

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN IN OHIO

Ohio and Ohio men had much to do with the legal and political career of Abraham Lincoln. To an Ohio newspaper goes the credit for first suggesting Abraham Lincoln as a candidate for the presidency; and it was an Ohio man who said, upon the announcement of his death, "Now he belongs to the ages."

December 1849

On Christmas Eve, 1849, Abraham Lincoln wrote a letter to Judge Hitchcock at Columbus, Ohio, about legal proceedings in which he was interested. The letter was written from Cincinnati, and it appears as if Lincoln must have been there three or four days. It is not clear whether or not he went to Columbus as the letter implies that he might. In this, Lincoln's first case in Ohio courts, he was associated with T. D. Lincoln of Cincinnati.

September 1855

The famous McCormick-Manny case was responsible for Lincoln's visit to Cincinnati in the fall of 1855. Here he met Edwin M. Stanton who had also been retained by the defendant. Lincoln was greatly humiliated by Stanton taking the initiative in the case, although it is not likely that all the traditions extant about Stanton's abuse of Lincoln can be confirmed. Lincoln arrived in Cincinnati on September 19 and was entertained at the home of W. M. Dickson, whose wife was a cousin of Mrs. Lincoln. One whole week was spent in the city, Lincoln leaving for home on September 26. He remarked when he left that he did not wish to visit Cincinnati again, as he had had a very unpleasant experience in the courts.

September 1859

On September 6, 1859, Abraham Lincoln wrote two letters to citizens of Ohio in reply to invitations he had received to speak at Columbus and Cincinnati. One was directed to Mr. W. T. Bascom and the other to Peter Zinn. The latter he informed "I shall try to speak at Columbus and Cincinnati but cannot do more."

Lincoln visited Columbus on Friday, September 16. In the afternoon at two o'clock he spoke from the east terrace of the State House, and in the evening he addressed the Young Men's Republican Club at the City Hall. It is not known generally that Lincoln had a daguerreotype picture made while there.

The following day he spoke at Dayton. He addressed the people of the

city at the court house in the afternoon; also he is said to have visited a photographer with Mr. Samuel Craighead. A young artist by the name of Nickum made a sketch of Lincoln which has been preserved.

Enroute to Cincinnati from Dayton the train stopped at Hamilton depot where Lincoln addressed the people from an improvised stand near by. He was introduced by Congressman John A. Gurley, a very short man who made a vivid contrast to Lincoln's six foot four inch stature.

Lincoln arrived in Cincinnati at seven o'clock on Saturday night and was escorted immediately to the Burnet House. After meeting members of the committee at the Burnet House, he was taken in an open carriage to the Fifth Street market place where the meeting was to be held. He spoke from a balcony at the home of Mr. Kinsey on the north side of the square. One of the members of the committee to receive Lincoln was Rutherford B. Hayes.

February 1861

Cincinnati

Lincoln's first stop in Ohio on his way to Washington for the inauguration was at Cincinnati. He reached the city on February 12, the fifty-second anniversary of his birth. At five P. M. he was introduced by Mayor Bishop and spoke to the people assembled at the Burnet House.

In the evening Lincoln was serenaded by a group of 2,000, representing the German Free Working Men, and he spoke a few words of greeting from the balcony of the hotel.

Columbus

On February 13 Lincoln addressed a joint assembly in the House of Representatives at the Ohio State Capitol. After a few remarks there, he proceeded to the west front of the capitol where he spoke to the great mass of people assembled. An informal reception was held in the rotunda of the court house, and in the evening Lincoln received members of the Legislature and City Council at the governor's mansion.

Steubenville

Lincoln received formal greetings from the city authorities of Steubenville on February 14 and acknowledged their welcome with a short reply.

Wellsville

Lincoln made a few remarks at Wellsville and on the following day, February 15, the train also stopped but he asked to be excused from further comments.

Alliance

Dinner was served the presidential party at Alliance. Afterwards a temporary stand was placed in front of the depot, and Lincoln expressed his appreciation for such an outpouring of people.

Ravenna

At Ravenna another enormous crowd greeted the president, and here also he addressed the people assembled.

Hudson

A still larger gathering, estimated at 5,000, waited for Lincoln at Hudson, but he did nothing more than appear and bow to the people.

Cleveland

At four o'clock the presidential party reached Cleveland, and Lincoln was immediately escorted to the Weddell House. The President of the City Council and the Chairman of the Citizens Committee both spoke words of welcome to which Lincoln responded. He admitted very much fatigue as he had spoken many times. In the evening there was a reception given Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln at the hotel.

Willoughby

On the morning of February 16 Lincoln started on another lap of the journey. He received an enthusiastic greeting at Willoughby.

Painesville

When he reached Painesville he found a platform erected for the occasion from which he spoke briefly.

Madison

Although a large crowd was present at Madison, they had to be satisfied with Lincoln's coming to the platform of the car and acknowledging the greeting by bowing.

Geneva

A formal greeting was extended to Lincoln when the train reached Geneva, and he replied with a few words.

Ashtabula

Lincoln acknowledged very briefly the fine reception accorded him at Ashtabula and suggested that all of these demonstrations strengthened him for his task.

Conneaut

At the last town in Ohio touched by the special train the stop was so brief that Lincoln had only time to bow in recognition of the ovation he received.

Note—For a fuller account of Lincoln's contacts with Ohio see *Lincoln and Ohio* by Daniel J. Ryan, published by The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio.