Illinois
Illinois Towns
Mount Pulaski

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
Court House Where He Practiced in Illinois Becomes Shrine

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 11.-A new memorial to Abraham Lincoln, the old Mount Pulaski court house, will be opened tomorrow on the 130th anniversary of his birth. It was in this court house that "Old Abe" argued law cases while he was a circuit rider.

Thousands of persons visited the Civil War President's tomb today or attended gatherings honoring his memory.

Services tomorrow include an address by Stephen F. Chadwick, national commander of the American Legion, and a talk from New York by Raymond Massey, who impersonates Lincoln in a current play.
Abraham Lincoln Tablet on the Old Logan County Court House, Mt. Pulaski, Illinois. Dedicated by Judge Lawrence B. Stringer.

Abraham Lincoln
PRACTICED LAW CONTINUOUSLY AS HE TRAVELED THE CIRCUIT OF THE OLD EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.
THE SQUARE UPON WHICH THIS BUILDING STANDS WAS DEDICATED TO THE PUBLIC IN 1836 BY JABEZ CAPP, GEORGE W. TURLAY, BARTON ROBINSON AND OTHERS, PROPRIETORS OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF MT. PULASKI, AND THIS BUILDING WAS ERECTED THEREON IN 1849 WITH FUNDS CONTRIBUTED WHOLLY BY THE PIONEER SETTLEMENTS OF MT. PULASKI AND VICINITY.

ERECTED BY
BUSINESS MENS CLUB.

On Tuesday, February 13, 1857, when the Abraham Lincoln Monument Fund was constituted, his name was written in capital letters on the north side of the old Logan court house building which was designated the Abraham Lincoln Memorial. Judge Lawrence B. Stringer, of Lincoln, Illinois, was selected to speak on the occasion.

Lincoln's birthday anniversary was Thursday, February 12, but on this same day last year, Judge Stringer had been invited to deliver a short address on the life of Abraham Lincoln before the Illinois Club in Chicago. The address was delivered, and on February 13, Lincoln's birthday, Judge Stringer was invited to deliver a similar address at the Logan County Court House in Mt. Pulaski, Illinois. The address was delivered, and the dedication ceremony was completed.

Abraham Lincoln Tablet on the Old Logan County Court House, Mt. Pulaski, Illinois. Dedicated by Judge Lawrence B. Stringer.

JUDGE LAWRENCE B. STRINGER

Take this tablet, Judge Stringer, and use it wisely to inspire the youth of Mt. Pulaski and the surrounding area.

The tablet is a beautiful piece of craftsmanship, and it is considered to be a valuable asset to the community. The inscription on the tablet is:

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A short time later Mr. Capps, Dr. Robinson and George Turley visited the "old hill" and a townsite company was formed, including those three men, James Robinson, J. P. Davis, Alexander Lindsay, James Scott, George McDaniels and George coin was established and the seat of county government was transferred to the new town.

The Mt. Pulaski court house then became a public school and was used for that purpose until 1877. For about 45 years the first floor of the old

Building at Mt. Pulaski Where Lincoln Held Court

Above is the old Logan county court house at Mt. Pulaski, where Abraham Lincoln as a struggling circuit rider, practiced law. After the county seat was moved to Lincoln the building was for some time used as a school and later as a post office until it was recently taken over by the state to be restored as a Lincoln Memorial. The state has agreed to restore it to the condition it was in at the time Lincoln used it.
Mt. Pulaski, Founded By
Group From Springfield,
Is Hundred Years Old

By PAUL E. BEIDLER
State Register Special Service

MT. PULASKI, ILL.—A hundred years as a trading post and a city is marked this year by Mt. Pulaski, which first came into existence in 1836 when Jabez Capps and a group of Springfield friends established a town on a hill.

Mt. Pulaski has always been a good, substantial city, a place of many good homes and a world of fine trees. Situated on a hill in the Illinois prairie, about 100 feet higher than the surrounding country, it gives a commanding view of some of the state's most fertile lands. It has always been an agricultural community, which accounts largely for the fact that the city has never grown to one of greater population. There are about 1,450 residents in the city.

The march of time has changed conditions for many central Illinois towns as men with large families have sought employment in centers of great concentration and activity. Through the past 40 years Mt. Pulaskians have located in Springfield, Decatur, Bloomington and Chicago, and in fact former residents are now located in practically every state of the union.

At the time Springfield was established in 1820, pioneer families from Kentucky began to settle along the timber line on Lake Fork, southwest of Mt. Pulaski and on Salt Creek, north of the present site of Mt. Pulaski, and to travel many miles to a trading point.

