



Lincoln Lore

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LINCOLN'S FUNERAL IN MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA

Editor's Note: It was Philip T. Sprague, The Hays Corporation, Michigan City, Indiana, who brought to the attention of the editor that the account of Lincoln's funeral in that northern Indiana town had never been adequately presented. It was through Mr. Sprague that a great many minute details of the funeral were made available as well as some of the interesting illustrations.

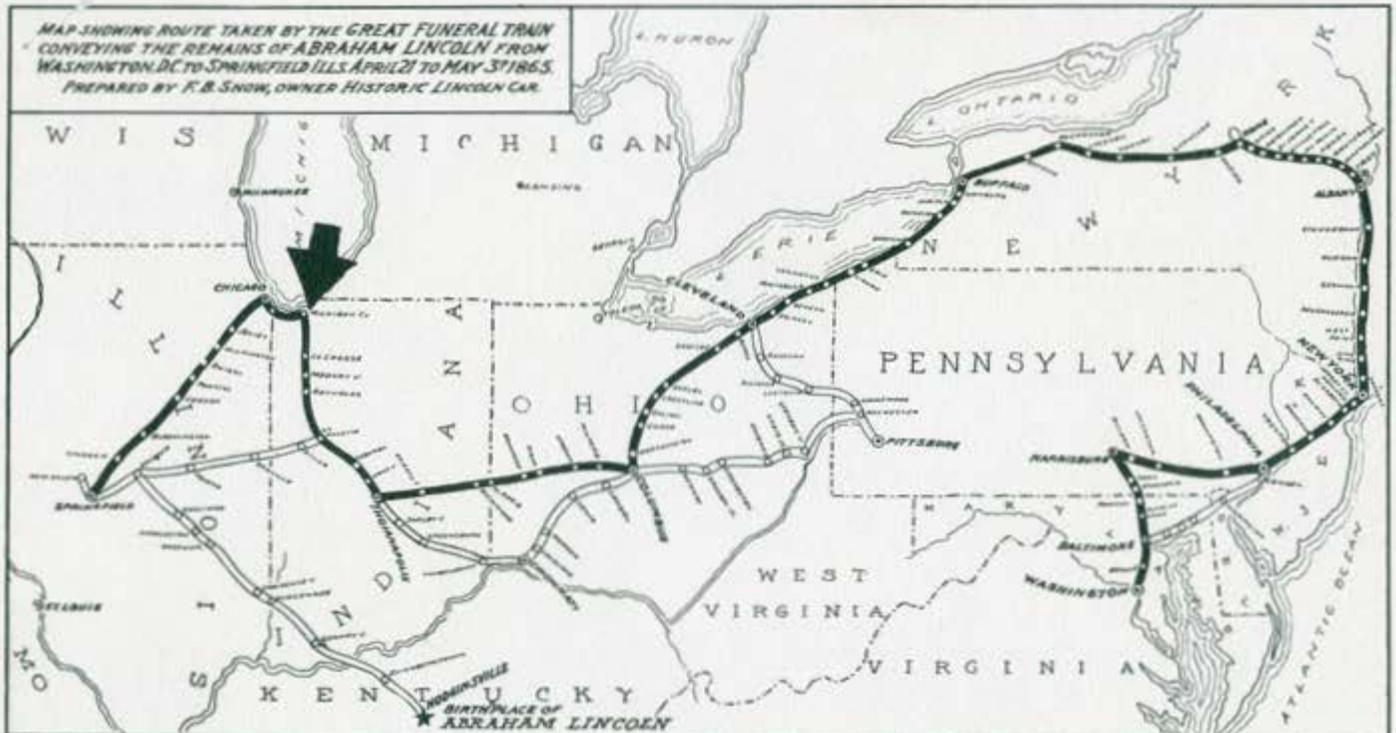
When eleven year old Martin T. Krueger heard the firing of a cannon in Michigan City, Indiana, on May 1, 1865, his first impression was that the Confederates had arrived and were shelling the town. Mr. Krueger recalled years later that he and his companions were enroute to Waterford when they heard the cannon. Young Krueger, along with John Voss, Henry Opperman, Cris Kay, William Meyer and Frank Eggert were walking to Waterford that morning to plant some potatoes for "old man Perry." He and his chums hurriedly changed their plans about potato planting, hid their molasses sandwiches under a bridge spanning the Romel ditch and ran along the middle of Michigan Street toward the business district.

