

LINCOLN LORE

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A LINCOLN MIGRATION PILGRIMAGE

Historically minded people often like to weave into their vacation plans visits to some of the nation's shrines. Inasmuch as the first two weeks in August have been designated as the most desirable days in the year for a short vacation, possibly some observations about the major Lincoln trail from Hingham, Massachusetts to Springfield, Illinois might be timely in this issue of the bulletin.

There are several well known routes travelled by students of Lincoln in Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois and each state has designated the location of the Lincoln Memorial Highway within its boundary. Segments of these roads in all three states have been set apart as scout trails and boys making the treks receive recognition medals. It is the longer course which connects all the sites where the seven generations of American Lincolns lived and which embraces the shorter state highways that is of particular interest in this monograph.

The itinerary can best be presented by noting the names of the towns and cities closest to the Lincoln shrines to be visited. There are other cites of historical importance which should not be overlooked on such a long trip.

Hingham, Mass.—Samuel Lincoln first American progenitor of the President settled here in 1637. Samuel's first son Mordecai 1st and grandson of Mordecai 2nd were born here. The former's home and foundry in nearby Situate are in fine state of preservation and recently have been offered for sale. Both structures should be preserved. Old Ship Church which Samuel Lincoln helped to construct in 1681 is still in use. A heroic bronze statue of Lincoln is in the center of the town.

Freehold, N. J.—Mordecai 2nd migrated to Monmouth County, N. J. by 1714. House is not standing but site is located fifteen miles east of Freehold, one mile from Clarksburg. A child Deborah Lincoln lies buried in Jemison Cemetery two miles from Clarksburg.

Reading, Penn.—Mordecai 2nd migrated to Pennsylvania by 1720. Ten years later he purchased property six miles east of Reading and the fine old brick structure he built there in 1733 is in a good state of preservation. Mordecai lies buried in the Exeter Friends Cemetery. Three miles away is the birthplace of Daniel Boone.

Gettysburg, Penn. (side trip)—Enroute to the Virginia home of the Lincolns one should visit Gettysburg. In the Wills house where Lincoln was a guest on the night of Nov. 18, 1863 there is a Lincoln museum. The famous Lincoln exedra, a heroic bronze statue on the Pennsylvania monument and the site where the Gettysburg address was delivered are other Lincoln points of interest.

Harrisonburg, Va.—John Lincoln son of Mordecai 2nd migrated from Penn. to Virginia between 1765 and 1768. He purchased 600 acres of excellent land about twelve miles north of Harrisonburg. Here the father of the President was born. Jacob Lincoln improved the home and its present owner is now offering it for sale. The Lincoln family cemetery is on the farm where the President's great grandfather lies buried.

Cumberland Gap, Tenn.—Enroute to Kentucky one will want to stop at the Cumberland Gap where the Lincoln family passed over in 1782. There has recently been published by Dodd, Mead & Co. a delightful book entitled *The Buffalo Trace* by Virginia S. Eifert. It is the story of the Lincoln family migration from Virginia to Kentucky. Close to the gap is Lincoln Memorial University with its outstanding collection of Lincolniana.

Lexington, Ky. (side trip)—Here Mary Todd the wife of Abraham Lincoln was born and the house in which

she lived when she left Lexington for Springfield, Ill. is still standing. Ashland the home of Henry Clay, Lincoln's political mentor is located here.

Harrodsburg, Ky.—The cabin in which Abraham Lincoln's parents were married has been moved to Harrodsburg and enclosed in a building resembling a church close to old Fort Harrod.

Springfield, Ky.—It was in the Beechfork community six miles north of Springfield where Lincoln's parents were married and a cabin has been erected on the site where the widow Bathsheba Lincoln brought up her family of five children.

Middletown, Ky. (side trip)—About six miles from this town is Long Run Church which stands on property once owned by the President's grandfather. Here at Hughes Station nearby he was massacred by the Indians in 1786 and his unmarked grave is in the church cemetery.

Athertonville, Ky.—A few yards south of the present school stood the log cabin where Lincoln received his early education. Two miles south on the way to Hodgenville is the site of the Knob Creek home of the Lincolns marked by a reconstructed cabin.

Hodgenville, Ky.—In the court house square stands Weinman's famous heroic bronze statue of Lincoln and three miles south of the town is the Lincoln birthplace farm with the enshrined cabin in which he was born.

Elizabethtown, Ky.—Here Lincoln's parents made their first home and here Abraham's sister Sarah was born. Seven miles north is Thomas Lincoln's Mill Creek home site where his mother died. She is buried in Mill Creek church cemetery. To Elizabethtown Thomas Lincoln returned in 1818 and married his second wife, the widow Sarah Bush Johnston.

Troy, Ind.—At this point where the Lincolns crossed the broad Ohio River in 1816 a roadside park has been established. It marks the southern terminal of the Indiana boy scout trek.

Lincoln City, Ind.—The site of the Indiana home of the Lincolns where they lived for 14 years is now a state park. The location of the home, the mother's and the sister's graves are memorialized and a beautiful shrine has been erected.

Vincennes, Ind.—When the Lincolns migrated to Illinois in 1830 they passed through this city where Abe is said to have seen his first printing press which episode is now memorialized. On the Illinois side of the Wabash River is a sculptural group with Abe portrayed in bronze.

Charleston, Ill.—Although Abraham never resided with his family in the log cabin eight miles from Charleston, his parents lived there and their graves are well marked in the Thomas Lincoln Cemetery. A reconstructed cabin now stands in the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park.

Decatur, Ill.—Eight miles west of this town the Lincolns settled upon reaching Illinois in 1830. Here at Decatur there has been preserved the old court house in which Lincoln practiced. There are also two Lincoln statues here.

New Salem, Ill.—Before going to Springfield possibly one should visit New Salem where Abe's earlier Illinois days were spent. The reconstructed village of 25 cabins is an impressive memorial and a bronze statue of Lincoln has contributed much to the atmosphere of the place.

Springfield, Ill.—There are so many places of Lincoln interest in Springfield where the President lived for twenty-one years that just the home, the tomb and the collection of Lincolniana at the State Library can be mentioned. Guide books to historical sites are available.