

Lincoln Lore

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LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH
FOUNDATION
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MEMORIALS

With the approach of Memorial Day there is a renewed interest in Lincoln shrines. Pilgrimages to the sites, which through contact or association have been dedicated as memorials to the Martyred President, will be in order. Five of these memorial projects are set apart from the many others as major efforts, representing five episodes in the life of Abraham Lincoln. It is a strange coincidence that these periods may be divided chronologically into multiples of seven years. At each point where Lincoln resided for a time, or in close proximity with the places where he lived, there has been developed, or there is now in the process of creating, unusual tributes to the memory of this first American.

Kentucky, Seven Years

The birthplace of Lincoln at Hodgenville, Kentucky, where the cabin of the nativity is enshrined within a beautiful temple, has long been the rendezvous of patriots. An inadequate endowment has made impossible such improvements as are needed to recreate the primitive environment which existed there on February 12, 1809. Recently, however, the government passed a bill making available a considerable sum of money for the improvement of this farm where Lincoln was born. It was here and on the Knob Creek farm, a few miles distant on the same highway, that Abraham lived until he was seven years of age.

Indiana, Twice Seven Years

Lincoln City, Indiana, grew up on the very quarter-section of land which the Lincolns settled in the year 1816. The fact that Lincoln's mother died there, two years later, and was buried not far from the cabin-home has somewhat obscured the more important fact that Abraham Lincoln lived there for fourteen years. The Indiana Lincoln Union is now in the process of building a worthy memorial to Abraham Lincoln and his mother at this place, which will compare favorably with the noble effort put forth in Kentucky.

Rural Illinois, Seven Years

New Salem of Lincoln's day has now become the Old Salem State Park. A fine start has been begun in making this, the site of Lincoln's early activities in Illinois, a place of

interest and inspiration. A stone museum, erected in 1921, was followed by a group of log cabins built as replicas of the Rutledge Tavern, Lincoln-Berry store, Offut's store, Dr. Allen's office, and Onsott's cooper shop. It was the intention of the group sponsoring the project to rebuild the City of New Salem, and it is hoped that the original plan may yet be carried out.

Springfield, Illinois, Three Times Seven Years

In the year 1837, Abraham Lincoln arrived in Springfield to take up his permanent residence there. With the exception of the two years he served as a member of congress, he made this city his home until he moved into the White House. Not only is Springfield known as the place of his residence but it is also the place of his burial. The Lincoln Monument in Oak Ridge Cemetery is the mecca of thousands who continue to come to place floral tributes in the Lincoln tomb. Here, also, one hears plans for beautifying and preserving this Lincoln shrine.

Washington, Seven Years

The most majestic of all the nation's memorials, and the one which welcomes a larger number of visitors than all of the other Lincoln shrines combined, is the Nation's Capitol. Rivaling any memorial effort ever attempted by man, it stands in Washington to register the affection in which Lincoln is held by the masses. For five years Lincoln served as President of the United States, which followed a former period of two years in which he represented the State of Illinois in the Legislature. This memorial is a fitting climax for the five episodes in Lincoln's life which may be visualized as follows:

Kentucky	1809-1816	7 yrs.
Indiana	1816-1830	14 yrs.
Rural Illinois	1830-1837	7 yrs.
Springfield	1837-1860*	21 yrs.
Washington	1860-1865*	7 yrs.

*Two years should be deducted from the Springfield period and added to the Washington period to find the correct totals because Lincoln served two years in congress.
—Editor.

LIVING LINCOLN MEMORIALS

Those interested in a discussion on Living Lincoln Memorials, by the editor of Lincoln Lore, may refer to American Forests and Forest Life for February. This article mentions the trees still standing which looked down upon spots made sacred by the presence of Abraham Lincoln. A reprint of this item will soon be available through dealers in Lincolniana.

LINCOLN STEEPLE

The first memorial in England erected to Abraham Lincoln is located on the Westminster Bridge Road and is a part of Christ Church. The corner-stone to this tower and steeple was laid July 9, 1874, and dedicated July 4, 1876. It is 220 feet high and cost about \$35,000. Over the entrance are the words, "Lincoln Tower," and on a tablet within the structure one may read these words: "In commemoration of the abolition of slavery effected by President Lincoln, and as a token of international brotherhood."

LINCOLN BUILDING

There is now under construction in New York City, "A monumental office building of simple dignity, commanding character and practical usefulness, bearing the name of him to whom the whole world today pays homage." It is to be fifty-three stories high, and faces the Grand Central. It will take its place as the aristocrat among office buildings.

LINCOLN ROCK

The best known of the natural stone profiles in America is the stone face which looks out on the Columbia River in the State of Washington. From crown to chest it measures nearly one hundred feet. "The prominent brows; the aquiline nose, jutting above full, merciful lips; the strong chin and even the short whiskers worn by Lincoln during his presidency," make this colossal profile one of the famous land marks of the western country.

LINCOLN SPIRE

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, where Abraham Lincoln worshipped in Washington, lost its steeple in 1896 when a severe storm struck the city. It is now being rebuilt and chimes are being installed, as a gift of the family of Robert Lincoln, deceased son of the President. It will be known as the Lincoln Spire. At the very peak a flash of light will appear intermittently to warn night-aviators of the minimum altitude over the city with which they may fly with safety.

LINCOLN TOWER

Indiana's tallest building is soon to be erected at Fort Wayne by the Lincoln Bank and Trust Company. It will be twenty-two stories, and known as the Lincoln Tower. Lincoln grew up in the state of Indiana. By the time he left in 1830, he had reached his maximum height of six feet and four inches. This tower is a memorial to the tall young Hoosier.