THE ESSENTIAL LINCOLN BOOK SHELF
The 177 Basic Books for an Abraham Lincoln Library
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The Lincoln collector, confronted with approximately 10,000 books and pamphlets relating to Abraham Lincoln, must wonder if he has tackled too vast a subject. No other historical personage, excepting Napoleon, has been studied and written about as much as our 16th President. And the list of Lincoln publications continues to grow at a steady pace.

We have always felt the collector should have an attainable goal; that is, a selective list of books which would offer what is considered to be the most authoritative and best written works on the subject. But the myriad of choices presents a profound problem for serious readers and collectors. Where does one begin assembling a basic Lincoln library? To address this problem, we offer the following list of 177 titles pertaining to Lincoln's life and times [For those who ask, we chose 177 because that is what number the essential list came to].

We don't expect everyone to agree with our choices, though this list does represent the consensus of leading authorities in the field of Lincoln scholarship. But we accept responsibility for the final choice. This list has not been prepared in catalogue form. Therefore, we simply list each title, indicating the major editions for both scholarship and collecting. We list the first trade edition only if there are no major additions in subsequent (if any) editions. If there is a reprint with added material, or a limited edition of note, we will list other significant editions after the first as (b), (c), etc.

One can certainly collect well beyond this list, for there are many significant and collectible printed works that would add to any Lincoln library. These specialized categories (e.g. the assassination, his youth or legal practice, bibliographies, campaign literature, etc.) each would have their own additional "essential" titles.

WE SUGGEST YOU USE THIS AS A CHECKLIST AND ADVISE US WHICH BOOKS YOU SEEK.

1. THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN QUARTERLY. Volume I, March 1940, through Volume VIII, December 1952. 52 issues, wraps. A complete run of this informative publication from the Abraham Lincoln Association. Superb essays, interpretive in nature; mostly original articles by the major Lincoln contributors — Randall, Thomas, Angle, Pratt, et al. A Lincoln-related frontispiece was a regular feature.


3. Angle, Paul M., with Case, Richard G., eds. A PORTRAIT OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN IN LETTERS BY HIS OLDEST SON. Chicago: 1968. 92p., ft. This valuable source contains over eighty letters written between 1903 and 1926 in which Robert Todd Lincoln commented about his father's life.


6. Baringer, William E. LINCOLN’S RISE TO POWER. Boston: 1937. 373p., ft., illus. A fine account of Lincoln’s strategy that, within two years, turned him from a defeated senatorial candidate into the successful Republican candidate for President.

7. Baringer, William E. LINCOLN’S VANDALIA: A PIONEER PORTRAIT. New Brunswick: 1949. 141p., illus. Lincoln passed his freshman course in politics in this lively frontier capital. Here started his rivalry with Stephen A. Douglas, as well as the friendships that would one day carry him to the White House.

8. Barr, John McKee. LOATHING LINCOLN: AN AMERICAN TRADITION FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO THE PRESENT. Baton Rouge: 2014. 471p. The first panoramic study of Lincoln-hating in American life, from both the left and the right, and from his day to the present.


15. Boritt, Gabor S. LINCOLN AND THE ECONOMICS OF THE AMERICAN DREAM. Memphis: 1978. 420p., illus. Lincoln’s economic concerns and observations long preceded the political issues of slavery and secession. These ideas helped him not only face his political trials but create a clearer vision of the American Dream.


17. Borreson, Ralph. WHEN LINCOLN DIED. New York: 1965. 231p., ft., illus. The assassination and aftermath, as told in quoted writings by eyewitnesses and observations of the people of the day. Richly illustrated; elegantly edited.


20. Bray, Robert. READING WITH LINCOLN. Carbondale and Edwardsville: 2010. 261p. At the core of Lincoln’s success was his self-education. Bray uncovers the how of Lincoln’s inspiring rise to greatness through the content of his reading.


27. Burlingame, Michael, ed. AN ORAL HISTORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN: JOHN G. NICOLAY’S INTERVIEWS AND ESSAYS. Carbondale: 1996. 167p. With fellow secretary John Hay, Nicolay spent the years from 1872 to 1890 writing a monumental ten-volume biography of Lincoln. In preparation for this task, Nicolay interviewed men who had known Lincoln both during his years in Springfield and when he became President, among them Lamon, Speed, and Robert Todd Lincoln. These 39 interviews are supplemented by two previously unpublished essays by Nicolay.

