

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN—A POPULAR APPELLATION

The word Lincoln has so often been incorporated in the names of organizations, industries, and institutions that it would be almost impossible to compile anything like a complete listing of instances where it has been used. The same conclusion might be drawn from the use of the word Lincoln in trade-marks, insignias and names for all kinds of products. This widespread use of the name is one of the impressive tributes to the worth of Lincoln and the high esteem in which he is held by all classes of people.

Political Groups

It is natural that political groups working for Lincoln's election would bear his name but there was one club, at least, formally organized under his banner before the Chicago Convention. Possibly the bulletin published in January, 1860, by the Cameron and Lincoln Club of the city of Chicago may be the first printed pamphlet to use the future President's name in a club appellation, although there were probably Lincoln clubs organized during the Lincoln-Douglas campaign.

The 1864 campaign also invited the organization of many groups named after the presidential nominee. The Granite State Lincoln Club with rooms in the south wing of the Capitol at Washington issued in 1864 an eight page pamphlet addressed to "The soldiers of New Hampshire."

Immediately after the President's untimely death many political organizations bearing the name of the martyr president were formed and throughout the years there have been a large number of these more or less active groups. A rather impressive pamphlet bears the title "The Articles of Association and By-Laws of the Lincoln Club of Brooklyn." It was published in 1880. Article II states, "The objects of this association shall be to inculcate and to embody in social and political action the doctrines and sentiments set forth in the Declaration of Principles hereto affixed." Most of the political groups now bearing the name of Lincoln center their interests around the observance of the February 12th birthday, usually featured by a banquet.

Military Organizations

It would be expected that military organizations associated with the Civil War would appropriate the name of the President and hostilities were hardly over before there were Lincoln Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic and the sons of the veterans still utilize for their organizations the name of the commander-in-chief.

On March 28, 1868, at Washington, D. C., Lincoln Post No. 3 Department of the Potomac G. A. R. was organized and their continued interest in the character for whom the post was named is revealed in the publication of a year book as late as 1911. This book gave a biographical sketch of Lincoln.

Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hall Association of Washington, D. C., was published in 1890. The purpose of this group was to secure and maintain a hall bearing the name of the organization, for the use and benefit of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Benefit Associations and Lodges

Possibly next in order to appropriate the name of Lincoln as a significant appellation were benefit associations and lodges. While the war was still going on an order established *The Abraham Lincoln Tabernacle Number One*. The date of organization was May 18, 1863, and the place Boston. The payment of sick benefits and funeral

expenses were emphasized. This society was functioning long before Lincoln made his famous statement in the Second Inaugural about caring for "widows and orphans" which became an often quoted sentiment in the proceedings of benefit associations.

The illustrious name was not confined to lodges speaking the English tongue but it is evident from a 30 page pamphlet printed in 1881 that an "Abraham Lincoln Lodge No. 20 des U. O. S. B." was organized on January 15, 1880, by a German order.

Social Settlement and Charity Associations

Many groups conducting social settlement work among both whites and blacks adopted the name. As early as 1866 there was organized in Philadelphia the "Lincoln Institution." This organization was interested primarily in caring for the orphan boys of Civil War soldiers.

One of the most successful of these settlement houses, The Abraham Lincoln Centre, was established at Chicago in 1905 by Jenkin Lloyd Jones. The Lincoln name has often been used in the South for organizations especially interested in social work among the negro population. This is notably true where the activities have been financed with northern capital.

Educational Institutions

It is doubtful if all of the political groups, military organizations, lodges and charity associations named for Lincoln, added together would approach the number of institutions of learning named for the man whose formal education was limited to courses offered by log cabin subscription schools on the frontier.

Possibly Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee, has become the best known of these institutions of higher learning bearing the name Lincoln. General O. O. Howard on February 12, 1897, with the assistance of the citizens of Cumberland Gap established the University. Several other colleges bear the name Lincoln or in some way have it incorporated in their name. This is especially true of business colleges and industrial educational units.

It is among high schools and grade schools where we most often find the use of the familiar name of the President and scarcely a large city in America but what has a Lincoln school. It would be difficult to ascertain just how much the name has meant to many of the pupils in the grade schools bearing the name Lincoln. The impressionable early years of many a boy and girl have responded to the inspiration derived from the school name.

Counties, Towns and Cities

There has been an unusually large number of counties, cities and towns named Lincoln and not long ago there was a movement on foot to divide one of the states and name the new commonwealth Lincoln.

In 1930 The Nebraska State Historical Society published an exhaustive article by N. C. Abbott entitled *Lincoln: Name and Place*. The author compiled a list of twenty-five post offices in the United States named Lincoln and a supplemental list of fifteen post offices with the word Lincoln incorporated in the name.

Just a passing mention might be made of the many Lincoln groups brought together because of a common interest in the study of Lincoln's life and the collecting of items relating to him. Lack of space prohibits making any comment whatever on the use of the name Lincoln in all types of industrial companies and business houses. One but need turn to a city directory to visualize the popularity of the name Lincoln for almost every kind of a business enterprise.