



# Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor  
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1496

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

October, 1962

## LINCOLN'S FIVE VISITS TO INDIANA

Abraham Lincoln grew up in the state of Indiana, coming to it at the time the state was established (December 11, 1816) and remaining in it until 1830 which marked the end of the pioneer period. Lincoln looms large in the history of the state and an exhaustive study of his fourteen Indiana years has revealed that his Hoosier environment played no little part in his mental and physical development.

The events of Lincoln's Indiana residence have been told and retold countless numbers of times but little mention has been made of his five visits to the state after he became a resident of Illinois. Some of these visits were of a political nature, in one or two instances he was just passing through enroute to an eastern des-

tinuation and one trip had to do with his legal activities as a lawyer.

### Visit In 1844

Lincoln left Indiana in a family caravan of thirteen people in early March of 1830 enroute to Illinois. He returned to Indiana fourteen years later in October of 1844. He came "thinking he might carry the state of Indiana for Mr. Clay." He went back into the neighborhood where he was raised — where his mother and sister were buried. He visited such places as Vincennes, Bruceville, Washington, Rockport, Carter Township, Gentryville, Booneville and Evansville. Not one of his speeches have been preserved but there is little doubt

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about Reporter - = 432 =

17 Oct 48

Springfield, Ill., 13 1859

A. Lincoln

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Illinois & Mississippi Telegraph Company message to W. T. Bascom of Columbus, Ohio, from Abraham Lincoln. Written in pencil and dated at "Springfield, Ill., Sept 13, 1859" Lincoln wrote, "Through Indianapolis — Reach Columbus, at seven-seventeen pm. Thursday — what about Reporter. A. Lincoln"

but that his topic was protection — a Protective Tariff. On May 12, 1860 Lincoln wrote Dr. Edward Wallace: "In the days of Henry Clay I was a Henry Clay-tariff man, and my views have undergone no material change upon that subject."

Lincoln's trip to Indiana extended from October 24th through election day, November 4th. Of the several speeches Lincoln made in Indiana, only the one at Rockport seems to have been reported. According to the *Rockport Herald*, November 1, 1844, "Mr. Lincoln of Springfield, Ill., addressed a large and respectable audience at the court house on Wednesday evening last, upon the Whig policy. His main argument was directed in pointing out the advantages of a Protective Tariff. He handled that subject in a manner that done honor to himself and the Whig cause. Other subjects were investigated in a like manner. His speech was plain, argumentative and of an hour's duration."

It is of interest to point out that following Lincoln's Rockport address, John Pitcher, a friend of Lincoln's boyhood, delivered a speech in which "he exhibited the democratic policies in an unenviable light."

On this visit Lincoln became sentimental about his old Indiana home, even though he later said that "that part of the country is within itself as unpoetical as any spot on earth." But upon seeing the area again, its objects and inhabitants, there was aroused in Lincoln feelings which were certainly poetic although as he put it, "whether my expressions of these feelings is poetry is quite another question."

Lincoln's Indiana visit of 1844 led to the writing of a poem of twenty-one stanzas usually referred to as "My Childhood Home" and a twenty-two stanza poem entitled a "Bear Hunt." Both of these poems reveal the author's sensitive nature and nostalgic feeling but (as Lincoln stated) whether they are "poetry is quite another matter."

Incidentally the state of Indiana went for James K. Polk in the November election, despite the fact that Clay carried Spencer County by a majority of 90 votes.

#### Visit In 1855

Lincoln's second visit to Indiana was in September (17th) of 1855, when he traveled by rail to Cincinnati. From Bloomington, Illinois, Lincoln traveled by way of Chicago, Michigan City, Lafayette and Indianapolis. The trip required at least twenty-four hours. Lincoln went to Cincinnati as counsel for the defense in the McCormick Reaper Case (McCormick vs. Manny). Manny was to be represented by George Harding, Edwin M. Stanton and Lincoln. Lincoln had prepared a brief and expected to make an argument during the course of the trial. The plaintiff was represented by Edward M. Dickerson and Reverdy Johnson.

As Harding and Stanton were unfavorably impressed with Lincoln's appearance and because they had little regard for his ability he was contemptuously ignored

and curtly dismissed from all participation in the trial. This incident proved to be one of the most humiliating episodes in his entire legal career.