28. Burlingame, Michael, and Ettlinger, John R. Turner, eds. INSIDE LINCOLN’S WHITE HOUSE: THE COMPLETE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF JOHN HAY. Carbondale: 1997. 393p. Justly deemed the most intimate record we will ever have of Abraham Lincoln in the White House, this is, according to the editors “one of the richest deposits of high-grade ore for the smelters of Lincoln biographers and Civil War historians.” The authoritative edition of Lincoln’s secretary’s finely written diary.

29. Burt, John. LINCOLN’S TRAGIC PRAGMATISM: LINCOLN, DOUGLAS, AND MORAL CONFLICT. Cambridge and London: 2013. 814p. Both Lincoln and Douglas struggled with an ethical conflict as profound as the one over slavery, one that strained the commitment to rule by both consent and principle. Burt contends that the very legitimacy of democratic governance was on the line.

30. Burton, Orville Vernon. THE AGE OF LINCOLN. New York: 2007. 420p., illus. Lincoln’s “Age” is seen as stretching from the early days of American expansion to the closing of the frontier, with Lincoln playing a leading role in “Manifest Destiny”.


36. Clinton, Catherine. MRS. LINCOLN: A LIFE. New York: 2009. 1st ed., 415p., ft., illus. Mary Lincoln’s story is inextricably tied with the story of America and with her husband’s presidency, yet her life is an extraordinary chronicle on its own.

38. Cuomo, Mario M., and Holzer, Harold, eds. LINCOLN ON DEMOCRACY. New York: 1990. 416p., ft., illus. One of the greatest writers among American presidents, here, collected for the first time, are Abraham Lincoln’s memorable expressions on those subjects closest to his political soul: equality, freedom, and self-determination. Includes essays by Gabor S. Boritt, James M. McPherson, Mark E. Neely, Jr., and others.


41. Dirck, Brian R. ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND WHITE AMERICA. Lawrence: 2012. 213p., illus. Probing more deeply into what “white” meant in Lincoln’s time and what it meant to Lincoln, Dirck ably demonstrates that Lincoln rose far above the confines of his culture.

42. Dirck, Brian. LINCOLN THE LAWYER. Urbana and Chicago: 2007. 228p. Abraham Lincoln lived most of his adult life as a practicing lawyer, and it was as a lawyer that he began his political career. In this excellent study of Lincoln’s legal career, Brian Dirck explores the origins of Lincoln’s desire to practice law, his legal education, his partnerships, and the maturation of his far-flung practice in the 1840s and 1850s.


46. Donald, David Herbert. “WE ARE LINCOLN MEN”. New York: 2003. 288p., illus. Friendships never came easy for a man as private and as mysterious as Abraham Lincoln. This highly original book by a great historian and two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize offers an enlightening way of looking at Lincoln by observing how he dealt with his friends and close associates, revealing much about how he grew in his mastery of managing other men.

47. Donald, David Herbert, ed. INSIDE LINCOLN’S CABINET: THE CIVIL WAR DIARIES OF SALMON P. CHASE. New York: 1954. 342p., ft. An intimate record and fine resource on the inner workings of Lincoln’s administration by his Treasury Secretary.


49. Emerson, Jason. GIANT IN THE SHADOWS: THE LIFE OF ROBERT T. LINCOLN. Carbondale: 2012. 752p., illus. Emerson draws upon previously unavailable materials to offer the first truly definitive biography of a man who, much more than merely the oldest and last surviving son of America’s greatest president, made his own indelible mark on American history.


51. Epstein, Daniel Mark. LINCOLN’S MEN: THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PRIVATE SECRETARIES. New York: 2009. 262p. A narrative portrait of the three men who served as the President’s secretaries during the Civil War --- John Nicolay, John Hay, and William Stoddard --- who spent more time with him during the war than anyone else outside his immediate family.

52. Etulain, Richard W.; Gabbard, Sara Vaughn; and Rodrigue, Sylvia Frank, series eds. CONCISE LINCOLN LIBRARY. Carbondale: 2011-. Various authors, 19 volumes (as of 2015). Through these short books (each less than 200p.), each focusing on a different area of Lincoln’s life and career --- well-known subjects, previously overlooked aspects, and topics that have not yet received book-length treatment --- the best Lincoln scholars working today (among them Burlingame, Marszalek, and Steers) elaborate on the life, times, and legacy of the 16th President. These superb pieces can only be truly appreciated as a complete library.
53. Farber, Daniel. LINCOLN’S CONSTITUTION. Chicago & London: 2003. 240p. Faber evaluates Lincoln’s legal legacy comprehensively, leading the reader to understand the constitutional problems that arose during Lincoln's presidency, what arguments he made in defense of his actions, and how his words and deeds fit into the context of the times.


