



Lincoln Lore

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Lincoln Revered Washington

Editor's Note: While it is generally accepted that Henry Clay was Abraham Lincoln's "beau ideal of a statesman" he nevertheless had a great reverence for George Washington. Lincoln thought of Clay as a contemporary, whereas the name and memory of Washington was for him a great pillar of strength of the original edifice of our Constitutional government.

Lincoln used Washington's name, as his own is used today, to give authority to his statements, and to evoke a patriotic reverence for the Constitution and the laws.

Some of our greatest political eulogies were uttered by Lincoln: however, none exceed that on Washington which he gave before the Springfield Washington Temperance Society on February 22, 1842.

An effort has been made to compile some of Lincoln's statements about Washington from *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*. Some of these quotations taken out of context do not always convey the mood of the occasion or the political principle which Lincoln was attempting to demonstrate.

R.G.M.

"They were the pillars of the temple of liberty; and now, that they have crumbled away, that temple must fall, unless we, their descendants, supply their places with other pillars, hewn from the solid quarry of sober reason. Passion has helped us; but can do so no more. It will in future be our enemy. Reason, cold, calculating, unimpassioned reason, must furnish all the materials for our future support and defence. Let those [materials] be moulded into *general intelligence, [sound] morality and, in particular, a reverence for the constitution and laws;* and, that we improved to the last; that we remained free to the last; that we revered his name to the last; [that], during his long sleep, we permitted no hostile foot to pass over or desecrate [his] resting place; shall be that which to [earn the last] trump shall awaken our Washington."

Address Before the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois
January 27, 1838

"We have often heretofore shown, and therefore need not in detail do so again, that a majority of the Revolutionary patriarchs, whoever acted officially upon the ques-

tion, commencing with Gen. Washington and embracing Gen. Jackson, the larger number of the signers of the Declaration, and of the framers of the Constitution, who were in the Congress of 1791, have decided upon their oaths that such a bank is constitutional."

Speech on the Sub-Treasury
December [26], 1839

"The last ten years under Gen. Jackson and Mr. Van Buren, cost more money than the first *twenty-seven* did, (including the heavy expenses of the late British war,) under Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison."

Speech on the Sub-Treasury
December [26], 1839

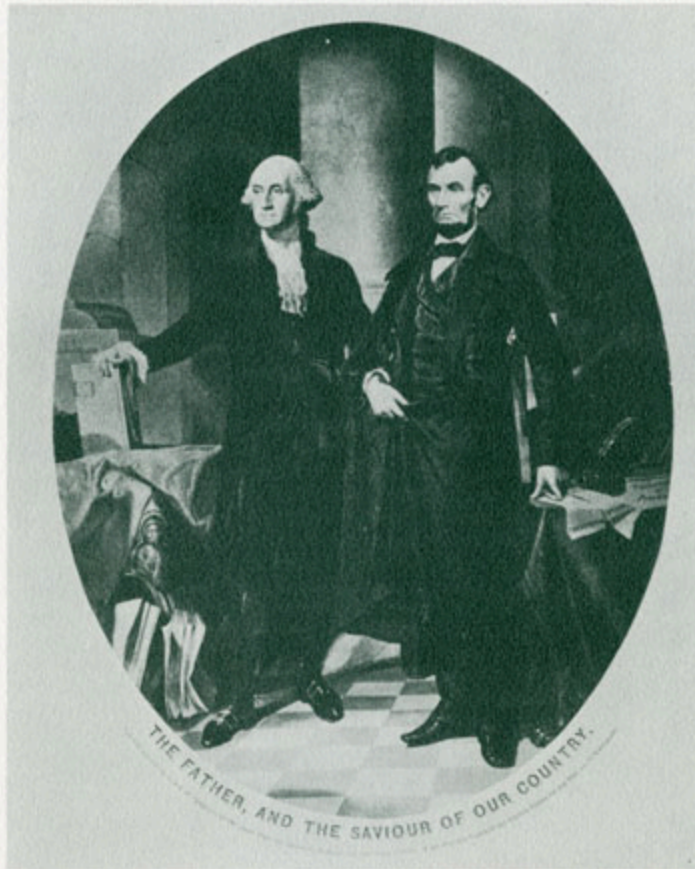
"Gen. Washington administered the Government *eight* years for *sixteen* millions. Mr. Van Buren administered it *one* year (1838) for *forty* millions; so that Mr. Van Buren expended *twice* and a *half* as much in *one* year, as Gen. Washington did in *eight*, and being in the proportion of *twenty to one*—or, in other words, had Gen. Washington administered the Government *twenty* years, at the same average expense that he did for *eight*, he would have carried us through the whole *twenty*, for no more money than Mr. Van Buren has expended in getting us through the single *one* of 1838."