While in Cincinnati Lincoln stayed at the home of William Dickson, a Cincinnati lawyer and husband of Mrs. Lincoln's cousin. As he was "freed from any care in the law case . . . it was to him a week of relaxation." Lincoln visited many points of interest in Cincinnati and its suburbs including Walnut Hills, Mount Auburn, Clifton and also Spring Grove Cemetery. One place that particularly impressed him was the estate of Nicholas Longworth, where he became very much interested in the grounds and conservatories. He was greatly chagrined that he was unable to identify a single piece of statuary on one of the large estates.

Lincoln gave one day of his Cincinnati visit to the county and city courts. He spent an entire morning in Room No. 1 of the Superior Court where the eccentric jurist and wit, Bellamy Storer, presided. Lincoln enjoyed the proceedings and made the comment that "I wish we had that Judge in Illinois. I think he would share with me the fatherhood of the legal jokes of the Illinois bar."

On September 26th the day Lincoln probably left Cincinnati he told his hostess: "You have made my stay here most agreeable, and I am a thousand times obliged to you; but in reply to your request for me to come again I must say to you I never expect to be in Cincinnati again. I have nothing against the city, but things have so happened here as to make it undesirable for me ever to return here."

There is no evidence available to indicate Lincoln's route of travel homeward. There are traditions about a stage coach trip Lincoln made with Colonel Thomas Nelson and Bayless Hardin from Indianapolis to Terre Haute, but the chronology of event do not dovetail well with the established facts.

#### Visit In 1859

On September 19, 1859 Lincoln appeared for the first time in his life before a large Indiana audience. The Indiana capital city, although it was last, was an important point on his Columbus, Dayton, Hamilton, Cincinnati and Indianapolis itinerary. The theme of Lincoln's speeches on his tour was a continuation of those same controversial questions which has provoked the Lincoln-Douglas debates a year before. From a more practical point of view Lincoln went to Ohio primarily to win that state for the Republican party. It was a victorious effort as Ohio went Republican by a thirteen thousand majority.

Mrs. Lincoln and one of the sons, perhaps Robert, accompanied Lincoln on this speaking tour. While they were in Cincinnati the Lincolns were registered at the Burnet House but they spent most of the day with Mrs. Lincoln's cousin, Mrs. William M. Dickson, and her family, with whom Lincoln had stayed during the trial



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

The Pittsburgh, Chicago & Fort Wayne Railway station where Lincoln changed trains in Fort Wayne on February 23, 1860. Constructed in 1858 this building (except for one wing) is still standing. Note a portion of the home office building of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company at the immediate right. (See *Lincoln Lore* No. 1465, March 1969.)

of the McCormick Reaper Case in 1855. Leaving Cincinnati on Monday, September 19th, at 10:30 a.m. they arrived in Indianapolis in the afternoon. In Indianapolis they had rooms at the American House.

That evening Lincoln spoke before a large audience at the Masonic Hall for nearly two hours and was frequently interrupted by cheers and laughter. The *Indianapolis Atlas* of September 19, 1859 reported Lincoln's speech. Lincoln said that "appearing at the capital of this now great state, and traveling through a good portion of it in coming from Cincinnati had combined to revive his recollection of the earlier years of his life." Lincoln is reported to have said that "Away back in the fall of 1816, when he was in his eighth year, his father brought him over from the neighboring State of Kentucky, and settled in the State of Indiana, and he grew up to his present enormous height in our own good soil of Indiana. The scenes he passed through to-day are wonderfully different from the first scenes he witnessed in the State of Indiana, where he was raised, in Spencer County, on the Ohio river. There was an unbroken wilderness there then, and an axe was put in his hand; and with the trees and logs and grubs he fought until he reached his twentieth year."

This was a meeting marked with good fellowship and at the close of his remarks he sat down amid great applause. According to the *Illinois State Journal* of September 22, 1859, Lincoln made two speeches in Indiana on his Ohio-Indiana trip. But all effort to find the other speech, or even a reference to the time and place of the delivery, have been marked with failure.

