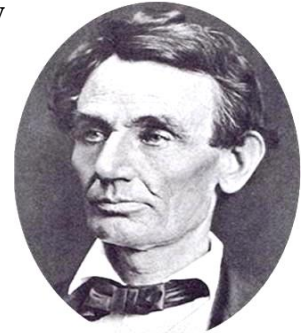


Roots & Branches

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Fall 2023: October, November, December

Meeting Schedule: All program meetings are at 6:30 pm on the third Monday of each month. The speakers are first on the agenda. We look forward to seeing you. Please call, Vice-President and Program Chairperson, with suggestions for programs at 217-732-3200.

Oct. 16: Bill Donath's presentation will be about the Oct. 13, 1883 murder of Zura Burns.

Nov. 13: Annual Meeting – Atlanta Giants Museum.

Dec.: No Meeting

Call for Article Submissions

Members and readers who have a genealogical or historical story related to Logan County to tell can do so through the Roots & Branches. Stories can be submitted in writing or by email. These stories will provide a variety. **Bill Donath**, Editor

Officers for 2022-2023

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Holiday Closings

The Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society research center will be closed for the following holidays: **New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day,**

Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, **Christmas Eve Day, and Christmas Day.** In the event any of the holidays falls on a Friday, the center will also be closed the following Saturday.

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LCGHS Presence on Youtube - Updated.

LCGHS has the following videos on Youtube. The videos are listed in the order in which they were posted. Youtube seems to present them in random order. Sometimes the sequence is important. Some videos are informative, some are instructional, and some are just fun. If you are reading this on a computer, just click on the link. Future R&B's will have a short update on the videos posted since the previous R&B. Click here to go there.

<https://www.youtube.com/@logancoil1839>

Fire Log Adventure 2

<https://youtu.be/qc9-FkWEBW0>

Fire Log 2 Artifacts 1

<https://youtu.be/EJ6WnDwsC70>

Fire Log 2 Artifacts 2

<https://youtu.be/knK1KG4grAU>

Fire Log Adventure 3

https://youtu.be/Bn0rt9_xz2E

Fire Log Adventure 4

<https://youtu.be/ojA4kN4JJIM>

Fire Log 4 Artifacts with Historical Perspective

<https://youtu.be/NgsLjVGbHvA>

Fire Log Adventure 5

<https://youtu.be/RJeMZrGXXys>

Kickapoo Indians in Logan

County <https://youtu.be/Uyna7oVig44>

Revolutionary War Veterans Buried in Logan County

<https://youtu.be/JVctNvhHNTs>

History of Lincoln Elementary, High School Districts

Harry Augspurger, Lincoln Courier, Lincoln, IL, July 1, 1976

“The schools of our city belong to the people and represent the time and effort of many public-spirited citizens of the community. The present Board of Education and those faithful citizens of past boards have given of their time to see that the children of this community have of the best in education.

“Postville was laid out in 1835. Lincoln was established in 1853. Postville was absorbed in the municipality in 1865. The first school organized in Lincoln would therefore be one of the first schools in Postville. The first school in **Postville** was built in 1842. Among its first teachers was Mr. **Samuel Briggs**. This schoolhouse was located on

Jackson Street, between Fifth and Sixth streets and fronted the block on which Jefferson school now stands.

“The first schoolhouse built in the City of Lincoln was built in 1854. It was built on Clinton Street where Washington school now stands. By act of the legislature dated February 24, 1859, the ‘Lincoln School District’ was formed.

City of Lincoln

“By act of the legislature, passed February 16, 1865, the town of Postville and the town of Lincoln were united under the name ‘City of Lincoln’. At the same time, a further act was passed repealing the Lincoln School District Act of 1859, and creating a new school district within the city limits of the City of Lincoln to be known as the ‘Lincoln School District’ to be under the control of the Board of Education, to consist of Mayor and one director from each of the four wards of the city. Previous to this time the schools were under the direction of the County Superintendent of Schools. At this time, 1865, there were five schools in the city, containing seven rooms in all, namely: the grammar school, a school with one room, called the high school; the first ward, two rooms; the second ward, two rooms; the third ward, one room; the fourth ward, one room.

“Further re-organization of the school occurred July 1, 1867, when the City Council passed an ordinance creating a Board of School Inspectors organized under this new organization on the first Monday in September 1867. The city council had, in the months of July and August, 1867, built a new school house in the third ward and added a story to the Fourth Ward school. This year, 1867, found 1,296 children of school age in the City of Lincoln.

School Site Purchased

“In 1869 the site of the present **Central School** was purchased. During the summer and spring of 1870, a new building, three stories high, 78 feet by 96 feet, and 75 feet to

the top of the dome, containing eleven classrooms and two recitation rooms, was erected.

“A First Ward school was built in 1885, was designated the **Washington School** in the City of Lincoln. The building was built by **W. F. Hoyle**. It was two stories high, contained six rooms 23 feet by 30 feet. In 1880 a new building containing four rooms 23 feet by 30 feet was built in the Fourth Ward. It was called the **Jefferson school**. It was ready for occupancy in February 1889.

“In 1894 the voters voted to bring the schools under General Law. The schools are controlled by a president and six-member Board of Education. The president and two board members being elected each year.

“In 1895, a bond issue for \$16,000 was voted for school building purposes. In 1895, a contract was awarded to **Walker Brothers** to erect a school building in the Third Ward. The site selected was on Fourth Street. A four room building, two stories in height, 62 feet by 64 feet was built and was called **Madison School**. In 1897, two additional rooms were added to **Washington School**.

“In 1898, \$30,000 was voted to build a high school and two other buildings. The **high school** lot was purchased and a three-story building constructed.