Speech on the Sub-Treasury
December [26], 1839

"This is the one hundred and tenth anniversary of the birth-day of Washington. We are met to celebrate this day. Washington is the mightiest name of earth—*long since* mightiest in moral reformation. On that name, an eulogy is expected. It cannot be. To

add brightness to the sun, or glory to the name of Washington, is alike impossible. Let none attempt it. In solemn awe pronounce the name, and in its naked deathless splendor, leave it shining on."

Temperance Address Delivered before the Springfield Washington
Temperance Society
February 22, 1842



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

The Father, And The Saviour Of Our Country

This composite photograph depicts Lincoln's head on the body of John C. Calhoun. If prospective customers did not like Calhoun's body and Lincoln's head, a similar photograph was available with Henry Clay's body and a different Lincoln head. This photograph was copyrighted in 1865 by James T. Bodtker in the District Court of the United States for the District of Wisconsin.

"We, therefore, upon the [question of?] constitutionality, content ourselves with remarking the facts, that the first National Bank was established chiefly by the same men who formed the constitution, at a time when that instrument was but two years old, receiving the sanction, as President, of the immortal Washington; that the second received the sanction, as President, of Mr. Madison, to whom common consent has awarded the proud title of "Father of the Constitution"; and subsequently the sanction of the Supreme Court, the most enlightened judicial tribunal in the world."

Address To The People of Illinois

March 4, 1843

"Mr. Lincoln commenced and tried to show that because Washington and Madison signed the U. S. Bank Bill, therefore it was constitutional. He labored hard to prove that Washington never done a wrong thing in his life; that Clay was honest in changing his party and his bank notions; he launched into the State Bank system, and said that the democrats chartered our State Bank, and all the State Banks were chartered by the democrats; that the majority of the directors (of democrats) had authorized the suspension in 1837, and intimated that the democrats had been for it, (the State Bank) ever since, and told his old calf story and made up his hour."

Sangamo Journal report of Speech in Virginia, Illinois

February 24, 1844

"Let him [Polk] answer fully, fairly, and candidly. Let him answer with facts, and not with arguments. Let him remember he sits where Washington sat, and so remembering, let him answer, as Washington would answer."

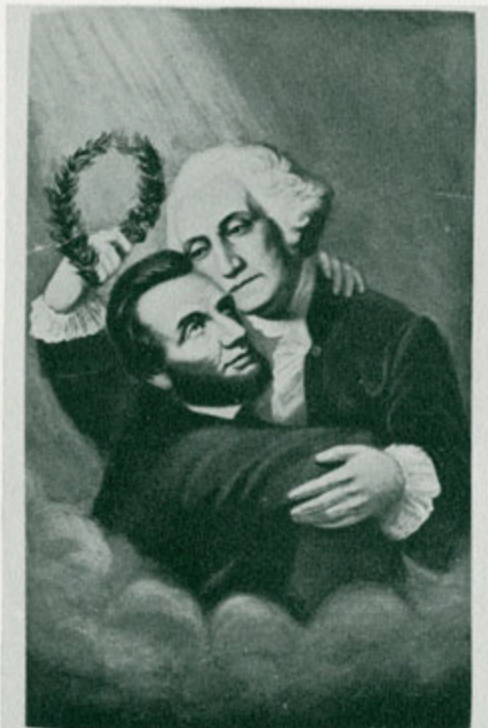
Speech in United States House of Representatives: The War with Mexico

January 12, 1848

"When the bill chartering the first bank of the United States passed Congress, its constitutionality was questioned. Mr. Madison, then in the House of Representatives, as well as others, had opposed it on that ground. Gen. Washington, as President, was called on to approve or reject it. He sought and obtained on the constitutional question the separate written opinions of Jefferson, Hamilton, and Edmund Randolph; . . ."