There is a tradition that the Lincolns went home by way of Terre Haute because Robert had been bitten by a dog and that Indiana city had a famous "Mad Stone." A news item which appeared in the *Terre Haute Journal* of 1866 stated that a lady of that city "is in possession of a valuable madstone and it has affected many remarkable cures of dog and snake bites. Hundreds of persons, some from great distances have tested its efficacy in such cases." Certainly the evidence of a mad stone at Terre Haute is established. But more evidence is needed to establish the fact of Lincoln's visit there in the early fall of 1859.

#### Visit In 1860

Enroute to New York City to deliver his Cooper Union address Lincoln traveled through Indiana. His train left Springfield, Illinois at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 22nd, 1860. Traveling on a Toledo, Wabash & Western train he arrived in Fort Wayne an hour late, although there was ample time to make the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago train at 1:12 a.m. (Thursday). His route of travel through Indiana from State Line to Fort Wayne included the larger cities of Lafayette and Logansport.

The only evidence available concerning this trip through Indiana is a recently discovered news item (see *Lincoln Lore* No. 1465) of but six lines, which appeared in *Dawson's Daily News* of Fort Wayne for February 23, 1860:

"Hon. Abe Lincoln and wife came from the west this morning at 1 o'clock, on the T. W. & W. R. R., and changing cars at this city, went east. 'Old Abe' looked like as if his pattern had been a mighty ugly one."

The statement in the Fort Wayne paper that Lincoln's wife accompanied him is known to be erroneous. The lady in question was Mrs. Stephen Smith who was accompanied by her son Dudley. Her husband was a brother of Clark M. Smith who had married Ann Todd, a sister of Mrs. Lincoln. She traveled as far as Philadelphia with Mr. Lincoln so that he might assist her with her small son and baggage. Mrs. Smith reached her destination at 1:00 a.m. Saturday morning, and Lincoln continued his journey to New York later the same morning.

Lincoln hoped to return to Springfield on Monday, March 12th but he found this schedule was impossible.

Leaving New York City over the Erie Road he boarded the Toledo, Wabash and Western train at Toledo on Tuesday, March 13th and he passed through Fort Wayne at 5:20 p.m. and arrived in Springfield at 6:50 a.m. Wednesday morning, March 14th. This hurried round trip through Indiana did not afford Lincoln very many opportunities to recall familiar scenes or to make important contacts with Hoosier politicians. However, never had a journey been more profitable for a budding presidential candidate than this trip to New York to deliver the Cooper Union speech.

#### Visit In 1861

The next time Lincoln visited Indiana he came in a blaze of glory. He was on his way to Washington to be inaugurated president of the United States. His inaugural train entered Indiana at State Line on February 11, 1861. Lincoln's train made a "whistle stop" tour through all the Indiana towns on the itinerary except Indianapolis. The towns and cities through which Lincoln traveled were State Line, Lafayette, Thorntown, Lebanon, Zionsville, Indianapolis, Greensburg, Shelbyville, Morris and Lawrenceburg.

The president-elect made rear platform speeches or appearances in the Indiana towns and at Thornton he started to tell an anecdote to illustrate a point. The train started to move before he got to the place where the laugh came in, and the people were left to wonder what the meaning might be. Once the train arrived in Lebanon Lincoln was informed by the people there that the Thornton folks had followed the train on foot to hear the rest of the story. The story was about a candidate's horse that stopped to bite every bush and the candidate arrived at his destination after the convention was over. So Lincoln said that "if he made a stump speech at every railway station he would not arrive until the inauguration was over."

The trip through Indiana brought cheering crowds to every station and the reception for Lincoln at Indianapolis was on an elaborate scale, quite beyond anything in the previous history of the Indiana capital. Governor Oliver P. Morton extended to president-elect Lincoln official greetings. Replying to Governor Morton's greeting Lincoln said, to give only some excerpts of his address, that: "If the Union of these States and the liberties of this people, shall be lost, it is but little to any one man of fifty-two years of age, but a great deal to the thirty millions of people who inhabit these United States, and to their posterity in all coming time." Evidently Lincoln was thinking of his 52nd birthday which he would celebrate the next day on the 12th of February. Lincoln continued, "I appeal to you again to constantly bear in mind that with you, and not with politicians, not with presidents, not with office-seekers, but with you, is the question, shall the Union and shall the liberties of this country be preserved to the latest generations."