“In 1898 a lot 160 by 150 feet was purchased. The school, present **Adams School**, was built by **W. F. Hoyle** and had two rooms as did Monroe school, which was also built then.

Two More Built

“After 1900, two more schoolhouses were built, one known as the **Van Buren** in the north part of Lincoln at the corner of Kickapoo and Omaha avenue, and the other, one room, known as they **Tyler school** on Oglesby Avenue. These two schools along with Madison School have been absorbed by the other schools of the city and buildings sold.

“In 1915 a new **Central School** building was built just north of the site of the old

Central School building which was razed. The building contained twenty-two classrooms and a gym. This building, a two-story brick, is still in use today.

“In 1918, a four-room two-story addition was added to the **Monroe school**. In 1920, a four-room two-story addition was added to **Jefferson school**. In the same year, the **Community High School District No. 27** took over the operation of the grade schools of the city. They now operate under two separate boards of education. The old part of the present high school was sold by District No. 27 to District No. 404. The money received from this sale was used to buy the lots opposite the high school and to be used as a community playground.

Kindergarten Offered

“We now offer kindergarten through grade eight in the elementary schools of this city. Our kindergartens are the newest addition of our system. We have found them to be widely accepted by the people of the community.

“The kindergarten gives the five-year-old and understanding of the rights and privileges of others. It teaches various skills preparatory to formal learning. First grade teachers can start the formal learning processes at once.

“A five-year-old had a short span of attention, but by the time he has completed his kindergarten training, his has increased to where he is able to understand what is presented to him. The first grader learns that the printed page carries a thought. He begins to learn that he can convey this thought to others. By the end of his first year of formal schooling, he should be able to read simple books that are written in the range of his ability.

“As the child grows older and advances from grade to grade, more is added to the course of study. He begins to learn to write and to state simple ideas on paper. More music, art and physical education are added. At the fourth-grade level he begins to learn something about the world in which he lives.

He is given simple scientific facts. When he reaches grade five, he begins to learn something about history. While he moves forward from grade to grade, his interests expand and at this point additional opportunities are offered. We then give the girl an opportunity to discover Home Arts (cooking, sewing, common courtesy, and manners are taught in this course). The boy had the opportunity to learn something about manual arts and skills. We now present these courses starting at the sixth-grade level. Grades seven and eight contain work in all skill subjects and add many others.

“We now maintain six grade schools, including the **Northwest grade** school opened September 1, 1952.

“In the spring of 1950, the voters of District No. 27 approved a bond issue of \$580,000 to build a new building in the Northwest part of the City of Lincoln and to erect another at present **Washington** and **Monroe** buildings. In addition to the regular classrooms, the Northwest building will also have a large community room and playroom with a stage and playing floor of 40 by 60 feet. A kitchen and dining room will provide space for school lunches. We feel that the citizens of Lincoln will be proud of this building, located at the corner of Eleventh and College streets on a 5.82 acre tract.

“We have a band, school lunch program including lightweight and heavyweight teams in basketball, touch football, softball and track. Each day brings films from the various film libraries which we use with our regular classroom work.

“Our vocal music is carried from kindergarten through grade eight. We have a complete testing program using Standard Achievement Tests which determine whether or not our teaching is above or below the national norm. Student government controls traffic and presents assembly programs at our Junior High School.

“Learning takes place outside of school as well as in the formal session. Every waking minute of an individual’s time is devoted to some type of learning. All learning is not necessarily in the best interest of the child. The actual classroom time consumes four and one-half hours of a twenty-four hour day. This leaves eighteen and one-half hours for other agencies.

“Editor’s Note – The elementary district history is a reprint for the centennial edition of the Lincoln Courier.

“R&B Editor’s Note – The many elementary school buildings listed in this history are all gone now. They were replaced by more modern buildings in the 1970’s and early 2000’s. Only **Adams school** remains from the 19th Century. It was saved by Lincoln College which used it as an art studio. It is located on Kankakee Street in the block north of Keokuk Street.

“**Lincoln High School** has been in its present location since 1958 after moving from what is now the **Lincoln Junior High School** building. Getting the new high school was not an easy chore. The proposition of a \$2,185,000 bond issue was presented to the public Dec. 14, 1954 and was defeated by 100 votes.

“Since the vote was close, the school board decided to have another election March 29, 1955 and the issue passed by 383 votes. The new building was started during the summer of 1956 and classes started in Sept of 1958.

“Lincoln was a growing city with an increase of 12.6 percent. The high school enrollment was also increasing and the student body was rapidly outgrowing the high school building (now the Junior High). The original building was built in 1898 and an addition was added in 1925. Two church buildings near the school were being rented for additional space and the agricultural shop was located in a building at the fairgrounds.

“The projected enrollment for 1967 was to reach 1,000 students and the building being used was equipped to handle no more than 700 students. That was the start of the modern facilities now in use by high school students.”

“**R&B Editor’s Note:** The only part of the history of schools missing here is the story of the segregated school for colored students which existed in Lincoln at least until 1885. Early in 1885 the parents of the colored children withheld the children from the school so that the attendance reported to the state superintendent would catch his attention. This action took place after many requests by colored students to be allowed to attend the regular schools and get the same education as all other students. That article will appear in a future issue of the R&B. The history already used in the R&B can be found in past issues of these years: R&B 1989, p101; R&B 2012, p56; R&B 2022, p74; R&B 2023, p5; 2023, p50.

Mine Accident

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, IL, January 6, 1881 p5

“Record: **John Kiley**, a young miner employed by the Lincoln Coal Company, met with quite a serious accident on Tuesday night. While walking along the entry at the shaft preparatory to coming to the top, one of the drivers was pushing a car down grade towards Kiley and it gained such headway that he was

unable to stop it. When Kiely observed this, he undertook to escape by running, but was overhauled by the card and badly bruised about the head and shoulders. He was carried home, his wounds dressed and he is now doing as well as could be expected.”

