

# LINCOLN LORE

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## LINCOLN GROUPS VISITED

During the past few months it has been the pleasure of the editor of this bulletin to appear before some of our most active and influential Lincoln groups. These visitations have given him an excellent opportunity to observe how the time and place elements have been utilized to create an interest in the meetings and supply some inspirational atmosphere for their speakers.

There are several calendar days of a general interest as well as others of local importance that are observed. Of course, Lincoln's Birthday is the most appropriate time for a meeting but these other anniversaries can also be set apart to advantage: Inauguration Day, March 4; Assassination Day, April 14; Memorial Day, May 30; Independence Day, July 4; Emancipation Day, September 22 or January 1; Gettysburg Day, November 19 and also Thanksgiving Day, Lincoln having issued the first annual national proclamation in 1863. Of course a visit of Lincoln to a certain community creates an anniversary day of local significance.

### DETROIT

Lincoln students in Michigan have an ideal meeting place, made available through the courtesy of the authorities at Greenfield Village. The removed Logan County (Ill.) Courthouse where Lincoln practiced law has been utilized by the Lincoln group for its meetings and it offers an excellent historical atmosphere. The present organization with a much broader outlook is called the Abraham Lincoln-Civil War Round Table of Michigan. It was organized on September 20, 1952 with William Springer as its president. However, it grew out of the Detroit Lincoln Group first brought together on March 4, 1939 with Thomas I. Starr as its guiding spirit and president, which position he occupied for ten years.

There are many distinguished authors and Lincoln collectors who are members of the club. The editor of *Lincoln Lore* had the pleasure of first addressing the group on March 22, 1940 and his latest appearance before the reorganized group was on this last November 19. The old court house was filled to capacity for the club's annual Gettysburg program.

### WILMINGTON

The Lincoln Club of Delaware is one of the older organizations in the nation honoring the Emancipator. Its principal meeting is a dinner held during the Lincoln Birthday period. As early as 1933 Mr. F. G. Tallman, an active leader in the club, invited me to address the group but my first visit to Wilmington was not until after his death in 1938. Mr. Tallman bequeathed his excellent collection of Lincolniana to the Wilmington Institute Free Library and the Lincoln Club was instrumental in having it adequately housed and displayed in a special Lincoln Room. It was while these plans were being made for the reception of the collection that I was invited to Wilmington to confer with members of the club whom I addressed at a dinner on April 14, 1939. The club has looked upon the perpetuation of the Tallman memorial as one of its chief projects.

The annual dinners of the club are held in the spacious dining hall of the fabulous Carpenter Soda House and it was a pleasure to address the group this year on the eve of Lincoln's birthday. Pierre S. du Pont III is president of the club and Mr. Harland A. Carpenter, the secretary and treasurer.

### PHILADELPHIA

The Lincoln Birthday Banquet of the Lincoln-Civil War Society of Philadelphia was spread in the Old Custom House on the evening of February 12 and the atmosphere for such an occasion could hardly have been improved upon. The guest speaker was presented

with a very beautiful illuminated testimonial which bears the following inscription:

"To Dr. Louis A. Warren of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Director, The Lincoln National Life Foundation and Editor of 'Lincoln Lore', in tribute to him as an historian of Lincolniana and the Civil War and his devotion to the Lincoln Groups throughout the country, and for the noble part he played in the organization of this Society and his continued interest in its growth and development.

"To express our gratitude to him we have made him our First Honorary Member.

"The Lincoln War Society of Philadelphia  
Arthur G. McDowell, President  
Frederick M. Barden, Past President  
Louis K. Jones, Secretary-Treasurer"

Feb. 12, 1955

The Philadelphia group is one of the more recently organized fellowships but has been exceedingly active in stirring up a Lincoln interest in the city where there are so many historical sites associated directly and indirectly with the Emancipator.

### BOSTON

A new evaluation of Lincolniana has been created at Boston by the bringing together at Boston University the Lincoln collections of Edward C. Stone and the late F. Lauriston Bullard. Mr. Stone is still an active member of the Lincoln Group of Boston and Mr. Bullard was formerly its president. A special room has been set apart in the Cheney Library at the university for the housing of the extensive collections.

The first Boston engagement of the editor of *Lincoln Lore* was before the Bostonian Society in Faneuil Hall on February 23, 1937. The following June 20 he presided at a Lincoln breakfast at the Parker House commemorating the three hundredth anniversary of the coming to America of Abraham Lincoln's first Lincoln progenitor. The Boston group was organized shortly after this breakfast meeting. Its present officers are: Judge Edwin L. Page of Concord, N. H., president; Judge Carl Wahlstrom of Worcester, vice-president; Kenneth A. Bernard, secretary; and Richard F. Lufkin, treasurer. Several members of the university faculty and graduate students joined with the members of the Lincoln club for the luncheon at the university on February 23.

### CLEVELAND

The stage was set for the organization of the Lincoln Association of Ohio in February 1933 when I was invited to meet informally several Lincoln students gathered in the home of its first secretary, the late J. H. Cramer. The first formal meeting of the organization was held on the following March 3 in the Weddell House where Lincoln stopped as he passed through Cleveland on his way to the inauguration. This room has always been the focal point of the organization. Anthony A. Maresch, the first president of the club who is still its leader, some time ago presented to the Cleveland Public Library his fine collection of Lincolniana.

On this last March 7 I had the pleasure of addressing a luncheon meeting sponsored by the club which had so many distinguished guests present that it would be embarrassing to name any without naming all. The group contained several well known Lincoln authors and collectors of Lincolniana and many men high in the civic circles of Cleveland. Although Mr. Maresch was present he called upon vice-president Judge Albert A. Woldman to preside. The club secretary, Herschel G. Holland, attended to the arrangements for the luncheon at the Hollenden Hotel.