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The Lincoln Highway: Coast to Coast from Times Square to the Golden Gate

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Abstract

The Lincoln Highway: Coast to Coast from Times Square to the Golden Gate

By Michael Wallis and Michael S. Williamson (WW Norton, New York and London, 2007 293 pages includes bibliography)

The book is divided into chapters by state following the highway from east to west. It is lavishly illustrated with color images of stops on the journey from the early days to the present. Of course, the roadway in Adams County is today US Route 30 and passes through the borough of Abbotstown to the western end of the county near the Michaux State Forest. Adams County highlights include Hub Cap City in New Oxford and the famous Round Barn built by Aaron Sheely in 1914. Readers will enjoy the images and stories of the roadway so adeptly woven in the tight narrative by the authors. The Lincoln Highway they note, until the creation of the nation's first limited access highway, the Pennsylvania Turnpike in 1940 was the heart and soul of the nation. In Adams County it contributed much to the development of Gettysburg as a tourist destination. Wallis and Williamson make the reader rethink that next trip. Why be in a hurry? Stop and smell the roses. Some of the best part of American culture is still visible off the beaten path. Everyone who reads this work can't help but enjoy it. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

Adams County Historical Society, ACHS, Adams County, Pennsylvania History, Abraham Lincoln, Lincoln Highway, Route 30

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The Lincoln Highway: Coast to Coast from Times Square to the Golden Gate

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On May 10, 1869, a crowd gathered at Bringham City, Utah and a ceremonial Golden Spike was driven into the last rail connecting the nation's first transcontinental railroad. While steam locomotives had been part of American life for nearly three decades, it took a Civil War to produce the country's first cross country route for steam engines. With the advent of the car in the early twentieth century it would take far less time for the creation of the country's first connected continental highway.

Wallis and Williamson investigate and detail the creation of the Lincoln Highway (US Route 30). Named for the country's sixteenth president, the idea for this roadway was conceived in 1912, which was only a decade after factory production cars began to make their appearance on American roads. This "hard-surfaced and improved highway" was born out of a system of roadways which in most cases was already present but not yet modernized. Work began in 1913 and eventually the Lincoln Highway ran from Times Square in New York City to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California a length of 3,389 miles. It passes through thirteen states and for its entire length pieces of the American life in the countryside and city dot the landscape.

The book is divided into chapters by state following the highway from east to west. It is lavishly illustrated with color images of stops on the journey from the early days to the present. Of course, the roadway in Adams County is today US Route 30 and passes through the borough of Abbotstown to the western end of the county near the Michaux State Forest. Adams County highlights include Hub Cap City in New Oxford and the famous Round Barn built by Aaron Sheely in 1914. Readers will enjoy the images and stories of the roadway so adeptly woven in the tight narrative by the authors. The Lincoln Highway they note, until the creation of the nation's first limited access highway, the Pennsylvania Turnpike in 1940 was the heart and soul of the nation. In Adams County it contributed much to the development of Gettysburg as a tourist destination. Wallis and Williamson make the reader rethink that next trip. Why be in a hurry? Stop and smell the roses. Some of the best part of American culture is still visible off the beaten path. Everyone who reads this work can't help but enjoy it.

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