

# USS Abraham Lincoln Collection

Processed by

Stephanie Martin, April 2020

Size

1 Box

Scope

The collection includes materials related to Wayne Temple's involvement with the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier. It includes his correspondence, materials of the Commissioning Committee, Christening, Launch, and Commissioning events, newspaper articles, and newsletters from the ship. The collection covers 1984-1990.

Background

The USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), the Navy's fifth Nimitz-class aircraft carrier, was the largest military ship ever constructed at the time. It honors Lincoln's commitment to the Navy. The Secretary of the Navy invited the State of Illinois to sponsor commissioning activities. Governor James Thompson named a USS Abraham Lincoln Commissioning Committee of prominent business and civic leaders from across the state. The stated purpose of the committee was to sponsor the activities and program at the commissioning of the ship, to place aboard the ship items that will depict the life of President Lincoln, and to create a lasting bond between the people of Illinois and the crew of the USS Abraham Lincoln. A recruit induction ceremony took place on October 19, 1988 at the Illinois State Capitol for sailors that would be on the USS Abraham Lincoln. The ship was built by Newport News Shipbuilding. The Christening and Launching of the USS Abraham Lincoln took place on February 13, 1988 in Newport News, Virginia. The commissioning ceremony took place on November 11, 1989 at Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

Dr. Wayne Temple worked on getting books for the ship, giving tours of Springfield, and other work with the Commissioning Committee. "He is an internationally recognized authority on Abraham Lincoln. He is among 30 individuals, from around the world, honored with a special Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial edition of the Order of Lincoln – the highest honor that can be awarded by the State of Illinois. Temple has held many positions, including: Curator Ethnohistory at the Illinois State Museum; Editor-in-Chief of the Lincoln Herald – the only quarterly journal on Abraham Lincoln in the world and the oldest such Lincoln publication, starting in 1897; Secretary-Treasurer of the National Lincoln-Civil War Council; Memorial Bibliography committee for Lincoln Lore; Editorial Advisory Board for the American Biographical Institute; Board of Governors for the St. Louis Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children; and Trustee Regent for the Lincoln Academy. He also served as the Chief Deputy Director of the Illinois State Archives. He is a life fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, among many other

organizations. Temple served under Eisenhower in Europe during World War II. He received a B.S. in Engineering, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Illinois, where he was a research assistant to Prof. J.G. Randall, "Dean of the Lincoln Scholars." He then earned his A.M. and Ph.D degrees under the direction of Prof. Randall and Prof. Richard N. Current. Among his books on the 16th President are Abraham Lincoln: From Skeptic to Prophet and By Square and Compass: Saga of the Lincoln Home." -Abraham Lincoln Association

Provenance

Gift # 2010-20 donated on July 26, 2010

Contact Us

Sangamon Valley Collection  
Lincoln Library, the public library of Springfield, IL  
326 S. 7th Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
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Contents by folder

1. Correspondence to and from Wayne Temple Re: USS Lincoln
2. Program USS Abraham Lincoln Authentication of Keel Laying 1984
3. Correspondence Newport News Shipbuilding's Lincoln Tour of Springfield August 1987
4. Correspondence about Book Donations for USS Abraham Lincoln
5. Invitations USS Abraham Lincoln Christening and Launching 1988
6. Program USS Abraham Lincoln Christening 1988
7. Proclamation City of Springfield on USS Lincoln Launch 1988
8. Correspondence – Wayne Temple regarding USS Lincoln Launch
9. Correspondence and Brochures USS Lincoln Commissioning Committee
10. Correspondence for USS Lincoln Fundraising
11. Invitations USS Abraham Lincoln Commissioning 1989
12. Press Kit USS Abraham Lincoln
13. Newsletters Newport News Shipbuilding "Shipyard Bulletin" issues related to USS Lincoln
14. Newsletters "USS Lincoln Ombudsman Cent-inel" 1988-1989
15. Newsletters "Lincoln Address" USS Abraham Lincoln 1988-1989
16. Newspaper Clippings USS Abraham Lincoln 1980s
17. Newspaper Clippings USS Abraham Lincoln 1990s