57. Fornieri, Joseph R. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PHILOSOPHER STATESMAN. Carbondale: 2014. 216p., illus. Through close textual analysis of Lincoln's speeches and writings, Fornieri reveals Lincoln to be a philosopher statesman in whom political thought and action were united.

58. Fraker, Guy C. LINCOLN'S LADDER TO THE PRESIDENCY: THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT. Carbondale and Edwardsville: 2012. 328p., ft., illus., map. Lincoln spent nearly as much time on the road as an attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit as he did in Springfield. Here are the people and counties that Lincoln encountered, the key cases he handled, and the important friends he made who formed the team that won him the presidency.

59. Frank, John P. LINCOLN AS A LAWYER. [A] Urbana: 190p. [B] Chicago: 1991. 208p., new Introduction by Cullom Davis. A fine study by a former professor at the Yale University law school. Lincoln spent 25 years as a lawyer and no one can truly understand him as a public figure without an understanding of these years.

60. Gary, Ralph. FOLLOWING IN LINCOLN'S FOOTSTEPS: A COMPLETE ANNOTATED REFERENCE TO HUNDREDS OF HISTORICAL SITES VISITED BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN. New York: 2001. 480p., map. From Abraham Lincoln's law offices to his White House office and from his Springfield address to the spot where he first heard the news of Robert E. Lee's surrender, this guidebook includes detailed maps and diagrams of the cities and buildings that Lincoln called home.

61. Goodwin, Doris Kearns. TEAM OF RIVALS: THE POLITICAL GENIUS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. New York: 2005. 916p., illus. A skillful, multiple biography, centered on Lincoln's ability to create a cabinet out of gifted, divergence personalities, and how Lincoln’s personality shaped the most significant presidency in the nation's history.


65. Harris, William C. LINCOLN AND THE BORDER STATES: PRESERVING THE UNION. Lawrence: 2011. 416p., ft., illus., map. Lincoln’s patient and judicious management of border slave state affairs, despite occasional missteps, proved crucial in keeping those states in the Union, gaining their support for the war effort, and ultimately securing the end of slavery.

66. Harris, William C. LINCOLN’S RISE TO THE PRESIDENCY. Lawrence: (2007). 412p. Depicts Lincoln as increasingly driven not so much by his own ambitions as by his antislavery sentiments and his fear of the republic in the hands of Douglas Democrats, and he shows how the unique political skills Lincoln developed in Illinois shaped his wartime leadership.

67. Harris, William C. WITH CHARITY FOR ALL: LINCOLN AND THE RESTORATION OF THE UNION. Lexington: 1997. 336p., illus. In this comprehensive examination Harris maintains that Lincoln held a relatively conservative vision of the restoration process, examines the reasoning and ideology that lay behind Lincoln's policies, and evaluates Lincoln's successes and failures in bringing restoration efforts to closure.


71. Hirsch, David, and Van Haften, Dan. LINCOLN AND THE STRUCTURE OF REASON. New York and El Dorado Hills, CA: 2010. 439p., tables, diagrams. Persuasively argues that it was Lincoln’s study of geometry that gave him his verbal structure, and that he embedded the ancient structure of geometric proof into the Gettysburg Address, the Cooper Union speech, both Inaugurals, and his legal practice.

72. Holzer, Harold. EMANCIPATING LINCOLN: THE PROCLAMATION IN TEXT, CONTEXT, AND MEMORY. Cambridge & London: 2012. 213p., illus. Examines the impact of Lincoln’s momentous announcement at the moment of its creation, and then as its meaning has changed over time.

73. Holzer, Harold. LINCOLN AND THE POWER OF THE PRESS: THE WAR FOR PUBLIC OPINION. New York: 2014. 733p., illus. Lincoln’s relationships with the press, both as a reader and a master of its potential to persuade and manage, shows how he employed the nation’s newspapers, managed their owners, and used their growing power to steer the issues of his day as well as his own political career.

