

LINCOLN LORE

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TWENTY-FIVE OUTSTANDING LINCOLN ADDRESSES

This compilation of addresses is an attempt to gather for ready reference a number of the memorable utterances of Abraham Lincoln which have contributed so much to American literature. The Lincoln-Douglas debate series and the annual messages to Congress are not considered in this plan.

FIRST POLITICAL ADDRESS New Salem, Ill., March 9, 1832

Internal Improvements, especially as it has to do with the navigation of the Sangamon River, was stressed, and usury and education were discussed. In conclusion Lincoln said, "If the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background I have been too familiar with disappointments to be very much chagrined."

YOUNG MEN'S LYCEUM ORATION Springfield, Ill., January 27, 1837

"The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions" was presented, in which Lincoln pressed the point that the only danger our government might anticipate "must spring up amongst us, it cannot come from abroad."

SUB-TREASURY SPEECH Springfield, Ill., December 20, 1839

Argued in favor of a national bank instead of the sub-treasury scheme as a means of collecting, safe keeping, transferring, and disbursing the revenues of the nation.

WASHINGTONIAN SOCIETY ADDRESS

Springfield, Ill., February 22, 1842

A criticism on methods employed by preachers, lawyers, and hired agents to bring about temperance, with a tribute to the members of the Washingtonian Temperance Society.

MEXICAN WAR SPEECH

Washington, D. C., January 12, 1848

Examined the evidence which led him to the opinion that the war with Mexico was unnecessary and unconstitutional.

MILITARY HEROES SPEECH Washington, D. C., July 27, 1848

A speech on General Taylor and the Veto, including a satire on General Cass and the Democratic Party.

EULOGY ON HENRY CLAY Springfield, Ill., July 16, 1852

Presented a brief biographical sketch of Clay with a review of the measures he sponsored and the contributions he made to the anti-slavery cause.

ANTI-NEBRASKA SPEECH Springfield, Ill., October 4, 1854

Douglas had spoken in Springfield

the preceding day, and Lincoln decided to answer him. Glowing tributes to Lincoln's oratory were broadcast after his reply to the Little Giant.

MISSOURI COMPROMISE SPEECH Peoria, Ill., October 16, 1854

Lincoln remarked in his introduction that "The repeal of the Missouri Compromise and the propriety of its restoration constitute the subject of what I am about to say."

LOST SPEECH

Bloomington, Ill., May 29, 1856

Although the Lost Speech at Bloomington still seems to be lost in spite of efforts to reconstruct it, there is little doubt but that Lincoln reached one of the high peaks of his oratorical power on this occasion.

SLAVERY EXTENSION SPEECH Kalamazoo, Mich., August 27, 1856

Lincoln claimed that he made over fifty speeches in the canvass of 1856, and he did not know that any of them had been preserved. This one recently discovered undoubtedly repeats much that was used in the Lost Speech.

DRED SCOTT SPEECH

Springfield, Ill., June 26, 1857

The relation of Utah and Kansas to the Union preceded the discussion of the Dred Scott Decision which declared "first, that a negro cannot sue in the United States Court; and secondly, that Congress cannot prohibit slavery in the Territories."

HOUSE DIVIDED SPEECH

Springfield, Ill., June 16, 1858

At a convention where he had been named as a candidate for the United States Senate, Lincoln in his acceptance speech made the statement that "a house divided against itself cannot stand" and submitted evidence to show it would cease to be divided.

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY SPEECH Chicago, Ill., July 10, 1858

Judge Douglas had been given a reception on the evening of July 9, and Lincoln answered his argument which dealt mostly with Popular Sovereignty.

LECOMPTON CONSTITUTION

Springfield, Ill., July 17, 1858

This address preceded by one week the correspondence which led to the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

DEBATES SUMMARY SPEECH

Springfield, Ill., October 30, 1858

The speech delivered by Lincoln at the conclusion of the 1858 canvass, which included the Lincoln-Douglas debates, may well stand as a summary of his arguments in the contest.

WISCONSIN STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ADDRESS Milwaukee, Wis., September 30, 1859

An address in which Lincoln presented some practical suggestions about agriculture as well as some prophecies as to the future of the industry.

DISCOVERY AND INVENTION LECTURE

Springfield, Ill., February 22, 1860

A popular lecture was delivered by Lincoln in many towns in 1859, also before the Springfield Library Association in 1860.

COOPER UNION ADDRESS

New York, N. Y., February 27, 1860

The question discussed by Lincoln was "Does the proper division of local from Federal authority or anything in the Constitution forbid our Federal Government to control as to slavery in our Federal Territories?"

FAREWELL ADDRESS

Springfield, Ill., February 11, 1861

Delivered by Abraham Lincoln upon his departure from the town where he had lived for one-quarter of a century.

INDEPENDENCE HALL SPEECH Philadelphia, Pa., February 22, 1861

Here Lincoln said, "All the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated and were given to the world from this hall."

FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Washington, D. C., March 4, 1861

Discussed matters of administration about which there seemed to be some anxiety or excitement and assured all that the constitutional rights of each section would be maintained.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Gettysburg, Pa., November 19, 1863

The address at Gettysburg contained only two hundred and seventy words, but its brevity has not prevented it from becoming America's most noted contribution to rhetorical art.

SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Washington, D. C., March 4, 1865

A document set apart by the press of Great Britain as the outstanding state paper of the Nineteenth Century.

LAST PUBLIC ADDRESS

Washington, D. C., April 11, 1865

This address was made to a gathering assembled at the White House in celebration of the fall of Richmond. Reconstruction was the theme of Lincoln's remarks.