

# LINCOLN LORE

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## IN MEMORIAM

There seem to be certain years in which the death toll among Lincoln students rises far above the normal number of casualties. A decade ago Joseph Benjamin Oakleaf, Jesse M. Weik, Osborne H. Oldroyd, and Dr. W. E. Barton all passed away within twelve months.

During 1936 many others prominent in the field of Lincolniana expired. William Abbott, Mary Shipman Andrews, Grace Bedell Billings, John Wesley Hill, Thomas F. Madigan, Charles P. (Chick) Sale, Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, and Lorado Taft all succumbed during the calendar year.

In this year 1940 death has removed from the Lincoln fellowship some very well known figures who have made large contributions to Lincolniana. It seems fitting and proper to dedicate this issue of *Lincoln Lore* to the departed.

### Valentine Bjorkman—Newark, N. J.

Those who may have had the pleasure of knowing Valentine Bjorkman of Newark, New Jersey, and have accepted his fine hospitality at the Newark Athletic Club will not soon forget the remarkable collection of Lincolniana which he had assembled in the special exhibit rooms consecrated for the reception of his revered treasures. He seemed almost like a priest at his shrine as he tenderly handled the rarities he had gathered.

It is a tribute indeed to his memory that the most excellent collection which he assembled has been kept intact and housed in Upsala College at East Orange, New Jersey. This is just as he would have wished. It should be a source of continual inspiration to every student who attends the institution. The Bjorkman Lincolniana immediately takes its place among the outstanding Abraham Lincoln collections in the nation.

New Jersey should take some pride in the fact that in the state where the forebears of President Lincoln resided in colonial days, there is a worthy collection of literature and tokens which memorializes the residence of this illustrious family. At East Orange there may also be seen the heroic bronze statue of Lincoln by Francis Edwin Elwell.

### Lincoln Caswell—New York, N. Y.

It was often said of Lincoln Caswell that "while he lived Lincoln would not die." No finer compliment could be paid to his sympathetic interpretations of Lincoln which were well received wherever he appeared.

The fact that he was named for Abraham Lincoln was indirectly respon-

sible for the roll which he finally came to play. Even as a boy his playmates called him "Abe" instead of Lincoln. As a child he saw daily a fine steel engraving of the President which hung in a room in his father's home, and this also influenced him.

Caswell started giving his impersonations of Abraham Lincoln in 1922 and for nearly eighteen years was continually before the public. His interpretations of Abraham Lincoln were confined exclusively to the administration period of the President.

### Emanuel Hertz—New York, N. Y.

No Lincoln student for the past twenty years has been more active in running down original manuscripts of Abraham Lincoln than Emanuel Hertz. Many important Lincoln documents undoubtedly have been saved to posterity by his untiring efforts. He gathered two large collections of Lincolniana in his lifetime. The first one was disposed of through the Anderson Galleries, and the last collected by a private bookdealer.

Mr. Hertz has been the most prolific author of Lincoln monographs since the passing of Dr. Barton, and future Lincoln bibliographers will devote many pages to listing his large number of books and pamphlets.

The first full size book of Mr. Hertz was *Abraham Lincoln, the Tribute of the Synagogue*. This was followed by a two-volume work, *Abraham Lincoln, A New Portrait*. The second volume of this publication was a compilation of newly discovered Lincoln letters. He also edited the Herndon-Weik manuscripts under the title *The Hidden Lincoln*, and his last book, *Lincoln Talks*, is a compilation of stories arranged chronologically so as to present a life of Lincoln in anecdote.

### Henry Horner—Springfield, Illinois

With the passing of Henry Horner, former Governor of Illinois, Lincolniana lost its most persistent and exhaustive collector, who had brought together in the Governor's mansion at Springfield the largest personally owned collection of Lincoln literature.

Henry A. Whitney, close friend of Lincoln, had a son who was Mr. Horner's first law partner. The Lincoln interest on the part of Horner began at the time of this partnership and was continued with ever-increasing interest. He once said, "A man can have no finer hobby than an interest in Lincoln and all that he stood for."

The Illinois State Historical Library became the depository for this collection under the direction of the fol-

lowing trustees designated by Governor Horner: Oliver R. Barrett, Lloyd Lewis, Irving Dilliard, and Paul M. Angle. The collection is valued at about seventy-five thousand dollars.

Governor Horner always had a warm place in his heart for Lincoln students, and they were always welcome at the mansion. Harry A. Pratt was of great assistance in keeping the library up to date during the prolonged illness of the Governor.

### David Nelson—LeRoy, Illinois

For a long time Lincoln collectors of Illinois have looked upon the Reverend Mr. David Nelson, a minister in the Methodist Church, as the chaplain of their group. Next to Biblical characters Abraham Lincoln occupied the most prominent place among the historical characters whom he revered.

Had he not been greatly interested in Lincoln he would not have taken from place to place, as his pastorate changed, the extremely large collection of books, pictures, and curios which he had assembled.

For some time Mr. Nelson served as President of the Lincoln Circuit Marking Association and was very active in all projects in Illinois which were seeking to memorialize Lincoln.

Fourteen years ago in a letter to the editor of *Lincoln Lore*, Mr. Nelson stated that he had been gathering Lincolniana for over twenty years. His very fine collection was acquired by Dr. Stewart W. McClelland, President of Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee, and will become a part of the fine accumulation of Lincoln items at the university.

### Lewis G. Reynolds—Richmond, Indiana

Over a period of years Lewis G. Reynolds served as curator of the Lincoln Relics Museum in the house where Lincoln died in Washington, D. C., and in this capacity hundreds of Lincoln students came to know him. He was at the museum when the Lincoln curios gathered by Oldroyd were moved across the street to the Ford Theatre. When he first went to the museum he was associated with Mr. Oldroyd.

Mr. Reynolds' father had been a government employee under President Lincoln, and the former curator recalled on one occasion when his father was conferring with Mr. Lincoln that he, a small boy of six years, sat on Mr. Lincoln's knee.

In 1936 Mr. Reynolds resigned his position as curator of the Tenth Street House after having served for ten years.