

LINCOLN LORE

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A MID-WESTERN ITINERARY

The most unpleasant feature of the speaking itinerary which the director of the Foundation has recently brought to a close was the inability to contact many friends with whom he had hoped to renew acquaintance. This was partly due to the fact that practically all his luncheon and dinner engagements were filled before he left Fort Wayne. An extremely busy schedule, which allowed little spare time between appointments, further reduced the opportunity for personal visitation.

Kansas City

An interesting coincident occurred at the very beginning of the itinerary. When the editor of Lincoln Lore stepped into the Phillips Hotel lobby at Kansas City, his first stop, he observed a colossal Abraham Lincoln looking down from the wall. It was a framed lithograph of St. Gauden's standing Lincoln, at least ten feet in length. . . . A radio talk over station WDAE located in the Kansas City Star building offered an opportunity for some research work in the most excellent library of the newspaper where the late A. G. Macdonald, who made several contributions in the field of Lincoln features, made a name for himself.

St. Louis

The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial at St. Louis will have at least one historic spot of interest to Lincoln biographers—the old court house where the Dred Scott case was tried on June 30, 1847. . . . Renewed acquaintance with an old college friend, Dr. Hampton Adams, minister of the Union Avenue Christian Church where the Sunday evening forum was addressed. . . . At another church engagement a young Lincoln student, Bill Wardlow, exhibited some of his Lincoln items and at this gathering a long time friend, Ralph Gregory, was a guest. . . . James D. Freund, a well known Lincoln admirer, was a table associate at a Shriner's luncheon club. . . . Saturday, Feb. 4 in the court house at Fulton, Missouri, discovered a land patent issued by John Quincy Adams to Richard Berry. Berry signed the marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks as guardian of Lincoln's mother. Visited the Berry family graveyard three miles from Fulton situated on the one quarter section of land which Richard Berry owned and where he died. His grave, and the burial places of his family, are well marked and the lot is surrounded by an iron fence.

Milwaukee

A group of business men with stores located on Lincoln Ave. have an unusual organization. They recalled twenty-nine different firms on the avenue bearing the name Lincoln and many of the proprietors have become interested in the life of Abraham Lincoln. . . . Milwaukee and the surrounding territory has an exceptional fine group of men in the Civil War Round Table. A recent addition to their organization is Roy Hays, formerly of the Detroit Lincoln fellowship.

Chicago

A visit to Chicago on the week preceding Lincoln's birthday assured a maximum number of engagements. A former Fort Wayne associate, Edgar Paul Hermann, arranged my appearance before the Chicago Advertising Club where I found myself in the midst of movie stars and beauty queens. . . . Two radio broadcasts prompted me to put in a word or two for Mary Todd and also a plug for the Lincoln collection at the Lincoln National Life Foundation. . . . A speech before the Chicago Civil War Round Table offered a sufficient incentive to dig out of the Robert Lincoln Papers some basic facts about the political campaign of 1864.

Minneapolis

Visits to Minneapolis always recall my first trip to the city for the purpose of acquiring the Judge Daniel Fish collection of Lincolniana. . . . Allen K. Ford, a member of the American Autograph Association, was instrumental in my addressing a joint meeting of his organization and the Minnesota Historical Society at St. Paul. A fine exhibit of rare Lincolniana from the collection of W. H. M. Adams' was on display, also a few items from the Lincoln National Life Foundation illustrating the director's address on *Lincoln Autographs*. . . . A speech before the Sons of the American Revolution made it possible for me to meet many Lincoln admirers including Judge Edwin F. Waite, ninety years old, who recalled his mother's words at the time of Lincoln's assassination. Judge Fish was one of Judge Waite's closest friends. . . . Five hundred reserve officers and enlisted personnel were addressed at Old Fort Snelling on the subject, *Lincoln, Commander in Chief*. . . . February 14 offered the proper time element and Northrop School for Girls a congenial atmosphere for a talk on Abraham Lincoln's valentine, Mary Todd.

Madison

Madison, Wisconsin has a bevy of Lincoln students who contribute much to the successful direction of the Wisconsin Lincoln Fellowship. Louis Bridgman, the secretary of the Association, was very helpful in arranging the Madison programs. . . . A Presbyterian luncheon, a Lutheran dinner and a Congregational father and son banquet were among the Madison engagements.

Detroit

Tom Starr as usual went all out in helping to make my Detroit visit a delight. An informal gabfest arranged at his home for a Sunday afternoon was arranged with the following Lincoln students present: Earl T. Chamberlain, Vincent C. Gourley, Otto J. Heber, Stanley S. Kresge, A. Partridge, Weldon Petz and the editor of Lincoln Lore. The wives of Messrs. Heber, Kresge and Petz were entertained by Mrs. Starr, who always contributes much to these occasions by her excellent refreshments, making these oft repeated gatherings especially enjoyable. . . . An appearance in Dr. Holm's pulpit and an address at Trinity Church father and son banquet were indirectly made possible by Mr. Starr. . . . It is always a privilege to address in Detroit the Downtown Kiwanis Club No. 1, which is the daddy of all Kiwanis Clubs in America.

Grand Rapids

Present at one or more of the eight engagements in Grand Rapids over the two days spent there, were several Lincoln students, former acquaintances, as well as newly made friends interested in the Emancipator.

Dayton

Few cities show a greater interest in Lincoln than Dayton, Ohio. His visit there in 1859 always presents an interesting topic of discussion. The writer's opportunity to address the school principals and their wives as well as the Optimists and their wives helped to make the interest in Lincoln mutual in many families.

Davenport

A fitting climax indeed to the 1950 itinerary was a dinner given in honor of the editor of Lincoln Lore arranged by his long time friend and Lincoln collector, Judge James W. Bollinger. Those present beside the host and writer were Dr. L. H. Kornder, Dr. James Dunn, Charles Wilson, Clarence Cochrane, James Chamberlain, Harry J. Lytle and J. C. Arnold. Most of these men were present when the director of the Foundation addressed the Rotary Club luncheon group.