

# LINCOLN LORE

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## LINCOLN ITINERARY FROM GULF TO GREAT LAKES

The annual lecture itinerary of the editor of Lincoln Lore which usually extends over the first eight or ten weeks of each year, gives him an unusual opportunity of renewing acquaintance with many Lincoln students throughout the country. The 1947 schedule proved to be no exception to this experience. Starting early in January at St. Louis he continued on a prearranged series of engagements which were concluded at Springfield, Illinois, the latter part of March.

St. Louis is not only the home of several Lincoln students but it also contains one of the most interesting communities of antique shops in America and many fine pieces of Lincolniana have been purchased there for the Foundation Museum and Library. Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, not only have Lincoln admirers but at Dallas especially there are many relatives of Abraham Lincoln traced through the Hananiah Lincoln branch of the family.

Wiley J. Carnathan at Abilene, Texas, for many years has been working on a monograph relating to the sources for Lincoln's Cooper Union Speech. The Lincoln contact at San Antonio may be somewhat indirect but George W. Brackenridge, one of the city's outstanding benefactors, long since deceased, came from the Lincoln country in Indiana and his father, John A. Brackenridge, who lived at Boonville may have kindled the interest of Lincoln as a youth in the law profession. At Beaumont acquaintance was renewed with Mr. and Mrs. Garretson. Mrs. Garretson is a descendant of Virginia Lincolns and the Kentucky ancestor of the Nalls who live at Beaumont was Nancy Lincoln Brumfield, aunt of the President.

Members of the faculty and students in the social science departments at the University of Mississippi showed unusual interest in the Lincoln talks presented there and the history professors spoke highly of Professor Randall's series of the recently published Lincoln letters at Louisiana State University.

In Chicago for the Lincoln Birthday period an interesting group of Lincoln students was contacted at the Union League. On Lincoln's Birthday the luncheon club address was called to order with an improvised gavel from the Onsott Cooper Shop at New Salem. The collection of Onsott curios is owned by Dr. Charles W. Olson who was present with some of his exhibits.

Hugh Holmes, general agent of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company at Milwaukee, is one of the real boosters for the Wisconsin Lincoln Fellowship and recently secured more than twenty members for the organization. It was also a pleasure to have a visit with Lester Olson, one of the most enthusiastic Lincoln collectors in Wisconsin who has a special room built onto his house for his Lincoln collection.

George P. Hambrecht and Fred Holmes took a very active part in arranging previous schedules at Madison but with both of them now deceased they were greatly missed. However Louis W. Bridgman and A. C. Larson are carrying on in a fine way at the Wisconsin capitol. Some research work was done in the famous Draper collection at the University.

A delightful evening was spent with W. H. M. Adams of Minneapolis and he is another collector who is fortunate enough to have a room dedicated to his Lincoln collection with some space in it allotted to a fine collection of Emerson.

Sixty members of the Racine Lincoln Club and their guests were addressed on Wednesday night at the Y. W. C. A. Lincoln displays, favors and decorations, contributed much to their annual meeting. Mr. Bert Brown is the aggressive leader in this city which has two Lincoln statues, one of the President, and another of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln. Mrs. Lincoln once lived for a short time in Racine.

Back in Chicago again at the Public Library, heard Paul Angle give a talk on how he happened to write *The Lincoln Reader*, also time for a brief chat with him after the meeting. Attended the monthly meeting of the Civil War Round Table where Reinhard H. Luthin was the speaker of the evening. Was honored by being placed beside Mr. Luthin at the speakers table and had a fine opportunity to enjoy fellowship of many years standing. Renewed acquaintance with many Lincoln friends and met some new ones, collectors of Lincolniana. Was pleased to see Otto Eisenschiml convalescent from his recent illness.

On a brief stay in Peoria a long desired wish to visit the home of M. L. Houser was gratified. Among his other valuable items the books similar to those Lincoln used were thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Lester O. Shriver, another Peoria author, was out of the city for the day but my friend Mr. Edward Small had invited the dean of Lincoln printers—E. J. Jacobs—to a dinner at the University Club which presented an opportunity for a fine visit with this friend of twenty years ago. Trips to Canton, Washington, and the Old Court House at Metamora were thoroughly enjoyed.

A busy day was spent at Urbana and Champaign where there are many Lincoln students. At a noonday luncheon met for the first time, Isaac Kuhn, compiler of the recent book *Abraham Lincoln—A Vast Future* and also spoke to a Lincoln School group.

A delightful tea arranged by Dr. and Mrs. J. G. Randall made possible the opportunity of meeting several of the faculty members of the University of Illinois and also visiting again with David Donald who is doing a volume on William Herndon. The final reading of the proof sheets of Dr. Randall's new Lincoln book *Lincoln, The Liberal Statesman* were on his desk. Following the tea a dinner at the Zeta Psi Fraternity House satisfied a long hope of visiting this group where for so many years annual Lincoln Day exercises have been held. The fraternity's choicest possession is one of the very early Volk masks.

Jacksonville with its college and historic surroundings is always inviting. Seated in a chair which once occupied the office of Logan and Lincoln I had the pleasure of visiting with President Hudson of Illinois College and meeting other members of the faculty interested in Lincoln. At a luncheon, meeting Frank J. Heinel, a Lincoln friend known for many years, and having fellowship with an old Lexington, Kentucky, college friend, Earl Spink made the occasion a memorable one.

It was appropriate to spend the last day of the long itinerary at Springfield and there is no other city which has quite so much to offer the Lincoln student as the place where Lincoln spent most of his maturity. Just missed Roy Basler who has succeeded Wm. E. Barringer as secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association but did learn from Miss Marion Bonzi something of the progress made on the new compilation of Lincoln writings.

Luncheon with Jay Monaghan presented the opportunity to talk over many things of common interest. Of course a visit to Springfield without going out to see Mr. Fay at the Lincoln monument would be almost unthinkable. Mr. Fay seemed to be in fine spirits and apparently fully recovered from the accident which confined him so long to the hospital.

Observing a desk and table at the Foundation office in Fort Wayne piled high with two months of correspondence, catalogues, rare book purchases, etc., there was a realization that the nineteenth annual speaking itinerary of the director had come to a close.