

# LINCOLN LORE

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## MINOR LINCOLN MEMORIALS AT WASHINGTON

The tremendous expansion at the national capitol with its many recently constructed buildings and new attractions of various kinds has obscured some of the minor memorials associated with Abraham Lincoln. Of course the Lincoln Memorial edifice is known to all, as well as the impressive statue by French enshrined within the structure. The capitol building and its Lincoln statue by Vinnie Ream and Carpenter's Emancipation painting are always the center of interest. The White House, the Soldier's Home, and Willard's Hotel where President Lincoln resided at different intervals are familiar landmarks. Both the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institute with their Lincoln treasures are other government structures which always attract attention. The rebuilt New York Avenue Presbyterian Church with its famous Lincoln pew does not escape even those with a casual interest in Lincoln. The principal points associated with Lincoln's assassination such as Ford's Theatre and the Petersen House are visited by the majority of sight-seers, and the Lincoln statues of post war days, one by Flannery and the other by Ball, are favorites of long standing.

There are some memorials in Washington, however, associated with the martyred President that are not so often observed with respect to their relation to the Lincoln story. The purpose of this bulletin is to call attention to these somewhat obscure reminders.

### Lincoln Oak

The sites of the forts at Washington which were used in defense of the city during the Civil War are rich in reminiscences of those days. Possibly the one of greatest appeal because of its name is Fort Lincoln, just over the district line in Maryland. The Fort Washington Cemetery now occupies much of the fort area and within these premises near a famous old spring and springhouse is an extremely old tree known as "The Lincoln Oak."

A descriptive tablet records this information: "The old oak tree according to qualified judgment was more than 125 years old when the old spring house was built. This venerable old tree has come to be known as 'The Lincoln Oak,' because of the traditional conferences under its spreading limbs between President Lincoln and commanding officers of the nearby fortifications. It is not a fanciful belief that upon such occasions the civil war President drank from the cooling waters which spring from among its roots."

### O'Connor Statue

Also in the same cemetery a recently acquired heroic bronze statue of Lincoln by Andrew O'Connor has been placed. It was cast, originally, to stand before the State House at Providence, R. I. but due to financial difficulties it was acquired by the Fort Lincoln Cemetery authorities. It is a seated Lincoln and an appropriate study for the cemetery location.

### The "Under Fire" Tablet

Fort Stevens, the best known of the Washington fortifications is well marked with a bronze tablet placed where Lincoln is said to have stood when under fire by confederate troops. Mr. Robert E. Swayne of Malvern, Penn. has advised us that Lincoln was not the first President to face enemy gunfire as has been alleged because President Madison also had this experience while in command of "Barney's Battery," near Blandenburg, Md. on August 25, 1814. The story of how Lincoln was ordered to come down from a position on the parapet where he was in danger is one of the interesting episodes of the Fort Stevens story.

### Lincoln Council Tree

There is also a cemetery at Fort Stevens where forty soldiers who fell during the battle lie buried. Over-shadowing several of the graves is a huge cherry tree known by some as the Lincoln Council Tree. In the shade of this old tree Lincoln is said to have conferred with his military officers. Many years ago a tree, now down, which stood at some distance from the cemetery, was pointed out to visitors as the "sharp shooters tree." In the top of this tree the confederate marksmen were stationed who shot down the soldiers standing near the President at Fort Stevens.

### Toy Shop Site

At 1207 New York Ave. there stood in Lincoln's day a toy shop operated by a German named Joseph Schotz. The President is said to have been a frequent visitor at the shop. One with any sense of imagination can well be repaid for stopping a moment at this site and reflect on Lincoln's love for his own children, and children in general.

### Houck's Kneeling Lincoln

A bronze statue of Lincoln at prayer by Herbert Spencer Houck is placed at the top of the flight of steps leading from the crypt to the north transept in the Washington Cathedral.

### The Ames Bust

A little known bust of Lincoln occupies a pedestal at the capitol building in the Senate Gallery, east lobby. The bust is the work of Sarah Fletcher Ames, a former nurse of the Sanitary Commission and who was well acquainted with the President. The pedestal on which the bust stands is made of Scotch granite and was sent from Scotland by admirers of the President.

### Thorp Portrait

One of the oil paintings of President Lincoln in the capitol hangs in the Senate main corridor. It portrays Lincoln at the time of the Gettysburg Address and is the work of Freeman Thorp.

### Salviati Mosaic

Possibly the most obscure Lincoln work of art in the capitol building is a mosaic, done by Antonio Salviati and presented by Tiffany Bros. of New York. It can be located with a companion portrait of President Garfield on the east wall of the east lobby of the Senate Gallery.

### Borglum Bust

Eugene Meyer, Jr. presented in 1908 to the Library Committee a head of Lincoln in stone by Gutzon Borglum. It stands in the rotunda of the capitol.

### Slobodkin Statue

Occupying a spot in the courtyard of the Department of the Interior building in a statue of Lincoln in bronze entitled "Young Abe Lincoln." Very few people know of its presence and there was no dedicatory exercises held at the time it was received in 1939.

### Healy Portraits

The refurbished White House displays in the state dining-room over the mantel an informal painting of Lincoln by G. P. A. Healy. This study was acquired through a bequest in the will of Mrs. Robert Todd Lincoln. In 1947 the press announced that out of the White House maintenance fund a sum had been appropriated for a purchase of another original painting by Healy entitled "The Peacemakers." It was placed in President Truman's office. The single portrait of Lincoln is a copy of the group Lincoln with the exception of an ornate chair which Lincoln occupies.