It is Time to Renew Your Membership for 2024

String Weighs 603 Pounds.

Bill Martinie, Lincoln Courier, Lincoln, Illinois, July 1, 1976, p2B



NEW OWNER of a 603 pound ball of string is Wendell Burton (right). Burton purchased the string from Charlie Dutz at a recent auction in Lincoln. (Courier photo)

“Did you ever stop to think how long it would take to wrap enough string to make a 600-pound ball?”

“**Charlie Dutz** recently sold a 603-pound ball of string for \$20 at a public auction with **Wendell Burton** as purchaser. Dutz claims if he had paid himself 50 cents per hour for wrapping the string, he would have \$26,000 in labor involved.

“Dutz said, ‘I came up with the idea in 1950 when I was 38 years old. I couldn’t save any money, so I decided to start saving string. I was able to save string and I also had help from friends who would bring string to the stores.

‘Dutz started saving the string on New Year’s Day in 1950 and continued the project until New Year’s Day of 1963m 13 years if collecting. The huge ball has been in the window of the Dutz paint store since that time and has been a conservation topic for those passing by the store.

“Most of the string came off of wall paper boxes, which Dutz sold in his store. Some of it also came from the box factory in Lincoln and about 200 friends took string to Dutz. Dutz claims there is enough string in the ball to stretch to St. Louis and back.

“Dutz parts company with the huge ball and not it is a problem for Burton. The buyer isn’t certain what he will do with the string, at this time but he hopes to enter it in parades, with his first possible appearance being the Lincoln Bicentennial parade.

“At any rate, Dutz has lost his conversation piece, but Burton now has something to talk about.”

To Be Repaired.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, June 30, 1881, p5.

“The Board of Supervisors have decreed that the courthouse shall renew its youth to the extent of receiving two coats of paint on the interior and extent of receiving two coats or paint on the interior and exterior, and the hall of justice be furnished with ceiling-boards, instead of plaster. This is very good, but

another thing is still more imperatively needed. The filthy matting in front of the judge’s desk and in the aisles should be renewed and the temple of justice hereafter kept in decent order. The usual condition of the room is a disgrace to civilization. The benches are dirty, and the foul matting and

dirty floor perpetually sends off odors that are anything but those of ‘Araby the blest.’ Singular as it may seem, there are courthouses in the country where the administration of justice is not accompanied with dirt and foul, unhealthful odors, and it is not unreasonable to believe that public business is better done in consequence. Certainly a room kept fairly clean will be pleasanter and more healthful for those who are forced to attend as witnesses,

jurors and parties to suits. This alone would warrant the needed outlay for janitor’s service, but the matter should also be attended to in the interest of decency. As for lawyers, the hanging of one or two of the worst of them – fellows who roll fine-cut under their tongues as a sweet morsel and expectorate on the matting in preference to a cuspidor – might have a salutary effect.”

Court House Improvements.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, June 10, 1880.

“With a view of providing better ventilation and throwing more light upon dark and difficult cases, the board of supervisors have ordered a triple window cut in the west end of the courtroom, immediately behind the judge’s platform. If the judge don’t hold the scales level and read the figure on the beam correctly hereafter, it will be his own Fault.”

The Additions. The Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, June 23, 1880.

“The offices now occupied by the county clerk and circuit clerk are one-story structures, 20x30 feet in size, and detached some little distance from the courthouse. They are very small and afford limited accommodations for the constantly increasing mass of records. They are not fireproof and the valuable papers stored in them are in constant danger of destruction. Last week we mentioned that

Furman Thorn had been awarded the contract for building an addition to each office. Instead of \$1,973.75 each, the figure was \$1,973.75 for the two. The additions will be exactly alike and each 18x28 feet in dimension, the long way running north and south and projecting beyond the old building at both sides. Near the north end a door is placed in the projection side, thus giving entrance to the back office and records without going through the old room. In the county clerk’s office, the old room will be used as a court room for the county court. The additions will have double iron doors leading to the front room. These, with the stone floors, iron shutters, tin roofs, and independent walls, will make them as nearly fire-proof as building are often constructed. The county is to be congratulated upon the improvements.”

On The Wing.

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p1

“Next Wednesday a party of Lincoln folks expect to start on a pleasure trip to western Florida. The party will consist of **M. W. Barrett** and family, **James Coddington**, **Jefferson Brown**, **Mrs. Lacey** and daughter

Alma, Master **Willie Foley** and perhaps **J. J. Friend** and **Dr. A. R. Crihfield** and family. They will go first to Sarasota Bay and may then branch out in various directions.”

It is Time to Renew Your Membership for 2024

The Telephone Exchange.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, April 25, 1881, p7.

“**F. T. Beach**, of the Central Telephone Company of Chicago, was here on Saturday looking up the chances for establishing a telephone exchange. He asked for a list of 30 subscribers for three months at four dollars per month for private houses and \$6.50 per month for both office and house. His proposition is to keep the exchange open for business at all hours and to keep everything in order without any additional expense. Mr. Beach went away leaving the subscription paper with **Dr. A. R. Crihfield**. Up to yesterday sixteen names had been secured. Many towns no larger than Lincoln have the telephone and it would speak well for our city if an exchange could be

formed. That it would be a great convenience to businessmen does not admit of a doubt. Shall we not have the exchange.

Later. – It is now said that 22 names have been obtained and the prospect grows decidedly brighter.”

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, June 16, 1881, p5.

“The work of erecting the telephone poles was begun on Saturday and it is expected to have the lines in operation in about a week more. About a hundred of the poles are to be put up and they improve the appearance of the city considerably in a business point of view.”

