

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1031

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

January 10, 1949

NECROLOGY—1948

There are many proverbial sayings which have been prompted by coincidents occurring in a sequence of deaths. Possibly the mere calling to attention the fact of certain men and women passing away within a given period of time may have a tendency to nourish some of these superstitious beliefs. While such a purpose is not intended it is true in the fellowship of Lincoln students, however, that over the past two decades there seems to have been certain calendar years during which the ranks of Lincoln admirers have been depleted to a much greater extent than at other similar periods of time.

Well do the older members of the Lincoln fellowship remember the year 1930 when within a period of seven months J. B. Oakleaf, Jesse M. Weik, Osborne H. Oldroyd, and Dr. W. E. Barton all passed away. Moving on to 1936 with but three months as a time unit, William Abbott, Mary Shipman Andrews, Grace Bedell Billings, John Wesley Hill, Charles P. (Chuck) Sale, and Lorado Taft succumbed. The year 1940 saw another group of well known figures in the Lincoln field pass away: Valentine Bjorkman, Lincoln Caswell, Emanuel Hertz, Gov. Henry Horner, David Nelson, and Lewis G. Reynolds.

It was also coincidental that two of the foremost patrons of Lincoln research, Logan Hay and Arthur F. Hall, passed away in 1942, within a few weeks of each other. Mr. Hay came to the presidency of the Lincoln Centenary Association, now the Abraham Lincoln Association, in 1920, and was retained in this office until his death. Mr. Hall, one of the moving spirits in the Indiana Lincoln Union served continuously on its executive committee until its death. He was primarily responsible for the establishment of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

JOHN H. CRAMER Teacher

June 3, 1903

Oct. 26, 1948

Mr. Cramer became well known to Lincoln students as the secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association of Ohio. His first outstanding work in the Lincoln field was done in collaboration with Rufus Wilson in assisting to collect and annotate the *Uncollected Works of Abraham Lincoln*. He did not long survive his last work *Lincoln Under Enemy Fire*, published on October 20th of this year. At the time of his death he was a member of the history faculty at Youngstown College. He was also a member of the Advisory Group of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

ALBERT H. GRIFFITH Farmer

Nov. 20, 1871

Oct. 15, 1948

The Lincoln fraternity has not produced a more persistent and indefatigable collector of Lincoln items than the late Albert H. Griffith of Utica, Wis. Although he contributed three Lincoln pamphlets and lectured on Lincoln occasionally at Ripon College, where he graduated in 1906, he was primarily a collector. In 1930 the Lincoln National Life Foundation purchased his *Lincolniana*, but he was soon gathering another collection.

WALTER S. HOLDEN Lawyer

March 19, 1865

Aug. 4, 1948

Born twenty-six days before the death of Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Holden of Oak Park, Ill., might have been considered one of the contemporaries of the martyred President. He was one of the founders of the Civil War Round Table at Chicago. He was the author of two Lincoln pamphlets *Abraham Lincoln, Man of Inner Conflict, 1944*, and *Abraham Lincoln's Religion, 1946*. A graduate of the University of Michigan, his excellent Lincoln library was bequeathed to his Alma Mater.

EMIL LUDWIG Author

Jan. 25, 1881

Sept. 17, 1948

Mr. Ludwig will best be remembered in the field of *Lincolniana* as the "Continental Lincoln Biographer." His full length story of Lincoln in the German language published in Berlin in 1930 was ordered to be suppressed by Hitler. It was later translated into English, French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish. Mr. Ludwig died at Ascona, Switzerland.

MRS. JESSIE LINCOLN RANDOLPH Granddaughter of Abraham Lincoln

Nov. 6, 1875

Jan. 4, 1948

Mrs. Randolph, the youngest daughter of Robert Lincoln, was the last surviving grandchild of Abraham Lincoln. She was a gracious benefactor and many rare and valuable Lincoln items which she inherited from her father were presented to the Library of Congress. She was greatly interested in the publications of the Lincoln National Life Foundation. She spent her last years at the Manchester, Vermont, family home.

EDGAR J. RICH Lawyer

July 22, 1864

July 17, 1948

Mr. Rich was a prominent Boston lawyer and lectured on interstate commerce law at Harvard from 1908 to 1933. He was a member of the Boston Lincoln Fellowship. His will provided that, "all the rest and residue of my estate shall go to the town of Winchester, Massachusetts, for the use of the Winchester Public Library, and to be known as the Lincoln and Lee Trust Fund, to be administered by the trustees of said Library, the income of which shall be used for the purchase of books, pamphlets, pictures, mementos, and so forth, relating to Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee, . . .

"If it is difficult wisely to spend the entire income for the purposes specified, the income may be used to pay for lectures on Lincoln and Lee and on other great Americans; to provide for prizes for the best essays on Lincoln and Lee written by pupils of the Winchester High School; . . .

"The value of my Lincoln library lies in the fact that it contains many books, pamphlets, essays, sermons and so forth, written by men who knew Lincoln; also reminiscences and autobiographies of men who knew him and refer to him in these books."