Upon investigation the immigrant German lad learned that President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train had arrived in Michigan City at 8:25 a.m. and had stopped under a large and beautiful temporary structure trimmed with

black and white and ornamented with evergreens and choice flowers. Martin could not understand very much English in those days but he was able to comprehend that children would not be permitted to view the body unless accompanied by their parents, and there was a detail of soldiers on hand to see that the regulation was maintained.

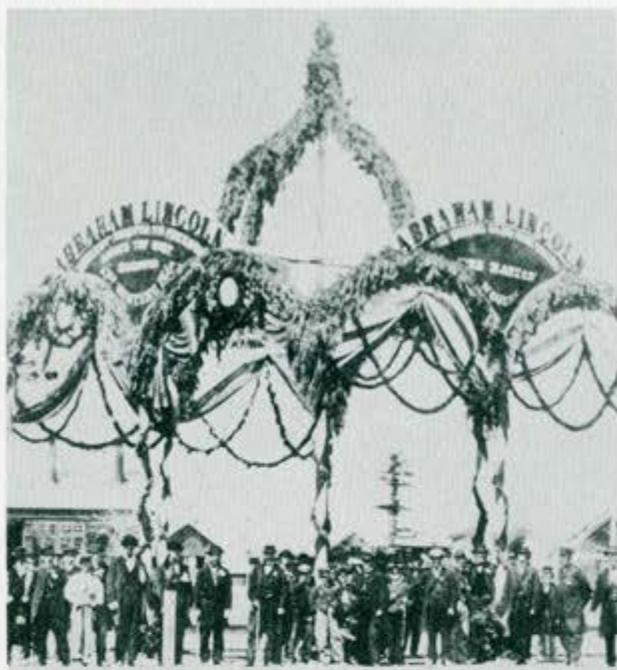
The funeral train arrived in Michigan City early in the morning of May 1, 1865 on the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago Railroad (which later became the Monon) from Indianapolis, Indiana. A reporter for *The Indianapolis Daily Journal* filed with his paper the following account:

"Michigan City, Ind., May 1—8:35 a.m.—Another change at this place. We are now in the care of the Michigan Central Railroad. R. A. Rice, Esq., Assistant Superintendent, accompanied the remains from Indianapolis, and will continue until the cortege arrives in Chicago. They are unremitting in their care and attention. The engine 'Ranger' and the pilot engine 'Frank Vanvalkenburg' are ready for our accommodations.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

The arrow locates Michigan City on Lake Michigan. The star locates Lincoln's birthplace near Hodgenville, Kentucky. The light parallel line running from Hodgenville to Springfield and New Salem indicate the general migratory route Lincoln followed as a young man. The heavy black line shows the route of the Funeral Train, a distance of 1,162 miles. The parallel lines running east and merging into the heavy black line in places gives the route of Lincoln's inaugural trip to Washington, D. C. in February, 1861.



Photograph Courtesy of Philip T. Sprague

The memorial arch at the Michigan Central Railroad Depot on May 1, 1865. The inscription on the right is, "Abraham Lincoln—Our Guiding Star Has Fallen—The Nation Mourns." The inscription on the left is, "Abraham Lincoln—The Noblest Martyr of Freedom—Sacred Thy Dust—Hallowed Thy Resting Place." At the abutments and at the ends of the main arch was the motto, "The purposes of the Almighty are perfect and must prevail." The boy in white in the group at the left of the arch has been identified as Martin Krueger who saw Lincoln's body by crowding behind a lady wearing a hoop skirt.

These engines are very handsomely decorated. Delegations from Chicago, and elsewhere, came on trains at this point to assist in the funeral rites."

The same reported vividly described the Michigan City scene:

"An Hour of Sunshine"

"The universe which has been shrouded in gloom and darkness for the past twenty-four hours, is lit up this morning with a bright and glorious sun, whose refulgent rays lend to nature a touch of exquisite beauty. The rains which have beaten with such violence, have ceased, and the air is once more as sweet and balmy as if the fragrance of the orient were suddenly wafted. Thanks to the merciful Creator for this long wished for change; methinks it must have come to be in harmony with the warm hearts and fervent patriotism of the men and women of Michigan City, whose touching, sublime memory of the great dead, our own, the world-beloved, Abraham Lincoln, I am about to hand down to history, to future ages, for surely such divine devotion of the noble living to the revered dead can never die."