Struck Coal.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, June 30, 1881, p2.

“The Lincoln men who have been at an expense of several thousand dollars a month for months past in sinking a coal shaft at Decatur, were rewarded last Saturday evening by reaching a fine vein of coal four feet two inches in thickness at a depth of six hundred and eight feet, this being the deepest shaft in the state. Messrs. **Frank Frorer, Capt. D. H.**

Harts, H. G. Bramwell and Charles White, who constitute the company, have encountered many serious obstacles in sinking the shaft and have been to great expense; and they are to be congratulated on their nerve and perseverance which has brought them the certainty of sufficient reward.”

New Cemetery.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, March 24, 1881, p7.

“The Catholics of this city, whose cemetery south of the first ward is not very favorably situated, have bought of **Col. Latham** and will improve sixteen acres of land, just across the road from the city

cemetery. It is the tract of land on which the late **Boston Hoblit**’s house is situated and is well suited to the use which will be made of it. The price paid was about \$75 per acre.”

Holy Cross Cemetery.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, April 14, 1881, p7.

“A number of lots have already been sold in Holy Cross Cemetery. The remains of those interred at the old Catholic cemetery, southeast of town, are to be removed to the new location.”

Mt. Pulaski Telephone Line.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Aug. 4, 1881, p4.

“The following are the names of the Mt. Pulaski subscribers to the proposed telephone line to connect that city with Lincoln.

“**S. Linn Beidler**, post master and druggist.

“**A. G. Jones**, attorney at law.

“**Scroggin & Sawyer**, bankers.

“**Snyder Bros.**, lumber yard and saw mill.

“**John Lincoln**, Mill and elevator.

“Mt. Pulaski Title Co., **D. Vanhise & Oman**.

“**J. O. Turley**, stock dealer and Farmer.

“**R. F. Buckles**, attorney at law.

“**John R. Ayers**, retired farmer.

“**J. W. Wolfe**, publisher Citizen.

“**R. Turley**, stock dealer.

“**Geo. P. Zeiss**, boots & shoes.

“**Geo. O. McKenzie**, dry goods.

“**L. K. Scroggin**, farmer and banker.

“**C. F. Schafer & Co.**, hardware.

“**W. W. Martin**, dry goods and groceries.

“**J. B. Gordon**, livery.

“**F. V. Nicholson**, police magistrate.

“**Mosely & Co.**, Scroggin House.

“**Reinheimer Bros.**, clothiers.

“**H. S. Bekemeyer**, grocer.

“**A. F. Danner**, saloon

“**Alfred C. Scroggin**, Farmer

“**Alex Fisher**, retired farmer.

“**McFarlin, Wood & Co.**, elevator.

“**Geo. S. Sawyer**, express.

“**E. Drobisch**, boots & shoes.

”**John Lipp**, bakery.

“**P. Huck**, grocer.

“**J. Meir & Son**, grocers.

“**J. Capps & Son**, nursery.

“**Jacob Mayer**, harness.

“**Clear & McGrath**, grocers.

“**M. P. Aldrich**, lumber and grain.

“**I. J. Michener**, elevator at Chestnut.

“**J. W. O’Brian**, sec’y of Mt. Pulaski Milling Co.

“**E. A. Danner**, merchant tailor.

“**J. W. Dillsaver**, deputy sheriff.

“**Dement & Co.**, livery.

“**E. George**, druggist.

“**Sorel Doten**, farmer.

“**C. K. Lucas**.

“**James Muldoon**.

“**S. B. Lincoln**.

“Messrs. Beidler and Jones were in the city yesterday working up the subscription among our businessmen with and energy that insures success.

“By five o’clock they had secured sufficient subscriptions to complete the required amount and the line will be put up at once. For the present a telephone will be placed in the post office at the Mount to be used by all the subscribers at the end of the line, but it is expected to soon have a regular exchange there.”

Lincoln, Illinois.

Lincoln, Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, February 17, 1881, p7.

“The thriving young city of Lincoln, the county seat of Logan County, Ill., is situated on the Chicago, Alton, and St. Louis railroad, by which it is 156 miles from Chicago and 126 miles from St. Louis. Although its suburb of Postville dates from 1835, the more modern town, like hundreds of others throughout the West, is an outgrowth of the railroad. While the Chicago and Alton line was creeping

slowly northward in 1853, **Col. R. B. Latham**, **John D. Gillett** and **Virgil Hickox** bought the site at \$8 per acre, and named the new town after the Springfield lawyer, afterwards President of the United States, who had frequently argued cases at the old Court House in Postville. Even at this time **Abraham Lincoln** was held in high respect throughout Central, Illinois, and this tribute to his name

was a natural expression of personal regard on the part of the gentlemen named. On August 29 of the same year, when a sale of lots was announced and a construction train brought buyers from Springfield, the future President came with them. Whether he bought at this time is not certain, but he was afterwards the owner of a lot on the south side of the public square, and it formed a part of his estate at the time of his death.

“The town grew steadily, if not rapidly, until it now has 5,528 inhabitants. As the county seat of a county containing 393,000 fertile acres, producing annually an exportable surplus of more than 3,500,000 bushels of grain, it is naturally not a manufacturing city, and yet, with its abundant supply of coal, there is no reason why it might not become such. The traveler notes it as a comfortable looking town, placed upon easy slopes and rich in shade trees and gardens. There are three railroads now – the Chicago, Alton and St. Louis, the Peoria, Decatur and Evansville and the Champaign and Havana division of the Wabash system. Its importance as a grain shipping station is testified to by its many elevators.

