

1925

## **A Record of Accomplishment, 1909-1925.**

Lincoln Centennial Association Springfield, Ill.

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A Record of Accomplishment  
1909-1925

“TO THIS PLACE AND TO THE  
KINDNESS OF THESE PEOPLE  
I OWE EVERYTHING.”

With these words Abraham Lincoln, standing on the platform of the train which was to take him to Washington and the presidency, bade farewell to his friends in Springfield. And with these words he bequeathed to Springfield, to Illinois, something more than a sentiment, something more than a motto to be carved on monuments and cornerstones—he bequeathed a trust, a deep and lasting obligation.

With the thought of Springfield's peculiar obligation to the memory of Abraham Lincoln, the Lincoln Centennial Association was formed and incorporated under the laws of Illinois in 1909. As stated then, the object of the Association was “to properly observe the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of

Abraham Lincoln; to preserve to posterity the memory of his words and works, and to stimulate the patriotism of the youth of the land by appropriate annual exercises."

For years the principal activity of the Association was the observance of Lincoln's birthday. Every year men of distinction came to pay tribute in his home city. To name these guests would require more space than can here be given—suffice to say that men of supreme prominence in all walks of life, of foreign nations as well as of our own country, have here expressed their appreciation of Abraham Lincoln. Most of the addresses of these guests the Association has published in book form and distributed, not only to its members, but also to various libraries and associations throughout the country. Many of them contain contributions of permanence and value in the way of sound thinking and clear utterance.

Recent years have seen a tremendous growth of interest in the life and work of Abraham Lincoln. As a direct result of this increasing appreciation the program of the Lincoln Centennial Association was considerably broadened. The annual meetings on Lincoln's birthday were to be addressed by men competent to make distinct contributions to Lincoln literature, and their addresses were to be published in book form. An exhibition of Lincoln material was to be a part of the birthday celebration. It was planned to offer prizes every two years for the best monograph on Abraham Lincoln, and to make available in Illinois colleges scholarships in return for the best work of the high school pupils of the state. The Association further hoped to employ a competent person whose work would be the compilation of all possible information relating to Lincoln's life in Springfield, and to issue an authentic booklet in which visitors could find

pertinent facts relating to the life of Mr. Lincoln.

In addition, the Association pledged its support to numerous other projects. It proposed to aid the State of Illinois in building up a definitive collection of *Lincolniana*. It offered its support in the production in New Salem at stated intervals of a Lincoln play or pageant. It encouraged the construction of a paved road between Springfield and New Salem. And finally, it looked toward the erection of suitable markers on all sites in Springfield and Sangamon county connected with the life of Mr. Lincoln.

Although formulated only two years ago, this program is being progressively realized. In 1924 appeared the first volume of *The Lincoln Centennial Association Papers*. This contained an address, "Lincoln as a World Figure," by Professor Andrew C. McLaughlin of the University of Chicago, and a history of the

old state house, "The House of the House Divided," by Mr. Henry A. Converse of this city. The second volume, to appear in 1925, will contain papers by Doctor John H. Finley, editor of the New York Times, and Mr. A. L. Bowen of Springfield. For the 1926 volume Professor Michael Pupin of Columbia University, the author of "From Immigrant to Inventor," and Mr. Paul M. Angle are preparing papers.

These addresses are first delivered at the annual meeting of the Association in Springfield on February twelfth. At that meeting a collection of Lincoln material is on exhibit. This collection is being frequently augmented by donations of manuscripts and other material from friends of the Association, and by the accumulation of photostatic copies of letters and documents now in private collections. It is hoped eventually to build up, either in the originals or in copies, a complete col-



lection of all papers in Lincoln's handwriting—a collection which will be of immense sentimental and historical value.

All the projects to which the Lincoln Centennial Association pledged its support have been accomplished in whole or in part. The State of Illinois has appropriated \$50,000 for the purchase of the Oldroyd collection of Lincolniana, one of the most complete in the country. In securing the appropriation this Association played an important part. The State of Illinois has recently completed the construction of a paved road to New Salem. A Lincoln pageant, given some time ago by the Lincoln League of Petersburg, is to be repeated at New Salem in the near future by the same association. And practically all places in Springfield and Sangamon county associated with Lincoln's life have been suitably marked by the Daughters of the Revolution.



In Mr. Paul M. Angle the Lincoln Centennial Association now has a full-time secretary. Mr. Angle is a graduate of Miami University and has done advanced work at the University of Illinois, specializing in history at both institutions. As secretary of the Association, the major part of his time is being devoted to research in the life of Abraham Lincoln. He is also working on a history of the city of Springfield, which, when completed, will be of more than local interest, revealing as it will the social and cultural background into which Lincoln, a relatively young man, came, and in which his capacities developed to their final fruition. From time to time Mr. Angle will take up other historical projects, and will eventually exhaust the sources of Lincoln knowledge in the city and neighborhood.

