

PAGES VISITED - CORRESPONDENCE

DRAWER

3A

TRAVEL

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# Abraham Lincoln and Travel

Correspondence regarding  
List of Places Visited

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



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<http://archive.org/details/abrahamlincolntr00mcmu>

R. B. PRICE, PRESIDENT  
C. B. ROLLINS, VICE PRESIDENT

A. G. SPENCER, CASHIER

J. R. LIPSCOMB, ASST. CASHIER  
E. S. DYSART, ASST. CASHIER



## BOONE COUNTY NATIONAL BANK

CAPITAL, SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS \$375,000  
ESTABLISHED 1857

DEC. 14. 1935.  
COLUMBIA, MO.

Dear Dr. Warren:—

I want to locate Abraham Lincoln during the month of June 1840.

It is claimed he was in this town, courting Mary Todd, who was visiting her uncle Judge David Todd in June 1840.

I should like very much

to establish this fact, if it  
be a fact, or refute it if it be  
not a fact,

Can you aid me?

Very truly yours,  
C. B. Rollins,

Mr Louis A. Warren,  
St. Wayne, Ind.



December 17, 1935

Mr. C. B. Rollins  
Columbia, Missouri

My dear Mr. Rollins:

We do not seem to be able to locate here any definite information as to Lincoln's visit to Missouri in the month of June, 1840, although we have always been under the impression that he did make such a visit. We find he appeared in Springfield, Illinois as late as June 5 when the Whig convention broke up.

We also find he directed a letter from Springfield to Jonathan Randal on June 16, 1840 but the contents of this letter and other letters written in 1840 do not indicate his whereabouts during the entire month.

We will keep watch, however, and see if we can discover other items that would allow us to locate definitely Lincoln's activities in the political campaign of that year in which he was very active indeed.

Very truly yours,

LAW:LH

Director

File - Eureka, Ill.

326-E

# THE CURTIS HOTEL AND MOTOR LODGE

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

August 20th, 1969

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
910 West Rudisill Boulevard  
Fort Wayne, Indiana - 46807

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

This morning I received my copy of "LINCOLN LORE" #1578 for August and I thank you for it. I read the entire copy with great interest and noted your remark, "the editor is eager to learn of other places where Lincoln visited."

What I am about to mention and send to you, you may already know about. However, there is nothing lost in sending it to you anyway. The list shown on page two of "LINCOLN LORE" and also on page three of Illinois mentions Metamora, which of course was the former County Seat of Woodford County. Versailles also mentioned I believe no longer exists in Illinois. If it is the Versailles I have in mind, then it no longer exists, however, there is a Versailles, Illinois about 30 to 40 miles Southwest of Beardstown, Illinois, however, I do not know if this Versailles was there in 1843, the time Lincoln is supposed to have visited there. Way back, there used to be a Versailles a short distance South of Eureka, Illinois, however, this is the one I mention has gone out of existence. So, which Versailles did Lincoln visit back in 1843? That is the question. It really isn't important.

The thing I felt might be important is shown on the attached sheet. Eureka, Illinois is not mentioned in the "LINCOLN LORE" list of towns visited by Lincoln. Before we go any further, I just made a discovery which you may already know. Woodford County was organized in 1841 and Lincoln practiced law at Versailles and later at Hanover which later became Metamora. The county seat of Woodford County was moved to Eureka in 1894. The Versailles I mention having gone out of existence. Eureka originally was called Walnut Grove and from what I have heard, Lincoln had been a visitor here many times while he was visiting Metamora with Judge David Davis, Lincoln and Davis having traveled the 8th Circuit together.

You will please note that I went into the attached sheet very extensively and as mentioned, Hickey has no record of "LINCOLN'S" speech in the archives and no mention is made of it in "LINCOLN'S DAY BY DAY" so the attached sheet evidently is the only close record of what happened. Mr. Rinker is a very serious Lincoln student and I asked him "point-blank" whether Professor Radford might have colored his reports. Rinker bristled a bit and said that Radford was a very honest man. So, I believed Rinker who was very courteous and had a desire and enthusiasm of great help. May I mention that the mentioned boulder, as I remember it, was about two feet high and about three feet across and about two feet in thickness. No little stone. I endeavored to find out who placed the stone there but Mr. Rinker believed someone from Eureka College had it placed there.