Speech in U. S. House of Representatives of the Presidential Question: "Gen: Taylor and the Veto"

July 27, 1848



Engraved, according to artist's conception in the year 1793, by J. A. Kneller, in the *Country Gentleman's Magazine* for the August Number of that year. WASHINGTON & LINCOLN. (APOTHEOSIS.) A. & J. FINE, Print. Third and Park, by Phil. Geo. Co., 120 Chestnut St.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Washington and Lincoln (Apotheosis)

There are eight variations of this composite carte-de-visite in the Foundation's collection. This particular photograph was published in Philadelphia in 1865, by the Philadelphia Photograph Co., 720 Chestnut Street.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Liberty Crowning Her Martyr

In this picture Liberty is apparently resting her left arm on the bust of Washington while she crowns Lincoln. This photograph of a drawing was published in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1865.

"The precise language of this speech we shall never know; but we do know—we cannot help knowing, that, with deep pathos, it pleaded the cause of the injured sailor—that it invoked the genius of the revolution—that it apostrophised the names of Otis, of Henry and of Washington—that it appealed to the interest, the pride, the honor and the glory of the nation—that it shamed and taunted the timidity of friends—that it scorned, and scouted, and withered the temerity of domestic foes—that it bearded and defied the British Lion—and rising, and swelling, and maddening in its course, it sounded the onset, till the charge, the shock, the steady struggle, and the glorious victory, all passed in vivid review before the entranced hearers."

Eulogy on Henry Clay

July 6, 1852

"If we do not know these things, we do not know that we ever had a revolutionary war, or such a chief as Washington."

Speech at Peoria

October 16, 1854

"He demonstrated that the Republicans are walking in the 'old paths'—read the recorded sentiments of Washington, Jefferson and others, and dwelt at length upon the position of Henry Clay, (now quoted against him,) the Nestor of the old Whig party."

St. Louis Missouri Republican report of Speech at Olney, Ill.

September 20, 1856

"Now, I believe if we could arrest the spread, and place it where Washington, and Jefferson, and Madison placed it, it would be in the course of ultimate extinction, and the public mind would, as for eighty years past, believe that it was in the course of ultimate extinction."

First Debate with Stephen A. Douglas, at Ottawa, Illinois

August 21, 1858

"I am fighting it [Nebraska bill] upon these 'original principles'—fighting it in the Jeffersonian, Washingtonian, and Madisonian fashion."

First Debate with Stephen A. Douglas, at Ottawa, Illinois

August 21, 1858

"I think I may defy Judge Douglas to show that he ever said so [that the Negro was not included in the Declaration of Independence], that Washington ever said so, that any President ever said, that any member of Congress ever said so, or that any living man upon the whole earth ever said so, until the necessities of the present policy of the Democratic party, in regard to slavery, had to invent that affirmation."

Fifth Debate with Stephen A. Douglas, at Galesburg, Illinois

October 7, 1858

"We mean to treat you as near as we possibly can, like Washington, Jefferson and Madison treated you."
Speech at Cincinnati, Ohio September 17, 1859

"He would bring his evidence in form of depositions in a court, and wring from them the verdict that the Republicans hold to the same principles which Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Madison and their compeers held."
Beloit Journal reprint of Speech at Beloit October 1, 1859

"Compare, or rather contrast, the actual working of this new policy with that of the old, and say whether, after all, the old way—the way adopted by Washington and his compeers—was not the better way."
Speech at Leavenworth, Kansas December 3, 1859

"Do you really think you are justified to break up the government rather than have it administered by Washington, and other good and great men who made it, and first administered it?"
Speech at Leavenworth, Kansas December 3, 1859

"Again, George Washington, another of the 'thirty-nine' [thirty-nine who framed the Constitution], was then President of the United States, and, as such, approved and signed the bill; thus completing its validity as a law, and thus showing that, in his understanding, no line dividing local from federal authority, nor anything in the Constitution, forbade the Federal Government, to control as to slavery in federal territory."
Address at Cooper Institute, New York City February 27, 1860

"Some of you delight to flaunt in our faces the warning against sectional parties given by Washington in his Farewell Address. Less than eight years before Washington gave that warning, he had, as President of the United States, approved and signed an act of Congress, enforcing the prohibition of slavery in the Northwestern Territory, which act embodied the policy of the Government upon that subject up to and at the very moment he penned that warning; and about one year after he penned it, he wrote La Fayette that he considered the prohibition a wise measure, expressing in the same connection his hope that we should at some time have a confederacy of free States."
Address at Cooper Institute, New York City February 27, 1860
(See address at New Haven, Conn., March 6, 1860)

