

# LINCOLN LORE

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## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS NAMED FOR LINCOLN

The commencement season in our high school and colleges recalls how often the name of Abraham Lincoln has been linked with educational projects. Even while he still lived there was one institution of higher learning named for him. Later other colleges and high schools too numerous to collate were to bear the name of the martyred President.

Abraham Lincoln expressed his interest in education in his very first recorded political speech when he stated: "Upon the subject of Education, not presuming any plan or system respecting it, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people, can be engaged in."

### Lincoln University, Lincoln, Ill.

On the very last birthday Lincoln was to enjoy, Feb. 12, 1865, ground was broken for Lincoln University located at Lincoln, Illinois. The charter specified that, "Equal privileges of admission and instruction with all advantages of the institution, in all departments shall be allowed to students of every denomination of Christians both male and female." On March 4, 1865, the very day Lincoln was inaugurated for his second term, two members of the Board of Trustees sent separately written letters under the same cover advising Mr. Lincoln about the project. Excerpts from the correspondence of G. H. Campbell, President of the Trustees follows:

"Enclosed I send you a copy of the charter of Lincoln University by which you observe the (Cumberland Presbyterian) church of the three great states of Ill., Ind. and Iowa are building and endowing a university at Lincoln, Logan County, Illinois and in honor of yourself gave it your name . . . Your aid will much assist the enterprise, besides the great influence your distinguished cooperation will give. It is the desire of the board to make the University second to none in the west, and one while it may be a blessing to the present and future generations, shall be an honor to your name."

The other correspondent was R. B. Latham, a member of the Board of Trustees. The opening paragraph of his letter follows:

"By request of the President of the Board of Trustees of Lincoln University, whose address this will accompany, I write to inform you more fully of the University and of the prosperity of our town, believing you feel a lively interest in it on account of its being named for you before Presidential honors had any influence."

### Lincoln Colleges of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts

Even before the university project at Lincoln, Illinois got under way the President had signed an act, on July 2, 1862 for the donation of public lands "which may provide Colleges for the benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanical Arts." During the centennial year of Lincoln's birth an effort was made by the Minnesota Academy of Science to recognize Lincoln's part in the establishment of the above colleges and one of several resolutions adopted follows:

"That it is the opinion of the members of the Minnesota Academy of Science that the name Lincoln ought to be applied by Congress to these schools . . ."

### Lincoln University at Chester County, Penn.

Although the University at Lincoln, Ill. may have been the first one to be named for the President it is not the oldest one honoring the Emancipator in its title. A school was established at Chester County, Pennsylvania

in 1854 called The Ashmun Collegiate Institute but in 1866 it was renamed Lincoln University. It was "The first college founded anywhere in the world to provide higher education for the negroes." A friend of the institution has made this statement: "Connected with the great name of our martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, this university stands at once his memento, and an asylum for the millions for whom he sacrificed his life."

### Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.

Possibly the institution named for Lincoln best known to students of the Railsplitter is Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee. In the year 1863 in conversation with General Howard, Mr. Lincoln appealed to the general on behalf of the mountain people of Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee and said: "I want you to do something for those people who have been shut out from the world all these years." This conference resulted in the founding of Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee. The institution with its magnificent Lincoln Collection is known and admired by every Lincoln student. It was also born on Lincoln's birthday, but the year was 1897.

Aside from the three active schools of higher learning already mentioned specifically bearing in their titles the name of Lincoln, there have been several proposals for the establishing of other institutions which would utilize the inspirational value in the Lincoln name, but which have failed to materialize. Some of them are noted.

### Abraham Lincoln University—Springfield, Ill.

An ambitious undertaking which originated at Springfield, Illinois in 1925 looked forward to establishing in the Illinois capital the Abraham Lincoln University. The introduction to its initial announcement stated: "It is proposed to found, equip, and maintain a standard co-educational university in perpetual memory and honor of Abraham Lincoln . . ."

### Lincoln and Lee University—Kansas City, Mo.

An effort was put forth in 1926 in Kansas City, Mo. to conduct a campaign for \$5,000,000 which would serve as the nucleus for the foundation of the Lincoln and Lee University to be located there.

### Abraham Lincoln University—Westchester County, N. Y.

New York proposed to establish in 1929 an international college to be called Abraham Lincoln University. The financial objective was a \$60,000,000 endowment and one of its promoters prophesized: "That college will be the greatest educational experiment in the world." This seat of learning was to have been located in Westchester County close to New York City. It was stated that, "World Peace would be one of the aims of the school."

### Lincoln Birth-Shrine Industrial University— Larue County, Ky.

Among the many projects which have anticipated using the atmosphere surrounding the place of Lincoln's birth at Hodgenville, Kentucky for institutional needs, one of an educational nature originated in 1932. The proposed school was to be called The Lincoln Birth-Shrine Industrial University.

Note. Corrections on *Lincoln Lore* No. 1201. Collection of Lester O. Schriver went to MacMurray College, William Wyles to Santa Barbara College of the University of California and we omitted the Edward C. Stone collection which was presented to Boston College.