Note II

The New Lincoln Pilgrimage:

See Bulletin 4/37

The ~~pleasantest thing in~~ the Lincoln cult ~~which has developed in the last few years is the Pilgrimage.~~ For years increasing numbers of people include in their vacation plan a visit to what is known as the Lincoln country of Kentucky, of Southwestern Indiana, of Illinois. ~~In time these pilgrimages run from~~ the coming of the grandfather of Abraham Lincoln to Kentucky in 1780 up to the day in 1865 when the grandson was laid away in the pleasant cemetery of Springfield, Illinois.

This year a new pilgrimage is to be added to the already familiar - a thing everybody wants to do sooner or later. This new pilgrimage will add a hundred and fifty years to the story of Abraham Lincoln in the United States and at least a thousand miles to the distance his ancestors travelled before his birth.

It was ~~being~~ undertaken by a few Lincoln lovers in commemoration beginning with the Lincoln line in this country eight years ago on the 20th of June. A lad of some sixteen years old, Samual Lincoln by name landed in New Salem in the colony of Massachusetts. He did not tarry long there but hurried Southward to the settlement of New Hingham where he already had two brothers established. Here he ~~stayed, married~~ married found work, bought land, raised a family, became a citizen in regular standing in what was one of the most bold speaking and free

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thinking towns in all the hard headed young colonies.

Now this pilgrimage proposes to begin at the date of Samuel's arrival, to see what is left of him in this life he lived in New Hingham, to see what is left of the sons and grandsons and their sons and grandsons who followed him. If it served its purpose it will help re-construct the lives of these men, their activities, the institutions they helped build up. If the pilgrims read the meaning into what there is for them to see it will go along way towards breaking down the old tradition of the meanness of Abraham Lincoln's forbearers. It will show him to have come from a sturdy, independent, daring line of men and women, the kind that bravely and hopefully undertook the settlement of this country, the difficult problem of devoting it to freedom and her ways.

What are they going to find in this long trek? I undertook some fifteen years ago to answer that question, curious as I was to make sure about the quality of these men and women out of which Lincoln had sprung. What will these pilgrims find of Samuel Lincoln in New Hingham? To begin with they will find that Samuel was not without honor in his home town, and they will find a marker showing the exact spot on which he first set foot. They no doubt will be surprised to find that it is some two blocks from the water edge, which the Hinghamites explain by the way the town has grown, the shore receded. They will be able to look on the site of the house which Samuel built, but not much of the original house itself. Perhaps a few timbers, - nothing more.

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They will see one of the most interesting ~~in~~ in New England ~~which has~~ grown out of ~~that~~ which ~~he~~ and his family helped build, back there in the 17th Century, contributing ~~in~~ good money according to the ~~deed~~ still existing.

There is the "Old Ship Church, the most interesting Lincoln they will see in all their travels in my mind. They shouldn't fail to look at the communion ~~altar~~ which ~~served~~ Samuel ~~himself~~. If they want to know more about the intimate details of the life of the family, just how they kept house three hundred years ago, the kind of kitchen utensils they used, the way they heated and lighted and cooked, the type of furniture, they will find it all in the capital historical museum of New England. Indeed, they will not find until they get to New Salem, Illinois as ~~interesting/examination/~~showing of home life of ~~A. Lincoln~~.

~~The two most interesting things, the two things which interested me most, is the~~ manuscript of two ~~old~~ books New Hingham's One was a diary kept by the man who ran/~~in~~ general store - Daniel Cushing by name. He was a lively observer, a frank reporter of life as it went on in the community. In his ~~records~~ we find that "old Sam Lincoln died of small pox (~~Linkeln~~). ~~The date is~~ May 25, 1690. I am not at all sure that Daniel Cushing's diary will be on view for our pilgrims now. It is faithfully guarded by a descendant and it took much diplomacy and negotiation for me to get a sight of it and a right to make facsimile copies of some of the pages.