“Among its educational institutions are Lincoln University, a well-endowed and flourishing college under control of the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination; the High School building, a fine edifice, costing \$50,000; the State Asylum for Feeble-minded Children, with 300 inmates, occupying one of the handsomest public buildings in the State – these would claim his attention as the most prominent landmarks in town. The business houses are as good as are usually found in a city twice its size. The west side of the public square has a row of sixteen stores, occupying two-story and three-story brick buildings, and having arched iron fronts. Of the hotels of the town, the Lincoln House is a four story and basement brick, with stone trimmings plate glass windows, Mansard roof and tower. It is lighted with gas, heated with steam, and is

altogether, quite metropolitan in its appointments. There are other well kept houses of which the larger are the Commercial and Spitley. The town has fifteen church societies, and each has its house of worship. The denominations represented are the Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Cumberland Presbyterian, Congregational, Universalist, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Christian Reformed. There is also a public library.

“The town has three banks, three flouring mills, a planning mill and five newspaper offices. The streets are lighted with gas and a projected line of street railway has a very fair prospect of being built. The Lincoln Coal Mining Company operates a shaft and makes drain tile on a large scale. Bituminous coal of a very good quality is raised from a five-foot seam, 271 feet from the surface. Coal underlies the whole county at about the same depth, but this shaft is the only one yet opened. With abundant coal and water, with a surprisingly rich country around it, and with three first-class railroads, the town ought to attract manufacturers. Scattered through the Eastern and Middle states are many small factories which would find a fuller development in Western towns like Lincoln, where an advantageous market could be found for their wares and the workmen could be cheaply fed.

“During the sixty years since it was settled Logan County has never seen a failure of the corn crop, and the attention lately given to tile drainage gives promise of a better average yield than ever before. Less than one tenth of the surface of the county is unimproved and nearly all of this is used for pastorage. With the reduced freight certain to result from the opening up of new routes to the seaboard, and with the better system of farming now beginning to prevail, the surplus of grain and live-stock will greatly increase in quantity and value. This will, of course, stimulate the growth of the county seat. With the advantages

already enumerated, with a healthful location and with an intelligent and public-spirited population, it is but reasonable to anticipate

for Lincoln a further growth from year to year. — *N. Y. Daily Graphic, Feb. 5th.*”

Latham Park.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, May 19, 1881, p5.

“Latham Park has not yet been made accessible to the general public. People look longingly at its shady nooks, but except a few who crawl through a crack in the fence or the boys who play an occasional game of ball, that is all they can do. The expenditure of a few

dollars would lay crossings and provide stiles and seats and the park would then be carrying out the purpose for which it was created. The council disregards a plain duty in not throwing the park open to the public.”

John D. Evans Heard From.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, June 20, 1881, p2.

“The following is from a letter written by **John D. Evans** to his parents from Santa Fe, New Mexico, under date of the 22nd inst. He says:

“I arrived here to-day and found the show which I last saw in Adelaide, Australia, about the middle of January last. The first thing that I saw was your letter written to **Mr. Cole** at Tucson and which surprises me not a little. Why you have not heard from me is a wonder. I wrote you from Calcutta a long letter and myself put it aboard the English steamer for London. I was not surprised at my missing your mail, as I stopped in Bombay only one week and then started overland through the interior of India for Calcutta. I was two weeks in crossing, as I stopped through the jungles of the interior some days.

“From there I went to China, where I spent four weeks, and thence went on to Japan. I

thought for some time of going back to India and coming home via Europe, but, on account of some animals, etc., and the transfers I would have to make with them at Liverpool and New York, I concluded to come via the Pacific. I left Yokohama, Japan, May 15 and have been traveling almost all the time since.

“My trip was successful and instructive and I am highly pleased that I went. I am very well; was sick for a few days in the interior of India, owing to the intense heat. I will try and come home for a few days during the last of July or fore part of August.

“Write me at Denver, we show there July 4th. I did intend to write you direct from San Francisco but was so busy getting animals off the vessel and shipped for Denver, where they meet us.”

John Bressmer

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, April 14, 1881, p7.

“**John Bressmer**, the well-known Springfield merchant who has been in business in his present location for thirty

years, says he stopped overnight in Postville in 1848, on his way from Pekin to Mt. Pulaski.”

It is Time to Renew Your Membership for 2024

Harmony Boys.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, May 19, 1881, p3.

“The Harmony Boys are beginning to find out the tricks of those mustangs brought from Kansas. One of the ‘byes,’ with holy feelings approached one of them belonging to **Bob Roxbury**. Finding it very ‘gintle,’ he mounted the animal ‘unbeknown’ to the owner. With an eye to business, and to make the animal ‘light out,’ the rider threw up his hand and gave a

yell but, much to the Irishman’s chagrin, the pony began to waltz and caused the rider to perform a somersault. He fell on the ‘broad of his back,’ but, being short and square built, he was only slightly injured, and has a kindly smile for everyone he meets. If you want to enjoy a pleasant ride on an Indian pony, don’t shout the war whoop.”

County Clerk’s Office

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, April 14, 1881, p5

“The other day painters were at work at the county clerk’s office, and, in the hope of concealing the prints of dirty fingers, they painted a black patch around the door-latch, on the inside. During that afternoon everyone who came in had a hand in it, and half the

paint was carried away before supper time. One man had both hands blacked and then, without noticing what he had done, passed the thing along by shaking the hands with the sheriff.”

A Long Vacation

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, April 28, 1881, p7.