When the village was founded in 1836 these rugged settlers aided in the growth of the new town and within a few years it had become a place of more than 300 persons.

Jabez Capps Founder

The history of the founding of Mt. Pulaski centers about its founder, Jabez Capps, who was born in London, England, on Sept. 19, 1796. Coming to the United States in 1817, he finally located in Calhoun in 1820, the early Sangamon county town which began and became a part of Springfield. Here Mr. Capps lived until 1836, being one of Springfield's pioneer merchants and one of its first schoolteachers.

Mr. Capps married Prudence Ann Stafford in Springfield in 1829 and four sons were born to this union. His home in Springfield was where the Alton railroad station now stands.

Living at Mr. Capps' home was his brother-in-law, Dr. Alexander Shields. In 1836, Dr. Shields was called on a professional trip to a point northeast of the present site of Mt. Pulaski. Upon seeing the hill, it summoned him as a monument set in the prairie.

On his return to Springfield he told Mr. Capps what he had seen and expressed the opinion that the hill would make an excellent site for a new town. Dr. Barton Robinson, then living in Buffalo Barr, heard the conversation and at once became interested.

Returning to Mt. Pulaski, Robinson engaged in the insurance business with Mr. Capps. Robinson was one of the original three owners of the Salt Creek Land and Real Estate Co., the corporation which set up the town in 1836.

Rice, all residents of Springfield and vicinity.

Land Entered

As agent for the townsite company, Barton Robinson, on July 5, 1836, entered 400 acres in Township 14, north of Springfield, west 142 acres of which was to constitute the new townsite.

During the same month Thomas R. Skinner, an assistant county surveyor of Sangamon county and a co-worker with Abraham Lincoln, surveyed the proposed townsite and certified the same.

The site included 46 blocks, block 23, the crest of the hill, becoming the public square.

The new town was given the name of Mt. Pulaski in honor of Count Pulaski, who came from Poland and became a Revolutionary war hero.

The prefix "Mount" was taken from the fact that the town was constructed on a hill.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Capps married Elizabeth Baker and with his family came to Mt. Pulaski that fall and erected the first building on the west side of the square, a two-story log cabin structure with a store on the first floor and living quarters on the second.

Ten children were born to this second union, three of whom are still living, resident of Mt. Pulaski. They are William and Harry B. Capps and Mrs. W. H. Stafford. Mr. Capps died in Mt. Pulaski in April, 1896, just five months lacking attaining his hundredth birthday.

Within a couple of years the town began to grow and the country in all directions was cleared for settlement.

In the year of 1839 the territory now constituting Logan county was one of three counties created from territory carved from Sangamon county. Abraham Lincoln was chairman of the committee on counties in the Illinois legislature that year and from his committee came a bill creating these three new counties.

Logan county was named for Dr. John Logan of Murphysboro, father of General John A. Logan.

Once County Seat

Postville, now a part of the city of Lincoln, was the first county seat, being established in 1839. In 1847 Mt. Pulaski was voted as the county seat and the following year the old court house still standing in the Mt. Pulaski square, was erected and the seat of county government changed to this place.

Logan county was then a part of the old eighth Judicial district, made famous by the circuit itinerary of Abraham Lincoln, the lawyer and Judge David Davis. It is an interesting fact that after Abraham Lincoln became president, he appointed Judge David Davis to the supreme court of the United States. Judge Davis later became U. S. senator and acting vice president.

With the building of the Chicago and Alton railroad, the city of Lin-
LINCOLN VISITED MANY TOWNS AS HE RODE CIRCUIT

Courthouses At Metamora And Mt. Pulaski Are Still Standing.

Many central Illinois towns were visited by Abraham Lincoln during the years he traveled the Eighth Judicial Circuit. This circuit covered the whole east central half of the state, and its area varied from time to time. Today most of these county seats are marked with Lincoln circuit tablets—brick granite slabs four feet high, to which a bronze plaque is attached, presenting his profile with these words:

Abraham Lincoln
Traveled This Way As He Rode The
Circuit Of The
Eighth Judicial District, 1847-1859.

Among the county seats thus marked are: Springfield, Metamora (Woodford county), Lincoln (Logan), Clinton (DeWitt), Urbana (Champaign), Paris (Edgar), Shelbyville (Shelby), Decatur (Macon), Petersburg (Monarda), Pekin (Tazewell), Bloomington (McLean), Mt. Pulaski (Logan), Monticello (Piatt), Danville ( Vermilion), Charleston (Coles), Sullivan (Moultrie), Taylorville (Christian), and Havana in Mason county.