When Martin Krueger arrived at the railway station his eyes must have been dazzled by the funeral splendor that confronted him. Again we quote *The Indianapolis Daily Journal* reporter:

"Let us see how this devotion was manifested—this devotion so touchingly beautiful, so harmoniously blended with the creations of nature and art, and so artistically wrought and inter-woven by the gentle hand of woman and the strong arm of man. An arch, manufactured of wreaths and roses, is passed by the funeral train as it entered the depot. It is twenty-five feet wide and thirty feet high.

"At a point 23 feet from the base upwards commenced a dome, which rises proportionately to a height of 12 feet, thus making on the south side, 'Abraham Lincoln, our guiding star, has fallen; the Nations Mourns.' The letters in the above were the counterpart of those

already described, and the handiwork of ladies of Michigan City. They are most remarkably beautiful in execution and design. The pillars supporting the arch were alternately woven with black and white strips of cloth, and a third (strip) was a continued circling of evergreens. Approaching the upper part of the pillar, splendid flags flowed gracefully.

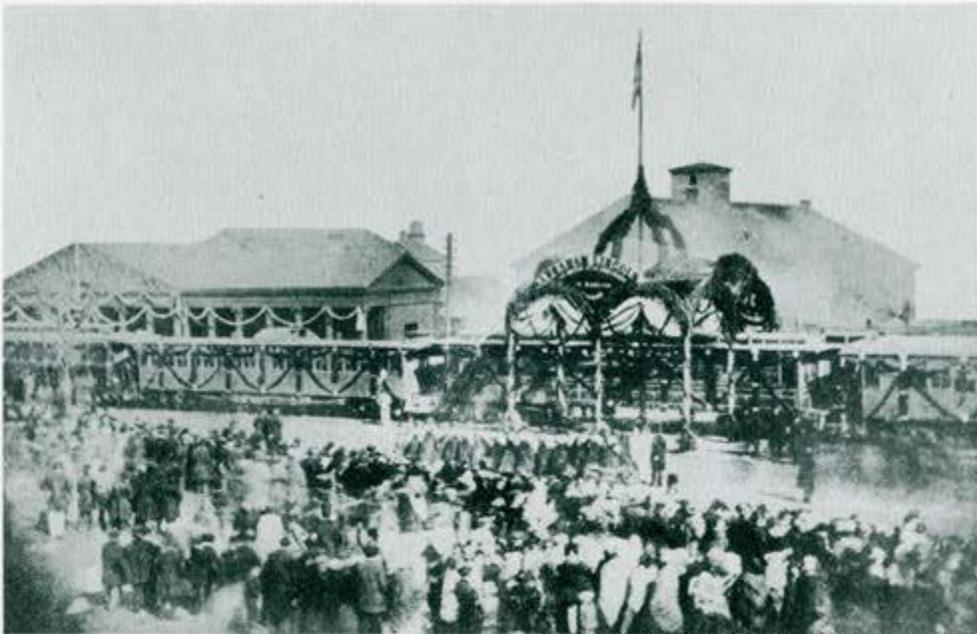
"The wealth of Flora's chaplet, bouquets and evergreens in the interior of the arch, and the harmony displayed in their arrangement, were as profuse as they were excellent. At an equal distance from the base, on the four corners supporting the dome, were portraits of the great dead looking down as now we trust he is looking from the great arch of God's Universe. In the brief moments we have to describe this wonderful piece of beautiful mechanism, it is impossible for us to do it justice. We have only to say that the women of Michigan City have reared a monument to the moral worth of Abraham Lincoln more lasting and enduring, more solid and substantial than the laurels of warriors or crowns of Kings—a cross of solid flowers."