“It will be remembered that two years ago **David T. Littler**, our former fellow citizen now living at Springfield, submitted to the city council a revised plat of a number of lots he had lately bought in Knapp, Bird & Tinsley’s addition to Postville. He asked that the old plat be vacated larger blocks and wider avenues, be recorded in its stead. He drew a charming picture of the reconstructed addition with its prospective shade trees and other tasteful improvements. The council granted his request, and the new plat was duly recorded. On the 22nd of this month another instrument was filed vacating ‘Littler’s addition to

Lincoln’ and the whole territory of about ninety acres from Adams to West Street, east and west, and from Eleventh to Seventeenth, has been converted into farmland and is being fenced up. The change seems to close Seventeenth Street for travel and wipes out the driving track where those who have trotters have been wont to exercise them. Mr. Littler’s idea seems to have been to reduce his taxes by changing his property from city lots to farmland, but the way he pulled the wool over the eyes of our unsuspecting city council was, as **Bret Hart** remarks, ‘quite frightful to see.’”

Chicken Eating Horse.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, May 19, 1881, p5.

“Farmers are wishing for rain. They are most all through, planting. Not a Fish or Snake story. **Wallace Gordon** has a four-year old horse that eats all the young chickens that he can capture. A year ago, this spring, Mrs.

G. had a hen to set under the barn and as soon as the young chickens came out, the horse caught and ate them up as quickly as any hog would have done, but the family did not believe it. This year they are compelled to

keep him in the barn so that he cannot catch them. More wonderful still – **Jack Gordon** has a suckling calf that ate ten young goslings,

seven at one time and three at another. These are facts and can be proven by more than one witness. – A. M. K.”

Electric Light.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, July 7, 1881, p7.

“A number of persons climbed to the top of the Lincoln House last night and are confident they saw the electric light at Bloomington.”

Bad Money.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, June 23, 1881, p5.

“Our readers would do well to be careful about taking coins that have holes punched in them or that are otherwise mutilated. Postmasters are forbidden to take them, and banks are refusing them except at a heavy discount, as they are no longer really money, but only bullion and the unfortunate holder

must take what he can get for them. As the silver in a dollar is worth but 85 cents anyway, it takes but little off to cut down the value to seventy-five cents or even lower. Mutilated halves will bring but 30 to 35 cents, quarters 15 cents and dimes 5 cents. Gold coins also suffer a considerable reduction.”

Assessor’s Meeting.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, May 5, 1881, p7.

“The county assessors met in this city on Saturday and agreed upon the following rates for personal property which are not greatly different from those of last year. Lands are not assessed this year.

Horses 4 years old and over - \$30;
horse 3 years old - \$25;
horses 2 years old - \$15;
horses yearlings - \$10;
stable horses and jacks ten times the insurance;

mules 3 years old and over, ‘good average’ - \$35;
2-year-old heifers - \$10;
2-year -old mules - \$20;
yearling mules - \$10;
cattle 2-years old and upwards, stall fed, \$30;
2-year old steers, \$10;
2-year old heifers, \$10;
yearlings, \$6; cows, \$15.
Sheep per head, \$1.50,
Hogs per one hundred pounds, \$2.
Corn per bushel, less delivery, 12 cents.”

Newsy Notes From Around the County

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, January 6, 1881 p1.

Mt. Pulaski

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p1

“Jan. 4 – Our town is going through a coal famine, the supply not reaching half the demand. Price \$3.80 per ton.

“– **Lula Goel**, aged sixteen years, stepdaughter of Mr. **John Schick, Sr.**, died

Saturday of heart disease, having just had a spell of lung fever. The remains were taken yesterday to your city for burial.

“-**Miss Laughlin** died at her home in Cornland on Sunday. She had been to a Christmas tree in this place on Friday evening,

and took cold, resulting in death. She was aged about twenty-one years.

“- Married, at the residence of Mr. **Henry Alexander** on Salt Creek, on Sunday, Jan. 2, by the **Rev. C. Powell**, Mr. **A. J. Lakin**, and Miss **Celesta Williams**. The spacious mansion of Mr. Alexander was filled to overflowing with relatives and friends to witness the

pleasing ceremony and congratulate the happy couple. The banquet was a rare feast, to which ample justice was done, all expressing the appreciation of the hostess, Mrs. Alexander, for the sumptuous repast and her courtesies in entertaining her guests. The occasion was one of much pleasure and happiness.”

Prairie Creek.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, January 6, 1881, p1

“Jan. 3.-Married, at the residence of the bride’s father, **Robert A. Harris**, on Thursday evening, Dec. 30, 1880, by **Rev. J. I. Judy** of Tazwell county – **William E. Bennett** of San Jose, to Miss **Harriett L. Harris** of Prairie Creek.

“The directors having secured another teacher, Miss **Carrie Wren** from near Hartsburg, school began again today. She has the school for two months at \$25 per month is a pleasant appearing young lady and we hope will make a successful teacher.

“-The following persons: **Frank Eugene Wright**, **Isaac Eisiminger**, **A. J. McGee**, **M.**

D. Kinney, **Sam. Thompson**, have entered into a written agreement that if any one of them shall take a drink of intoxicating liquors between Jan. 3rd, 1881, and Jan. 1st, 1882, said person shall forfeit \$50, which will be divided equally among the others and **J. H. Thompson**, **Isaac Eisiminger**, **Frank Wright** and **A. J. McGee** made another agreement, same as above, the forfeit being a \$40 suit of clothes to each of the others, which will be \$120 to pay if either should fail to fulfill his contract. May they succeed in not touching liquor for years to come is our desire – Wena.”

Middletown

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p1

“The death Angel again visited our vicinity Saturday morning, this time summoning to the better land **Mrs. Lloyd**, and aged and well-known lady whose kindness of heart and friendly acts had endeared her to many people.

For twenty-eight years she had lived near Middletown, during which time she has been a member of the M. E. Church. Funeral exercises were held at the church on Monday, **Rev. S. H. Martin** officiating.”

New Holland

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p1

“Jan. 4. – **Ed Beaver** is visiting friends in Nebraska.....**James Worth** and wife returned Friday last from Iowa, whither they had been called by the death of **Mrs. Lunt**, a sister to Mrs. Worth. Jim, like nearly everybody else, says if a man can’t live here he can’t in Iowa.”

