

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN IN NEW ENGLAND

Abraham Lincoln's first American ancestor with the name Lincoln settled in New England. The last male descendant of President Lincoln bearing the family name died in New England. Thus the story of eight generations of American Lincolns opens and closes in a New England setting.

Abraham Lincoln made two visits to New England, one in 1848 and the other in 1860, seventy-five years ago this month. One was a political mission in the interest of the Whig Party; and the other, which had as its objective a visit to his son, Robert, then in school in New Hampshire, should also be set down to Lincoln's political advantage.

It is the purpose of this bulletin to enumerate each town where Lincoln spoke, the date of the meeting, the place where the gathering was held, and also some brief newspaper comment about how he was received.

THE 1848 ITINERARY

Worcester, Massachusetts

September 12, 13—City Hall and Foster St. Station

"He spoke in a clear and cool and very eloquent manner for an hour and a half, carrying the audience with him in his able arguments and brilliant illustrations—only interrupted by warm and frequent applause."—*Boston Advertiser*.

New Bedford, Massachusetts

September 14—Liberty Hall

Lincoln was the guest of Hon. Joseph Grinnell, but no account of the reaction to his address was found.

Boston, Massachusetts

September 15—Washingtonian Hall

"They were addressed by the Hon. Abraham Lincoln of Illinois, in a speech of an hour and a half, which for sound reasoning, cogent argument, and keen satire, we have seldom heard equaled."

Lowell, Massachusetts

September 16—City Hall

Lincoln was the guest of Linus Child but no account of how he was received is available.

Dorchester, Massachusetts

September 18—Richmond Hall

Richmond Hall was the place where Lincoln spoke here, and Nathaniel F. Safford, who lived at Dorchester Lower Village, entertained Lincoln and was responsible for his speaking at Dorchester.

Chelsea, Massachusetts

September 19—Gerrish Hall

"The Hon. Abraham Lincoln made a speech which for aptness of illustration, solidity of argument and genuine eloquence is hard to beat."—*Boston Atlas*.

Cambridge, Massachusetts

September 20—City Hall

No account of the reaction of Lincoln at Cambridge is available, although the *Cambridge Chronicle* gave notice of the meeting.

Dedham, Massachusetts

September 20—Temperance Hall

"'I am engaged to speak at Cambridge tonight,' he said, 'and I must leave.' The whole audience seemed to rise in protest. 'Oh, no! Go on! Finish!' were heard on every hand but Lincoln was inexorable."

Taunton, Massachusetts

September 21—Union Hall

"Mr. Lincoln is well versed in the political tactics of the western country. His speech was full of humor and was mainly devoted to the political cause of Mr. Van Buren and the Free Soil Party."

Boston, Massachusetts September 22—Tremont Temple

"He addressed the audience in a most forcible and convincing speech which drew down thunders of applause."—*Boston Courier*.

THE 1860 ITINERARY

Providence, Rhode Island

February 28—Railroad Hall

"He abounds in good humor and pleasant satire and often gives a witty thrust that cuts like a Damascus blade. But he does not aim chiefly at fun. He strives rather to show by plain simple and cogent reasoning that his positions are impregnable and he carries his audiences with him as he deserves to."—*Providence Journal*.

Concord, New Hampshire

March 1—

"A political speech of greater power has rarely if ever been uttered in the capital of New Hampshire."—*Concord Statesman*.

Dover, New Hampshire

March 2—City Hall

"Never in this state was there such a powerful, thorough and statesmanlike exposition of political parties, and such an able declaration of Republican principles."

Exeter, New Hampshire

March 3—Town Hall

This town where Robert Lincoln was in school was the real objective of the eastern trip, but no press account of the speech made here is available.

Hartford, Connecticut

March 5—City Hall

"The speech of Mr. Lincoln at City Hall last night was the most convincing and clearest speech we have ever heard made."—*Hartford Courant*.

New Haven, Connecticut

March 6—Union Hall

"As Mr. Lincoln concluded his address there was witnessed the wildest scene of enthusiasm and excitement that has been in New Haven for years."—*The Palladium*.

Meridian, Connecticut

March 8—Town Hall

"His clear statement, irresistible logic, perfectly candid, courteous and honest manner, carried conviction of the truth of Republican principles to many we believe, while his side splitting humor well entertained even those who hated his doctrines."—*New Haven Palladium*.

Woonsocket, Rhode Island

March 8—Harris Hall

"The great champion of Illinois has become as much of a favorite in New England as he is in his own state."—*Providence Journal*.

Norwich, Connecticut

March 9—Town Hall

"Mr. Lincoln showed up the fallacy of slavery at length and then made a manly indication of the principles of the Republican Party . . . He was listened to with unflagging attention."—*Norwich Bulletin*.

Bridgeport, Connecticut

March 10—Washington Hall

Lincoln was entertained by Mr. Charles F. Wood. Here he made his last speech in New England.

Sources:—Lincoln in New England—Eggleston. Abraham Lincoln in New Hampshire—Page. Lincoln on the New Haven and the Boston and Albany Railroads—Jacobs.