"Let us be diverted by none of those sophistical contrivances wherewith we are so industriously plied and belabored—contrivances such as groping for some middle ground between the right and the wrong, vain as the search for a man who should be neither a living man nor a dead man—such as a policy of 'don't care' on a question about which all true men do care—such as Union appeals beseeching true Union men to yield to Disunionists, reversing the divine rule, and calling, not the sinners, but the righteous to repentance — such as invocations to Washington, imploring men to unsay what Washington said, and undo what Washington did."
Cooper Institute Address, New York City February 28, 1860
(See address at New Haven, Conn., March 6, 1860)

"You all know how Seward has been abused for his 'irrepressible conflict' doctrine. The Democracy have repeated it over, and over, and over again; I call this bush-whackery because they have been reminded time after time, but could never be made to admit, that the old fathers said the same thing. They dare not deny it because they know the proof is ready at your hands to meet their denial. Jefferson said it; Washington said it."
Speech at Hartford, Connecticut March 5, 1860

"The Republicans go back to first principles and deal with it as a wrong. Mason, of Va., said openly that the framers of our government were anti-slavery. Hammond of S. C., said 'Washington set this evil example.' Bully Brooks said: 'At the time the Constitution was formed, no one supposed slavery would last till now.' We stick to the policy of our fathers."
Speech at Hartford, Connecticut March 5, 1860

"There is 'The irrepressible conflict.' How they rail at Seward for that saying. They repeat it constantly; and although the proof has been thrust under their noses again and again, that almost every good man since the formation of our government has uttered that same sentiment, from Gen. Washington, who 'trusted that we should yet have a confederacy of Free States,' with Jefferson, Jay, Monroe, down to the latest days, yet they refuse to notice that at all, and persist in railing at Seward for saying it."
Speech at New Haven, Connecticut March 6, 1860

"The South would be in no more danger in this respect, than it was in the days of Washington."
To Alexander H. Stephens December 22, 1860

"I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington."
Farewell Address at Springfield, Illinois February 11, 1861
(A. Version)

"We mean to treat you, as near as we possibly can, as Washington, Jefferson, and Madison treated you. We mean to leave you alone, and in no way to interfere with your institution; to abide by all and every compromise of the constitution, and, in a word, coming back to the original proposition, to treat you, so far as degenerated men (if we have degenerated) may, according to the examples of those noble fathers—Washington, Jefferson and Madison."
Speech at Cincinnati, Ohio February 12, 1861

"I cannot but know what you all know, that, without a name, perhaps without a reason why I should have a name, there has fallen upon me a task such as did not rest even upon the Father of his country."
Address to the Ohio Legislature, Columbus, Ohio February 13, 1861

"May I be pardoned if, upon this occasion, I mentioned that away back in my childhood, the earliest days of my being able to read, I got hold of a small book, such a one as few of the younger members have ever seen, 'Weem's Life of Washington.'"
Address to the New Jersey Senate at Trenton, New Jersey February 21, 1861

"Allusion has been made to the fact—the interesting fact perhaps we should say—that I for the first time appear at the Capitol of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, upon the birthday of the Father of his Country."
Address to the Pennsylvania General Assembly at Harrisburg February 22, 1861



THE FOUNDER AND THE PRESERVER OF THE UNION.
[Apotheosis.]
Entered according to Act of Congress by Thurston, Herline & Co.,
in the year 1865, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the
Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
Published by Thurston, Herline & Co., 629 Chestnut St., Phila.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

The Founder and The Preserver of The Union
(Apotheosis)

Published in 1865 by Thurston, Herline & Co., 630 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

"... yet you would have me break my oath and surrender the Government without a blow. There is no Washington in that—no Jackson in that—no manhood nor honor in that."

Reply to Baltimore Committee

April 22, 1861

"This is the patriotic instinct of the plain people. They understand, without an argument, that destroying the government, which was made by Washington, means no good to them."

Message to Congress in Special Session

July 4, 1861

"It is recommended to the People of the United States that they assemble in their customary places of meeting for public solemnities on the twenty-second day of February instant, and celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Father of His Country by causing to be read to them his immortal Farewell address."

Proclamation for Celebration of Washington's Birthday

February 19, 1862

"In the American Revolutionary war sacrifices were made by men engaged in it; but they were cheered by the future. Gen. Washington himself endured greater physical hardships than if he had remained a British subject. Yet he was a happy man, because he was engaged in benefiting his race—something for the children of his neighbors, having none of his own."

Address on Colonization to a Deputation of Negroes

August 14, 1862

"The first General Order issued by the Father of his Country after the Declaration of Independence, indicates the spirit in which our institutions were founded and should ever be defended: 'The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.'"