I hope the above and the attached are of some help to you. I am still working on your three books. Best wishes and regards, Cordially

ROOM RESERVATIONS CONFIRMED IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE 612-333-5144 OR TELETYPE 612-331-1146

*George H. Duggan*



January 20th, 1966

*Hickey to  
this and  
plaque  
1-21-66*

*\* Other than traveling the circuit to W et al...*

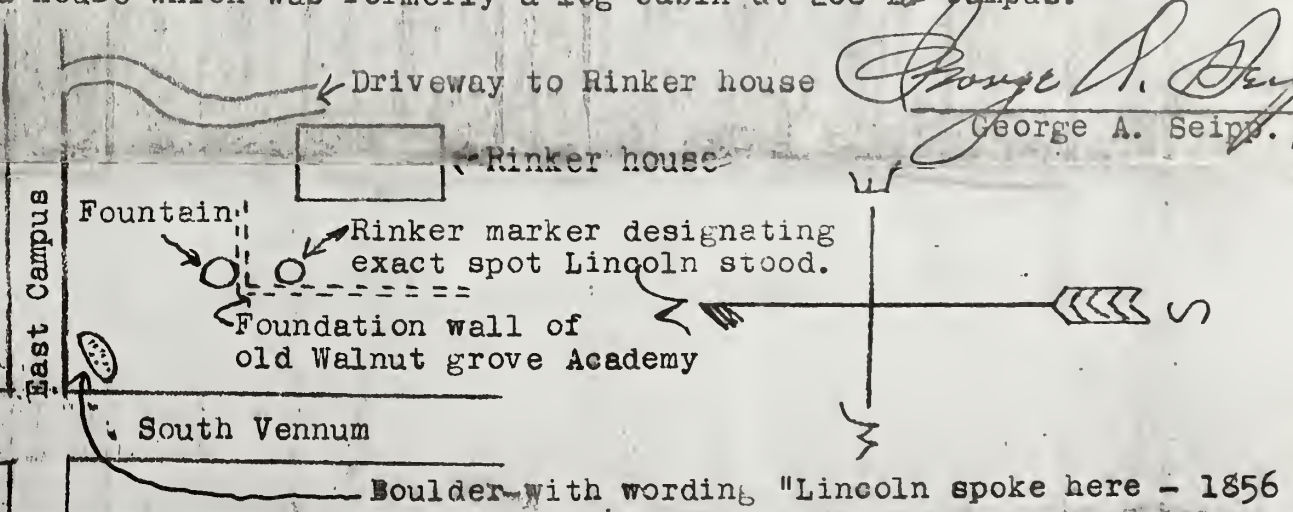
While doing some reconditioning of the county records for Woodford county, Eureka, Illinois in 1963 the undersigned had occasion to ride around the town of Eureka in an endeavor to learn what he could historically regarding the town. He looked over the grounds of the Eureka College and later came upon a large boulder at the corner of South Vennum and East Campus whereupon he read the inscription on the boulder which read "Lincoln talked here 1856". Being somewhat curious to know what Lincoln's talk was about he inquired of several people and learned nothing. Later he went to Springfield and talked with one James T. Hickey, Curator of the Lincoln Room in the Centennial Building and found that Hickey knew nothing regarding Lincoln's appearance in Eureka at the time above mentioned. Both Hickey and the undersigned checked the 3 volume set of "Lincoln's Day by Day" and found no mention in it regarding Lincoln's appearance in Eureka as of the above mentioned time. Hickey said further that he has nothing in the records that make mention of Lincoln ever having been in Eureka. At the time of the undersigned visit back in 1963, he took pictures of the marker, which he has in his possession.