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The other document of which I speak is a diary of the minister of the parish, Peter Hobart. And if the pilgrims want to go up to the Boston Historical Society they will find it there. Peter Hobart kept this faithful record of births, deaths and marriages. And from this journal we found how big a part the Lincoln's played in his parish. And you will find there, too, a record of Samuel's death - a little more respectful than that in the Cushing's diary.

From Hingham the pilgrims move down to Cohasset - a delightful drive on a good day. Here they have proof of the place the family were taking in the New England world. For here is the home of Samuel's son Mordecai, great, great, great grandfather of Abraham Lincoln. He must have been an energetic boy because early he learned the blacksmith trade, as an iron-master was called in those days, learned it over in Hull. He married his master's daughter and brought into the Lincoln family the name we so honor - Abraham.

Mordecai settled in Cohasset and it is there by a lively brook that he had a water power, developed to the full, a grist mill, saw mill and iron works. The first house still stands but prospering he built a second house which still stands and one can be thankful for though it has passed into hands that have done a beautiful piece of restoration.

They must not leave Cohasset, however, without going to the old Scituate graveyard. There is Mordecai's burial place. It is an interesting example of the tombstone decoration of the period, an angel head made by an engraver who had been affected by It is not all that could be

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A Scene in Pilgrim's Rest not so as there very ancient
only the old Cathedral Grevely and White Monastic (sic)
Church is burned - Its Stately grandeur is elaborately
on the day - the eagle bird & engraved on it. Very
planked by White Storm & decided Assyrian in
Hermel!

Su 5th

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asked. This may be the authority for spelling Mordecai - Mordeke - but of that I do not know but that is the way you find it on his tombstone.

There will not be much chance in the tenedays the pilgrims have given themselves for their trek to look at records but if they have time for it I should say they should run down to Plymouth and go over the copy of the will which Mordecai left behind.

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Certainly it is they ended up in Monmouth County where Mordecai seems to have bettered himself by marrying into what was the grandest family of the countryside - the Salters. Richard Salter who had a big tract of land and was important in the public life of the colony had a daughter Hannah who Mordecai so promptly won. His marriage connected him not only with the Salters but with a prominent New York family into which Richard Salter had married - the Bownes. And through the Bownes the family of that splendid old saint and patriarch Obadiah Holmes of Connecticut.

We know from deeds that he bought land not far from Salters. Tradition says that he put up a forge and spent hours and hours hunting for that forge. Some of his land the little map shows. You see it is not very far from Trenton easily reached from Allentown. But it will take

(11) The area map here printed came into my hands [illegible] Mr. Paul [illegible] than 4 principal owners. [illegible]

does that will give a picture of a prosperous man, building houses and buying land, and mills with water powers and dams, iron works, land

but it shows him an extraordinarily kind, and thoughtful and considerate person, providing even for grandsons who might possibly be brought up to "learning or liberal education." Each of them who turned out to be so educated were to be paid ten pounds annually during the four years they remained at College. Certainly a fine person to have as an ancestor was this Mordecai Lincoln.

The pilgrims file make a leap for the next in the line - Mordecai II. Mordecai II with his brother Abraham left New England sometime about 1715 or thereabouts, for a point further down the Atlantic Coast, where many men of Connecticut and many New England men were men seeking better conditions were going. It was New Jersey - a much advertised colony. So far as I know there are no points of interest to be visited on this journey to New Jersey. We do not even know whether it was made overland or by boat, though shipping was so active in those days along the coast that I have always been inclined to believe they made their way from Hingham to Perth Amboy. Certainly it is they ended up in Monmouth County. There are deeds to show that young Mordecai and his brother Abraham bought some four hundred and fifty acres of land and started a forge, spent hours trailing around in the vicinity of that land and talked with scores of people.

