

# Abraham Lincoln and the Nebraska State Capitol Scavenger Hunt

**Built between 1922 and 1932 for \$10 million and designed to represent Nebraska and its history, the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln includes references to the city's namesake and his legacy. Start the exterior section of the scavenger hunt by walking around the outside of the Capitol.**

*CHECK ANSWERS in the Nebraska State Library 3rd floor, at the first floor information desk, or at the tour office on second floor north end.*

Above the East entrance of the Capitol three relief panels represent the cause of freedom in the New World. In the panel on the right, Abraham Lincoln is reading the Emancipation Proclamation in front of what building? What trademark garment of Lincoln is resting on the railing in front of him?

Carved on the northeast corner of the Capitol above the county names are two relief panels representing Nebraska history before and after the Civil War. These panels are best viewed from the promenade deck or lawn.

*(East side)*

Many believe the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, originally intended to open the west for a transcontinental railroad, was the beginning of the Civil War. The Act, which included a controversial section on popular sovereignty, was designed by an Illinois Senator who ran for United States Senate against Abraham Lincoln and participated in a series of famous debates. This senator is seated near the center of the panel. Name him and the Nebraska County named after him.

*(North side)*

Following the Civil War, on March 1, 1867, Nebraska was admitted as the 37th state in the United States. In the panel, Nebraska, represented as a pioneer woman, goes to Washington D.C. A Civil War veteran carries a flag with 36 stars beside her. What is Nebraska handing to Columbia, seated on her eagle throne? What are the veterans and immigrants bringing with them to help settle Nebraska?

At the base of the Capitol tower, above the arched rotunda windows, great philosophers and lawgivers emerge from the Indiana Limestone walls. Best viewed from the sidewalk, on the north face a young Abraham Lincoln is portrayed. Is he sculpted with his signature beard?

On the west side of the Capitol on 14th street is Nebraska's Lincoln Memorial, created by sculptor Daniel Chester French and architect Henry Bacon. This monument predates the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. by 10 years. It was dedicated in 1912 and was part of the second Capitol Grounds. Lincoln is represented standing, poised to deliver the Gettysburg Address. What symbol of the United States is carved into the granite monument behind the Lincoln statue? What was the date of the Gettysburg Address?



**Nebraska's county names are carved as a decorative frieze around the Capitol and are arranged according to the number of letters in their name. Above the county names are relief sculpture panels of events in the history of government and law leading up to Nebraska's statehood.**

Eleven of Nebraska's counties are named after Presidents of the United States. Including Lincoln County named for 16th president Abraham Lincoln. Find and list the other 11 counties named for presidents. (Hint: The number of their presidency. 1st-2nd-3rd-4th-11th-13th-14th-18th-19th-20th-21st)

Nine counties in Nebraska were named after Civil War Generals. Four of them went on to serve in the west during the Indian Wars. Fill in the blanks to identify them. (Hint: County seat)

George Armstrong \_\_\_\_\_ (Broken Bow)  
Joseph Hooker \_\_\_\_\_  
John Alexander Logan \_\_\_\_\_  
Philip Henry \_\_\_\_\_ (Rushville)  
George Henry Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

Ulysses Simpson Grant \_\_\_\_\_  
Oliver Otis \_\_\_\_\_ (St. Paul)  
James Birdseye McPherson \_\_\_\_\_  
William Tecumseh \_\_\_\_\_ (Loup City)



**The Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln includes references to the city's namesake and his legacy. While Abraham Lincoln never came to Nebraska, his actions as president had a great influence on Nebraska. Start the interior section of the scavenger hunt at the north door on second floor.**

Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act of 1862 which opened unclaimed land in Nebraska and the west to homesteaders. The first homestead claim was filed by Daniel Freeman near present day Beatrice, Nebraska. In the Vestibule, the three oil paintings represent the homesteaders arriving in Nebraska. What material did the homesteaders use to build their houses? (Hint: The settler is breaking/plowing it in the mural above the door.)

The central mosaic mural on the west wall of the Great Hall or Foyer of the Capitol represents the building of the transcontinental railroad through Nebraska and its importance to Nebraska's growth and development. President Abraham Lincoln chose the route and identified Council Bluffs/Omaha as the eastern starting point for railroad construction. Omaha may have been chosen over towns in Kansas and Missouri because it was distant from the Civil War action in Kansas and Missouri. How many people are sitting on/in the train in the mural?

Nebraska sent 3,157 volunteers to fight for the Union in the Civil War. The conflict claimed the lives of 239 of them. The Medal of Honor Plaque in the great hall lists the Nebraskans who received the Medal of Honor for their bravery and service. How many Nebraskans received the Medal of Honor for their service in the Civil War?

The bronze lamps on the desks in the Legislative Chamber have the profile image of Abraham Lincoln on them. Which way does Lincoln face on the lamp medallion? Which way does Lincoln face on the penny?

**Vestibule**

**Great Hall**

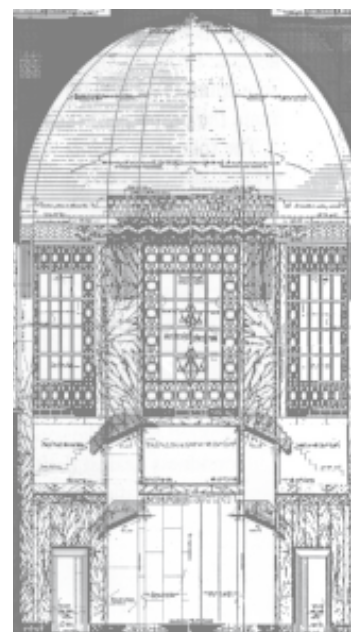
Nebraska's Hall of Fame begins in the Great Hall and extends down the galleries around the Rotunda. It includes a Governor of Nebraska who was a soldier who served in the Civil War. Name this soldier and agriculturalist.

On ground floor in the north hallway, photographs of Nebraska's Governors line the walls. Many of the early Governors moved west from other states.

William A. Richardson, from Illinois, served briefly as Territorial Governor of Nebraska. Before he came to Nebraska he was elected to serve Illinois in the United States House and later served as U.S. Senator from Illinois. He took seats vacated by Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's famous opponent. What year was Richardson Territorial Governor?

One of Nebraska's Territorial Governors, Samuel Black, resigned to enlist and fight in the Civil War. He was killed in action. What years did he serve as Territorial Governor?

Who served as Territorial Governor during most of the Civil War and up until Nebraska's statehood in 1867?



The Memorial Chamber on the 14th Floor is dedicated to public service. Two of the three bronze plaques on the walls are related to the Civil War.

To whom or what were the plaques dedicated?  
 What was the date of the Memorial Day Proclamation?  
 Who signed the Memorial Day Proclamation?  
 Is there a Nebraska County named after this Civil War General?

The Gettysburg Address plaque has a profile of Abraham Lincoln. Is Lincoln facing the same direction he is on the penny?  
 What year was he born?

The quote above the marble wainscot of the Memorial Chamber is from Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address. Beginning "With malice toward none, with charity for all.....". What did Lincoln hope we could achieve and cherish?

Take the north elevators to the 14th floor Memorial Chamber.