

LincolnLore

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The Presidents Eulogize Lincoln

The Library-Museum of the Lincoln National Life Foundation has a complete file of documents and letters bearing the signatures of all the Presidents of the United States from George Washington to Lyndon B. Johnson.

In acquiring such a collection of manuscripts an effort

has been made to obtain original statements about Abraham Lincoln made by those Presidents who followed him in office. Our efforts have been fairly successful.

The only Lincoln book in the Foundation's library bearing a President's signature is the regular edition of the "Uncollected Letters of A b r a h a m Lincoln" by Gilbert A. Tracy, published in 1917 by the Houghton Mifflin Company. On the inside cover is the bold signature of Theodore Roosevelt.

The Lincoln Library contains three pamphlets bearing Presidential signatures. They follow:

1. President Harding's Address at the Dedication of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C., 30 May 1922. Government Printing Office. At the end of the text on page 8 is the signature of Warren G. Harding.
2. Address of The President of The United States Before The National

Republican Club at the Waldorf-Astoria, February 12, 1924 at 8 o'clock P.M. Government Printing Office. Calvin Coolidge's signature appears on page 12.

3. Address of The President on Lincoln's Birthday. De-

3. Address of The President on Lincoln's Birthday. Delivered By Radio From The White House on Thursday Evening at 10 o'clock February 12, 1931. Government Printing Office. Herbert Hoover's signature appears on the cover title of the five page pamphlet.

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Among the William Howard Taft documents is to be found the following undated tribute to Lincoln:

"One cannot read of Abraham Lincoln without loving him. One cannot think of his struggles, of his life and

its tragic end, without weeping. One cannot study his efforts, his conscience, his heroism, his patriotism and the burdens of bitter attack and calumny under which he suffered, and think of the place he now occupies in the history of this country, without a moral inspiration

of the most stirring and intense character."

A letter from Warren G. Harding dated November 15, 1921 states among other things that:

"I think I may say that the people among whom Abraham Lincoln walks, even though he is not seen, are fortunate in their guarding and guiding spirit."

A statement dated June 20, 1933 by Herbert Hoover, prepared especially for the Foundation, prior to the dedication of Paul Manship's bronze statue of "Abraham Lincoln, the Hoosier Youth," is one of the prized items of this Presidential collection.

"Abraham Lincoln spent most of his boyhood and youth in Indiana and it is therefore most appropriate that his life and heroic service to country should be fittingly memorialized in that state which contributed so greatly to develop his powers of

mind and spirit at their most sensitive state. And as every fresh study of his life reveals new lessons of encouragement to a noble and fruitful use of every boy and girl's natural endowment of these powers, it is a true service to the nation to maintain institutions which, like the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation, are dedicated to the continuous study of the great President's career."

A few days before the dedication of Manship's Lincoln statue in the plaza of the Home Office building of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, President Hoover addressed a letter to one of the insurance company's executives. The letter was dated September 1,

THE WHITE HOUSE

June 20, 1932.

Abraham Lincoln spent most of his boyhood and youth in Indiana, and it is therefore most appropriate that his life and heroic service to country should be fittingly memorialized in that State which contributed so greatly to develop his powers of mind and spirit at their most sensitive stage. And as every fresh study of his life reveals new lessons of encouragement to a noble and fruitful use of every boy and girl's natural endowment of these powers, it is a true service to the Nation to maintain institutions which, like the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation, are dedicated to the continuous study of the great President's career.

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From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Herbert Hoover's Tribute to Abraham Lincoln. June 20, 1932.

1932, and it was read at the statue dedication exercises on September 16, 1932. It follows:

"I am deeply interested to learn of the unveiling and dedication of the Paul Manship statue of 'Abraham Lincoln, the Hoosier Youth'. Such a memorial of the great President is singularly appropriate in the State in which he spent so much of his boyhood. The ever growing appreciation of Abraham Lincoln's character and of his immortal service not only in preserving the Union but in adding to its loftier ideals, is a wholesome sign of the people's steadfast devotion to the highest principles of life and government."

Largely by accident, a letter of Franklin D. Roosevelt's, dated July 7, 1930, was acquired by the Foundation. It contains the following sentence:

"That is a very interesting story about Lincoln."

It was during the administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower that the Nation celebrated the sesquicentennial of Lincoln's birth. In a letter now in the Foundation's file, dated September 16, 1960, regarding the work of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, President Eisenhower among other statements, made the following comments:

"The completion of the work of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission brings to mind the many accomplishments of the Commission that will make 1959 a memorable year for Lincoln scholars and admirers of Lincoln everywhere. The outstanding success of the Joint Session of Congress on Lincoln's birthday (farreaching in its effect because of newspaper and television coverage), the issuance of four new commemorative Lincoln stamps, and the minting of the new Lincoln penny brought home to millions the importance of Lincoln and of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial year. The school and college programs implanted in many youthful, impressionable minds a knowledge of Lincoln's greatness that should mold character and inspire citizenship. The permanent literary and scholarly contribution of the Commission, growing out of the wide distribution of the Commission, growing out of the wide distribution of the Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln and the Lincoln Day by Day volumes to college and school libraries in this Country and the distribution of microfilm copies of the Lincoln papers of the Library of Congress to all of the countries in the United Nations with facilities to use microfilm, is an incalculable benefit to Lincoln scholarship in this Country and abroad.