Now this land that Mordecai bought adjoined a big estate - the Buckhorn Manor, the property of one of the finest men in the colony - Richard Salter and Richard Salter had a daughter, Hannah. And very soon Mordecai had won her in marriage. It is well to remember the relation.

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If as a matter of fact it will take a better antiquarians than I ~~were able to find loose~~ am in Monmouth County to locate any ~~of the traditional sites~~ physical remains that ~~there may be in New Jersey~~ of Mordecai Lincoln.[15] Monmouth County is occupied historically with Betsy Ross and the Battle of Monmouth, at least ~~that was all I was able to get~~ from the editors, antiquarians & the oldest settlers that I hunted down in my effort to place Mordecai Lincoln in New Jersey. ~~If~~ there was a forge, as tradition persists in saying, it is not impossible that it ~~could~~ be located. ~~If the antiquarians of New Jersey can locate these two spots they will have added something to the Lincoln Lore.~~

[15] actually there. Moral authorities are not to be relied upon in matters historical.

Part of [illegible] should

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at once enrolled in that great historic army & there glamorous years and we can scarcely blame them.

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So far as I know the only proof of the passing of Mordecai Lincoln this way, outside of wills and lawsuits and deeds and marriage certificates, ~~the only physical above ground - in the open thing~~ is a ~~little~~ tombstone, touching enough, is the picture it evokes. ~~It is easily reached from Allentown and certainly it should not be missed,~~ for here in 1720 a little daughter of Mordecai ~~was put away.~~ There were no ~~public~~ church burying grounds in that day, only family ~~grounds,~~ and friendly considerate neighbors sometimes opened their ~~family plot to burial.~~ This was what was done by a ~~Mrs. Robbins,~~ neighbor of Mordecai Lincoln, and here they will find the headstone. I hope they will go and see it. I spent days myself trying to locate it and feel some satisfaction in passing on what I learned by awkward and criss-cross investigations. ~~On the little map adjoined (A) marks Deborah's grave and the spot is a height known locally as Covell's Hill.~~

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Monmouth County then read an ancient book "Old Monmouth."
The pilgrims if they want will find a copy at Trenton in the Library. Perhaps in Freehold somewhere. But I am suspicious of Freehold's researches - it is so concentrated on the battle of Monmouth and Betsy Ross.

The condition of the iron industry in New Jersey took Mordecai and Abraham away. The center of iron manufacturing in the country had drifted to in and near Philadelphia, / the question of transportation, the inaccessibility to iron ore had The two men went into that part of the world and soon were partners in one of the big iron works of that day. Just where these works were I hope our pilgrims will find. The location seems to have been lost in the marks of what we call progress, a process which is responsible for the destruction of many interesting and beautiful things.

Mordecai along about 1725 sold his holdings, taking his money and adding to it what had recently come to him from the settlement of Mordecai, his father, he went up the Schuykill River and bought a tract of some three hundred acres and here built a house.

The pilgrims will have a delightful time in visiting this house, I am convinced. I do not know how they will get there but I should advise driving out from Redding. When I made my visit to Mordecai Lincoln's house I found the drive delightful, over good country roads, mountain and river in your view. And the surprise of the house, itself. There was a date stone but this has been covered over unfortunately - 1733. But there are

The house is simple plain. one door
Has American - [illegible] apple tree stand by
door Nearly dead. they tell you Indians
planted - and there are the same gnarled
old standing pe Indian like Jersey the
new Legend for summer one a star Creek
in a small way.