Lincoln Followed Court.

Court was held twice a year, in spring and fall, and the terms were arranged to come in regular order. Thus the judge moved readily from one court to another, most of the bar following him around. Not all of them, however, rode the entire circuit, as Lincoln did, getting well acquainted with Judge David Davis, who was circuit judge most of the time and whom Lincoln later named to the United States Supreme Court.

"We were admitted to the bar about the same time," Judge Davis later said of himself and Lincoln, "and traveled for many years what is known in Illinois as the Eighth Judicial Circuit. In 1848 when I first went on the bench, the circuit embraced fourteen counties, and Mr. Lincoln went with the court to every county. Railroads were not then in use and our mode of travel was either on horseback or in buggies."

Few Courthouses Remain.

County seats at that time contained a population of less than a thousand. Some of the courthouses and many of the jails were log structures. The same towns now have populations of from 5,000 to more than 15,000 and possess attractive, modern courthouses.

Most of these old courthouses are gone now. In Urbana, the present building is constructed around what was the courthouse in Lincoln's day. In quiet Metamora the old courthouse still stands, as well as in Mt. Pulaski—all of them owned by the state as memorials to Lincoln.

Metamora, of course, no longer is the Woodford county seat, nor is Mt. Pulaski the seat of Logan county. The building at Metamora was built of brick, trimmed with walnut in 1848. Under the roof of this structure at times were Lincoln,
Monmouth, Ill.

Lincoln spoke in Monmouth in the course of the 1858 senatorial campaign on Oct. 11. Following a selection by the Monmouth Republican Glee club, he was introduced by Philo E. Reed and spoke for three hours.

Springfield, Ill.

New Lincoln Memorial Opens in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (AP) — A new memorial to Abraham Lincoln, the old Mt. Pulaski, Ill., courthouse, will be opened today on the 130th anniversary of his birth.

It was in this courthouse that “Old Abe” argued law cases while he was a circuit rider.

Thousands of persons pilgrim to the wartime President’s tomb yesterday or attended gatherings honoring his memory.

Services today include an address by Stephen F. Chadwick, national commander of the American Legion, and a talk from New York by actor Raymond Massey, who impersonates Lincoln in a current Broadway play.
Abraham Lincoln was probably as well acquainted with the Mt. Pulaski Court House as any building in the old Eighth Circuit. This fine brick building, standing today as it did in Lincoln's time, is maintained as one of Illinois' memorials to its most outstanding citizen.


The first Logan County court house was at Postville now in the southwest part of Lincoln. This building was purchased in 1829 by Henry Ford and stands in Greenfield Village at Dearborn, Michigan. The State has reproduced this building on its original site where it stands as a state memorial.

Court sessions were held in Postville between 1840 and 1848. In 1847 the booming town of Mt. Pulaski, named for Count Casimir Pulaski of Revolutionary War fame, offered a business block and a new building as an inducement to move the county seat. The Mt. Pulaski backers won the resulting election. To build the court house the citizens raised $2,700 which was supplemented by a county appropriation of $300.

The court house, which is 70% intact today, served the county until 1854 when the county seat by legislation was moved to Lincoln. This thriving new community was named for the Springfield lawyer who was a trusted friend and attorney of the town's founders.

The Mt. Pulaski Court House was used as a schoolhouse until 1878, then as a city hall and jail, and finally as a post office and headquarters for various town officials. In 1896 it was acquired as a state memorial from the city of Mt. Pulaski and restoration work was begun.

In the restoration the state removed the partitions put in the building over the years thus giving it its original arrangement, took down the schoolhouse cupola and bell and restored the front door to its original appearance.

On removing the floor on the second story, the original floor was found underneath intact with the holes for the spindles used in the judge's stand. On this floor the court and jury rooms are as when the structure was built.

In recent years the state has gradually been acquiring furniture proper for a court house of this period looking forward to the day when it will have the appearance it had in Lincoln's day. An interesting item is the gavel used by Judge David Davis when he held court here.

The late Judge Lawrence B. Stringer of Lincoln wrote of several interesting cases held in a court house in which Abraham Lincoln participated and one he called the "Horological Cradle."

**ANOTHER PART OF THE YESTERYEAR FAIR**

**MT. PULASKI COURT HOUSE**

Decatur, Illinois, September 1, 1971 Page 7-A

"Another famous case tried by Mr. Lincoln at Mt. Pulaski was what was known as the "Horological Cradle case." The cause involved the trade of an alleged patent on a cradle for a valuable tract of land."

