

at
Century's
end



POSTVILLE - LINCOLN

1836 - 1936

TO THE PIONEERS—

“Yea, Time, the grand old harvester,
Has gathered you from wood and plain.
We call to you again, again;
The rush and rumble of the car
Comes back in answer. Deep and wide
The wheels of progress have passed on;
The silent pioneer is gone.”

Overture, “Grandiose” De Lamater
Lincoln Community High School Band.

The Narrators Robert Goebel, Betty Edgell

PROLOGUE

To the class of 1936 at Lincoln Community High School has come an unusual privilege. Behind us lies a century of the life of this community, with all its cultural, educational, and spiritual advantages. We, the members of a class numbering 155 graduates, are permitted to turn back the pages of our local history. We shall pass rapidly by the period when the two quaintly dressed graduates of the first class of 1873 received their diploma to see the first public school begun in 1842, and then look beyond that to the establishing of the community itself, a full hundred years ago.

But as we now look at this well organized city of ours, with its pleasant homes, its fine schools and churches, its growing industries, and its many conveniences unknown to our forefathers, we may well ask, “Whence came this heritage?” Through this simple pageant will appear the answer: This community came to us from a vision born of a desire to establish homes, wedded to the initiative that knows not defeat, sustained by an abiding faith in God and fellowman, and nurtured by the courage, the endurance, the sacrifice, and the whole hearted co-operation of the people.

What, therefore, could be more fitting than that Youth, eager to face the future and its problems, should pause for a moment to pay reverent tribute to its heritage and to its brave progenitors?

“Illinois” Girls’ Chorus

By thy rivers gently flowing, Illinois, Illinois,
O’er thy prairies verdant growing, Illinois, Illinois,
Comes an echo on the breeze,
Rustling thru the leafy trees,
And its mellow tones are these, Illinois, Illinois,
And its mellow tones are these, Illinois.

NARRATOR—The prairie is one of the wonders of the world, and the sun does not shine on richer country than our Illinois land. This region which is now populous and cultivated, was in its native wildness and beauty the center of the fairest scenery that uncultivated nature has ever presented to the view of man. With its magnificent vistas, clear streams, and dense woodland, the present site of our county offered first to the American Indian opportunity for the fulfillment of his dreams.

As early as 1790 the Kickapoo tribe was in full possession of the hunting grounds of Central Illinois, and from all known Indian history, it is fairly certain that the principal town or capital of that tribe was in Logan County, about two miles north of Salt Creek and one mile east of Kickapoo.

No more beautiful or logical site for an Indian village could be found. The high rolling bluff commanded a view of a vast stretch of prairie land. The Onaquispasippi (or Salt Creek) where the Indians could fish

or canoe, rolled at their feet, and the heavy timber furnished the exact sort of home fitted to the Indian mind. To the creek the wild animals came to satisfy their taste by slowly eating the salty earth, and here the Indian hunter was always sure to find wild game.

About 1810 the Indian tribes, including the Kickapoo, became hostile and made forays against the scattering white settlers. In 1812 Governor Edwards of the Illinois Territory arranged to meet representatives of the various tribes in council at Cahokia. Little Deer, as spokesman for the Kickapoo, talked in an effort to bring about peace.

EPISODE I.—Scene 1. Governor Ninian Edwards' Council with the Indians, Cahokia, 1812.

LITTLE DEER Richard Smith
GOV. NINIAN EDWARDS William Lohrenz
INDIANS—Robert Van Winkle, Paul Boughan, Woodrow Steinhauer, Gene Slayton, Tom Watson, Eddie Pele, Paul Schreiber, Paul Kodatt, Dallas Snyder, Richard Merry, Donald Snyder.
SOLDIERS—Dean McCastle, Gene Peck, Raymond Pfeifer, Bill Kavelman, George Shaub.
WHITE MEN—Paul Zimmerman, Darrell Hoffman, Charles Gleason, Lloyd McRoberts, Austin Kenshalo.

NARRATOR—Despite these councils and efforts at peace, no agreement could be reached, and within a short time, Governor Edwards found it necessary to call his soldiers together to resist Indian attacks.

