

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 1403

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

February 27, 1956

NECROLOGY

Sometimes the sudden passing of a Lincoln student causes us to recount how many of our associates have departed since the last necrology appeared in *Lincoln Lore*. The fact that one of our best loved members of the Lincoln fellowship was stricken on Lincoln's birthday, just past, has accentuated the need for a memorial issue. The same fear in preparing such a list always comforts the compiler, as the names of some who should be mentioned may be overlooked.

Frederick M. Barden

F. M. Barden was the luncheon guest of the editor of this bulletin at Philadelphia on Friday noon, February 8, 1952 and we explored at that time the need of a Lincoln fellowship group in Philadelphia. That evening Rabbi Bertram W. Korn entertained the editor at dinner previous to an address before an audience including many Lincoln students at Reform Congregation Kene-seth Israel assembly. Frederick Barden immediately began the organization of an association interested in Lincoln of which he was made president and Rabbi Korn, secretary. Frederick Barden was not only the founder but the "driving spirit" of the Philadelphia Lincoln-Civil War Fellowship. Mr. Barden passed away at Veterans Hospital in Philadelphia on Jan. 4, 1956.

William Lowe Bryan

The president emeritus of Indiana University, William Lowe Bryan, was born five days after Abraham Lincoln was nominated for the presidency, on November 6, 1860. He was a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln and had inscribed on an interior wall of the Memorial Union building at the university the names of these five world figures: Christ, Aristotle, Galileo, Shakespeare and Lincoln. In small letters under this list of names are Dr. Bryan's initials W. L. B. He died on November 21, 1955 at 95 years of age.

Dale Carnegie

The author of *How to Win Friends and Influence People* did not consider this book his most important publication, but felt that his *Lincoln, the Unknown* was superior to it. His Lincoln book has gone into many editions. He formed the Carnegie Institute of Effective Speech. He was born November 24, 1888 near Maryville, Mo. and at the time of his death on November 1, 1955 was living at Forest Hills, New York City.

Helen Nicolay

About three months after the last necrology was published in *Lincoln Lore* Helen Nicolay, daughter of John Nicolay private secretary of Abraham Lincoln, passed away. She was the author of twenty-one books among them *The Boy's Life of Abraham Lincoln*, *Personal Traits of Abraham Lincoln*, and *Lincoln's Secretary*, published as late as 1949 when she was 83 years old. She had a very pleasing lecture on Lincoln which she gave up to the time of her last illness. She died in Washington, D. C. on September 12, 1954 at the age of 88 years.

Harry Edward Pratt

No member of the Lincoln fraternity will be more truly missed than Harry Pratt. Possibly all of us may be more or less indirectly responsible for his early passing by our constant appeals to him for information which he always provided so graciously. He was our outstanding Lincoln research student. He was born at Cambridge, Ill. on Dec. 16, 1901 and is best known for his service as executive secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association from 1936 to 1943 and his more recent

affiliation with the Illinois State Historical Library where he served as the State Historian. He was secretary and treasurer of the State Historical Society and editor of the *Illinois State Historical Society Journal*. He was author of *Lincoln, 1809-1839*, *Lincoln, 1840-1846*, *Personal Finances of Abraham Lincoln*, and *Concerning Mr. Lincoln*, besides numerous monographs. For fifteen years he had been on the advisory group of the Foundation. He passed away from a heart attack enroute to the hospital on Lincoln's Birthday. He was 54 years old and besides a daughter leaves a widow, Marion Bonzi Pratt, for whom all students of Lincoln express their deep sympathy.

Chauncey W. Reed

Among the members of the present Congress of the United States who might be called students of Abraham Lincoln was Rep. Chauncey W. Reed of Illinois. He often stopped at the Foundation library enroute between Washington and Chicago. He was especially interested in episodes relating to Lincoln's assassination. He was an honorary member of the Lincoln Club at Washington. He had been a member of the House since 1934 and he died at Bethesda, Md. on February 9, 1956 at 65 years of age.

Robert E. Sherwood

The drama, *Abe Lincoln in Illinois*, is more often associated with Raymond Massey, the impersonator of the leading character in the play than with Robert E. Sherwood, the author. Yet this dramatic production brought Sherwood a Pulitzer prize and made him the best known Lincoln playwright since Drinkwater. Sherwood was stricken with a heart attack on Nov. 12, 1955 at his home and died on November 14 in a New York hospital at 59 years of age.

John W. Starr

The name of John W. Starr of Millersburg, Pennsylvania should be included among the most active collectors of Lincoln books and pamphlets for the past twenty-five years. A *Bibliography of Lincolniana* which he published in 1926 reveals his microscopic search for literature relating to the Emancipator. He was also author of *Lincoln's Last Day*, *Further Light on Lincoln's Last Day*, and *Lincoln and the Railroads*. At the time of his death he was 66 years of age.

A. J. Walsmith

One of the members of that well informed group of Lincoln students that once made the tri-cities of Davenport, Moline and Rock Island a Lincoln mecca was Arthur John Walsmith. He was the guest speaker at the Lincoln tomb at Springfield, Ill. on Feb. 12, 1936. Born in Ottawa, Ill. on Jan. 17, 1870 he practiced law in Sheldon, and later in Oskaloose, Iowa until 1944 when he and his wife went to make their home with a daughter at Greenwich, Conn. It was here he passed away on Oct. 23, 1955 at 85 years of age.

Space will not permit more than the mention of these Lincoln students who have passed away since the last necrology was published. F. E. Balmer, Pullman, Wash., W. H. Danforth, St. Louis, Mo., Frank Farrington, Delhi, N. Y., C. H. Gamble, Peoria, Ill., Dr. Alfred M. Hellman, New York, N. Y., S. Grant Johnson, Dale, Ind., Gustava Kraemer, Egg Harbor City, N. J., Daniel H. Newhall, Glendale, Calif., Julius B. Olson, Madison, Wisc., G. A. Theilmann, Kansas City, Mo., John Valentine, Glendale, Calif., Dr. William R. Ward, Newark, N. J.