, Wash.; Topeka, Kans.; Urbana, Ill.; Wabash, Ind.

Newspapers and Magazines

The most important factors contributing to a nation-wide observance of the centennial of Lincoln's birth in 1909 were the timely articles appearing in the newspapers and magazines. More has been written about Lincoln than about any other American, yet each year an increasing volume of information relating to him comes from the press.

Feature writers desiring to gather data for Lincoln stories are invited to use the facilities offered by the Foundation which has compiled the largest collection of literature about Lincoln ever assembled. Over four thousand separate titles, two thousand collateral works, three thousand magazine articles, and much original source material is available. More than three thousand Lincoln pictures are in the files of the Foundation.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation is in a position to supply source material which may be worked over into interesting and timely articles and back numbers of Lincoln Lore containing this data will be furnished gratis upon request.

Father and Son Banquets

The period surrounding Lincoln's birthday has become utilized more and more for the get-together dinners arranged by various groups for father and son programs. Lincoln so often called "Father Abraham," himself a father of four boys, makes an inspirational character around which to build a program. Information about Lincoln's father and Lincoln's sons is available through the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

School Assemblies

It is very likely that nearly every school assembly will observe the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

Books of plays and pageants can be

purchased which offer fine suggestions for arranging a Lincoln program.

Lincoln Lore bulletins are adaptable for short readings by pupils and they will be furnished gratis to schools which have occasion to use such material.

Speakers Bureau

Luncheon groups, historical societies, woman's clubs, and other organizations which plan to have a special speaker would do well to make their engagements early as anyone who has a knowledge of Lincoln will be in demand during February.

The Speakers Bureau of this Foundation will be glad to send the names of men versed in Lincoln history who might be available for a Lincoln address.

Lincoln Student's Auto Tour

Each year increasing numbers of Lincoln admirers are driving through the Lincoln country in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. There has been an urgent demand that the editor of Lincoln Lore personally conduct a tour which would touch the principal points of interest associated with the life of Lincoln.

Plans are now underway to inaugurate, during the year of the 125th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, an annual pilgrimage to Lincoln shrines, the first one to be conducted in 1934 starting from Lexington, Kentucky, home of Mary Todd, on June 12, the day on which Lincoln's parents were married. These points will be touched on the itinerary:

Kentucky

Lincoln marriage cabin, Harrodsburg; Widow Lincoln's home site, Beech Fork, Washington County; "Old Kentucky Home" and St. Joseph Cathedral, Bardstown; Gethsemane Abbey, Nelson County; Lincoln's first school site, Athertonville; Lincoln Knob Creek home, La Rue County; Lincoln birth place farm, Hodgenville; first home site of Lincoln's parents, Elizabethtown; burial grounds of Lincoln's grandmother, Mill Creek, Hardin County.

Indiana

Cannelton, eastern terminal of Indiana Lincoln Memorial Highway; Anderson River Ferry, Spencer County; Indiana home of Lincoln and grave of Nancy Hanks, Lincoln City; Gentryville, where Lincoln clerked in store; Vincennes, western terminal of Indiana Lincoln Memorial Highway.

Illinois

Charleston, where Lincoln practiced law; Thomas Lincoln home, Farmington; Matoon, site of Lincoln address; first Lincoln home in Illinois, near Decatur; Lincoln-Douglas Memorial, Bement; Springfield, with its many Lincoln shrines; the recently restored village of New Salem; and the sites of interest at Petersburg, Beardstown, Havana, Pekin, Peoria, Metamora, Ottawa, and Chicago.