The cross of flowers made of trailing arbutus gathered from the native hills and borne by a delegation of sixteen ladies, led by Miss Hattie Colfax, a cousin of Schuyler Colfax, and escorted by the soldiers of the city, was to be placed upon the coffin. With the request for such a procedure granted, the women with uncovered heads entered the car containing the remains and Miss Colfax placed the cross on the coffin, and the other ladies following passed out through the opposite end of the car. These "angels of mercy" were dressed in white and wore black sashes. The names of the ladies accompanying Miss Colfax were Mrs. Colfax, Mrs. Hoyt, Mrs. Peck, Miss Woodward, Miss Mary Goodhue, Miss Minnie Sherman,



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Another view of the funeral arches at Michigan City displaying the motto: "Abraham Lincoln—With Tears We Resign Thee—To-God-And-History." Another motto not seen in this photograph was, "The Purposes of the Almighty are perfect, and must prevail."



Photograph Courtesy of Philip T. Sprague

Lincoln's funeral train passing through the memorial arch at Michigan City, Indiana, on May 1, 1865. The structure was 12 feet wide and the main columns 14 feet high. From these there sprang a succession of arches in Gothic style, 35 feet from the base to the summit. From the crowning central point was a staff with a draped national flag at half mast. The arches were trimmed with white and black, and ornamented with evergreens and choice flowers. Numerous miniature flags fringed the curved edges, and portraits of the lamented dead were encircled with crepe. The depot appears at the left of this photograph. This was the first Michigan Central Depot, but it was also used by the Lake Erie and Western. In the background at the right appears Blair's grain elevator. The delegation of sixteen ladies, led by Miss Hattie Colfax, who placed a cross of flowers on Lincoln's casket are probably shown in the center of the photograph, however, they are not dressed in white with black sashes, as was related by a reporter for *The Indianapolis Daily Journal*, May 3, 1865. In an article compiled by General E. D. Townsend, *Lincoln Memorial Album*, name and date of newspaper unknown, author of article presumably William T. Coggeshall, the statement is made that the sixteen young ladies were dressed in "white waists and black skirts."

Miss Mary Gammons, Miss Mary White, Miss Kate Palmer, Miss Nellie Williams, Miss Kate Higgins, Miss Nellie Jernergen, Miss Mary McAlvo, Miss Mary Spens and Miss Mary Potter. There is also a tradition in Michigan City that Miss Janet Dawson was one of a group of girls who entered the car and placed a wreath of flowers on the president's casket. However, she might have been one of the thirty-six young ladies on the platform mentioned in the next paragraph.

Near the Lincoln funeral arches stood thirty-six young ladies (representing the statue of the Union) on a tastefully decorated platform. They were dressed in white with black scarfs. They held in their hands little flags and in their midst, and almost hidden in the folds of the national flag was a lady representing the Genius of America. The young ladies sang national airs, *Old Hundred* and concluded with the *Doxology*. The solemnity of the occasion caused many people to shed tears. In the meantime guns were fired and the subduing strains of music filled the air. The large military and civil escorts as well as the townspeople were attentive and mournful listeners.

After patriotic organizations had conducted memorial services the townspeople were permitted to view the remains of the martyred president. The train had to wait in Michigan City for some time (perhaps an hour or so) for the arrival by special train of the committee of 110 sent out from Chicago to meet it. When the committee arrived they stood together forming a complete tableau as the generals in charge came forward to review the funeral cortege. The officers in charge—Gen. Hooker and others, were in full dress uniform. The Chicago delegation was dressed in black, wearing heavy crepe bands and bandages of crepe on their arms.

Meanwhile young Krueger, being quite resourceful, had managed to view the remains of the dead president. Spotting a couple getting aboard the train he hid himself

behind the hoop skirt of the woman whom the guards presumed to be his mother. He followed the pair into the car where the body lay. However, because of his inability to understand English he failed to heed the meaning of the guards orders that everyone should keep moving. When he arrived at the bier he stopped and took a "good look" at the dead president. At this juncture a guard stepped forward grabbed him by the collar and the seat of his pants and tossed him over the observation platform into a patch of sand burrs. Undaunted young Krueger then proceeded to have his photograph taken with the crowd under the funeral arches (see photograph of a young man dressed in white clothing).

This immigrant boy from Germany later served several terms as mayor of Michigan City and was elected to the Indiana General Assembly for a number of terms. He gave the ninety acre Krueger Memorial Park to the city and was largely responsible for acquiring Washington Park, with its lakefront and bathing beaches, for Michigan City.

