

# LINCOLN LORE

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## LINCOLN LORE SOURCE MATERIAL

The publication of the bulletin, *Lincoln Lore*, has continued without interruption for five years. On this fifth anniversary it is thought suitable to state briefly the inexhaustible sources from which the historical data for the bulletin has been obtained. While the publication of much information about Abraham Lincoln has become a noteworthy project, the collecting and housing of a vast store of source material has been a still greater achievement.

The Foundation has sought material so intensively that today the compilation of printed matter about Lincoln which has been acquired is considered to be the largest collection of literature ever assembled in one place about one man, Biblical characters excepted. Approximately four thousand books and pamphlets, in which Lincoln is the dominating theme, have been acquired and catalogued. One hundred and sixty-eight lineal feet of shelf room are necessary to display them in steel sectional book cases. A collateral library of approximately two thousand books is also maintained which contains valuable Lincoln data. Three hundred Lincoln books in foreign languages are available, and Lincoln books in Braille for the blind have also been acquired. About one hundred publications similar to those Lincoln is known to have read have been secured.

The Foundation magazine files, reaching back to the year 1860, number more than three thousand separately bound articles about Lincoln. Complete files of such magazines as *Harper's Weekly* (for the period of Lincoln's administration) are available. Series of historical magazines which contain Lincoln data have been collected irrespective of their favorable or unfavorable reaction towards the President.

Newspaper clippings by the thousands are mounted on uniform size paper and filed according to subject matter. This is a rich and valuable source indeed, and nearly every current item appearing in the daily press is received. Some original items which Lincoln himself clipped from Washington papers have been preserved. Many rare early printings of papers referring to incidents in Lincoln's life, including twenty-four different editions and reprints of the *New York Herald* for April 15, 1865, are to be found in the library.

Broadsides of the campaign days, government orders, hundreds of poems, souvenir programs, and many other collections of Lincoln literature increase the total pieces of printed matter brought together to more than 25,000. In addition there are 25,000 manuscripts and autographed letters, bearing on some phase of the Lincoln

story; also medals, stamps, curios, pictures, music, etc., which bring the complete total of items in this remarkable collection well above 60,000. From such sources it is easily understood how many new and unpublished facts about the Lincoln family have been discovered and brought to light.

The editor of *Lincoln Lore* has personally visited hundreds of court houses in Kentucky, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Indiana, and Illinois, as well as the archives of other communities containing something of interest concerning the Lincoln story. Literally thousands of court records have been discovered and copied, causing a wealth of new material to be unearthed.

Ten outstanding collections have been acquired by the Foundation:

### *Fish Collection*

This collection of Lincoln literature gathered over a period of a great many years by Judge Daniel Fish and undisturbed since his death in 1924 need not be described to Lincoln admirers. 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 bibliography in 1906 was as complete as he could make it.

### *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 Albert H. Griffith, of Fisk, Wisconsin.

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

### *Hall Collection*

For many years officials of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company have gathered items associated with and referring to Abraham Lincoln. The famous Brady photograph of the President, which was presented to Mr. Arthur F. Hall by Robert T. Lincoln at the time Mr. Hall organized the Company in 1905, formed the nucleus of a very valuable collection of Lincoln pictures.

### *Dickey Collection*

The L. E. Dickey collection, containing lithographs, paintings, etchings, photographs, and steel engravings, numbering nearly 3,000 items, is one of the largest collections of Lincoln portraits in existence.

### *Mead Collection*

The Franklin B. Mead collection of metallic Lincolniana contains numer-

ous coins, badges, medals, and plaques, the most outstanding items being the original Pickett bronze and a bronze Lincoln bust by Volk.

### *Hanks 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.

### *Haycraft Collection*

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

These old records provide a documentary background for the activities of Thomas Lincoln and his neighbors.

### *McCulloch Collection*

Approximately 25,000 letters, documents, and manuscripts, the original property of Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury, Hugh McCulloch, contain a wealth of information concerning Lincoln's contemporaries.

### *Thompson Collection*

In the Spring of 1928 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.

### *Warren Collection*

The Louis A. Warren collection of Lincoln source material represents the personal effort put forth in original research, over a period of ten years, by the Director of the Foundation.

This composite collection of literature, curios, autographed manuscripts, and pictures has become a display feature. The Foundation's library and museum—open from 8:00 A. M. to 4:30 P. M. on week days and from 8:00 A. M. to 12:00 noon on Saturdays—occupies the fourth floor of the beautiful Home Office Building of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Visitors are welcome; and collectors, students, authors, and historians are encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity to make use of this extensive collection.

Dr. Louis A. Warren, the Editor of *Lincoln Lore*, is the Director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation. He heads a staff of three, the other members of which are R. Gerald McMurry, Librarian, and Ellen Herendeen, Subscription Manager of *Lincoln Lore* and Secretary to Dr. Warren.