

LINCOLN LORE

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IN MEMORIAM

Six years ago an edition of Lincoln Lore was printed as a memorial to four collectors of Lincolniana, who had departed during the year 1930. They were Dr. W. E. Barton, J. B. Oakleaf, O. H. Oldroyd, and Jesse M. Weik.

We have just passed through another cycle, covering 1935 and 1936, a period in which other outstanding contributors to Lincolniana have been called from our presence. Although these men, which will be noted, moved in different environments of influence, each one made some lasting contribution to our better understanding of Abraham Lincoln.

William Abbott

Born: November 16, 1851 Died: September 7, 1936

For more than forty years William Abbott was associated with the Magazine of History. In 1912, he began publishing special Lincoln numbers at intervals which contained reprints of rare and unusual items of Lincolniana, and continued these special numbers up to the time of his death. There are fifty-two issues in this series which make a valuable contribution of Lincolniana in itself. His extra numbers of the magazine covered many other fields of historical interest but his Lincolniana Series were by far his most outstanding compilations.

Mary Shipman Andrews

Born: _____ Died: October, 1936

"The Perfect Tribute," so well known as the most popular of the Lincoln essays, was written by Mary Shipman Andrews, thirty years ago. It has recently been featured on the screen, which has added much to its fame. Other Lincoln essays by Mrs. Andrews are "The Counsel Assigned," "Passing the Torch," and "The White Satin Dress."

Grace Bedell Billings

Born: November 4, 1848 Died: November 2, 1936

When Grace Bedell was a small girl she wrote a letter to Abraham Lincoln during the political campaign of 1860, telling him she thought his looks would be improved by growing whiskers. Lincoln answered her letter at once and asked her if she did not think that "people would call it a silly affectation" if he began growing whiskers then. Immediately after the election, however, he started to grow a beard. Lincoln met Grace Bedell when the Inaugural train passed through the town in which she lived in New York state. Miss Bedell married in 1867, George Newton Billings, a Union soldier, and soon moved to Delphos, Kansas, where she resided up to the time of her death. The Lincoln National Life Foundation is fortunate in having several letters which Mrs. Billings wrote with reference to her correspondence with Abraham Lincoln.

John Wesley Hill

Born: May 8, 1863 Died: October 12, 1936

Dr. John Wesley Hill was without doubt the best known Lincoln student on the lecture platform. For twenty years he served the Lincoln Memorial University, first as its president and later as its chancellor. He had collected for the university many rare items of Lincolniana and extensive lecture itineraries made it possible

for him to meet personally most of the outstanding Lincoln students in America. His best known book is "Lincoln, Man of God," which is the best text on the religion of the martyred president. He was a frequent visitor in the library of the Lincoln National Life Foundation and had written his intention of coming to Fort Wayne the week he was stricken in New York.

Thomas F. Madigan

Born: 1891 Died: April 19, 1936

Although a comparatively young man at the time of his death, Thomas F. Madigan was referred to by "The Publishers Weekly" as "the greatest autograph dealer of his time." He was an authority on Lincoln manuscripts and his acquisition of Lincoln's original "Gettysburg Address," copied for George Bancroft, was the high point in his efforts to obtain rare manuscripts. He is said to have paid \$100,000 for the copy. His "Lincolniana," published about ten years ago, is the finest published brochure in the catalogue field.

Charles P. (Chick) Sale

Born: 1885 Died: November 7, 1936

No actor of recent years has given a better impersonation of Abraham Lincoln than Chick Sale, and it is in the role of the president at Gettysburg that he achieved his greatest success in characterization. It is a strange coincidence, indeed, that he passed away about the same time as Mrs. Andrews to whose "Perfect Tribute" he brought a new sense of appreciation.

Dr. Otto L. Schmidt

Born: March 21, 1863 Died: August 20, 1935

Dr. Schmidt at one time was serving simultaneously as president of three influential Historical Societies, The Mississippi Valley Historical Society, The Illinois State Historical Society, and The Chicago Historical Society. He was an untiring executive and the outstanding collections of Lincolniana gathered by two of the above mentioned societies were in a large measure the results of his direct or indirect efforts. He was one of the first Lincoln scholars to make a collection of books similar to those which influenced Lincoln in his early days. It was the encouragement of Dr. Schmidt, which prompted the editor of Lincoln Lore to make his early researches with reference to the parentage and childhood of Lincoln, and this same sympathetic interest was shown by him in the apprenticeship of many other Lincoln students.

Lorado Taft

Born: April 29, 1860 Died: October 30, 1936

The last outstanding sculptural work by Lorado Taft was dedicated at Quincy, Illinois, October 12, 1936. It is a memorial plaque of bronze, set in a magnificent stone monument which depicts Abraham Lincoln addressing the people of Quincy at the time of the Lincoln-Douglas debate held in that city. Mr. Taft was present at the dedication and made some very pleasing remarks about his interest in Lincoln. The most famous contribution of Lorado Taft to the Lincoln theme is the heroic bronze of "Lincoln the Young Lawyer," which stands in Urbana, Illinois.