

# LINCOLN LORE

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## BLACK HAWK WAR STATIONS

During the present military enterprise thousands of American men will add new titles to their names. After the return to normal life some will prefer to retain the well earned prefixes but a large majority of those who enter the business world will discard the designations of rank for the old time nickname. Although Abraham Lincoln served as a captain in the Black Hawk war it is not known that he ever utilized the title after returning to his New Salem home.

As a handy check list of the principal stations where Lincoln stopped during his season of preliminary military training this issue of Lincoln Lore has arranged in chronological order the names of places associated with the early soldier life of Lincoln

### *New Salem*

Upon hearing of Governor Reynolds' call for troops Lincoln immediately enlisted at New Salem, where he was then living. This was on April 19 (Patriot's Day), 1832.

### *Richland*

The recruits assembled at Richland and they chose Lincoln a captain of one of the companies on April 21st. The famous Thompson-Lincoln western march took place here.

### *Beardstown*

Lincoln and company went into camp at Beardstown and on April 28th were mustered in the state service by Col. John J. Hardin. Lincoln's company was at Beardstown one week.

### *Rushville*

North of Rushville on April 30th, Lincoln's company was inducted into the Fourth Illinois Regiment of Mounted Volunteers.

### *Yellow Banks*

Here Lincoln and his company remained for three days, breaking camp on May 7th. Lincoln probably saw here a real Indian war dance which was put on by the friendly Sacs.

### *Camp Creek*

Lincoln mustered into the United States military service at Camp Creek on May 9, 1832.

### *Prophetstown*

A stop is made here by the troops and the Indian dwellings were burned.

### *Dixon's Ferry*

Lincoln and his company under the command of Col. Thompson camped near Dixon's Ferry on May 16th, and remained until May 19th. This place might be called the capital of the Black Hawk War community, and it is very appropriate that a bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, by Leonard Crunelle, has been erected in the city.

### *Stillman's Battlefield*

Here Lincoln first views dead soldiers and assists in their burial, after the engagement known as Stillman's Defeat. Lincoln made a brief reference to this incident in some remarks on the floor of Congress in 1848. He said "I was not at Stillman's defeat but I was about as near it as Cass was to Hull's surrender and like him, I saw the place very soon afterwards."

### *Sycamore*

Poll taken of Lincoln's company here on May 23rd to decide whether or not they should demand their discharge.

### *Ottawa*

Troops mustered out here on May 26th and 27th and

Lincoln reenlists. He became a private in Capt. Alexander White's company, but a day later reenlisted in Capt. Elijah Iles' company. Lincoln was mustered into Iles' company on May 29th and remained at Ottawa until June 6th.

### *Dixon's Ferry*

Second encampment near Dixon's Ferry was made on June 7th.

### *Galena*

The Iles' detachment arrived on June 10th but retraced steps the following day for Dixon's Ferry.

### *Dixon's Ferry*

Captain Iles' company, of which Lincoln was a member, arrived back in Dixon's Ferry on June 13th, for the third encampment there.

### *Fort Wilburn*

The fourth and last enlistment of Lincoln occurred at Fort Wilburn on June 16th, 1832. He became a private in Capt. Jacob M. Early's company.

### *Dixon's Ferry*

Captain Early's company of which Lincoln was now a member returned to Dixon's Ferry on June 22nd for the fourth encampment.

### *Kellogg's Grove*

Lincoln makes all night march from Dixon's Ferry to Kellogg's Grove where a battle had been fought. His own statement about the episode is available:

"I remember just how those men looked as we rode up to the little hill where their camp was. The red light of the morning sun was streaming upon them as they lay heads towards us on the ground. And every man had a round, red spot on the top of his head, about as big as a dollar where the redskins had taken his scalp. It was frightful, but it was grotesque, and the red sunlight seemed to paint everything all over. I remember that one man had on buckskin breeches."

### *Dixon's Ferry*

A day after the Kellogg Grove episode the soldiers returned to Dixon's Ferry without seeing any action.

### *Turtle Village*

On June 28 Private Lincoln was again on the move and on July 1st crossed into Michigan territory (now Wisconsin) at Turtle Village. A brief encampment was made here.

### *Lake Koshkonong*

Although Captain Early and his company made camp at Lake Koshkonong on July 2 for the next four days they were used for scouting duty.

### *White Water River*

Troops were encamped at Lake Koshkonong until July 6th when they moved on to White Water River, four miles above its mouth. Here Lincoln with other members of the company was honorably discharged on July 10th.

### *Dixon's Ferry*

The Ferry is again reached by Lincoln on his trip homeward, but it is not known that Lincoln tarried there. This was his sixth visit to this place.

### *Peoria*

At Peoria on the return trip Lincoln and a friend purchased a canoe which they used for transportation down the Illinois river.

### *Havana*

Disembarking at Havana, Lincoln made his way across the country to New Salem where he arrived July 18th having been away from home approximately three months.