

# LINCOLN LORE

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## Lincoln Lore

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Louis A. Warren - - Editor

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## PILGRIMAGES

The journey to Mecca, which every follower of Mohammed aspired to make at least once in his lifetime, was often fraught with many hardships. The modern pilgrim, who plans to visit the shrines of Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, soon will have the joy of riding over a super-highway which will connect these points. This new pavement will follow the trail over which Lincoln moved from the birthplace community in Kentucky to the scene of his boyhood in Indiana, and thence to the Illinois country where he arrived when twenty-one years of age, lived most of his life, and now lies buried.

The possibility of reaching all of these memorial efforts on the same day is going to be an added incentive for pilgrims to make the trip over this contemplated highway. The Lincolns were on the road an aggregate of three weeks, with their saddle horses and ox-drawn vehicles. A rapidly driven car, today, can make the trip between sunrise and sunset. Related places of interest which can be visited while under the same spell of inspiration have a far greater educational value than excursions made, to these isolated spots, with sometimes days or even years intervening.

Memorial Day and Lincoln's Birthday seem to be the favorite seasons for conducting pilgrimages to these shrines, but other dates of historical significance may be chosen which will allow one to create a historic atmosphere. It is not too early for the directors of these four significant memorial developments, at Hodgenville, Lincoln City, New Salem and Springfield, to begin arranging special exercises for stated occasions with the idea in mind of co-ordinating the efforts put forth at each shrine. A better understanding of Lincoln and a higher type of citizenship will result.

## THE LINCOLN WAY

Shortly after the centennial celebrations of Lincoln's birth in 1809, the Legislature of Kentucky, "enacted a law naming the road over which Abraham Lincoln traveled from his home at Hodgenville to Indiana, 'The Lincoln Highway.'" This was evidently the first official step taken to recognize the trail over which the Lincolns migrated from Kentucky to Indiana, and finally to Illinois.

The Forty-Seventh General Assembly in 1911 adopted the follow-

ing as House Joint Resolution No. 25: "Whereas, The People of the State of Illinois, ever mindful of their deep and lasting obligation to Abraham Lincoln . . . therefore be it,

"Resolved, That the board of trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library, be and they are hereby requested to make the necessary investigations to determine the exact route traveled by Abraham Lincoln in his removal from Kentucky to Illinois . . ."

Charles H. Rammelkamp and Otto L. Schmidt, acting for the library, appointed Evarts B. Green to take charge of the investigation. Mr. Green secured the services of Charles M. Thompson, of the University of Illinois, to undertake the detail work. The results of his findings were first published by the Illinois State Library in 1913, and the complete report, made to the House of Representatives, was published two years later.

This effort on the part of Illinois was supplemented by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, who authorized the Governor to appoint "a commission to determine the route through Indiana traveled by Abraham Lincoln and his father's family when they emigrated to Illinois in 1830. Joseph M. Cravens of Madison and Jesse W. Weik of Greencastle made the investigations and reported to Governor Ralston on December 15, 1916. These early attempts by these three states have now developed into a co-ordinated effort.

## LINCOLN CARAVANS

A Lincoln Memorial Highway, which is now being agitated, reaching from central Kentucky to central Illinois, recalls three family groups which traveled this early wilderness trail. The first caravan which journeyed from the Lincoln Knob-Creek home in Kentucky to the new claim in Indiana, in the year 1816, included the following people:

Thomas Lincoln, age 40  
Nancy Hanks Lincoln, age 32  
Sarah Lincoln, age 9  
Abraham Lincoln, age 7

Following the death of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, two years after her arrival in Indiana, Thomas Lincoln went back to Elizabethtown for a second wife. This new caravan started from Elizabethtown, Kentucky, in the month of December, 1819, with the following members:

Thomas Lincoln, age 43  
Sarah Johnston Lincoln, age 31  
Elizabeth Johnston, age 12  
Matilda Johnston, age 8  
John D. Johnston, age 4

The third caravan which moved from Indiana to Illinois in the year 1830, although it included Abraham Lincoln, was largely a migration of the Johnstons. Of the thirteen members of the party but two of them were Lincolns—Abraham and his father. The others consisted of Sarah Johnston Lincoln's three children, her

five grandchildren and her two sons-in-law. If we include her second husband, Thomas Lincoln, as a member of the Johnston clan, we place Abraham Lincoln all alone in this group consisting of:

Thomas Lincoln, age 54  
Sarah Johnston Lincoln, age 42  
Abraham Lincoln, age 21  
John D. Johnston, age 15  
Dennis F. Hanks, age 31  
Elizabeth Johnston Hanks, age 23  
John Hanks, age 8  
Sarah Hanks, age 7  
Nancy Hanks, age 5  
Harriet Hanks, age 4  
Squire Hall, age 7  
Matilda Johnston Hall, age 19  
John Hall, age 2

## LINCOLN MEMORIAL HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

Connects the North and the South. Approximately 300 miles of pavement.

Western terminal in central Illinois. Eastern terminal in central Kentucky.

Crosses two great rivers, the Ohio and the Wabash.

General direction from the eastern terminal, 55 degrees northwest.

Thirteen states of the union within a radius of 200 miles of the terminals.

Second largest city in America less than two hundred miles from the western terminal.

Halfway station at Vincennes, but fifty miles from center of population in America.

Intersected by three great highways from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico and two of the ocean-to-ocean highways.

Straight line drawn from the western terminal through the eastern terminal would strike Cumberland Gap, the old gateway to the West.

## LINCOLN BRIDGES

At least three Lincoln Memorial Bridges are now either underway or construction is contemplated in the near future. The one nearing completion over the Missouri River, connecting Missouri Valley, Iowa and Blair, Nebraska, is to be known as the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Bridge. The George Rogers Clark memorial project at Vincennes, Indiana, calls for a bridge across the Wabash, at the point where the Lincolns are said to have crossed in their migration to Illinois. This will be known as the Lincoln Bridge. A bridge is also contemplated connecting Rockport, Indiana with Owensboro, Kentucky. This span across the Ohio River, at a point made famous by Lincoln's river experience and not far from his Indiana home, will also be a significant Lincoln bridge. Another project which seems to be gaining favor is the building of a memorial bridge over the Ohio River at Cloverport where, tradition says, the Lincolns crossed from Kentucky to Indiana.