74. Holzer, Harold. LINCOLN AT COOPER UNION: THE SPEECH THAT MADE ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENT. New York: 2004. 338p., illus. Delivered in New York in February 1860, Lincoln’s Cooper Union speech, which he later said made him President, dispelled doubts about his suitability for that office. Holzer presents Lincoln’s speech as a masterly combination of scholarship, a brief for equality and democracy, a ringing warning to secessionists, and a rallying cry for the country and the Republican Party.


76. Holzer, Harold; Boritt, Gabor S.; & Neely, Mark E. THE LINCOLN IMAGE: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE POPULAR PRINT. New York: 1984. 250p., illus. Focusing on prints produced in Lincoln’s lifetime and in the iconographically important months immediately following his death, three well-known Lincoln experts document the efforts of popular printmakers to make Lincoln’s face recognizable in an era which lacked modern media exposure methods.

77. Holzer, Harold, ed. LINCOLN AS I KNEW HIM: GOSSIP, TRIBUTES, AND REVELATIONS FROM HIS BEST FRIENDS AND WORST ENEMIES. Chapel Hill: 1999. 352p. Noted Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer sifted through letters, diary entries, books, and speeches written by those, famous and unknown, who actually met Lincoln, and offers up an intimate look at a man who was a terrible dresser, loved racy stories, and let his kids run all over him.


83. Johnson, Martin P. WRITING THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS. Lawrence: 2013. 322p., illus. Shows how Lincoln first started his most famous speech, the state of the document Lincoln brought to Gettysburg, the origin of the story that Lincoln wrote his speech on the train, the identity of the manuscript Lincoln held while speaking, and what Lincoln’s audience actually heard him say.


87. Kincaid, Robert L. JOSHUA FRY SPEED: LINCOLN’S MOST INTIMATE FRIEND. Harrrogate, TN: 1943. 250 copies, 70p., illus. A fine biography, including the fascinating letters written by Lincoln to his closest friend.

88. Kunhardt, Dorothy Meserve, and Kunhardt, Philip B., Jr. TWENTY DAYS. New York: 312p., illus. This beautiful book, containing more than 300 illustrations, tells the moving story of twenty fateful days in America’s history: from the night of April 14, 1865, when Abraham Lincoln was shot, to the afternoon of his burial in Springfield.

89. Kushner, Tony. LINCOLN: THE SCREENPLAY. New York: 2012. 164p., illus. Based in part on Doris Kearns Goodwin’s Team of Rivals (see above) and directed by Steven Spielberg, Lincoln focused on the President’s final months in office and his determination to pass the 13th Amendment. These are the words that helped Daniel Day-Lewis win Best Actor.

90. Leech, Margaret. REVEILLE IN WASHINGTON, 1860-1865. New York: 1941. 438p., illus. The Pulitzer Prize-winning work of history, written like a novel, tells the story of the capital during the Civil War.


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99. McPherson, James M. TRIED BY WAR: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. New York: 2008. 416p., illus., maps. In essence, Lincoln invented the idea of commander in chief, as neither the Constitution nor existing legislation specified how the president ought to declare war or dictate strategy. Good thing, too, because his strategic insight and will to fight won the war and saved the Union.


101. Miller, William Lee. LINCOLN’S VIRTUES: AN ETHICAL BIOGRAPHY. New York: 2002. 515p., ft. Lincoln, Miller says, was a great man who was also a good man. It is the central thrust of this “ethical biography” to reveal how he became both, to trace his moral and intellectual development in the context of his times and in confrontation with the leading issues of the day - most notably, of course, that of slavery.


111. Nicolay, John G., and Hay, John. ABRAHAM LINCOLN: A HISTORY. New York: 1890. 10 volumes, ft.s., illus., plates, maps. Written by the personal secretaries to the President, who were at the heart of his administration, this is one of the truly essential works on Abraham Lincoln, as much a history of the Civil War as a biography of the man who prosecuted it.


115. Peterson, Merrill D. LINCOLN IN AMERICAN MEMORY. New York and Oxford: 1994. 482p., illus. A fascinating history of Lincoln’s place in the American imagination from the hour of his death to the present, tracing the changing image of Lincoln through time by exploring the reminiscences, biographies, memorials and myths.