EPISODE I.—Scene 2—

MESSENGER Walter Hutchcraft
GOVERNOR EDWARDS William Lohrenz
ARMY OFFICER Bill Kavelman
ORDERLY Gene Peck

NARRATOR—In July of 1819 a treaty was made at Edwardsville, Ill. By this agreement the Kickapoo Indians were obliged to sell to the white people approximately ten million acres of their land. The selling price fixed by the treaty was an annual sum of two thousand dollars which was to be paid in silver for fifteen consecutive years.

EPISODE II.—Treaty with the Indians at Edwardsville, 1819.

GOVERNOR EDWARDS William Lohrenz
LITTLE DEER Richard Smith
INDIANS, SOLDIERS and WHITE MEN of Episode I.
INDIAN WOMEN—Dorothy Montgomery, Marjorie Boughan, Mary Morrow, Bertha Ryan, Theresa Chapman, Louise Whitesell.

"Pale Moon" Girls' Chorus

NARRATOR—As the years passed the number of settlers grew. In 1823 several families came to Logan county, among them the McClures, who, settling near the present Chautauqua grounds, were the first pioneers to make their home near what is today the City of Lincoln.

In 1833 a state road was built; divergent from the trail of the Edwards' rangers, it left the old road north of Elkhart, crossed Salt Creek near the foot of Cemetery hill and thence wound north-eastward to the new settlement of Bloomington. At Salt Creek Crossing Samuel Evans established a ferry, and later a toll bridge was built at this place.

Because of this road which made it easily accessible to Springfield and Bloomington, the present location of Postville looked like a model town site to the rough and roving Russell Post, a ship chandler from Baltimore, who had been hunting for such a place for some time. Here he selected 80 acres of land to which he received government title on March 18, 1836. He called John Watson, a deputy surveyor from Springfield and a co-laborer of Lincoln, to survey the plot and to lay out the

town of Postville. However this attempted boom in the sale of lots brought only financial loss to Post, for he had pledged himself for more debts than he could pay.

At first Postville contained 40 blocks lying between Washington and West streets and First and Ninth. There were several ponds in and about the village, but after the ground was placed in cultivation these swampy places disappeared.

The first store, a primitive structure, was built by Richard Ackman and William Rankin, at the corner of Postville Park. This log cabin of two rooms was later known as the Aunt Polly Brown home and was typical of the early Postville homes.

The first hotel in Postville was built by John Sutton, and here lawyers, politicians, traders, mud-bespattered travelers from Springfield often found it convenient to stop for refreshment as they rode to and from the state capital. As the town grew, it was found necessary to form a new addition, extending west to State Street, and in this plat the courthouse was erected. Around the courthouse stores were built, among them the James Prim-S. M. Tinsley store, situated on the southeast corner of the block now occupied by Camp Lincoln. To this store townspeople came for their mail and spent many hours speculating over the problems then confronting the state and nation. Often travelers brought news, and as the Sutton house was too small to accommodate them, Wm. McGraw built a larger one on the lots to the south of the courthouse. Later Dr. John Deskins built in the middle of the same block a hotel, better known as the "Tavern", and here it was that Abraham Lincoln often stopped while holding court in Postville.

EPISODE III.—Dr. John Deskins' Tavern—

SUSAN	Hilda Hagan
MISS NEWBERRY, A SINGER	Eileen Banister
DR. JOHN DESKINS	Joe Hill
RUSSELL POST	Charles Williamson
MRS. POST	Marjorie Dehm
NETTIE	Aileen Bocian
MRS. DESKINS	Rosalie Williams
S. M. TINSLEY	Bob Adkinson

NARRATOR—While settlers were moving into the prairie country and small towns were being established, among them Postville, down in the village of Salem a tall, gawky youngster, poorly dressed, and awkward in manner was establishing a reputation for honesty and clear thinking. In 1832 this boy, whose name was Abraham Lincoln, announced that he was going to run for the legislature to represent the people of Sangamon County, and, although he told friends that he did not expect to be elected, he made a vigorous campaign.

