

LINCOLN LORE

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THE RESTORATION OF NEW SALEM

The dedication of the restored village of New Salem which took place on Thursday, October 26, marked an important contribution to the large number of Lincoln memorial projects already completed or in the process of development.

Although the program was conducted in a downpour of rain every speaker on the program was present and participated.

Logan Hay, President of the Abraham Lincoln Association, presided at the dedicatory services.

Frank E. Blane, representing the Old Salem Lincoln League, reviewed the history of the park project.

Homer Guck, publisher of the *Chicago Herald Examiner*, who represented William Randolph Hearst, spoke of Mr. Hearst's interest in the New Salem project. He concluded his remarks by introducing Mr. Hearst's son, who is also interested in this philanthropic enterprise at New Salem.

Paul N. Angle, Secretary of the Illinois State Historical Society, emphasized the significance of Lincoln's New Salem years.

Governor Henry Horner of Illinois, an ardent Lincoln student for many years, presented the restored village to the people of the state.

The invocation was asked by Rev. Grant Mason of Petersburg, and the benediction was pronounced by Msgr. M. A. Tarrent of Springfield.

The first step in the restoration of the village was taken in 1906 when the site of New Salem was purchased by William Randolph Hearst and conveyed in trust to the Old Salem Chautauqua Association at Petersburg. The Association with the consent of Mr. Hearst conveyed the site to the State of Illinois to be used as a state park.

Interest in the park grew and finally the movement to restore the old town gained such favor that in 1931 the General Assembly passed a bill appropriating \$50,000 to the Department of Public Works and Buildings for permanent improvements.

Thirteen of the original log cabins have been restored, which allows the visitor to New Salem to visualize to some extent at least the community in which Lincoln lived during the years 1832 to 1837 inclusive. Replicas of the following buildings are now standing on their original sites:

The Tavern

At the bend of the Springfield Road James Rutledge built a tavern in 1830 and continued to operate it until 1833. It was a two room log structure, but later two more rooms were added to

the south side. Onstot became the proprietor after Rutledge moved, and he was followed by Nelson Allen and Michael Keltner.

The Berry-Lincoln Store

The first frame store building in the community was occupied by Berry and Lincoln. It was built about 1830 on the west half of lot number five on Main Street by George Warburton; later sold to Chrisman Bros.; and then occupied successively by William Green, Jr., Ruben Radford, and Berry and Lincoln. The building consisted of two rooms, a large room in front and a small shed room in the rear.

The Religious Center

The three room cabin of Dr. John Allen, a practicing physician, occupied lot number four on Main Street. It was built sometime between 1833 and the date of Allen's marriage to Mary E. Moore on March 27, 1834. At this house Dr. Allen established the first Sunday School and his home became the religious center of the community. Here the Temperance Society of New Salem was formed.

The Post Office

The first store building at New Salem was erected in 1829 by Hill and McNamar. A post office was established in the store on Christmas Day of that year, and it was the first point where mail was distributed in what is now Menard County. As post office and general store it became the center of the community and occupied part of lot number four on the south side of Main Street, next to the Berry-Lincoln frame building.

The Hill Residence

Samuel Hill settled in New Salem in 1829. In September, 1834, he built a two story house on lot four north of Main Street. His home was the finest residence in the town and contained four good rooms.

The Offutt Store

On the east brow of the bluff overlooking the Sangamon River, Denton Offutt built his store. He, more than anyone else, was responsible for Lincoln taking up his residence at New Salem. The store was opened for business September 1, 1831. Abraham Lincoln served as a clerk for Offutt in this store, but the business was closed out within eight months.

The Cabinet Maker's Home

Sometime during 1831 Robert Johnson settled in New Salem and built a cabin in the west part of the town south of Main Street. He was a cabi-

net maker and wheelwright. A lean-to on the south side of the cabin served as his carpenter shop.

The Hatter's Shop

The hatter, Martin Waddell, built his house in 1832 across the street from Robert Johnson. As Waddell had a large family it is likely that he was obliged to have extra room for the carrying on of his trade as an additional room was added to the south of his cabin living quarters. He had a monopoly on the hat business in New Salem.

The Blacksmith's Forge

The blacksmith, Joshua Miller, and his brother-in-law, John H. Kelso, arrived in New Salem in 1832 and built a double residence for the two families on lots nine and ten. Here also Miller built his blacksmith shop. Jack Kelso is said to have been a close friend of Lincoln and contributed much to Lincoln's appreciation of good literature.

The Cooper Shop

The New Salem cooper, Henry Onstot, moved there in 1833 and tried operating a tavern for a change, taking over the place run by James Rutledge. Within two years, however, he had built himself a residence and cooper shop on lot nine south of Main Street. Lincoln is said to have boarded with him during the two years Onstot operated the hotel.

The Doctor's Office

In the fall of 1831 Henry Sinco erected a cabin just south of the wool house. About one year later he sold it to Dr. Francis Regnier who occupied it as a residence for about two years and after settling in Clary's Grove probably kept it open as an office for his regular visits to New Salem.

The Shoemaker's Shop

Sometime in 1831 Peter Lukins put up a cabin just west of Dr. Allen's home. He was the town's shoemaker but remained only a short time and was succeeded by Alexander Ferguson who took over his house and trade. A small addition to this cabin was used as the cobbler's shop.

The Groggery

William Clary bought a small tract of land north of lot number fourteen on the north side of Main Street, built a log store building about 1830, and established a grocery store there. Its chief stock in trade is said to have been liquor, and it might be called the village saloon. It was of but one room and poorly constructed.