“The friends of **Mr. and Mrs. John Bunn** gathered in on the 30th ult. to celebrate the 5th anniversary of their wedded life. One of the grandest dinners.”

Hartsburg.

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p1

“Jan. 2. – Miss **Carrie Wren** left yesterday to take charge of the **Thomas school** in Prairie Creek township.”

Eminence

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p1

“Our weddings did not all collapse after all. Mr. **James Taylor** and Miss **Dovey Hise** were married at the bride’s residence on Christmas day by **Elder Davis**. A number of invited guests was present. At night a large party of young men with guns, horns, and bells, proceeded to give the happy pair and old style charivari. By a strange circumstance uncle **Smith Ewing** had become their captain, but he beat no drums and rang no bells; he only went to the door and called for the groom, to whom he said ‘I am captain. Mr. Taylor and if you do not object, I will kiss the bride, and withdraw my troops,’ But the groom stoutly demurred, and uncle Smith retreated a sadder and lamer man.”

Atlanta

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p1

“Mr. **Ed Miliner** of Atlanta and Miss **Emma Downey**, of Lazy Row, were married last week; no particulars.....Miss **Emma Chamberlain**, former teacher at Walnut Row and **Prof. Mueller** of Bloomington, were also married last week.”

Prairie Creek

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p1

“We the undersigned directors of Prairie Creek School, having had Miss **Ella Edmonds** in our employ as teacher of the same, for the last three months or more, take this method of informing the public and all interested in the cause of education, that during her administration she has given the best possible satisfaction and taught and orderly and well conducted school, and was in every way competent to control our school. We wish her success in her new field and regret her resigning, but cheerfully consent inasmuch as she promotes her own interests. **William Bivens** and **Eli Thomas**.”

Mt. Pulaski

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p1

“Jan. 4 – Our town is going through a coal famine, the supply not reaching half the demand. Price \$3.80 per ton. Saturday of heart disease, have just had a spell of lung fever. The remains were taken yesterday to your city for burial.”

“– Lula Goel, aged sixteen years, stepdaughter of Mr. John Schick, Sr., died

A Beautiful Superstition

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p3

“Some superstitions held by Indians are repulsive, others are attractive, such as this one entertained by the Seneca Indians.

“When a maiden died they imprisoned a young bird until it first began to sing the loading it with messages and caresses they

liberated it over her grave, with the belief that it would not cease its flight nor close its eyes until it had flown to the spirit-land and delivered its precious burden of affection to the loved and lost.”

Atlanta

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p5

“The Atlanta public schools were closed on Tuesday morning on account of scarlet fever. Mrs. Rowen, the telegraph operator, has

lost a child, and herself and her other child are sick. Mrs. Harvey Montgomery and Mrs. J. W. Yeazell are also ill with the disease.”

The Masons of Lincoln

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p5

“The two Masonic lodges of Lincoln, 219 and 480, held a joint installation at Masonic hall on Tuesday evening followed by an oyster

supper in their banquet hall. F. Thorn, retiring Master of 480, was also presented a handsome silver-headed cane by members of the lodge.”

Grace Gains' Journal

Lincoln Herald January 6, 1881, p5

“This week is given the first installment of a short-continued story written by a resident of this county and containing some local allusions which, will add much to its interest.

The story is founded upon facts and deals largely with the stirring events of our late civil war. We bespeak for it a careful reading.”

Editor's Note: Coming in Winter 2024 issue.

Donors

Aper, Debra
Athens Library
Barringer, Mary
Benner, Sarah Brucker
Brandt, Rebecca
Cosby, Steve
Cale, Gage
Craig, Marilyn
Donath, Tony
Dumser, Paul
Frampton, Mary Beth
Freese, Gary

Gardner, Thomas
Gunn, Leslie & James
Hardow, L
Henrichsmeyer, Greg
Holland, Martha
Knight, Elaine
Marlin, JoAnne
McIntyre, Terri
Nimke, Al & Ruby
Olmstead, Celona G
Osborn, Diane
Prairie Land Title

Saul, Nancy
Short Debra
Slayton, Bridget
Stein, Alicia
Stewart, Sue
Stover, Cynthia
Stites, Jacqueline
Swickle, Gary & Connie
Vaughn, Jamie
White Dan
Wilmert, Jim

It is Time to Renew Your Membership for 2024

LCGHS STORE

To order books and CD's, send a letter to LCGHS at 114 N. Chicago St, Lincoln, IL 62656, give the name of each book or CD - quantity and price + S/H for each item. Please include your check for the total amount, along with your name and address.

BOOKS

A Deeper Dive Into the Better Government Council of Logan County, Illinois, Fuller – 2021. \$35+\$5 S/H.

The Spanish Influenza Epidemic in Logan County, Illinois, 1918-1920, Donath – 2020. \$30+\$5 S/H.

