

# LINCOLN LORE

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## WHERE LINCOLN LIVED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

While most of the homes in which Lincoln lived are known, the period of time which he spent in each dwelling is not so well established. In round numbers he resided in Kentucky seven years; Indiana fourteen years; rural Illinois seven years; in Springfield, Illinois, twenty-one years; and in Washington seven years. It will be noted that these terms of years are all multiples of seven which makes the task of remembering them much easier.

### *Hodgenville, Ky.*

*February 1809 to May 1811*

The year of Lincoln's birth is well known and the location of the birthplace cabin is also well established. It is true that early biographers note but one Kentucky home of the Lincolns while later historians state that he lived in the Hodgenville home four years. Now we have documentary proof that the Lincolns lived on the birthplace farm three miles south of Hodgenville on the Old Cumberland Road but two years.

### *Knob Creek, Ky.*

*May 1811 to November 1816*

As early as May 11, 1811, Thomas Lincoln had established his family in a cabin on Knob Creek about eight miles north of Hodgenville. This home was on the same Cumberland Road which passed by the birthplace cabin. The importance of this site is becoming more and more significant as the boyhood days of Lincoln, from two to seven years of age, were spent here. Soon after November 11, 1816, the Lincolns moved from the Knob Creek home.

### *Spencer County, Ind.*

*November 1816 to March 1830*

The migration of the Lincolns from Kentucky to Indiana would probably consume about five days as it was less than a hundred miles. By the first of December, 1816, they must have been in Indiana. The Lincolns settled at a point where Lincoln City is now located and remained in this home for fourteen years. In fact Abraham Lincoln's residence was changed but twice during the first twenty-one years of his life.

### *Macon County, Ill.*

*March 1830 to July 1831*

The first home of the Lincolns in Illinois according to the President was "on the north side of the Sangamon River at the junction of the Cumberland and prairie, about ten miles westerly from Decatur." The family must have been well settled there by the first of April, 1830, and Lincoln looked upon this place as his home until the following year when his parents moved to Coles County. While he may have boarded in different homes during the winter of the deep snow in 1830 and lived at Sangamon town while the Offutt flatboat was being

constructed, we cannot think of any of these places as permanent residences.

### *New Salem, Ill.*

*July 1831 to April 1837*

Lincoln is said to have lived with John Cameron while he was a clerk for Offutt. One authority says that "Lincoln soon changed his home. He went and boarded with Mr. James Rutledge about the year 1833." Rutledge built his tavern about 1830 but in 1833 Henry Onsett became the landlord and was the proprietor for two years.

Reep, one of the most dependable of the New Salem historians, states that "whenever he was out of employment Lincoln never hesitated to make his home with Jack and Hannah Armstrong." It seems quite likely that after his return from the Black Hawk War, where he had been closely associated with Armstrong, he may have gone to his home to live.

When Lincoln became proprietor of a store and Postmaster it appears as if he used a small room adjacent to the store room as a lodging place.

Reep is also the authority for the statement that after Ann Rutledge's death in 1835 "Lincoln made his home for a considerable portion of the time with his friend, Bowling Green." The old home of Squire Bowling Green was located at the foot of the bluffs about a half mile north of New Salem.

### *Speed's Store, Springfield, Ill.*

*April 1837 to January 1841*

The date of the removal of Abraham Lincoln from New Salem to Springfield is very clearly stated in his autobiographical sketch. He says that "In the autumn of 1836 he obtained a law license and on April 15, 1837, removed to Springfield and commenced the practice." The story of his rooming with Joshua Speed is familiar to all Lincoln students.

### *William Butler Home, Springfield, Ill.*

*January 1841 to November 1842*

After Speed sold out his business and went to Kentucky Lincoln moved to William Butler's house where Speed and he had taken their meals. Lincoln was living here when he visited Speed in Kentucky.

### *Globe Tavern, Springfield, Ill.*

*November 1842 to August 1843*

Immediately after their marriage in the Edward's home Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln went to live in Globe Tavern. This public boarding house was situated on Adams Street and kept by a widow by the name of Beck. In this tavern Robert Lincoln, the first child of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, was born.

### *Monroe Street Home, Springfield, Ill.*

*August 1843 to May 1844*

A recent book by Dr. Evans published the statement that shortly after Robert Lincoln's birth the family moved to a modest cottage on Monroe Street. Beveridge states that the one-story frame house into which they moved at this time was at 214 South Fourth Street.

### *Eighth Street Home, Springfield, Ill.*

*May 1844 to March 1847*

The best-known home of Lincoln in Springfield, and the one that has now become the property of the state is situated on Eighth Street. On January 7, 1844, Lincoln and Charles Dresser, the owner of the property, entered into an agreement whereby Lincoln was to come into possession of the home, and on May 2, 1844, Dresser deeded Lincoln the property.

### *Sprigg's Boarding House,*

*Washington, D. C.*

*March 1847 to March 1849*

When Lincoln first went to Washington as a Congressman his family accompanied him and they made their home in the boarding house of Mrs. Spriggs. It was situated on Capitol Hill and was the fourth of a row of houses known as Carroll Row. The house was a three-story brick. Although Mrs. Lincoln did not remain here throughout the entire first session it appears that for a time at least during Lincoln's term as Congressman this might serve as the Washington home of Abraham Lincoln. There is some evidence that during the second session he changed his boarding place.

### *Eighth Street Home, Springfield, Ill.*

*March 1849 to February 1861*

After Lincoln's return from Congress he again became settled in the Eighth Street home. During the year 1856 the house was raised to a two-story building, and it is this home as we now observe it that was occupied by the Lincolns but five years before Lincoln moved to Washington.

### *Chenery House, Springfield, Ill.*

*February 1861*

In preparation for leaving Springfield the Lincolns sold their household goods and rented the Eighth Street home. The family moved to the Chenery House which stood on the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington Streets. They occupied rooms on the second floor facing Fourth Street.

### *Willard's Hotel, Washington, D. C.*

*February and March 1861*

Upon arriving in Washington on February 23, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln occupied "a suit of five elegantly furnished rooms in the southwest corner of Willard's Hotel which fronted on Pennsylvania Avenue and overlooked the White House."

### *White House, Washington, D. C.*

*March 1861 to April 1865*

Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861, and from that time until his death the White House was his official home. During the residence here his son, William Lincoln, died.

### *Anderson Cottage, Washington, D. C.*

*Summers 1861 to 1864*

The Anderson cottage in the Soldiers' Home grounds was the summer White House of the President and his family. It was about four miles from the White House to the north, and Lincoln rode back and forth each day.