

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 711

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

November 23, 1942

## LOGAN HAY AND ARTHUR HALL, PATRONS OF RESEARCH

The two foremost patrons of Lincoln research, Logan Hay and Arthur F. Hall, within the past few weeks have been removed by death from their directorships of the Abraham Lincoln Association and The Lincoln National Life Foundation, respectively. These men were both about the same age, one a prominent lawyer of Springfield, Illinois and the other a well-known insurance executive of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Noted philanthropists have served as patrons of the drama, music, and the fine arts, but Mr. Hay and Mr. Hall pioneered in the encouragement of proficiency in a new field of cultural endeavor, the science of biographical research. Aware of the rapidly accumulating mass of legendary literature which was in circulation about Abraham Lincoln, they saw the need of creating centers of Lincoln inquiry which would be able to establish factual sources of Lincolniana. It is largely through their efforts that a new approach is being made to the whole Lincoln story.

### LOGAN HAY, 1871-1942

Logan Hay was a grandson of Stephen T. Logan, with whom Lincoln became associated in his second partnership. His father, Milton Hay, studied law as a young man in the Logan-Lincoln office and the law firm with which he was associated at the time of his death, traced its origin to the Stuart-Lincoln partnership of 1837.

In 1908 there was organized in Springfield, Illinois a group of men whose primary interest was to see that the centennial year of Abraham Lincoln's birth was properly observed. It bore the name of the Lincoln Centennial Association. The celebrations of 1909 were so successful that it was decided to give permanency to the organization, by the sponsorship of an annual meeting on Lincoln's birthday. Logan Hay became president of this group in 1920 and was retained in this office until his death.

Four years after Mr. Hay came to the leadership of the organization, a full time secretary was secured and the work of the Association was expanded until it took on the form of a research organization. It was at this time that Mr. Hay outlined three very definite objectives which have been pursued with remarkable success to this day. He emphasized the collecting of photostatic copies of all Lincoln writings available, a detailed study of Lincoln's Springfield environment, and a day-by-day record of Lincoln's life up to the time of his first inauguration.

The results of these research efforts by each succeeding secretary of the Association made advisable the publication of their findings, so that now all students are greatly indebted, indirectly, to Logan Hay for a wealth of dependable information which bears the imprint of authenticity.

Under the leadership of Logan Hay many prominent American citizens became affiliated with the Abraham Lincoln Association, among them, Arthur F. Hall, whose work so closely paralleled that of Mr. Hay. The Association was also able to bring to Springfield, Illinois on February 12 each year, some of the best known Lincoln students of the nation. These meetings were free from political bias.

Not only did Mr. Hay direct the interests of the Association, but he contributed very largely to its financial success which made possible its extensive publishing program. Mr. Hay was also interested in the work of other Lincoln organizations and in any worth-while Lincoln project which seemed to have for its purpose a better understanding of the Emancipator.

The emphasis which Logan Hay placed on intelligent and systematic research in the field of Lincolniana will make itself felt in all subsequent Lincoln history. Although loyal to his home town, he was no narrow provincialist, and the story of Lincoln's Springfield years under his critical analysis has taken on something more valuable than the folklore presentation of early biographers.

### ARTHUR FLETCHER HALL, 1872-1942

One of the ladies on the committee to prepare floral tributes to be placed on the casket of Abraham Lincoln when his body lie in state at Indianapolis, Sunday, April 30, 1865, was Mrs. Harriet Beeler Hall. For this service there was presented to her a faded rose-bud which was among the flowers removed to make room for the fresh offering. This token, carefully preserved and neatly framed, was in later years presented by her, to her son, Arthur Fletcher Hall, on one of his birthdays. This remembrance contributed to his lifelong interest in, and admiration for, Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Hall organized an insurance company at Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1905 and he and his associates concluded to name it after Lincoln. The same year Robert Lincoln, the only surviving son of the President, sent a picture of his father to Mr. Hall to be used as the company insignia. Both the letter and picture are valued treasures of the company. The slogan of the institution, "Its name indicates its character," also selected at this time, was a serious commitment and one that Mr. Hall and his associates endeavored to justify.

The company prospered from the very first and Mr. Hall felt as if some expression of appreciation for the use of so illustrious a name should be put in some tangible form. It was not until 1928 that his vision became sufficiently well defined in his mind that he decided to establish what has become known as the Lincoln National Life Foundation, with historical research on the life of Abraham Lincoln as its primary objective.

The necessity for acquiring a comprehensive Lincoln library became eminent and the famous Daniel Fish Collection of Lincolniana was secured to form the nucleus of what is now said to be the largest collection of literature ever assembled about the Emancipator. The museum and library of the Foundation was dedicated on the eve of Lincoln's birthday, February 11, 1931. The findings of the staff of three persons appear in Lincoln Lore, the official, weekly publication of the Foundation, the Lincoln Kinsman, its monthly magazine, and in occasional check lists and brochures.

Mr. Hall, acting in his capacity as President of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, had erected in one of Fort Wayne's parks a replica of the Lincoln birthplace cabin. He also commissioned Paul Manship to execute a bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln as he appeared at twenty-one years of age. This heroic bronze stands in front of the Home Office building at Fort Wayne.

Mr. Hall was one of the moving spirits of the Indiana Lincoln Union and served continuously on its executive committee from its very beginning. He was the president of the commission appointed by the governor of the state of Indiana to locate the Lincoln Memorial Way through the state, and also served as chairman of the joint meetings conducted by the Lincoln Memorial Highway commissions of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois.