

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Monument to a President

Every effort has been made in Springfield, Ill., to furnish the only home Abraham Lincoln ever owned, as it was when the Lincoln's lived there. Some of the original furniture has been recovered from museums and private collectors, and missing pieces approximately duplicated. A few years ago, with the assistance of the Colonial Dames of America, the upstairs rooms and the kitchen were furnished, so that now the entire residence is open to visitors. The house has an old-fashioned, lived-in appearance, such as it must have had through the years when the Lincoln family occupied it, according to a columnist who reported a visit there for the New York Times.

Lincoln resided in the house until his election to Congress and later to the presidency, took him away from Springfield in his farewell address, on leaving for his inauguration, he spoke these significant words: "To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything . . . I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return."

He left his house rented, as if he hoped someday to go back to Springfield. But only in death did he return, to rest in one of the most beautiful and most visited tombs in the world, with his wife and three of his four children.

Here in outstanding works of sculpture, in the flags encircling the cenotaph bearing his name, in the carved epitaph uttered by Secretary Stanton. "Now he belongs to the ages," and in the reverent faces of those who visit the place where he lies, the story of Abraham Lincoln, the great president, is eloquently told.

But it is in the sturdy old house at 8th and Jackson streets even amid anachronistic commercial displays that the life of Lincoln, the man, is enshrined. For these were the streets he walked, exchanging a salutation, or a few friendly words, with neighbors he encountered; these steps he mounted, the door through which he passed, as he came and went on his daily activities. Here he lived with his wife and children, sharing the daily work, the problems and responsibilities, the joys and sorrows, that are the common lot of men.

Amid the most problems and responsibilities to which he went, his thoughts often must have turned back

nostalgically to the home that he had left. Something of his living-presence can still be felt within its walls.

Another story which we have just read, which again reminded us of Monterey and our struggle to save the old adobe buildings, here appeared in the Christian Science Monitor. So, we will move on to Lexington, Ky., and relate what is happening there these days. The story is headed: "Kentucky is to have a New Tourist Attraction."

This new attraction will be a restored 110-year-old mansion in Lexington that will depict all phases of life in the state and the changes that have taken place in each since pioneer times. It will be known as the Kentucky Life Museum.

While articles for display are being assembled, carpenters from the University of Kentucky's maintenance department are transforming the mansion into a museum. The old house formerly known as Waveland, is being restored to conform with the period in which it was constructed. Waveland was built in 1847 by Joseph Bryan Sr., member of a prominent Bluegrass and central Kentucky family.

Daniel Boone surveyed the 2,000 acres where Waveland stands for his nephew, Daniel Boone Bryan, on one of his trips to the Falls of the Ohio.

We, in Monterey, have shrines such as these, except that we do not have the former home of a president of the United States. But we do have the home of former governor of the State, the Old Custom House, the First Theatre, Colton Hall, and much else of historic interest. The Stevenson House is a repository for much Stevensoniana, and is a house museum on the second floor, well worth a climb up the stairs to see and enjoy. It is furnished in the period when it was occupied by

The Gonzales and Giardin families. Much of the furnishings in these old buildings have been placed there by the Monterey History and Art Assoc., acquired either by gift or purchase from those who owned them, in order that they might be preserved or restored.