It was the custom for candidates to appear at every public gathering, especially at public sales, at holiday celebrations, or on Saturday afternoons when farmers came to town to sell their produce, meet their friends, and talk over the news. One of the most interesting figures upon these occasions was colorful Peter Cartwright, the best known itinerant preacher in central Illinois, a fighting Methodist, a Jackson Democrat, and a scorn of gambling, jewelry, fine clothes, and higher learning. Several times he ran against Lincoln in political campaigns; he denounced Lincoln as an atheist and an aristocrat; but later it was through Lincoln's skillful handling of the case that Cartwright's grandson was acquitted of the charge of murder.

In this first political venture of his, Lincoln was defeated by Cartwright, but he was elected two years later and served four terms in the legislature.

Although the next scene actually took place at Pappville near Salem, Postville residents must often have enjoyed such a combined merry-making and political meeting in the old Postville Park.

March, "140th Infantry" Drum Corps Music
Lincoln Community High School Band.

EPISODE IV.—Fourth of July Celebration—

CITIZEN	Paul Kodatt
PETER CARTWRIGHT	Richard Smith
ABRAHAM LINCOLN	Raymond Warnisher
TOWNSPEOPLE—Verna Stoll, Virginia Moore, Dora Snyder, Marie Lauer, Virginia Duff, Lillis Courtwright, Amy Uhle, Mildred Hopp, Mary Catherine Fitzpatrick, George Schaub, Paul Boughan, Robert Van Winkle, Charles Gleason, Bill Kaveiman.	
RAG-A-MUFFINS—Evelyn Pollock, Helen Read, Eleanor Lens, Winona Kelso, Dorothy Lucas, Helen Schaefer, Margaret Feldman, Helene Elick, Lorene Divine, Charlotte Keekler, Maxine Johnson, Eva Mae Hardy, Catherine Stols, Marie Maloney, Anna Plotkin, Betty Feldman, Beulah Kline, Dorothy Elmer, Edith Baughman, Esther Gluick, Esther Werth, Mildred Hickey, Woodrow Steinhauer, Gene Slayton, Tom Watson, Eddie Pele, Paul Schrieber, Dean McCastle, Gene Peck, Raymond Pfeifer, Paul Zimmerman, Lloyd McRoberts, Austin Keshala,	
VIRGINIA REEL DANCERS—Darold Henson, Edwin Gaffney, Bertha Elkins, Helen Schaefer, Romelda Birnbaum, Edward Newberry, Carl Von Drehle, Virginia Duff, Janetta Bailey, Erma Ready, Paul Boughan, Robert Van Winkle.	

"Skip To My Love" . . . Paul Boughan and Townspeople

NARRATOR—Formation of Logan County—The first movement toward a division of Sangamon County reached its climax in 1833 when Abraham Lincoln was a member of the legislature and also a member of the committee on counties in the House of Representatives. John Calhoun, a representative from Sangamon County, with Abraham Lincoln, presented the petition for the division of the county, and on February 5, 1839, the bill became a law. Logan County was named by Lincoln in honor of his friend, Dr. John Logan, father of the famous soldier and statesman, General John A. Logan.

The commissioners named in the bill creating Logan County had the duty of selecting a temporary seat of justice, the site so selected to remain until 1841. There were then three small towns in Logan County, Postville, Mt. Pulaski, and Middletown and each aspired to become the county seat.

EPISODE V—Selection of the County Seat, 1839.

CHARLES R. MATHENY	William Lohrenz
CHENEY THOMAS	Delber Geskey
CLARK EMMERSON	Dale Allen
MOSES KNAPP	Francis Smalley
HENRY BIRD	Ralph Wieber
S. M. TINSLEY	Bob Adkinson
CITIZEN OF MT. PULASKI	Robert Gibbs
CITIZEN OF MIDDLETOWN	Robert Pfau

NARRATOR—Before 1842 the only school in Postville was a private one in which spelling and the Bible were the subjects taught, but in this year a public institution was opened with Samuel Briggs as teacher. In two years the free school grew to an enrollment of 126 pupils, some of them coming as far as from the west part of the township. The building in which instruction was given to these students still stands and is located on Jackson Street between Fifth and Sixth.