On this date, January 20th, 1966 the undersigned was accompanied by one D. L. Hawthorne, Assistant Superintendent of County Schools for Woodford County, Illinois to the home of Jacob Rinker, who lives on the property at the location of the above mentioned boulder and gathered the following information from Mr. Rinker;

In 1925, Mr. Rinker had occasion to talk with Professor Radford of the Eureka College regarding Lincoln's appearance in Eureka. Prof. Radford at this time was 95 years of age. Radford and Rinker went to the spot where Lincoln is supposed to have talked and looked over the property on which the home of Mr. Rinker still stands. Mr. Rinker had done some digging on his property and uncovered a foundation of a building which Radford said was of the old Walnut Grove Academy ( Eureka was formerly called Walnut Grove) There is in Illinois a Walnut Grove at this time. Below is a drawing showing where the wall was located near the Rinker home together with a cement marker placed by Rinker in 1925 showing the exact spot where Lincoln stood while making his talk. According to this, Lincoln would have been inside the Walnut Grove Academy building near the North-West corner of the inside of the building. Radford told Rinker that Lincoln was campaigning for Congress at the time and there were several young fellows present and they started to heckle Lincoln and Lincoln stopped talking and started to tell stories to some of the people close to him down in front. Soon, several of the people in the back of the room called out to Lincoln asking him to speak louder. By this time the hecklers had become quiet and Lincoln continued his speech. What the speech was about is not definitely known other than what Prof. Radford mentioned to Mr. Rinker, which was that it was a political speech pertaining to issues of the day.

Mr. Rinker has been in the past, the Surveyor for Woodford County and has taught geology at Eureka College, in fact he still teaches this subject at the College. He is a man about 80 years of age. Mr. Rinker lives in a house which was formerly a log cabin at 208 E. Campus.

*George A. Seipp*  
George A. Seipp.





Madison, Conn. 8/27/69

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

Thank you for the most interesting issue of August 1969 - "Places....Lincoln lived & visited". Because you ask of other places you do not list, I beg to suggest that, according to a placque at the site, Lincoln did visit Manchester, Vermont, I believe for several summers. This suggestion may bear some research. May I add that I enjoy the Lore very much.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Franklin A. Bower". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Rev'd Franklin A. Bower



Box 302  
Madison  
Conn.  
06443



U.S. POSTAGE  
6c



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor  
Lincoln Lore

The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.  
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA



September 2, 1969

Rev. Franklin A. Bower  
Box 302  
Madison, Connecticut 06443

Dear Rev. Bower:

I have your card of August 27th relative to "Places...  
Lincoln Lived and Visited." I have made a careful  
search to see if Lincoln ever visited Manchester,  
Vermont. While Mrs. Lincoln visited there, I have  
failed to find whether Lincoln ever visited that  
city or state.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cvrv

SHERMAN DAY WAKEFIELD  
144 EAST 24TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10010

August 28, 1969

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor  
LINCOLN LORE  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

In LINCOLN LORE No. 1578 you give the date 1838 for Lincoln's earliest visit to Bloomington. If you will look in my book, HOW LINCOLN BECAME PRESIDENT (1936) p. 8-9, you will find that Lincoln was in Bloomington in April 1837 as lawyer for John W. Baddeley. This is further borne out by the official LINCOLN DAY BY DAY (1960) vol. I, p. 71, which is remiss in not mentioning Baddeley and indexing him. Also in Willard W. King's biography of David Davis (1960) p. 27. Please correct this error in the next issue of LINCOLN LORE.

Sincerely,

*Sherman Day Wakefield*

September 2, 1969

Mr. Sherman Day Wakefield  
144 East 24th Street  
New York, New York 10010

Dear Mr. Wakefield:

Many thanks for your letter of August 28th. I am glad to know that Lincoln visited Bloomington in April, 1837.

