



*Where Lincoln's Voice was FIRST Heard!*

Experience **OTTAWA** Illinois

# THE OTTAWA LINCOLN

KNEW



Based on "Lincoln Was Here" and other books by C.C. and Aleita Tisler

**(1) FORT JOHNSTON****(East Prospect Street)****May 1832**

Soon after the Blackhawk War broke out, 23 year-old Abraham Lincoln was elected captain of the infantry at New Salem. The infantry came to Ottawa and camped out at Fort Ottawa (now known as Fort Johnston) on the city's south bluff of the Illinois River.

**(2) ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL****October 8, 1848 Just passing through town**

On the morning of October 8, 1848, Abraham Lincoln, his wife, Mary, and sons, Robert, age 4 and Eddie, 19 months old, passed through Ottawa on the Illinois-Michigan Canal. This was also Mr. Lincoln's first chance to view the new Illinois and Michigan Canal that had officially opened on April 16, 1848. Abraham Lincoln had much to do with this Illinois-Michigan Canal project. While serving in the Illinois House of Representatives in 1835, he pushed for construction of the Illinois-Michigan Canal. A plaque stands on the south bank of the Illinois-Michigan Canal between LaSalle and Columbus Streets.

**(3) OTTAWA COURT HOUSE****(Madison Street)****June 11-13, 1851**

Before the famous senatorial debate in Ottawa, Abraham Lincoln and Steven Douglas locked horns in a Supreme Court case here, as Ottawa was the official site of the Northern Grand Division of the Supreme Court. Douglas and his partner, S.T. Logan, won the case, and all three attorneys were reprimanded by the court for their careless handling of a case before this Supreme Court body. Two plaques can be found on the north side of the downtown courthouse in honor of both Lincoln and Douglas.

**OTTAWA COURT HOUSE (Continued) April 1859**

Lincoln represented Governor Matteson in a court case during his last trip to Ottawa before he was elected President.

**(4) I&M CANAL TOLLHOUSE****STATE TOLL COLLECTORS OFFICE****(Columbus Street)****December 3-8, 1852**

Lincoln sat on the Canal Commission to hear all the claims against the I&M Canal. The small tollhouse along the canal was one location where Commission meetings were held during Lincoln's longest stay in Ottawa.

**(5) FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST****(Madison Street)**

When Lincoln visited Ottawa, he attended the Congregational Church on Madison Street. This church no longer stands, but was located next to the current Ottawa City Hall on Madison Street.

**(6) T. LYLE DICKEY HOME****"Valley View"****(LaSalle Street)***Private residence, please be courteous*

T. Lyle Dickey was a respected Ottawa attorney and future justice of the Illinois State Supreme Court, as well as Commander of the Union Cavalry in the Civil War. He was also a beloved friend of Abraham Lincoln. During most of his stays in Ottawa, Lincoln was a houseguest of the Dickeys. Dickey's son-in-law and business partner, William Wallace, was a member of the Whig party and supported Lincoln wholeheartedly in his pursuit of the United States Senate and Presidency. Wallace went on to become a heroic Civil War General and led the 2nd division of the Union Army of Tennessee, for which his brother-in-law, Cyrus Dickey, was also a soldier. The friendship between Lincoln and Dickey endured throughout political disagreement and Lincoln's death on April 15, 1865. Dickey and his son-in-law, General Wallace, are buried in the family gravesite on the north bluff behind the Dickey residence, "Valley View," and General Wallace's home, "The Oaks."

**(7) DICKEY GRAVESITE****(Lincoln Road)***Residential area, please be courteous***(8) WASHINGTON SQUARE****Republican Rally October 7, 1856**

The first Republican ticket nominated John Fremont for President in 1856. Lincoln was a major orator in the campaign for Fremont. On October 7, 1856, the rally came to Ottawa. Nearly five thousand people poured into Washington Park where Lincoln and other Republican enthusiasts spoke of the new party.

**First Lincoln-Douglas Debate-August 21, 1858**

At 2 pm, Washington Park was overflowing with people. No less than 12,000 came from Chicago, Galena, Springfield, Peoria, Quincy, Rock Island, Bloomington, Alton and other points to see the "Rail Splitter" and the "Little Giant" debate the issues of Illinois' future.

Lincoln, the great orator that he was, made his famous "house divided" speech. Lincoln stood on the grounds that slavery was wrong and should be treated as such. Douglas took the "popular sovereignty" stand that if the people of the western territories wanted slavery, they should be allowed to have it. If they did not want it, they would be allowed to discourage or refuse it. The famous debates in 1858 sparked the presidential legacy of Abraham Lincoln, and Ottawa watched as one of America's most beloved men changed the country forever. In 2002, the City of Ottawa installed the remarkable Lincoln-Douglas Debate Memorial Plaza in Washington Park, noted as one of the largest and most impressive monuments of its kind.

**(9) ROCK ISLAND TRAIN DEPOT****(Marquette Street) August 21, 1858**

Abraham Lincoln arrived in Ottawa around noon on the day of the famous debate. He was scheduled to square off in just two hours with Democratic Senatorial candidate, Stephen Douglas, in Ottawa's Washington Park. This was the first of seven debates set at various places across the state. His train came in from Morris with 17 cars. His arrival sparked deafening cheers from the awaiting crowd. He was placed in a carriage beautifully decorated with evergreens and mottoes by the young ladies of Ottawa and was escorted by the procession of bands for nearly half a mile around the park and on to Mayor J. O. Glover's home. Douglas' procession came in by carriage from Peru and was about half as long as Mr. Lincoln's reception.

**(10) MAYOR J.O. GLOVER HOME****(Columbus Street)**

After the Debate, Lincoln was hoisted onto the shoulders of several husky gentlemen and was carried several hundred feet down Columbus Street. He finally wriggled loose and walked to the Mayor Glover's house, shaking hands along the way with some 5,000 supporters. Once he arrived at the home, Mayor Glover made a speech in Lincoln's honor from his porch. The site is now marked by a plaque at the 800 block of Columbus Street.

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[Tourism@Experienceottawa.com](mailto:Tourism@Experienceottawa.com)