

Ode to Lincoln

By Murlean Patton Keith

Nine brave men signed this decree
That Marion's black youth would always be free
From the bonds of ignorance, and poverty and strife
And have their fair share of the good life.



Lincoln Normal School
photograph album,
1909-1918

These are pictures of
people associated with
the Lincoln Normal School
and its buildings in Marion,
Alabama. It was among the
first schools established
for the education of freed
slaves after the Civil War.

These and other photos
can be found online at
The University of Alabama,
University Libraries. [http://
acumen.lib.ua.edu/](http://acumen.lib.ua.edu/)

But the times were hard and funds were rare,
And the state and county didn't seem to care
There were trouble and rejection on every hand
And the rich landowners would not take a stand,

But finally came the blessed day,
When they got help from the AMA
So they erected buildings strong and tall,
And sent forth men to answer the call

To spread peace and justice through out the land
And expound the worth of every man
No matter what his color or creed
To the kinship of man we must all give heed.

Then came the day when word got around
That dear old Lincoln would be closed down
After years of struggle who could know
That fate would deal such a cruel blow.

Alas, our founding fathers could not sleep
And their sons and daughters began to weep.
Destroy the edifices if you must
But we will never betray the trust

Passed on to us by sages of yore
We'll cherish that landmark evermore
And tell the world about those brave men
Who dared to look beyond the bend

For we learned the lesson that they taught
The torch they threw to us we caught,
Eager hands will hold it high
And the Lincoln Spirit shall never die.