I should have caught the entry on page 71 of Volume I of LINCOLN DAY BY DAY.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cvrvw

**Wayde Chrismer**  
BOX 371, 219 WEST HALL STREET  
BEL AIR, MD. 21014  
(301) 838-3288-879-9288

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor  
LINCOLN LORE  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Aug. 29, 1969

Dear Dr. McMurtry--

Your LINCOLN LORE for August, 1969, is very helpful--  
as are all your issues--but you MAY have missed one Lincoln visit  
to Maryland.

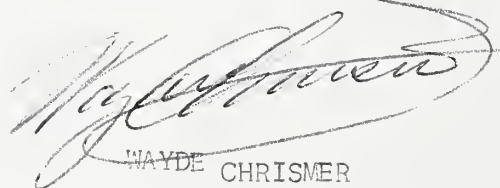
Frederick W. Seward in REMINISCENCES OF A WAR-TIME STATES-  
MAN AND DIPLOMAT, 1830-1915, writes (Page 175 of th 1916 edition)  
that he accompanied his father and McClellan to Maryland where arrange-  
ments were made to meet "General Banks...at his headquarters, at  
Rockville."

This may not properly qualify as a "visit" and have been  
excluded by you for that reason. Purpose of the trip was a confer-  
ence with Banks about his actions in connection with suppressing  
the (expected) "secession session" of the Maryland Legislature in  
September. The date of Seward's entry is simply August, 1861...  
"a bright summer day".

I am not being a carping critic, but I know your desire  
for every meticulous detail, and I take the liberty of mentioning  
this solely for that reason.

LINCOLN LORE continues to be a periodic source of interest  
and I thank you for putting my name on your list of "subscribers".

Sincerely yours:



WAYDE CHRISMER

P. S. -- Please do not bother to reply to this insignificant note.



September 2, 1969

Mr. Wayde Chrismer  
Box 371, 219 West Hall Street  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Dear Mr. Chrismer:

Many thanks for your letter of August 29th. I have checked your reference of page 175 of Frederick W. Seward's book RE-MINISCENCES OF A WAR-TIME STATESMAN AND DIPLOMAT. I think definitely that Rockville, Maryland, August, 1861 should have been included in my compilation.

LINCOLN DAY BY DAY, Vol. III, page 62, under August 23rd states that "President and Sec. Seward spent forenoon visiting encampments on Virginia side of river (WASHINGTON STAR, August 23rd). Cabinet in session. No subject announced. DLC-WTS Gantt to Sherman. Aug. 22, 1861." Perhaps the entry should read in addition to Secretary Seward "Assistant Secretary Seward."

I am very glad to have this information.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cvrv

DR. J. DUANE SQUIRES  
NEW LONDON  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

03257

30 August 1969

Dear Friend McMurtry:

In your excellent issue of LINCOLN LORE, August, 1969, you list many places that Lincoln visited during his life. You also ask your readers for supplementary data on places that you do not mention. Let me list the following:

- <sup>1860</sup>  
On Thursday, March 1, he spoke in Concord at 2 P.M.  
On Thursday, March 1, he spoke in Manchester at 8 P.M.  
On Friday, March 2, he spoke in Dover at 8 P.M.  
On Saturday, March 3, he spoke in Exeter at 8 P.M.

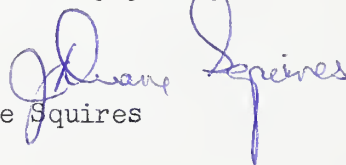
Your list has three of these places, but does not include Concord.

See my GRANITE STATE OF THE UNITED STATES (New York, 1956) I, pp. 366-369.

With kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

J. Duane Squires



September 4, 1969

Dr. J. Duane Squires  
New London, New Hampshire 03257

Dear Dr. Squires:

I was pleased to have your letter of August 30th.  
calling my attention to Lincoln's visit to Concord,  
New Hampshire on March 1, 1860.

This is clearly an oversight on my part. I hope that  
in a supplementary article I may be able to include  
the places that I missed in my original compilation.  
I will certainly want to include Concord in that  
supplementary list.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGN/cvrw

ask  
9/23/69

Mr. Gary Erickson  
3811 Blandwood Road  
Rockford, Illinois 61108  
Sept. 18, 1969

Dear Dr. Mc Murtry,

I wish to express a sincere thank you for sending me zerox copies of the first 250 issues of the Lincoln Lore. This has made my collection of this publication complete.