"In short, the Commission has done much to respond to, and to deepen, the interest which people everywhere

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life, and its tragic end, without weeping. One cannot
study his efforts, his conscience, his heroism, his
patriotism and the burdens of bitter attack and calumny
under which he suffered, and think of the place he now
occupies in the history of this country, without a moral
inspiration of the most stirring and intense character."

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have in Lincoln's ideals and in Lincoln as the 'Symbol of the Free Man'."

On June 15, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson prepared for the Foundation a significant statement concerning the Centenary of Lincoln's death. His signed statement follows:

"As the Centenary of Lincoln's death approaches, I believe that we should all give special thought to the humane principles, more pertinent now than ever before, to which he dedicated his life and for which he died. I wish your Foundation every success in its efforts to keep alive public interest in one of the greatest of our Presidents."

Presidents Before and After Lincoln

Editor's Note: The October 19, 1936 issue (No. 393) of Lincoln Lore bore the above title. It is thought appropriate to reprint this compilation in connection with the lead article. Likewise, to bring the early Lincoln Lore up to date seems appropriate.

Comments by Lincoln on the 15 Presidents Who Preceded Him

- GEORGE WASHINGTON "Washington is the mightiest name on earth . . . In solemn awe pronounce the name, and in its naked deathless splendor leave it shining on."—Address, Feb. 22, 1842.
- JOHN ADAMS—"The two men most distinguished in the framing and support of the Declaration were Thomas Jefferson and John Adams—the one having penned it and the other sustained it the most forcible in debate—the only two of the fifty-five who signed it who were elected Presidents of the United States." —Response to Serenade, July 7, 1863.
- THOMAS JEFFERSON—"It is now no child's play to save the principles of Jefferson from total overthrow in this nation . . . The principles of Jefferson are the definitions and axioms of free society and yet they are denied and evaded, with no small show of success."—Letter, April 6, 1859.
- 4. JAMES MADISON—"The first national bank was established chiefly by the same men who formed the Constitution . . . it received the sanction, as President, of Mr. Madison to whom common consent has awarded the proud title of 'Father of the Constitution'."—Circular, March 4, 1843.
- 5. JAMES MONROE—"Almost every good man since the formation of our government has uttered that sentiment . . . from General Washington, who 'trusted that we should yet have a confederacy of free states' with Jefferson, Jay, Monroe, down to the latest days."—Address, March 6, 1860.
- JOHN QUINCY ADAMS—"The last year of J. Q. Adams' administration cost, in round numbers, thirteen millions being about one dollar to each soul in the nation."—Speech, December 20, 1839.
- 7. ANDREW JACKSON—"'By the eternal.' I take the responsibility.' Those were the 'Samson locks' of General Jackson, and we dare not disregard the lessons of experience."—Letter, July 28, 1849.
- MARTIN VAN BUREN—"His prayers were for the restoration of the authority of the government of which he had been the head, and for peace and good will among his fellow citizens."—General Order No. 89, July 25, 1862.
- WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON—"With the gallant Harrison at our head, we shall meet our foes and conquer them in all parts of the Union."—Circular, Jan. 1, 1840.
- 10. JOHN TYLER-No favorable comment discovered.
- JAMES KNOX POLK—No favorable comment discovered.
- 12. ZACHARY TAYLOR—"General Taylor himself, the noblest Roman of them all, has declared that as a citizen and particularly as a soldier it is sufficient for him to know that his country is at war with a foreign

nation, to do all in his power to bring it to a speedy and honorable termination."—Speech, July 27, 1848.

- MILLARD FILMORE—"In Congress, placed at the head of one of the most important committees, and as its chairman, was the principal member of the House of Representatives in maturing the Tariff of 1842."— Speeches, August 14 and 26, 1852.
- 14. FRANKLIN PIERCE—"I have only to say that, General Pierce's history being as it is, the attempt to set him up as a great general is simply ludicrous and laughable; and that the free merry people of this country have laughed at it and will continue to laugh at it."—Addresses, August 14 and 26, 1852.
- JAMES BUCHANAN—"Buchanan is the hard horse to beat in this race (campaign of 1856.) Let him have Illinois and nothing can beat him."—Letter, Sept. 8, 1856.