The early schools were structures of the rudest kind, buildings which no pioneer would have been content to occupy as a dwelling. The school houses were constructed of logs with floors and benches made of puncheons. There was always a huge fireplace and a stick and mud chimney, at one side of the room. For light, a log was frequently removed and the opening covered with greased paper since window glass

was too expensive an article to be used in the construction of a school house. The seats were always slabs with legs sufficiently high to keep the feet of the smaller ones off the floor while the older pupils were in an equally awkward position because the seats were so low! The writing desk was a notable feature in every school room. It generally extended across one end or one side of the room and was made of a slab, held in place by wooden pins. This desk was fastened high up on the wall, and the pupils, in order to use it, either had to stand or climb high up on the wooden bench and sit there without support for his back or his feet. Webster's Elementary Spelling Book and the Testament were the principal textbooks used. The speller was the established authority on orthography, and in after years it was considered an honor attained by few to be able to spell all the words in the book.

Let us now look at the way in which boys and girls were taught in 1842 in Postville.

EPISODE VI.—The First Public School, 1842—

SAMUEL BRIGGS, teacher	Clyde Williamson
ROBERT LATHAM, as a boy	Bill Gossett
LAENNA MUSICK	Virginia Yocum
JOHN PRIMM	Robert Arnold
THOMAS YOUNG	John Jarrell
JOHN MUSICK	Donald Snyder
CAROLINE MUNDY	Madeline Sieb
OTHER PUPILS—Virginia Yocum, Marguerite Koehnle, Margaret Baker, John Jarrell, Opal Martin, Agnes Huskins, Romelda Birnbaum, Patricia Hodnett, Lavonna Urquhart.	

NARRATOR—On the 11th day of May, 1846, Congress passed an act declaring that a state of war existed between Mexico and the United States. For the first time Logan County presented to the nation a company of volunteers, all its own to fight for the flag. Captain John C. Hurt of Postville, who was the leading spirit in arousing patriotic fervor in and around Postville, raised the company, was elected captain, and the next year after his return from the war was rewarded for his courage by being elected sheriff of the county.

The company was enrolled June 14, 1846, and, since this was before the days of railroads, the men immediately started overland in wagons to Alton, a center of mobilization. Their departure marked a red letter day for Postville. The early settlers from all portions of the county collected; martial music stirred the air; and amid loud acclamations, the new volunteers turned their horses' heads to the South and took up their journey to the Mississippi.

In the battle of Cerro Gordo, April 18, 1847, the regiment was hotly engaged and gained great credit for bravery. In this encounter Lieutenant George M. Cowardin and Nathaniel H. Milton were instantly killed, the first Logan County men to die in the service of their country.

This regiment had the distinction of capturing 6,000 prisoners, as well as General Santa Anna's carriage and his famous wooden leg. Captain Hurt's company was discharged May 25, 1847, and from New Orleans journeyed overland and by river back to Logan County.

**"Tenting Tonight"—Frances Smalley, Robert Pfau,
William Lohrenz, Dale Mitchell.**

EPISODE VII.—Mexican War, 1847, Regiment Encampment near New Orleans.

FIRST SOLDIER	Francis Smalley
SECOND SOLDIER	Bob Adkinson
THIRD SOLDIER	William Lohrenz
FOURTH SOLDIER	Richard Merry
FIFTH SOLDIER	Robert Gibbs
SENTRIES	Dale Mitchell, Robert Pfau

March, "Under the Double Eagle."

Lincoln Community High School Band.

NARRATOR—The most historic building in our county was unquestionably the Postville courthouse, which at one time served as hall of justice, church, assembly room, and lecture hall for the early pioneers. Like many of the courthouses in the famous Eighth Judicial District in which Lincoln practiced law, it was a stiff, old-fashioned wooden structure, finished plainly within and without, and meagrely furnished. As few of the lawyers had offices in town, a corner of the courtroom, the Postville park, or the sunny side of a building served as a meeting place with clients.