In the last issue of the Lore, containing the "places towns, villages, and cities where Lincoln lived and visited," you said that you would be interested in learning other places where Lincoln visited.

In looking over the list for Illinois, I have a few corrections and additions. Since I do not have the research tools at hand, you may correct me if I am wrong, and I apologize for it! But to mention a few:

- ✓ (1) Monroe City is in Indiana and not Ill.
- ✓ (2) Lincoln passed through Naples as early as 1852 rather than 1854.
- ✓ (3) Lewiston should read Lewistown unless it has been changed since Lincoln's time.
- (4) Additions include:
  - ✓ (1) Rockford, Ill.
  - ✓ (2) Stillman Valley (a monument marks Lincoln's presents.)
  - ✓ (3) Macoupin Point, Ill.



- ✓ (4.) Lexington, Ill.
- ✓ (5.) Fairfield, Ill.
- ✓ (6.) (near) Sublette, Ill.

Some of these are not too significant, and I would imagine that several insignificant places could be added and one has to draw the line some place.

Thanking you again for sending the back issues of the Lincoln Lore, I remain —

Sincerely yours,  
Gary Erickson

P.S.

Could you please send me another copy of the August issue of the Lore.

Wayde Chrismer  
BOX 371, 219 WEST HALL STREET  
BEL AIR, MD. 21014  
(301) 838-3288-879-9288

*False under  
places L.  
visited*

December 10, 1969

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry--

Many thanks for your kind letter of Dec. 1, regarding the reproductions of Lincoln paintings about which I wrote. I had not expected you to take so much trouble about it and appreciate your answer that much more because you did. I have been out of town and could not thank you sooner.

- - - - -

Forgive me if I appear to belabour the issue of "Places Lincoln Visited" but you seemed to appreciate my previous contribution to the record, so mention this also:

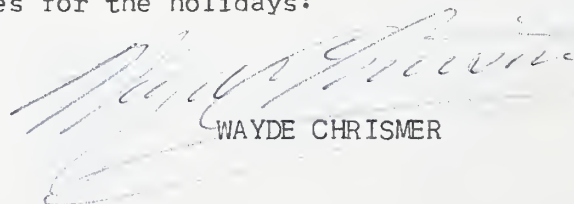
Burton J. Hendrick in his LINCOLN'S WAR CABINET which I am just now reading mentions (Pages 385-387) "Lincoln's frequent trips to Silver Spring" in Maryland--the home of Francis Preston Blair, Sr., and (presumably) also to the home of Montgomery nearby. He goes into great detail about this, but unfortunately does not mention specific dates. Perhaps these can be found in LINCOLN DAY BY DAY or some other source.

It may well be that because Silver Spring was so close to the District of Columbia, you did not look upon his trips to that place as actual "visits" but we patriotic Marylanders would like to see them so considered, officially.

Thanks again for your help with the Lincoln paintings. I naturally regret to learn that I do not have all of that series, but am pleased to know the full particulars.

I am taking the liberty of enclosing a little pocket-secretary my clients find useful, hoping you can use it. Please do not bother to write to thank me for it.

Sincere best wishes for the holidays:

  
WAYDE CHRISMER

December 15, 1969

Mr. Wayde Chrismer  
Box 371, West Hall Street  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Dear Mr. Chrismer:

I have your letter of December 10th. Many thanks for the attractive "Packet Secretary." I will put this to good use.

I was glad that you called my attention to Silver Springs, Maryland, as a place where Lincoln visited. Your letter will go into our files on Places Lincoln Visited. In compiling DAY BY DAY, I suppose the compilers felt that Silver Springs was hardly a case of Lincoln leaving the city. Nevertheless, I would have included it if it had been brought to my attention.

With the season's best wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM/cvrv







