

LINCOLN LORE

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THE MUCH TRAVELED LINCOLN

The impression seems to prevail among many students of history that Abraham Lincoln, up to the time he was nominated for the presidency, had remained for the greater part of his life in the backwoods settlements of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. From this premise the conclusion has been drawn that he was a provincialist and that his knowledge of the country as a whole was very limited.

In 1860 there were just nine cities in the United States with populations over 100,000: New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Baltimore, Boston, St. Louis, New Orleans, Cincinnati, and Chicago. Lincoln had visited each one of these cities and had made public addresses in more than half of them. In fact, Lincoln, at the time of his nomination in 1860, had been in every city in the United States of over 50,000 population with the exception of San Francisco. At this time there were thirty-four states in the Union. Lincoln had visited twenty-three of these states and had spoken in seventeen of them. He had also been across the boundary into Canada.

It is of special interest to observe just how widely Lincoln traveled up to the time his name was presented to the Chicago Convention. The many years of effort as a surveyor, lawyer, and candidate, which did not take him out of the State of Illinois, are not considered in the following summary.

1811—Cumberland Road

Abraham Lincoln was born in a cabin on the main highway of travel into the south from Kentucky, and when two years old the family moved about eight miles north on the same Cumberland road.

1816—Migration to Indiana

When the Lincoln family migrated to Indiana, it was Abraham's first trip out of his native state. It was at this time he first saw the Ohio River.

1828—First New Orleans Trip

When but nineteen he went by boat to New Orleans and traded at centers of population on the way down the river.

1830—Migration to Illinois

Driving an ox team Abraham moved with his parents from Spencer County, Indiana, to Macon County, Illinois, via Vincennes, which city he had undoubtedly visited many times before.

1831—Second Trip to New Orleans

Lincoln's second trip to New Orleans was made in 1831. This experience gave him an opportunity to view much new territory.

1832—Black Hawk War Campaign

Lincoln served for several months in the Black Hawk War and was mustered out at Whitewater, Wisconsin. He returned home, nearly three hundred miles, most of the way on foot.

1840—Campaign for Harrison

As an elector in the Harrison campaign, Lincoln's itinerary took him over a large part of Illinois and in one instance into Kentucky.

1841—Visit to Louisville, Kentucky

In the summer of 1841, Lincoln made a visit to Joshua Speed at Louisville, Kentucky, returning by boat via St. Louis.

1844—Campaign for Clay

As elector at large for Henry Clay, Lincoln campaigned throughout Illinois and extended his itinerary into Indiana as far south as Evansville.

1846—First Congressional Trip

Enroute to Washington the new congressman from Illinois went via Lexington, Kentucky, to visit his wife's people. It was six weeks after leaving Springfield that he reached Washington, going by the way of Virginia.

1847—Philadelphia Convention Trip

Lincoln attended, while in Congress, the Whig Na-

tional Convention at Philadelphia, traveling by the way of Baltimore, Maryland.

1848—First New England Visit

On his first trip to New England after the session of Congress closed, Lincoln made several political addresses in Massachusetts.

1848—Return Trip to Springfield

Upon leaving New England and returning to Springfield, Lincoln passed through the New York State capitol, thence via Buffalo and Niagara Falls, over Lake Erie to either Toledo or Detroit, then on to Chicago and back to Springfield.

1849—Second Congressional Trip

Early in 1849 Lincoln journeyed back to Washington for the short term of Congress. Neither the route going to Washington or the route returning to Springfield is known.

1849—Political Patronage Trip

In the month of June, 1849, a hurried trip was made to Washington relative to a political appointment in which Lincoln was interested.

1849—Legal Trip to Ohio

On Christmas Eve, 1849, Lincoln was in Cincinnati on business and evidently went on to Columbus.

1849—First Legal Trip to Kentucky

In the month of November, 1849, Lincoln found it necessary to visit Lexington, Kentucky, in the interests of the settlement of the Todd estate.

1850—Second Legal Trip to Kentucky

Lincoln was again called into Kentucky in the Spring of 1850 to assist in the settlement of the Parker estate at Lexington.

1855—Ohio Legal Trip

On Lincoln's trip to Cincinnati, Ohio, on the McCormick Reaper Case he probably went via Indianapolis, Indiana. He spent a whole week in Cincinnati and may have returned the same way he went.

1856—A Michigan Political Journey

Lincoln was invited to deliver an address at Kalamazoo, Michigan, on behalf of the Fremont-Dayton ticket and spoke there on August 27, 1856. It is not known just how he traveled either going or returning.

1857—Eastern Business Trip

Lincoln was interested in a federal office in 1857 and took his family on a combination business and pleasure trip. They visited Niagara Falls, went into Canada, and on to New York, spending a day or two at the famous resort at Cape May, New Jersey.

1859—Council Bluffs, Iowa, Trip

On August 9, 1859, Lincoln left Springfield to inspect some land at Council Bluffs, Iowa, probably going by the way of St. Joseph, Missouri, and returning the same way.

1859—Wisconsin State Fair Trip

On September 30, 1859, Abraham Lincoln journeyed into Wisconsin for an address before the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society. He also spoke at other points in Wisconsin.

1859—The Kansas Trip

In November, 1859, Lincoln made a trip to Leavenworth, Kansas, touching enroute St. Joseph, Missouri, and several small towns in Kansas.

1859—Ohio-Indiana Political Schedule

This political jaunt in 1859 also included a speech at Indianapolis besides the Ohio appointments at Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati.

1860—Cooper Institute Trip

After the New York engagement at Cooper Institute he continued on to New England where he spoke in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.