When Lincoln first came to Postville, he had to borrow a horse, but later he had a rattle-trap buggy of his own and a slow, old nag. With these he experienced mud, swollen creeks, and the biting zero winds of a prairie winter. Riding the circuit was seldom tedious or a matter of complaint to him, for he was unused to luxury, and he took an eager interest in everything human or moving from boys fighting, crops growing, or a young colt, to country merrymakings at quillings or shucking-bees. In the courtroom, in the tavern, or in the park playing ball he became noted for his stories. Often the judge would reprimand or even fine him for disturbing the court, and then call him to the bench after court was adjourned to hear the story himself. Not only for his matchless gift of storytelling, but also for his honesty, sympathy, candor, and logical thinking he was known throughout central Illinois.

EPISODE VIII—Postville Park.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN Raymond Warnisher
SHERIFF DESKINS Roy Wright
MEN OF POSTVILLE—Tom Watson, Harold Werth, Dean McCastle,
Ralph Wieber, Delber Geskey, Paul Kodatt, George Shaub, Robert
Van Winkle, Paul Boughan, Paul Schreiber, Robert Arnold, John
Jarrell.

NARRATOR—In 1848 there was much agitation to change the county seat to Mt. Pulaski, since this town had grown to a thriving village of 300 active and ambitious pioneers. Postville had secured the county seat by act of commissioners, but the residents of Mt. Pulaski believed that a popular vote would give them the right to change the seat of government. In an election held in April, 1847, a majority of votes was cast for Mt. Pulaski, and accordingly the county seat was established and a new courthouse built in that town.

The immediate cause of the platting of the city of Lincoln was the coming of the Chicago and Alton Railroad. As the first step in the laying out of the new town, Colonel Latham went to Pennsylvania to secure a deed from Isaac Loose, who had received a government patent for the land in 1839. Colonel Latham paid Mr. Loose and his wife, Eliza, \$1350 for the land, but Mrs. Loose, before signing the deed, demanded from her husband a silk dress as her portion of the purchase price. At the same time, 1853, Colby Knapp, then a member of the legislature, introduced a bill providing for a special election to decide whether or not the seat of justice should be removed from Mt. Pulaski to the new town site. The bill was passed, and in the November election of 1853, the proposition to locate the county seat at Lincoln was approved by the voters.

Abraham Lincoln drew up all the deeds and papers for the new town as he had been attorney for the proprietors for years past.

It is authoritatively stated that the town was named in Lincoln's office in Springfield on Aug. 14, 1853, when Mr. Lincoln suggested that a name be selected in order that the town might be incorporated at once.

EPISODE IX—Naming of the Town of Lincoln, 1853.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN	Raymond Warnisher
COLONEL ROBERT LATHAM	Richard Smith
JOHN B. GILLETT	Dale Mitchell
VIRGIL HICKOX	Dallas Snyder

"Illinois" Girls' Chorus

In the center of thy bounty, Illinois, Illinois,
Stands our Lincoln, Logan County, Illinois, Illinois.
The only city that can claim
That it took the Lincoln name
Ere that hero rose to fame, Illinois, Illinois,
Ere that hero rose to fame, Illinois. (L. E. Stringer.)

Far and wide through central Illinois Lincoln had been making friends during the years that he had been practicing law and riding the Eighth Judicial Circuit. In every town there were a few families of wealth and education, and in their homes, as well as in the houses of the poor, Lincoln was always welcome because of his sympathetic interest, his charm, and his gift for story telling. He had long been a friend of Colonel Latham, one of the best known and wealthiest residents of central Illinois, had been royally entertained in the Latham mansion, and had often slept in the bed that came to be called for him because of its unusual length.

Now that Colonel Latham was interested in the sale of town lots in the newly incorporated town, Lincoln was, too, and he drove up from Springfield to see how the sale was progressing.