Comments on Lincoln by the 19 Presidents Who Followed Him

- ANDREW JOHNSON—"When future generations shall read the history of the second revolutionary crisis... Abraham Lincoln will stand out as the greatest man of the age."—Tribute.
- ULYSSES S. GRANT—"A man of great ability, pure patriotism, unselfish nature, full of forgiveness to his enemies, bearing malice towards none... His fame will grow brighter as time passes and his great work is better understood."—Manuscript, 1880.
- RUTHERFORD B. HAYES—"Lincoln's fame is safe. He is the darling of history forevermore. His life and achievements give him titles to regard second to those of no other man in ancient or modern times." —Letter, April 16, 1865.
- JAMES ABRAM GARFIELD—"He was one of the few great rulers whose wisdom increased with his power, and whose spirit grew gentler and tenderer as his triumphs were multiplied."—Address, Feb. 12, 1878.
- CHESTER ALAN ARTHUR (No tribute discovered.)
- GROVER CLEVELAND—"He was called to save a nation . . . He too loved the country. He who made the country gave him in compensation, an unstinted measure of inspiration for the most impressive and solemn public duty."—Youth Companion, Feb. 8, 1906.
- BENJAMIN HARRISON—"He stands like a great lighthouse to show the way of duty to all his countrymen and to send afar a beam of courage to those who beat against the winds."—Eulogy, Feb. 12, 1898.
- 8. WILLIAM McKINLEY—"A thousand years hence no story, no tragedy, no epic poem, will be filled with greater words than that which tells of his life and death."—Address, Feb. 12, 1896.
- THEODORE ROOSEVELT—"The lover of his country and all mankind: the mightiest of the mighty men who mastered the mighty days."—Address, Feb. 12, 1909.
- WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT—"The oppressed and lowly of all peoples, as liberty and free government spread, pronounce his name with awe . . . This harmony of his message with every popular aspiration of freedom proves his universality."—Address, May 30, 1922.
- WOODROW WILSON—"As he stands there in his complete manhood at the most perilous helm of Christendom what a marvelous composite figure he is! The whole country is summed up in him."—Forum Magazine, Feb. 1894.
- 12. WARREN GAMALIEL HARDING—"We are dealing with the master martyr, the supreme leader in a national crisis, the surpassing believer in a fulfilled destiny, and a colossal figure among the hero-statesmen of all ages."—Address, Feb. 12, 1923.
- 13. CALVIN COOLIDGE—"His presence filled the nation. He broke the might of oppression. He restored a race to its birthright. His mortal fame has vanished, but his spirit increased with the increasing

- years, the richest legacy of the greatest century."— Proclamation, Feb. 12, 1926.
- HERBERT CLARK HOOVER—"Lincoln after all these years still grows not only in the hearts of his countrymen but in the hearts of the people of the world."—Address, June 17, 1931.
- FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT—"With his charity and kindness, his insight and humor, his endurance and faith, has come to be the exemplar of our American life."—Manuscript, Feb. 13, 1935.

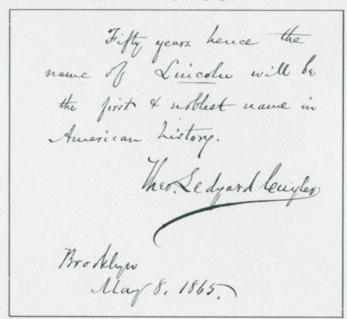
Addendum

- 16. HARRY S. TRUMAN—"Whereas those classic lines [Gettysburg Address] are enshrined forever in the hearts of all Americans; and whereas President Lincoln's closing resolve 'that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth' has a special and solemn connotation in world affairs at the present moment . ." Excerpt from a proclamation dated October 30, 1946, proclaiming November 19, 1946, the eighty-third Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, as Dedication Day.
- 17. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER—"Lincoln's leadership was accomplished through dedication to a single purpose, the preservation of the Union. He understood deeply the great values that unite us all as a people, Georgia with New York and Massachusetts with Texas, California with Florida. He knew that there were divisive influences at work, but he knew also they were transitory in character; they were flaming with heat, but they were made of stuff that would soon burn itself out." Address, April 23, 1954.
- 18. JOHN F. KENNEDY—"Abraham Lincoln does not, I think, merely belong to the United States. Now, he belongs to all those who believe in freedom, who believe in the rights of man." Greetings to the President and people of Brazil, April 3, 1961.
- LYNDON B. JOHNSON (See quotation in first article.)

A Significant Prophecy

Four days after Abraham Lincoln's funeral in Springfield, Illinois, the Rev. Mr. Theodore Ledyard Cuyler wrote a significant prophecy regarding the enduring fame of the Sixteenth President. His statement follows: "Fifty years hence the name of Lincoln will be the first & noblest name in American history. Theo. Ledyard Cuyler, Brooklyn, May 8, 1865."

Cuyler at the time the above statement was written was the minister of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn, New York. He was also a writer for the religious press to which he contributed some 4000 articles and about 22 books. A great number of his publications appeared in foreign languages.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY – 1964-1965

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Road, Garden City New York; Carl Haverlin, 8619 Louis Avenue, Northridge, California; E. B. Long, 708 North Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park, Ill.; Ralph G. Newman, 18 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, Ill.; Kenneth A. Bernard, Boston University, 725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.: Clyde C. Walton, Jr., Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.; Judge Warren L. Jones, U. S. Court of Appeals, Jacksonville, Fla., Hon. Fred Schwengel, 636 Union Arcade, Davenport, Iowa. New items available for consideration may be sent to the above addresses or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

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WABER, BERNARD

Cut of boy in Lincoln's clothing)/by Bernard Waber/
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Lincoln / Illinois / on the / (Device) Lincoln Heritage
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