

# LINCOLN LORE

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## 300th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LINCOLNS

Three hundred years ago, on June 20, 1637, Samuel Lincoln, the first American ancestor of Abraham Lincoln, arrived in this country. When Samuel disembarked at Boston, he was eighteen years of age. He came to America as a weaver's apprentice in the family of Frances Lawes, with whom he migrated from England.

This anniversary seems to be of sufficient importance to warrant a general observance of the event in those communities where the Lincoln families lived, through which the direct ancestry of Abraham Lincoln has been traced. The Lincoln National Life Foundation has mapped out a suggested program which would feature the many migrations of the Lincolns as they moved westward.

The series of pageants submitted would begin on Sunday, June 20, with programs at Boston, and other points on Massachusetts Bay associated with the Lincolns, and conclude on the last day of the month with the final demonstration at Springfield, Illinois.

The pageants might be so arranged that those desiring to make a pilgrimage over the entire route may start at Boston and continue on to the New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois home sites of the succeeding Lincoln generations. This would allow those following the trail, to witness day after day, the pageantry at each point on the migratory route.

### Massachusetts, 1637-1714

**Boston**—Samuel Lincoln arrives from England.

**Salem**—Resides for a short time here.

**Hingham**—Establishes himself at Hingham where his first son, Mordecai, is born.

**Hull**—Mordecai living here at time of marriage.

**Cohasset**—Moves to Cohasset shortly after his marriage.

**Scituate**—Living in this town at the time of his second marriage.

**First migration**—It was from the Scituate home that the first migration took place when Mordecai II and his brother Abraham, oldest sons of Mordecai I, set out for New Jersey. Both were single young men to whom their father had given their portion of his estate.

### New Jersey, 1714-1720

**Freehold**—Here, Mordecai Lincoln settles sometime previous to 1714, and marries Hannah Salter.

**Second Migration**—This migration was a short one. Mordecai Lincoln II, his wife and four children move across the state line into Pennsylvania.

### Pennsylvania, 1720-1768

**Chester County**—For five years Mordecai lives in Chester County where two more children are born.

**Berks County**—He acquires property in Berks in 1726.

### DATES SUGGESTED FOR ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMS

Sun., June 20—Boston and environs.  
Mon., June 21—Monmouth County, N. J.

Tues., June 22—Berks County, Pa.  
Lancaster County, Pa.

Wed., June 23—Rockingham County, Va.

Thurs., June 24—Cumberland Gap, Tenn.

Fri., June 25—Jefferson County, Ky.

Sat., June 26—Washington County, Ky.; Hardin County, Ky.

Sun., June 27—La Rue County, Ky.

Mon., June 28—Spencer County, Ind.

Tues., June 29—Decatur, Ill.

Wed., June 30—New Salem, Ill.  
Springfield, Ill.

**Lancaster County**—John, the oldest son of Mordecai, living here as early as 1748.

**Berks County**—Apparently John returns to Berks County with his family about 1754.

**Third Migration**—About the year 1768, John Lincoln, his wife and five sons and four daughters moved into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

### Virginia, 1768-1782

**Rockingham County**—John Lincoln's oldest son, Abraham, marries. In Rockingham County, Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, is born.

**Fourth Migration**—The longest of all the Lincoln migrations started from Virginia in 1782 with Kentucky as the destination. The family consisted of Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of President Lincoln, his wife, Bersheba, three sons, Mordecai, Josiah and Thomas, and two daughters, Mary and Nancy.

### Cumberland Gap, 1782

On the long migration from Virginia to Kentucky, it is very likely that the family waited at the Block House, some miles east of Cumberland Gap, until a sufficiently large number of immigrants had gathered to warrant their safety in traveling into the Kentucky country. Cumberland Gap would seem to be the proper place to recognize this phase of the migration.

### Kentucky, 1782-1816

**Jefferson County**—Abraham Lincoln, the pioneer, is massacred on

Long Run in the month of May, 1786. His widow and five children move to nearby Washington County shortly after his death.

**Washington County**—Here Thomas Lincoln, youngest son of the widow, marries Nancy Hanks.

**Hardin County**—Three years before his marriage, Thomas purchases property on Mill Creek and probably brings his bride here in 1806.

**Elizabethtown**—Soon after the arrival in Hardin County, the Lincolns take up their residence in Elizabethtown, the county seat, and here their first child, a daughter, is born. In the fall of 1808 they move to La Rue County.

**Hodgenville**—Established in a cabin three miles south of Hodgenville near the famous Sinking Spring. Their son, Abraham Lincoln, is born. Two years later they move to a point eight miles north in the same county.

**Athertonville**—Two miles south of Atherton's Ferry on the Cumberland Road, the cabin home of the Lincolns is established and from this point they migrate to Indiana.

**Fifth Migration**—This migration to Indiana occurred in 1816, the same year that Indiana came into the Union. The family included Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln and their children, Sarah and Abraham. They settled at a point fifteen miles back from the Ohio river in what is now Spencer County.

### Indiana, 1816-1830

**Lincoln City**—Two years after reaching the Indiana home site the mother of Abraham Lincoln dies and the following year his father marries the widow, Sarah Bush Johnston, who has three orphan children.

**Sixth Migration**—The migration from Indiana to Illinois occurred in March, 1830, and there were thirteen people in the group which made up the Lincoln and Johnston families.

### Illinois, 1830-1861

**Decatur**—From this Illinois home of his father, Abraham Lincoln sets out, at twenty-one years of age, to make his fortune in the world.

**New Salem**—After five years, Abraham leaves the town to take up his residence in the nearby city of Springfield.

**Springfield**—In this city, Abraham Lincoln marries Mary Todd, and four children are born to the union, one dying in infancy.

**Seventh Migration**—Abraham Lincoln, president elect of the United States, left Springfield for Washington on February 11, 1861. His wife and children joined him the following day at Indianapolis.