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116. Phillips, Donald T. LINCOLN ON LEADERSHIP: EXECUTIVE STRATEGIES FOR TOUGH TIMES. New York: 1991. 188p., illus. A unique study of Lincoln's strategies for keeping the Union intact and how these strategies might be applied today by executives whose organizations are facing hard times.


119. Pratt, Harry E. PERSONAL FINANCES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Springfield: 1943, 198p., ft., illus., plates. The only reliable source for information on the subject.


123. Randall, J.G. LINCOLN THE PRESIDENT: SPRINGFIELD TO GETTYSBURG; MIDSTREAM; LAST FULL MEASURE (with Current, Richard N.). New York: 1945-1955. 4 vols., ft., illus., facsims. Randall’s landmark ground-breaking biography, one of the first to utilize the vast Robert Todd Lincoln collection, which changed the way scholars looked at Lincoln.


133. Shenk, Joshua Wolf. LINCOLN’S MELANCHOLY: HOW DEPRESSION CHALLENGED A PRESIDENT AND FUELED HIS GREATNESS. Boston and New York: 2005. 350p. Drawing on years of research, Shenk reveals how Lincoln harnessed his depression to fuel his astonishing success, finding the solace and tactics he needed to deal with the nation’s worst crisis in the “coping strategies” he had developed over a lifetime of persevering through depressive episodes and personal tragedies.


135. Simon, Paul. LINCOLN’S PREPARATION FOR GREATNESS: THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE YEARS. Norman: 1965. 335p., illus. An extraordinarily fine study of these formative political years for Lincoln.
136. Steers, Edward, Jr. BLOOD ON THE MOON: THE ASSASSINATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Lexington: 2001. 360p., illus. The book on the assassination presents the most up-to-date research and makes clear the important role of Mudd and members of the Confederate Secret Service in Booth’s crime and escape, as Steers finally puts to rest the many myths and popular misconceptions and accurately depicts what really happened.


139. Steiner, Mark E. AN HONEST CALLING: THE LAW PRACTICE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. DeKalb: 2006. 272p., ft. One of the first scholars to work in the vast collection of the Lincoln Legal Papers, Steiner depicts Lincoln’s work for the railroads and his more typical cases, describes Lincoln’s legal education, the economics of the law office, the changes in legal practice that Lincoln himself experienced, and highlights Lincoln’s guiding principles as a lawyer, which embraced a professional ideal that cast the lawyer as a guardian of order.

140. Stowell, Daniel W. THE PAPERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN: LEGAL DOCUMENTS AND CASES. Charlottesville, VA: 2008. 4 vols., 2,326p., illus. Arranged chronologically, the four volumes present documents from more than fifty of Lincoln’s most interesting, important, or representative cases, all of which are transcribed and annotated.


142. Symonds, Craig L. LINCOLN AND HIS ADMIRALS: ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE U.S. NAVY, AND THE CIVIL WAR. New York: 2008. 430p., ft., illus. Symonds shows, Abraham Lincoln began his presidency as well as the war with virtually no knowledge of naval affairs, lacking both exposure and interest given his upbringing in the Midwest. Despite his inexperience, he quickly came to preside over the largest national armada of the century.

143. Tarbell, Ida. IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE LINCOLNS. New York: 1924. 418p., ft., illus. One of the great Lincoln scholars traces Lincoln’s family from their 1617 migration to Hingham, Mass. down to his 1861 inauguration. Tarbell finds Lincoln’s success directly related to his family traditions.


150. Trefousse, Hans L. “FIRST AMONG EQUALS”: ABRAHAM LINCOLN’S REPUTATION DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION. New York: 2005. 199p. In myth and memory, Lincoln is always the Great Emancipator and savior of the Union, second in stature only to George Washington. But was he always so exalted? This

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fascinating book is a masterful portrait of Lincoln the President in the eyes of his fellow Americans, showing that the majority of the Northern people appreciated Lincoln and his leadership from the beginning.

151. Turner, Justin G and Linda Levitt, eds. MARY TODD LINCOLN: HER LIFE AND LETTERS. New York: 1972. 750p., ft., illus. All her available letters (609) are brought together to form a comprehensive picture of this complex woman.


157. Wheeler, Tom. MR. LINCOLN’S T-MAILS: THE UNTOLD STORY OF HOW ABRAHAM LINCOLN USED THE TELEGRAPH TO WIN THE CIVIL WAR. New York: 2006. 227p., illus. Lincoln embraced technical advancements, such as the telegraph. He also supported the Henry repeating rifle, the transcontinental railroad, and gave an 1860 lecture, Discoveries and Inventions. Wheeler explores how Lincoln used "modern" technology to his advantage.

