

# LINCOLN LORE

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## REPORTING ON A NINE WEEKS ITINERARY

Over a period of nine consecutive weeks during January, February and March, the editor of *Lincoln Lore* gave a total of 139 addresses on Lincoln in fifty-two cities and towns of sixteen different states. Besides the 21,760 people addressed, there were fourteen television appearances and eighteen radio talks. Inasmuch as the four well known Lincoln groups visited were the outstanding appointments on the itinerary, a future number of *Lincoln Lore* will be utilized for comments on these meetings.

The first Lincoln address which the editor ever made in the state of Alabama was delivered at Birmingham's Parker School, the largest negro high school in the world with an enrollment of 2,486 students. At Phillips High School in the same city the principal stated that he was born in the capital of the confederacy at Montgomery and had been an admirer of Abraham Lincoln from boyhood. Also met in one of the private educational institutions an instructor in history who is the son of a Lincoln student of long standing, Rev. Claude W. Warren, formerly of Wisconsin, now of California.

The student body of Emory College at Atlanta, Georgia was especially appreciative of the Lincoln presentation. Prof. Abbott, a contributor to *Lincolniana*, was my host at Oglethorpe College. A visit to Kennesaw Mountain allowed me to renew acquaintance with the custodian of the museum, Mr. Satler, formerly at Lincoln National Park at Hodgenville. Gutzon Borglum's unfinished work at Stone Mountain was also observed.

At the Miami Florida Exchange Club I renewed acquaintance with Otto J. Heber, formerly secretary of the Detroit Lincoln Club. Another Lincoln student from Michigan, Dr. Richard Mudd of Saginaw was also in the city for a lecture. One of the Miami high schools has an impressive mural of Lincoln on the interior wall facing the entrance to the building.

Met a grandson of the former Lincoln biographer, Paul Selby at the Tampa, Florida Kiwanis Club and in the evening at the Hyde Park Presbyterian Church saw several Lincoln students, one, James B. Gibson, is working on a Lincoln book. In a store window at Tampa there was on exhibition a shawl reported to have been worn by Lincoln on the night of his assassination.

One of the several Lincoln students attending the Historical Society meeting which I addressed at Orlando Beach, Florida, is a descendant of one of the students in Lincoln's law office at Springfield, Ill. At Jacksonville visited with Warren Jones, a member of the Foundation advisory group and in possession of an excellent Lincoln library.

My first lecture in South Carolina was at Columbia. Here I addressed faculty members and graduate students at the University of South Carolina where I was introduced by Dr. Robert Ochs of the History Department. Also visited at the university library with R. L. Meriwether who is editing the complete works of John C. Calhoun.

Eight speeches, a television appearance and a radio broadcast kept me so busy in Charlotte, N. C. for two days that I was prevented from doing any further research on the Shipley family which resided in Mecklenburg county before migrating to Kentucky. At Raleigh a full schedule made impossible any research in the North Carolina State Library located there.

In one of the military groups I addressed at Norfolk, Virginia, a Lincoln student claimed to have had a picture of himself made with Lincoln from the spirit world. The visit to Richmond, where I addressed Rotary, Junior Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club, recalled that the late Douglas Freeman arranged my first engagement

at the Virginia state capital many years ago. Some profitable hours were spent in the state library.

A visit to Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House as well as glimpses at the Lincoln Memorial are always the Lincoln students' highlights at Washington. Attended New York Ave. Presbyterian Church on Sunday and heard a Lincoln sermon inspired by the Gettysburg Address. It was a pleasure to be on Mark Evans TV show in the capital city as he is a new member of the Lincoln Club at Washington.

Presenting the annual Junior Chamber service award at Martinsville, W. Va. to the outstanding member of the year was a pleasant diversion. While addressing the Shepherd College student body at Shepherdsville, W. Va. I was not far from the Antietam battlefield which I first visited many years ago.

Three busy days were spent at Baltimore where eleven addresses were made. Friends of long standing; Dr. Wilmer DeHuff, at Polytechnic, and Mr. William Stahl at radio station WBAL extended their hospitality. The Delaware Lincoln Club received me at the Carpenter Soda House on the eve of Lincoln's birthday, but more of this elsewhere.

Besides the Lincoln Club meeting at Philadelphia, which will be mentioned in another issue of *Lincoln Lore*, I had the pleasure of speaking again to the boys at Germantown Academy, where Washington and his cabinet conducted the affairs of the nation for a short time. Was also a guest of the City Business Club of Philadelphia and they presented me with a beautiful bronze plaque made by Adam Pietz, an expert in metal design. Had long wanted to visit Lincoln College which wish was granted on this trip.

At Montclair, New Jersey I was pleased to have a conference with William C. Cope who promises to arouse New Jersey to the obligation resting upon her, to preserve and mark the Lincoln sites of historical interest in that state.

One of the guests at the Hartford Kiwanis Club was Dr. Arnold Gesell of New Haven, Conn., child specialist and a student of Lincoln who has been a visitor at Fort Wayne. Was also interviewed by Art McGinley of the *Hartford Times*, an enthusiastic Lincoln admirer.

It would be unusual for me to pass through Rhode Island without a visit to Rhode Island State College where I have spoken many times. A television appearance at Providence was also on my itinerary.

In the Boston area aside from the luncheon meeting at the Boston University, to be reported elsewhere, the engagements at both Somerville and Concord were of special historical interest. It was a unique experience to be on an evening program at Concord, Mass., Revolutionary War battlefield, and on the very next afternoon at Gettysburg College, Civil War battlefield. The analogy was made more vivid by the presence of former World War general, now President Eisenhower being at his farm adjacent to the Gettysburg battlefield on that day.

Back in Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Johnstown, Pittsburgh and Erie offered interested contacts. A banquet of The Sons of the American Revolution and The Daughters of the American Revolution at Erie was especially enjoyable and my friend of many years, H. T. Fowler, was largely responsible for bringing together the 150 patriotic citizens in attendance. It was a pleasure to have Robert P. King, the nation's best authority on Lincoln numismatics, at the head table.

On the last lap of the long itinerary four Ohio cities, Cleveland, Akron, Canton and Youngstown were visited and many addresses made. The luncheon meeting of the Lincoln group of Ohio at Cleveland will be noted in a later issue of *Lincoln Lore*.