

# PAUL J. BEAVER

Professor Emeritus  
Lincoln College, Lincoln, Illinois

Paul Beaver is a native of Lincoln and Logan County. He was born on a farm west of Lincoln that was settled by his great-grandfather in the early 1850s around the time the town of Lincoln was founded and named for lawyer Abraham Lincoln. This heritage sparked his interest in history in general, and in Abraham Lincoln and Logan County in particular. Paul attended Middletown Community High School and followed that with two years at Lincoln College where he received his Associate in Arts degree. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Illinois State University in the fields of History and English. Beaver completed his master's degree in 1964. The research for his master's thesis explored the history of the vast Scully landholdings of Illinois and the Midwest. This work was published as a book in 2003. Beaver has done additional study at Illinois State in the Doctorate of Arts program. Paul taught History and English for seven years at Elkhart Junior High School before joining the faculty at Lincoln College. He held this post until his retirement in 2001. He also served as curator of the Lincoln Museum at Lincoln College for many years.



Paul is a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association and was one of the founders of the Logan County Abraham Lincoln Heritage Foundation. He was selected on four occasions by the Illinois State Department of Tourism to be “Lincoln Scholar in Residence” to travel with the Lincoln Heritage Trail Travel Writer’s group touring “Lincoln Country” in Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Professor Beaver has spoken about “Abraham Lincoln in Logan County” to Lincoln groups and Civil War round tables in Chicago, New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., and at The Lincoln Shrine at Redlands University in California as well as in other cities around the country. In 2008, Paul was named “Citizen of the Year” by *The Courier* (Lincoln). In 1983, he was in charge of publishing the history section of the *History of Logan County*, which is now widely used in genealogical research.

In 2000, Beaver and Paul Gleason researched and wrote the history for the book *A Pictorial History of Logan County*. In 2003, Beaver and Gleason again teamed up to write *Lincoln, Illinois, A Chronology 1853–2003*. During the City of Lincoln Sesquicentennial 2003, Paul was co-producer of the film *From Surveyor to President, Abraham Lincoln in Logan County, Illinois*.

Paul, joined by two assistant authors, wrote *Abraham Lincoln in Logan County, Illinois 1834–1860* (2010), which uses recent research in adding to and correcting some of Judge L. B. Stringer's *History of Logan County, Illinois* (1911). Paul recently completed a book entitled *The Last Farm Boy* (2012), about his growing up on the family farm in Logan County during the late 1940s and 1950s. Paul revealed that he'd been collecting photos and information about his farm and school experiences for the past fifty years.