With the arrival of the Chicago Committee along with Senator Trumbull, Supreme Court Justice and ex-Representative Arnold of Illinois, the funeral cortege was ready to leave for Chicago. Other notables who had boarded the train at Indianapolis were Senator Lane, and Representatives Orth, Farquhar and Stilwell, and the following men making up Governor Morton's staff: General Bennett, Colonel

Chapman, Adjutant General Terrell, General Mansfield, Colonel Holloway, Colonel Frybarger, C. P. J. Jacobs, John M. Morton and Colonel Schlater. Speaker Colfax, whose congressional district included Michigan City, also boarded the funeral train. A Michigan City man, Edward Wilcox, was the engineer of the locomotive which pulled the train to Chicago over the Michigan Central System.

Before the train left those aboard were grateful to the ladies of Michigan City for not forgetting their temporal needs—a white fish breakfast and other refreshments was served the funeral party with the best of linen and silver in the New Albany and Chicago freight depot. Perhaps this will explain why some of the notable personages from Washington were left behind. However, by means of an express engine they were able to overtake the train at Porter Station. Chicago was reached at eleven o'clock in the morning of May 1.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.
Sixteenth President of the
UNITED STATES.

Born in Hardin County, Kentucky,
FEBRUARY 12, 1809.

Assassinated in Washington, D. C.
APRIL 14, 1865,

Aged 56 Years, 2 Months, and 2 Days.

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY—1961-1962

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Road, Garden City, N. Y.; Carl Haverlin, 2 Masterson Road, Bronxville, N. Y.; E. B. Long, 708 North Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park, Ill.; Richard F. Lufkin, 45 Milk Street, Boston, 9, Mass.; Wayne C. Temple, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.; Ralph G. Newman, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago 11, Ill.; William H. Townsend, 310 First National Bank Bldg., Lexington 3, Ky.; and Clyde C. Walton, Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.

New items available for consideration may be sent to the above addresses or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

1961

JUDSON, CLARA INGRAM 1961-57
(Sketch of boy reading)/Abraham Lincoln/by Clara Ingram Judson/Illustrated by Polly Jackson/Follett Publishing Company/Chicago.

Brochure, cloth, 6¼" x 8", 29 pp., illus., price \$1.00. Beginning-To-Read Book for children from first to fourth grades.

WIGHT, GRACE CHENEY 1961-58
Lincoln's Farewell Address/by/Grace Cheney Wight/Bloomington, Illinois/1961.

Brochure, leather, 4¼" x 7¼", 27 pp., Pantagraph Printing and Stationery Co., Bloomington, Ill. Reprinted from Lincoln Herald, Summer 1953.

WOLDMAN, ALBERT A. 1961-59

Albert A. Woldman/Lincoln and the Russians/(device)/Collier Books/New York, N. Y. Book, paperback, 4¼" x 7", 288 pp., price 95¢. First Collier Books Edition 1962. AS 85.

1962

FEHRENBACHER, DON E. 1962-6

Prelude to Greatness/Lincoln in the 1850's/by/Don E. Fehrenbacher/Stanford University Press/Stanford, California, 1962. Book, cloth, 5½" x 8¾", ix p., 205 pp., price \$4.75.

HORGAN, PAUL 1962-7
Citizen/of New Salem/Paul Horgan/A Crest Reprint/(device)/Fawcett Publications, Inc., Greenwich, Conn./Member of American Book Publishers Council, Inc./Fully illustrated/Including the original drawings/by Douglas Gorsline.

Book, paperback, 4¼" x 7", 160 pp., illus., price 50¢. Published by Fawcett World Library, 67 West 44th St., New York 36, N. Y.

JOHN MORRELL & CO. 1962-8

Announcing/The Morrell 1963/Cooperative Calendar Plan/(sketch of Lincoln)/Abraham Lincoln/His Life/and/Times/1863/The One Hundredth Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address/(Cover title).

Pamphlet, paper, 9¼" x 14", (16) pp., illus.

BASLER, ROY P. 1962-9

Walt Whitman's/Memoranda During the War/(&) Death of Abraham Lincoln/reproduced in facsimile/Edited with an Introduction by/Roy P. Basler/1962/Indiana University Press: Bloomington.