Lincoln made two addresses at Indianapolis, one from the rear platform of his railway coach, and one from the balcony of the Bates House (Claypool Hotel). Spending the night at Indianapolis, Mr. Lincoln and his party continued on their journey to Cincinnati. Lawrenceburg was the last town in which Abraham Lincoln spoke or visited in Indiana, and the press dispatches stated that he left "amid salutes, music and tumultuous cheering." His parting words were, "if you, the people, are but true to yourselves and to the Constitution, there is but little harm I can do, thank God!"

The account of Lincoln's five visits to Indiana has a prologue and an epilogue. The prologue, as indicated in the opening paragraphs of this article deal with Lincoln's fourteen years residence in this state. The epilogue has to do with his funeral when his remains were transported through approximately thirty Indiana villages, towns and cities enroute to Chicago, Illinois. Certainly Bishop Matthew Simpson's general statement about Lincoln's funeral encompassed the state of Indiana: "Never was there in the history of man such morning as that which accompanied the funeral procession of Abraham Lincoln."

## CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY—1961-1962

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Road, Garden City, N. Y.; Carl Haverlin, 2 Masterson Road, Bronxville, N. Y.; E. B. Long, 708 North Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park, Ill.; Richard F. Lufkin, 45 Milk Street, Boston, 9, Mass.; Wayne C. Temple, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.; Ralph G. Newman, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago 11, Ill.; William H. Townsend, 310 First National Bank Bldg., Lexington 3, Ky.; and Clyde C. Walton, Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.

New items available for consideration may be sent to the above addresses or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

1961

BIBLE, ALAN 1961-60

Calendar No. 954/87th Congress 1st Session/Senate/(Report No. 971)/In the Senate of the United States/August 23, 1961/Read twice and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs/September 11, 1961/Reported by Mr. Bible, with amendments/An Act/To provide for the establishment of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes/(Caption title).

Folder, paper, 7½" x 11", 3 p.

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The Civil War As They Knew It/Abraham Lincoln's Immortal Words and Mathew Brady's Famous Photographs/Edited with Commentary by Pierce C. Fredericks Designed by Anthony Laro Gallery Edition, Bantam Books, New York.

Book, paperback, 4¼" x 7", 213pp., illus., price \$1.25.

FULLER, EDMUND &amp; DAVIS, O. B. 1961-63

4 American Biographies/Edmund Fuller/O. B. Davis/Adventures in (device) Good Books/Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc./New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas/Burlingame.

Book, cloth, 5¼" x 8", 779 pp.

NEW JERSEY CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL

COMMISSION 1961-64

Special Joint Session of/The New Jersey Senate/and the General Assembly/Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of/Abraham Lincoln's Historic Appearance Before/The Legislature February 21, 1861/presented by New Jersey/Civil War Centennial Commission/Tuesday, February 21, 1961 State House, Trenton/(Cover title).

Pamphlet, flexible bds., 6" x 9", 28 pp., illus.

REINEKE, DIANA 1961-65

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Pamphlet, paper, 5½" x 8½", 67 pp., fr., Printed by the Neoga News.

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The Poet and/the President/Whitman's Lincoln Poems/William Coyle Wittenberg University/(device/The Odyssey Press, Inc. New York.

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COLVER, ANNE 1962-26

Abraham Lincoln/For the People/A Discovery Book/by Anne Colver/illustrated by William Moyers/Grosset & Dunlap/Copyright 1960, by Anne Colver/All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions/Published by arrangement with the original publisher,/The Garrard Publishing Co., Champaign, Illinois. Printed in the United States of America.

Book, stiff boards, 6¾" x 9", 78 pp., illustrated, \$1.00. For ages 7-9.

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Book, cloth, 5½" x 8¾", xvi p., 176 pp., illus.

TEMPLE, WAYNE C. 1962-36

Builder of Lincoln's Home: Page Eaton/Edited by/ Wayne C. Temple, Ph.D./Director/Department of Lincolniana/Lincoln Memorial University/Limited Edition Published for the Members of the/National Lincoln-Civil War Council/Lincoln Memorial University Press/Harrogate, Tennessee/1962/(Cover title).

Pamphlet, paper, 6" x 9", 8 pp.