Order of Sabbath Observance

November 15, 1862

"The birth-day of Washington, and the Christian Sabbath, coinciding this year, and suggesting together, the highest interest of this life, and of that to come, is most propitious for the meeting proposed."

To Alexander Reed

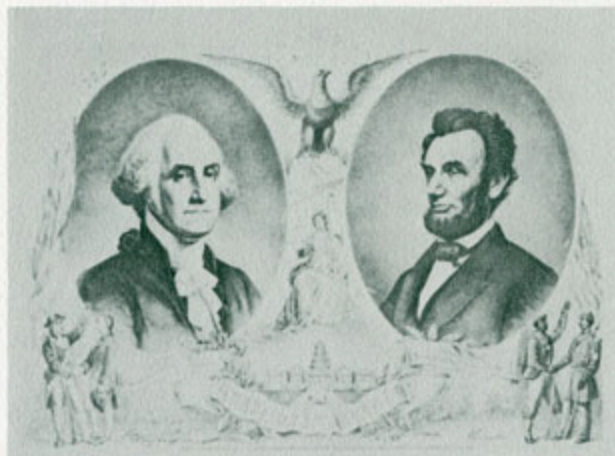
February 22, 1863

Lincoln Compared With Washington

Editor's Note: In 1882 Osborn H. Oldroyd published in his book *The Lincoln Memorial: Album-Immortelles* eulogies on the Sixteenth President that he had solicited from the notable men of that period. As will be noted in the following compilation, many of the eulogies compare Lincoln with Washington.

"In the annals of almost every great nation some names appear standing out clear and prominent, names of those who have influenced or controlled the great events which make up history. Such were Wallace and Bruce in Scotland, Alfred and the Edwards, William the Conqueror, Cromwell, Pitt, Nelson and Wellington, in England, and such, in a still greater degree, were Washington and Lincoln." —Isaac N. Arnold

"Hence Abraham Lincoln, the preserver, as Washington was the founder of the great Union, always, I must con-



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Champions of Liberty 1776 - 1864

This carte-de-visite photograph made from a picture designed by S. Marshall (14" x 18") was offered for sale by P. S. Duval & Son, 22 - 24 South Fifth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

fess, stood higher in my estimation and love than all the Alexanders, Caesars, and Napoleons who have reddened the pages of history with their brilliant exploits." —Tito Pagliardirri

"Abraham Lincoln, with George Washington, will stand out in the pages of American history in exalted pre-eminence." —Lot M. Morrill

"So humble, simple, disinterested, impersonal, the peer of Washington." —O. B. Frothingham

"More fully than any other man, not excepting Washington, Abraham Lincoln embodied and exhibited our distinctive civilization." —G. De La Matyr

"He was the most conscientious man I ever knew, and ranks with Washington in genius, public service, and patriotism." —C. M. Clay

"His freedom from passion and bitterness—in his acute sense of justice—in his courageous faith in the right, and his inextinguishable hatred of wrong—in warm and heartfelt sympathy and mercy, in his coolness of judgment, in his unquestioned rectitude of intention—in a word, in his ability to lift himself for his country's sake above all mere partizanship, in all the marked traits of his character combined, he has had no parallel since Washington, and, while our republic endures he will live with him in the grateful hearts of his grateful countrymen." —Schuyler Colfax

"If the ambitious young men of the present and future generations will earnestly study and imitate these sublime characters, relying as they did upon their own honest, patient toil and privation of luxuries, instead of leaning upon others or watching chances to be placed high by those temporarily in power—to suddenly tumble from unearned stations—some of them may reap the reward and honors of Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, Grant and Garfield." —Leonard W. Volk

"He combined the integrity of Washington with the humanity of Wilberforce." —Geo. W. Julian

"Next to Washington, the Father of our Independence, stands Abraham Lincoln, the martyr of our Union, in the line of our Presidents." —Philip Shaff

Lincoln was as evidently raised up of God for 1861, as Washington was for 1776. Two more unlike each other could hardly be produced in the history of a common country, among those who have identified themselves with its progress; but their common elements of character were those of the Anglo-Saxon race (so-called), a love of freedom and of law; perceptions of the right thing to do and of the right time to do it; all regulated by a sober faith in divine Providence, and a willingness to be His instrument for good to mankind". —A. Cleveland Cox

(Continued to March 1966 issue)



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

The Martyr And The Father "They Still Live In Our Hearts"