Not far away, a sent-walk on pilgrim
road Idle, old stands the home of
the Lincoln must [illegible] neighbor. The
Boone - Thos cabinet is responsible for
the rumor which ever related Abraham
Lincoln yea Cole - that the ancestor was
Quaker (not to Get the Boone was a
one of Indian's daughter married [illegible]
to a Boone - to the scandal of the church
high officials not - to family.
The Boone stock remained
the real work was - of the Lincoln and
that [illegible] the Shenandoah Valley - It was
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
only removed [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
Quakers. [illegible] Indians
negro Guy Boone had been down
there - not dead. His apple tree
apparently the same for now 2 Indians
older - sign of respect - [illegible]

Mrs Rodney Lewis left had left
John still elated in Kentucky when
he moved into Penn. but John's life
was a weary one made like that great grand-
father Samuel's was ~~not~~ paralyzed. He
died at 2 o'clock in the
morning of the Shenandoah Valley came he
~~pulled off~~ died ~~and~~ followed. ~~But he~~
~~left~~ Chimney-chips in left no trace
behind, no fat on 2 bones were able
to divine & no home. no town-no
piece of warm cloth, ~~no family~~ so our
pilgrim home no remains of John left in
Penn 2 to see, Peter Lewis on to the
Land he crept in 1768 & settled. left-
20 yr old to the town 2 depict. They
will not see another piece of land so
deep in all their life, all the 600
acres of virgin pines on Laurel Creek
a pub under from the ~~eighty~~-old 2
town of Harrisburg.

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a cuvidrale land own cure lott in Bible
2 Lancaster ~~county~~ Counties - ~~Bed~~ -
~~Illus Jolin ux the faith 2 grand fable~~
~~qua~~

A As to what happened there to John and his family they can find out when they search the records and from the stories of those who have searched them. What they will be interested in if they go and which they will see is the fine house that John's son Jacob great-uncle of Abraham Lincoln, built and left to his ancestors. After the Cohasset house it is as I say the finest on the Lincoln route and I am not sure but it is a more substantial one for it is of brick, stone trimmings, with a long two story addition running out from the rear back kitchen and woodshed. And what was so important in the houses of that time - a workshop. In this workshop the Lincolns made their furniture. Jacob made some pieces remarkable for size and weight out of mahogany logs which tradition he brought overland from New York City by ox team, and there in the workshop above the woodshed he turned out a huge wardrobe, a huge sideboard, a huge four poster, and one or two other equally huge pieces. The rooms could take them. Where a modern house would put them it is hard to say. When I made my visit they were in the possession of a descendant of the Jacob Lincoln - Kate Lincoln. If this Kate is still living and will receive them I can promise the pilgrimages as spritely and interesting an interview as they will have on their way. They will not be able to linger on the old wilderness road.- the route one of John's son's, Abraham took in in 1780 after selling out all the substantial savings that he had inherited from his father, and to which he had rather steadily

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added. He took the route that Daniel Bowne had followed years before and which steady succession and adventurers have been following ever since.

~~Two years later he came back and took his family. Our pilgrims should follow that route. But the story of all that has been so frequently written and of what they will see in Kentucky and Indiana and Illinois, so admirably documented, and so prepared for tourists that I could add nothing.~~ It is the first four of the Lincoln ancestors - Samuel, Mordecai I, Mordecai II and John, that the pilgrimages are covering with poorly chartered routes with few markers to guide them, with I fear in few exceptions rather poor sources of information. If this is really a pioneer pilgrimage they are making they are setting out something which ought to be a permanent interest to American people.

Three the book of Ezra.

It went to the clearing upon the head of
his great great grandfather Samuel
had carried a flame in his day.
The Indian question had always
been with the Farmers but no Indian had
captured or killed a Farmer since
an arrow reached him at his wife's
door left his family [illegible]
Indian they in all rushed land.
Mexican Farmers
What Farmers Farmers Indians did
what they build & left or replace
were reoffered in
away - they did, & their they crept
next land.

his father's estate he went up the Schuylkill River and bought a tract of some three hundred acres and here built a house. The date mark reads:- "M L 1733."

Our pilgrims ought to have a delightful time visiting this house. I do not know how they will get there but I should advise driving out from Redding, that being the way I went. The drive is ever good country roads with frequent glimpses of mountain and river. And there is a surprise in the house, itself. There are

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