EPISODE X—Sale of Town Lots, 1853.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN	Raymond Warnisher
COLONEL LATHAM	Richard Smith
VIRGIL HICKOX	Dallas Snyder

BUYERS AND CITIZENS—Roy Wright, Joe Hill, Delber Geskey, Dale Allen, Francis Smalley, William Lohrenz, Robert Gibbs, Bob Adkinson, Ralph Wieber, Robert Pfau, Rosalie Williams, Anna Plotkin, Alice French, Bernice Zellhoefer, Helen Young, Hilda Hagan, Clarine Steinfort, Lois Gehlbach, Jane Bruketa, Helen Starcevic, Virginia Nichols, Mary Ware, LaVeta Baker, Dorothy Harrison, Jayne Peterson, Clare Huffman, Velda Umland, John Jarrell, Robert Arnold.

NARRATOR—In a few years the citizens of Postville and Lincoln were desirous that the two towns be united since they adjoined each other.

On Feb. 16, 1865, therefore, a bill was signed by Richard J. Oglesby, governor of the state of Illinois, incorporating the towns of Postville and Lincoln into one city, the City of Lincoln!

"Whereas, The Town of Postville and the town of Lincoln in Logan County, and State of Illinois, have been duly incorporated by different and separate acts of incorporation and whereas, said towns being adjoining and contiguous to each other, and the citizens of the respective places being desirous that the two towns should be united into one and be incorporated as a city, and be known as the "City of Lincoln"; therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly, that the towns of Postville and Lincoln, in Logan County, Illinois, be and they are hereby merged into one, and be known and called hereafter by the name of "The City of Lincoln."

February 16, 1865.

Signed: Richard J. Oglesby,
Governor of the State of Illinois.

"Illinois" Girls' Chorus

Not without thy wondrous story, Illinois, Illinois,
Can be writ the nation's glory, Illinois, Illinois,
On the record of the years, Abraham Lincoln's name appears,
Grant, and Logan, and our tears, Illinois, Illinois,
Grant, and Logan, and our tears, Illinois!

EPILOGUE

The history of Postville has been told, but its influence has not ceased through the years. Postville, wedded to Lincoln, has given up a proud name, but as a woman when wedded to one of her choice, does not surrender her personality, but merges with another to create a more complete life, so Postville has kept her distinctive qualities, but at the same time she has given Logan County a greater Lincoln, richer in tradition, fuller of ideals, more distinguished of personality than by itself it could have been. May the past be a continual inspiration to the fullest future growth, and to an abiding harmony and peace.

May the associations, hallowed by remembrance of the immortal Lincoln, child of the common people, who once walked our streets, continue to inspire our people in the city of his name:

"A bronzed, bank man! His suit of ancient black,
A famous high top hat and plain worn shawl
Make him the quaint great figure that men love,
The prairie lawyer, master of us all."

Tableau.

"Star Spangled Banner."

March, "Mountain Trails" King
Lincoln Community High School Band.

AT CENTURY'S END

Compiled and Written by Virginia Fairfield, Alice Coogan, Laura M. Armstrong.

Director of Pageant—Clarence A. Miller.

Director of Vocal Music—Frances K. Mantle.

Director of Band—H. O. Merry.

Director of Dances—Marguerite Hamal.

Director of Publicity—Marcella Whetsler.

Chairman of all Committees—W. C. Handlin, Principal Lincoln Community High School.

COSTUME COMMITTEE

Virginia Fairfield, Clara Sparks, Ann Small, Helen Watson, Pearl Vanzee, Alice Coogan, Laura Armstrong, J. O. Hodgson, Marcella Whetsler, Mildred Jenken, Lavonna Urquhart, Ann Devanny.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

George Shive, Yvonne Kechule, Theresa Henneberrry, Charles Bennis, Walter Alde, Jack Dumsor, Katherine Harrison, Dorothy Vlahovic, Clarine Steinfert.

STAGE COMMITTEE

George Culleton, Norman Pence, Edwin Goff.

IN APPRECIATION

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"Time flies you say?
Ah no! Time stays. We go."