

Centennial Commemoration

LINCOLN'S LAST PUBLIC ADDRESS IN ILLINOIS

FEBRUARY 11, 1861

AT UNION STATION, TOLONO, ILLINOIS

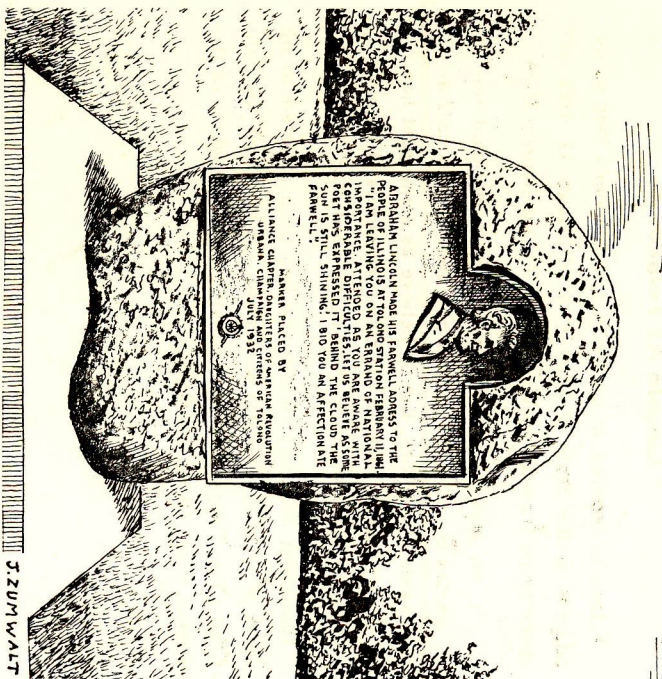
Historical Review of the Tolono Plaque

The Tolono Plaque is one of the most important in the interesting "Land of Lincoln" of Illinois. Originally, this Lincoln Memorial was erected and dedicated by the Alliance Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Urbana-Champaign, and citizens of Tolono in July 1932, in the railroad park west of the station.

This site was admirable until the highway was depressed under the Wabash Railroad, making the park obsolete.

The Plaque was removed to the east of the station in 1952 and rededicated in an outstanding program September 20, 1952, under the auspices of the Tolono Lions Club.

The location of the Tolono station at the time of Lincoln's address was the same as it is today. Lincoln spoke from the rear of his inaugural train, which was stopped in close proximity to where the marker now stands.



Saturday, February 11, 1961

2:00 P. M.

UNITY HIGH SCHOOL
TOLONO, ILLINOIS

Program

Presiding
Karl B. Lohmann
President, Champaign County Historical Society

Invocation
Dr. J. Mrazek

Unity High School Vocal Ensemble
"America the Beautiful"
"Battle Hymn of the Republic"
Director, Elvamae Anderson

Introduction
Marion C. Moore
General Chairman

Guest of Honor
Glenn H. Seymour
President, Illinois State Historical Society

Guest Speaker
C. C. Burford
Urbana Historian

Benediction
Rev. C. W. Coker

Informal Pilgrimage To Lincoln Plaque

Lincoln At Tolono

Tolono is honored in having heard Lincoln's last public address in the State of Illinois on February 11, 1861. He spoke as he traveled to Washington for his inauguration:

"I am leaving you on an errand of National importance, attended as you are aware, with considerable difficulties. Let us believe as some poet has expressed it, 'Behind the cloud the sun is still shining,' I bid you an affectionate farewell."

Historical accuracy of the site has been attested to by Paul M. Angle, Chicago Historical Society, and the late Clint Clay Tilton, Danville, Illinois, Past President of the Illinois State Historical Society.