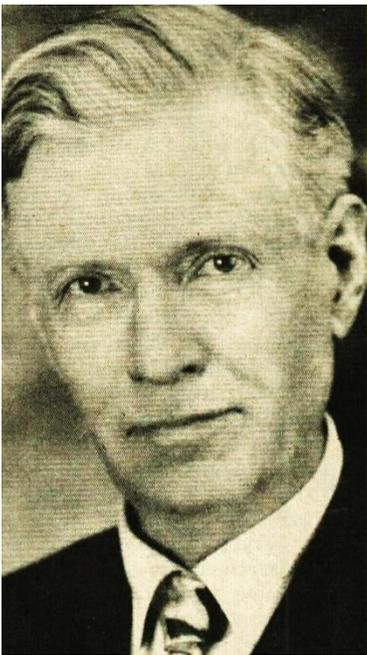




Pearl and Grace Lincoln House, 500 East Court Street- 1906-07

The Lincoln House was built on the Town Bluff at the east end of Court Street. The Lincolns could look down on the town and far over the hills to the west. Popular from the early twentieth century until the 1930s, concrete block molded to resemble the rough face of stone were used for building materials in the early twentieth century in Richland Center, hastening the demise of the local brick industry in the early part of the century. The Lincoln House was among the earliest examples of concrete block construction in Richland Center, with concrete block manufactured on the site by presses reportedly purchased by Mrs. Lincoln. The house had a large covered porch and was surrounded by shrubbery and flowers.



Pearl and Grace Lincoln were a dynamic couple that had a life-long commitment to community service in Richland Center. Pearl (sometimes spelled Perl) was born on a farm in the town of Ithaca to Levi and Fannie Lincoln. Lincoln graduated from Richland Center high school with the class of 1890. He attended the University of Wisconsin where he received his law degree.

Beginning in 1902, Mr. Lincoln served three terms as Richland County District Attorney. He then served three terms as mayor of Richland Center. Mayor Lincoln, with support from the Women's Federated Clubs, worked hard for the construction of the City

Auditorium and achieved that goal during his tenure as Mayor. In fact, his was the deciding vote on three occasions to break tie votes in the developmental stages of the project. This was a unique project in Wisconsin since it was the very first Municipal Auditorium in the state.

He served as Richland County Judge for 17 years, from 1921 to 1938. During his administration he helped establish the Richland County Children's Board and juvenile court. While mayor he campaigned successfully to establish Richland Center as a dry community. Judge Lincoln was a supporter of the Progressive movement of U.S. Senator Robert M. LaFollette, Sr.



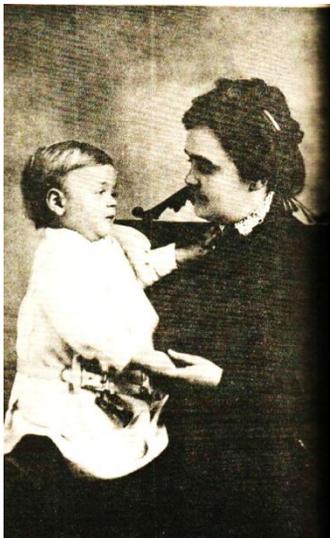
Grace Lincoln was the daughter of Dr. William A. Garrison and Flora Ball Garrison who was a descendent of Alexander Graham Bell. Grace was born at Lone Rock in 1871 and attended school in that village. There was no high school there at that time but she wrote the teacher's exam and taught at the Dixon School (Richland County). Later she taught at Lone Rock and completed her education at Platteville and the University of Wisconsin.

She opened a vocal and music school in the old White School in Richland Center. She also taught in the city school from 1901 to 1904. She and Pearl Lincoln had met while students at the University of Wisconsin.

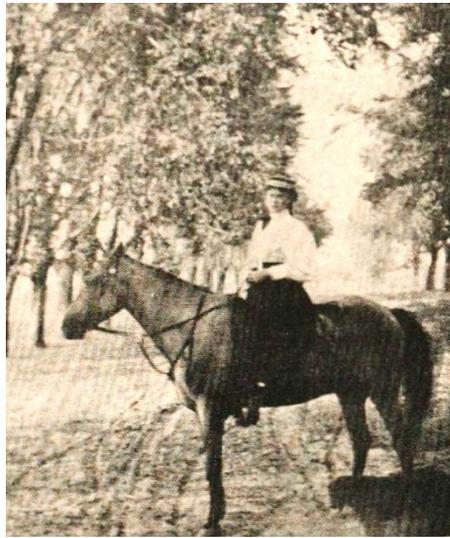
In nearly every cause and project of the Federation of Women's Clubs in Richland Center the name of Mrs. Lincoln appears. She was a tireless worker in the cause of

temperance and the suffragist's movement. The Federated Clubs were the driving force that established the Carnegie Library, the City Auditorium and the Richland Hospital.

Grace Lincoln was politically active during her lifetime and was a prolific writer; submitting many articles to magazines and newspapers. Early on, because they were the first political party to endorse woman's suffrage, she became a socialist and remained so throughout her adult life.



Son Garrison and Grace Lincoln.



While attending college at Platteville, Grace Garrison earned money by selling hats and giving music lessons. She was known as an excellent horsewoman and accomplished musician.

The Lincolns had one child, a son, Garrison. The community is still served by the family through a scholarship trust in Garrison Lincoln's name.