158. White, Ronald C., Jr. A. LINCOLN: A BIOGRAPHY. New York: 2009. 796p., ft., illus., maps. Through meticulous research of the newly completed Lincoln Legal Papers, as well as of recently discovered letters and photographs, White provides a spectacular portrait of Lincoln's personal, political, and moral evolution.


160. White, Ronald C., Jr. LINCOLN’S GREATEST SPEECH: THE SECOND INAUGURAL. New York: 2002. 254p., illus. “Lincoln thought the Second Inaugural to be his greatest speech --- even more profound and powerful than the Gettysburg address. Ronald C. White’s remarkable analysis …will convince readers that Lincoln was right. In lucid prose, White…places the speech in a broad historical and theological context.” --- James M. McPherson.

161. Williams, Kenneth P. LINCOLN FINDS A GENERAL: A MILITARY STUDY OF THE CIVIL WAR. New York: 1949-50. 5 volumes, fts., plates, maps, map eps. The unfinished jewel in the crown of a fine historian, which remains a classic rendition of Lincoln’s problems in finding a general to lead the Federal armies and successfully prosecute the war.

162. Williams, T. Harry. LINCOLN AND HIS GENERALS. New York: 1952. 363p., illus., map. An excellent examination of Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief and his relationships with his field commanders.

163. Williams, T. Harry. LINCOLN AND THE RADICALS. Madison: 1941. 413p., illus. The vivid and dramatic story of the bitter struggle between Lincoln and the radicals in his own party to control the conduct of the war.

164. Wills, Garry. LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG: THE WORDS THAT REMADE AMERICA. New York: 1992. 317p., illus. Lincoln was asked to memorialize the grisly battle at Gettysburg. Instead, he gave the whole nation “a new birth of freedom”. This brilliant Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the making of Lincoln’s masterpiece restores the Gettysburg Address, reminding us how daring was this act of intellectual revolution.


166. Wilson, Douglas. LINCOLN BEFORE WASHINGTON: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE ILLINOIS YEARS. Urbana: 1997. 190p. These provocative essays are an effort, in the light of new evidence and perspectives, to
test the validity of some long-standing assumptions about certain Lincoln sources and to reopen some presumably settled questions about his early life.

167. Wilson, Douglas L. LINCOLN'S SWORD: THE PRESIDENCY AND THE POWER OF WORDS. New York: 2006. 343p., illus. An illuminating study of the composition, content, and intent of Lincoln's most important presidential writings. Wilson examines the circumstances that prompted Lincoln to compose each document, suggesting what Lincoln hoped to accomplish with them, and makes clear how very carefully Lincoln honed his words to achieve the greatest possible power of persuasiveness.

168. Wilson, Douglas J., and Davis, Rodney, eds. HERNDON'S INFORMANTS: LETTERS, INTERVIEWS, AND STATEMENTS ABOUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Urbana: 1997. 600p. An invaluable, basic source that must be placed next to Herndon's own work - for here is corroboration of his general reliability. There are over 600 primary sources covering Lincoln's pre-political and pre-legal career. Included are annotations, a registry of the informants, and a detailed topic index. Also see Emanuel Hertz's The Hidden Lincoln above.


170. Wilson, Rufus Rockwell, comp. INTIMATE MEMORIES OF LINCOLN. Elmira, NY: 1945. 629p., ft. The limited sequel to the above, with 60 more fascinating and insightful recollections.


172. Winkle, Kenneth J. THE YOUNG EAGLE: THE RISE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Dallas: 2001. 395p., ft., illus., maps. Drawing on dozens of historical sources, Winkle reexamines the young adult life of Lincoln to fashion a more in-depth evaluation of his actions and their meaning, explores Lincoln's roles as husband, father, and politician, revealing details at odds with many other accounts, and placing Lincoln in his time and place.


174. Zarefsky, David. LINCOLN, DOUGLAS, AND SLAVERY: IN THE CRUCIBLE OF PUBLIC DEBATE. Chicago: 1990. 309p. Zarefsky, a professor of communications studies, provides a detailed account of the 1858 Debates and the arguments of each, revealing how public sentiment itself was (and is) transformed through debate.