During the past year there has been a remarkable influx of group pilgrimages to the places of Lincoln interest in

Springfield. At first these pilgrimages were sponsored by local civic organizations, but as their number increased it was felt that it would be of greater benefit to all concerned if one central organization exercised general supervisory charge. Consequently, since May 1, 1925, the Lincoln Centennial Association, sometimes in sole charge and sometimes in cooperation with other organizations, has been taking care of the arrangements for group visits. During the spring and summer months of 1925, approximately 2,000 persons were cared for. Guide service and descriptive pamphlets are furnished by the Chamber of Commerce, and the Association makes arrangements for meals, street car service, speakers, and whatever else may contribute to successful visits.

In addition, the Lincoln Centennial Association stands ready at all times to render any possible aid to individual visitors. With this purpose the Associa-

tion has published—at cost—a descriptive booklet, “Lincoln in Springfield,” which it is hoped will be found useful by visitors seeking to reconstruct for themselves the life in Springfield of Illinois’ greatest citizen.

*The Lincoln Centennial Association invites the membership of any person interested in its activities as herein described.*

PUBLICATIONS OF THE  
LINCOLN CENTENNIAL  
ASSOCIATION.

LINCOLN CENTENNIAL  
ASSOCIATION ADDRESSES.

- 1909-1910: Addresses by Ambassador BRYCE, Ambassador JUSSE-RAND, Hon. JONATHAN P. DOLLIVER, Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN, Hon. CHARLES S. DENEEN, and Dr. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.
- 1911: Addresses of President WIL-LIAM HOWARD TAFT, and Hon. MARTIN W. LITTLE-TON.
- 1912: Addresses of Senator HENRY CABOT LODGE, Hon. FRANK B. WILLIS and Mr. JOHN ARMSTRONG.

- 1913: Addresses of Ambassador VON BERNSTORFF and Hon. JOSEPH W. BAILEY.
- 1914: Addresses of Hon. JOSEPH T. ROBINSON, Dr. STEPHEN S. WISE and Hon. PERCIVAL G. RENNICK.
- 1914: Addresses of Governor EDWARD F. DUNNE, ARCHBISHOP GLENNON, Mr. GUTZON BORGLUM, Rev. SAMUEL FALLOWS and Bishop WILLIAM FRASER MCDOWELL.
- 1915: Addresses of Hon. JAMES HAMILTON LEWIS, Hon. LAWRENCE Y. SHERMAN and Bishop WILLIAM A. QUAYLE.
- 1916: Addresses of Dr. JOHN GRIER HIBBEN and Hon. THOMAS STERLING.

- 1918:       Addresses of Hon. WILLIAM  
              RENWICK RIDELL, Hon.  
              THOMAS POWER O'CONNOR,  
              Hon. ADDISON G. PROCTOR  
              and Hon. HUGH S. MAGILL,  
              JR.
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LINCOLN CENTENNIAL  
ASSOCIATION PAPERS.

HENRY A. CONVERSE, *The House of  
the House Divided*, and ANDREW C. MC-  
LAUGHLIN, *Lincoln as a World Figure*.  
Springfield, Illinois. 1924.

A. L. BOWEN, *A. Lincoln: His House*.  
and JOHN H. FINLEY, *The Education of  
Abraham Lincoln*. (To appear in 1925.)

## LINCOLN CENTENNIAL ASSOCIATION BULLETINS.

Bulletin Number One, October, 1923.  
Address of DAVID LLOYD-GEORGE.

Bulletin Number Two, June, 1925.  
Letter of BRAND WHITLOCK.

Bulletin Number Three, September,  
1925. A Lincoln Trip to old Kentucky.

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## SOUVENIR BOOKS.

The following well known works have  
been printed for the Lincoln Centennial  
Association in specially bound limited  
editions:

WAYNE WHIPPLE, *The Story Life of  
Lincoln*, Philadelphia, 1908.

EDWIN ERLE SPARKS, Ed., *The Lin-  
coln-Douglas Debates of 1858* (Collec-  
tions of the Illinois State Historical



Library, Volume Three), Springfield, Illinois, 1908.

J. T. HOBSON, *The Lincoln Year Book*, Dayton, 1912.

ALONZO ROTHSCHILD, *Lincoln, Master of Men*, Cambridge, 1912.

FREDERICK TREVOR HILL, *Lincoln the Lawyer*, New York, 1913.

JAMES BRYCE, Ed., *Speeches and Letters of Abraham Lincoln*, London and New York, 1907.

FRANCIS FISHER BROWNE, *The Everyday Life of Abraham Lincoln*, Chicago, 1913.

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