Book, cloth & boards, 1-46 pp., 1-68 pp., 1-14 pp., fr., illus., price 36.95.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 1962-10

(Sketch of Lincoln)/The Junior League of Springfield/Springfield, Illinois/Lincoln Heritage of/Our Community Project/(Caption title).

Folder, paper, 3¼" x 6", (3) pp. Contains information on Edwards Place, The Old State Capitol Building, and the Lincoln Home.

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. 1962-11

Lincoln Proclaims/Thanksgiving Day/In 1863, a year filled with pivotal historical events—the Emancipation Proclamation, the Union victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg,/and the Gettysburg Address—Abraham Lincoln issued what has become known as the/first annual Thanksgiving Proclamation/(Cover title).

Folder, paper, 3¾" x 6½", (3) pp. Form No. 8905.

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. 1962-12

(Lincoln photo-M 59)/Lincoln's/Gettysburg Address/(Cover title).

Folder, paper, 3¾" x 6¼", (3) pp., Form 8906.

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. 1962-13

(Photo of Lincoln statuette, "The Circuit Rider")/Lincoln the/Lawyer/(Cover title).

Folder, paper, 3¾" x 6¼", (6) pp., illus., Form No. 8907.

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. 1962-14

Lincoln in/ Cartoon and Caricature/(Cartoon)/Cartoonists are seldom kind to political opponents./Here a southern sympathizer portrays Lincoln as the "Federal Phoenix" gaining life from the ashes of the Constitution/and other presumably destroyed rights/(Cover title).

Folder, paper, 3¾" x 6¼", (12) pp., illus. Form 8908.

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. 1962-15

(Photo of Lincoln visiting Gen. George B. McClellan)/Abraham Lincoln/100 Years Ago/(Cover title).

Folder, paper, 3½" x 6¼", 9 pp., illus. Form 8909.

BASLER, ROY P. 1962-16

Abraham Lincoln:/His Speeches and Writings/Edited with critical and analytical notes/by Roy P. Basler/Preface by/Carl Sandburg/(device)/The Universal Library/Grosset & Dunlap/New York.

Book, paperback, 5¼" x 8", xxx p., 843 pp., price \$2.65. UL 134.

WHITMAN, WALT 1962-17

Death/of Abraham/Lincoln/Walt Whitman/With a Note by Paul M. Angle/(head of Lincoln)/Black Cat Press/Chicago, 1962.

Brochure, full leather, 2" x 2¾", miniature, xiv p., 53 pp., Limited edition, price \$10.

MOCHIZUKI, MASAHARU 1962-18

Report No. One/Tokyo Lincoln Book Center/February 12, 1962/(photo)/Printed in Japan/(Cover title).

Pamphlet, paper, 8½" x 10½", (8) pp., illus. Printed in Japanese and English languages. Published by Japan Publications Trading Co. Bldg., 1 Sarugaku-cho 1-chome Kanda, Chiyada-ku, Tokyo.

SANGAMON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. 1962-19

(Sketch)/Long Nine/Anniversary/Banquet/Wednesday, February 28, 1962/St. Nicholas Hotel/Springfield, Illinois/(Cover title).

Pamphlet, paper, 5½" x 8½", (12) pp., illus.

QUARLES, BENJAMIN 1962-20

Lincoln/and the Negro/Benjamin Quarles/New York Oxford University Press 1962.

Book, cloth, 5½" x 8¼", 275 pp., fr., illus., price \$6.50.

NEVINS, ALLAN & STONE, IRVING 1962-21

Lincoln: A Contemporary Portrait/Edited by/Allan Nevins and Irving Stone/(device)/1962/Doubleday & Company, Inc./Garden City, New York.

Book, cloth, 5¾" x 8½", 227 pp., n. i., price \$4.50

HARKNESS, DAVID J. 1962-22

Lincoln and the/Land-Grant Ideas/(device)/By David J. Harkness/(device)/On July 1, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Land-Grant Act setting aside land as endowment for state colleges and universities throughout the nation. In approving this bill . . . Lincoln showed that he was a champion of the American system of higher education.

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 6" x 9", 7 pp. The University of Tennessee News Letter, Vol. XLL, No. 1, February 1962. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.