The Last Farm Boy, Beaver, 2011

Abraham Lincoln in Logan County, Beaver - \$25 + \$5 S/H

Days Gone By (Our one-room schools) - \$38 + \$5 S/H

Generosity, The Story of Logan County, During the Great War, Donath-2016 - \$30 + \$4 S/H

Be Careful Crossing the Hard Road, Detmers - \$15 + \$3 S/H

Logan Co. Township Maps of one room schools & Cemeteries; (soft cover) shows location of one room schools & cemeteries in Logan County. \$10 + \$3 S/H

This Is My Story, Vol. II; (hard cover) 365 pages
Personal stories from Logan County Veterans who served in any branch of the Military. \$25+\$5 S/H

The Town Abraham Lincoln Warned, Henson-2011- \$15 + \$4 S/H

William Scully & the Scully Estate of Logan Co.,
Beaver - \$15 + S/H

CD'S

All CDs are \$20 + \$2 S/H. *CDs are searchable unless noted*

Logan County Census 1860- complete
Logan County Census Index 1840, 1850, 1855, 1860, 1870, 1880 Logan County Census Index

Logan County Atlases 1873, 1893, 1910; (not searchable)

Dedication of the Civil War Soldier Statue - 2011

MISCELLANEOUS

Logan County Courthouse 100th Anniversary;
(soft cover) \$10 +\$4 S/H

Lincoln, IL, A Chronology 1953-2003; \$5+\$3 S/H

1917 Prairie Farmers Reliable Directory of Breeders & Farmers in Logan County; 3 ring notebook & protective sleeves \$20+\$4 S/H or \$15 for soft cover

Heirship records of 1920 – 1924 & newspaper abstracts of 1839 - 1849; (soft cover) not available at Courthouse due to the fire of 1857. 148 pages (Updated due to faded print) \$20+\$4 S/H

Mason City Centennial Book, \$15 + \$5 S/H

ORNAMENTS – All Ornaments are \$10 each.

1999 Logan Co. Courthouse
2000 Lincoln City Hall
2001 Lincoln Public Library
2002 Abraham Lincoln Mem. Hospital
2004 Lincoln College
2005 Logan Co Courthouse
2006 Earl Hargrove Chapel LCC

2007 The Arcade Building
2008 Logan Co. Courthouse
2009 Logan Co. Courthouse
2010 Lincoln Woman's Club
2013 A. Lincoln's 1858 Speech
2015 Knapp, Chesnut, Becker Building, Middletown, IL

Duplicate Books Available

The following duplicate books are available for purchase from LCG&HS. High school & college yearbooks sell for \$10 each and include:

Lincoln: 1920; 1921; 1922; 1923; 1924; 1925;
1926, 1927; 1928; 1929; 1930; 1931; 1932;
1933; 1934; 1935; 1936; 1937; 1939; 1940;
1941; 1942; 1947; 1948; 1949; 1950; 1951

Hartsburg-Emden: 1956

Elkhart Sesquicentennial: 2005, \$15 + S/H

Lincoln College: 1963; 1972

Mt. Pulaski - 1926, 1927, 1930

**Make Tracks to Latham 125th Anniversary
1872-1972** - \$20 + S/H

Mt. Pulaski 100yr 1836-1936 - \$10 + S/H

**Twelve Momentous Years in the Other Atlanta,
1853-1865** - \$20 + S/H

Elkhart is Like a Box of Chocolates - \$7 + S/H

Echoes from the Branches - \$7 + S/H

Glimpses of Lincoln, IL. - \$15 + S/H

Lincoln, IL, A Chronology, 1853-2003, \$15 +
S/H

Lincoln City Directories: 1934; 1941; 1955;
1962, 1964; 1967; 1971; 1972; 1973; 1974; 1976;
1977, 1978, 1979; 1980; 1981; 1982; 1984; 1985;
1986; 1987; 1988; 1989; 1990; 1991; 1992; 1993;
1994; 1995; 1996; 1997; 1998; 2000; 2005

ATLAS/PLAT BOOKS AVAILABLE

Logan County Illinois: 1979; 1993; 1996; 1997 individual - \$10 each, **2013** - \$35 + \$5 S/H

McLean County Illinois: 1996 - \$10

LOGAN COUNTY PLATES

Emden – 7.5 in: 1871-1971

Emden St. Peter's Lutheran Church: 1879-1979

Abraham Lincoln – 10 in: 1853-1953

Abraham Lincoln -150th Birthday

Abraham Lincoln - Ashtray

Lincoln First Methodist Church-new building

Lincoln Sesquicentennial: 1818-1968

Logan Co. Fair - 50th Anniv.

Mt. Pulaski Methodist Church - 10in

Mt. Pulaski Stahl's Siltenial: 1836-1961

Mt. Pulaski Courthouse Siltenial: 1836-1961

Odd Fellows Home; 1967

Sheers Building

Sheers Courthouse

Sheers Auto Supply

Zion Lutheran Ch - Lincoln

Plates are \$10 each plus \$4 S/H.

**Worrying won't stop the bad stuff from happening.
It just stops you from enjoying the good.**

Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society
114 N. Chicago Street, Lincoln IL 62656
(217) 732-3200

Membership Application/Renewal

Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Membership includes four quarterlies. To receive a Membership Card, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Multiple year memberships are appreciated.

New Member _____ Renewing Member _____ Membership year: 2024 2025 2026 2027

Today's date _____

Memberships received after April 1st – please add \$3.00 for mailed back issues of Quarterlies.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Membership Dues: Individual _____ \$20.00

Dual (Two persons at same address) _____ \$25.00

In an effort to cut postage costs, the quarterly newsletter, *Roots and Branches*, will be emailed to members who have their email address on file with the Society. Members not having email will continue to receive their quarterly by mail. **NOTE:** Please remember to update your email address with LCGHS when changes are made to it.

Email address: _____ Website Research Code: Yes No

Indicate the family surname and information that you are researching, limit to 4.

Surnames: _____

Individuals to be researched: _____

If you want our assistance in your research, indicate the Surnames and/or any information you already have that will help in our search (i.e., dates, places of birth, death, etc.). For members, \$15 for an initial research is requested. Non-members, please call 217-732-3200 for research fees.

We want to thank you for your support. The research center is operated solely on yearly membership dues and donations.

I would like to make an additional donation of \$ _____.

LCGHS is a recognized 501(c) (3) organization as defined by the IRS tax code.

I am able to volunteer: LCGHS phone number: 217-732-3200. Email: logancoil1839@gmail.com

