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Select Readings on Abraham Lincoln



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Revised 2006

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Primary Sources

Numerous efforts have been made since the end of the 19th Century to compile all of Abraham Lincoln's known writings. An ongoing project of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln*. The first posting of materials will appear in 2009 and the project is targeted for completion in 2015. It will include all incoming and outgoing correspondence as well as anything written by Lincoln.

The most definitive effort available both in print and online is: Roy P. Basler, ed., Marion Dolores Pratt and Lloyd A. Dunlap, asst.eds, *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 9 vols. plus two supplements [Rutgers University Press, 1953, 1972, 1990].

Only the first eight volumes were done by the Abraham Lincoln Association. The two supplemental volumes were individual efforts of Roy Basler and lack the same level of authority as the original compilation. On occasion, some of the incoming correspondence is summarized in the editorial notes. But the edition is mainly Lincoln's speeches and writings to others. The first eight volumes are available online at: www.alincolnassoc.com.

The complete documentary edition of Martha Benner et al., eds., *The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln* is a three DVD ROM disc set with images of all the original documents comprising Lincoln's legal practice. A four volume select edition of transcribed representative cases will be available in 2007 from the University of Virginia Press.

Other important collections now available online: **The Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress**, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html>, are select images from the old microfilm edition of the Robert Todd Lincoln Papers. Some 20,000 items, mostly letters to Abraham Lincoln but over 900 letters by Lincoln can be examined. Transcriptions are available for select items that are identified. Other transcriptions of these materials can be found in David C. Mearns, *The Lincoln Papers: The Story of the Collection with Selections to July 4, 1861*, 2 vols. [Krause Reprint Co., 1969].

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Douglas L. Wilson and Rodney O. Davis, eds., *Herndon's Informants: Letters, Interviews, and Statements about Abraham Lincoln* [University of Illinois Press, 1997] contain transcriptions of recollections from the Herndon-Weik Collection at the Library of Congress by people who were contemporaries of Lincoln.

Reference Works

The Lincoln Log: A Daily Chronology of the Life of Abraham Lincoln is an online updated version of the original *Lincoln Day by Day* [1933-1941], four volumes compiled by The Abraham Lincoln Association, documenting every day of Lincoln's life where information exists up to his taking the oath of office on March 4, 1861. The Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission published a revised edition in 1960 adding information on the Lincoln presidency. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, through their *Papers of Abraham Lincoln* research project and support from the Abraham Lincoln Association, revised an online version in 2006. **The Lincoln Log** can be accessed through either the *Papers of Abraham Lincoln* website or the Abraham Lincoln Association home page.

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