"The patent as described by Mr. Lincoln in his declaration was 'a cradle, rocked by machinery, with weights running on pulleys, the cradle the pendulum and which being wound up would rock itself until it ran down, thus giving time to mothers and nurses.' Lincoln operated the cradle in open court and when Judge Davis asked, "how the thing could be stopped when desirable," Mr. Lincoln replied:

'It's like some of the glib talkers you and I know, Judge, it won't stop until it runs down.'"

"Mr. Lincoln took the cradle to his office in Springfield, where he operated it in his leisure time. Exhibiting it to John W. Bunn, a Springfield banker, upon Bunn asking the same question as Davis, Lincoln made a similar reply. At the same term of court, Mr. Lincoln tried another patent case involving a "cast-iron tombstone."

The Mt. Pulaski courtroom saw much of Lincoln who for nearly a quarter of a century rode the circuit, first as a partner of John T. Stuart, later as an associate of Stephen T. Logan, and finally as a senior member of the firm of Lincoln and Herndon, a partnership dissolved by Lincoln's assassination.

One of Mt. Pulaski's leading attorneys was Samuel C. Parks and also associated with him. Parks gathered the cases and Lincoln joined him in the trials. Lincoln had similar associations in other counties.

During most of his career at the bar Lincoln spent nearly half his time away from Springfield riding from county to county, at first on a horse he groomed himself, later in a rig, and trying cases throughout a territory that at one time or another took in the counties of Logan, McLean, Tazewell, Vermillion, Champaign, Woodford, Mason, Sangamon, Christian, Moultrie, Shelby, Edgar and Piatt.

By turn, moody and ebullient, cracking jokes and fracturing or sitting alone, Lincoln was one of the most popular of the itinerant company of barristers who traveled the circuit.

Over the entire area, which took in one-fifth of the State of Illinois, his was familiar figure. Gaunt, tall, with disproportionately long legs and unusually large hands and feet, he cared little for personal appearance, but was recognized for his sound knowledge, his common-sense and his endless store of wit.

Historians agree that these years at Mt. Pulaski, Metamora and other towns on this route, had much to do with his later greatness.
RODEO AT FAIRGROUNDS

Saturday and Sunday, September the 18th and 19th, at the Macon County Fairgrounds, located in northwest Decatur just off Rt. 121 will be held Henson's Silver Dollar Rodeo of Yesteryear Fair at 8:00 p.m., Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, price $1.50 general admission adults, $1.00 children; reserved seats $2.00. Although national rodeo stars will be competing for prize money in the saddle broncs, barebacks, Braham bulls, calf roping, and bull riding events, it will also include trick riding, quadrille or dance on horseback, trick horses, clowns, clown dog and pony acts, horse and pony races, jumping horses, Roman style riding, climaxing with chariot races. On Saturday night a red hot finish -- the burning of the covered wagon. The show has a cost of 40 people and 100 head of stock combined for two hours of thrills and spills.

BENEFIT PONY SHOW

The Decatur Humane Society Benefit Pony Show will be held September 25-26, starting time for each show is 9:30 a.m. Admission is free to the public. All proceeds will go to the Decatur Humane Society, Showgrounds are located at the Decatur Trailriders Clubhouse on Lost Bridge Road.

On September 25 the Western Pony Show will be held with judging by Virgil Ratz of Warsaw, Ill. Classes include geldings and stallions, any age; POA geldings and stallions, any age; POA mares and fillies, any age; Paint pony geldings and stallions, any age; Paint pony mares and fillies, any age; Model pony-open; Pleasure Pony 46" and under; Pleasure Pony 46" and over; POA Pleasure Pony; Stock seat equitation; Western costume class "a" Pony Rainbow.

On September 26 the English Pony Show will be held, Classes include: Fine Harness Pony-Lady or child to drive; Hackney Pony in Harness, 51" and under; Draft Pony Hitch to Wagon, team of 3; Pony Hunter over Fences, not to exceed 2 1/2", Roadster Pony, 46" and under, with colors, to bike; Hackney Pony in Harness 51" and over; Pony Hunter under saddle; Three-gaited English Pleasure Pony; Fine Harness Pony, open; Roadster Pony, 50" and under, with colors, to bike; Draft Pony Hitch to Wagon, team of 4; Pony Handy Hunter, fences not to exceed 2 1/2", Special Draft Pony Hitch Class-any number over 4 in team; English Pleasure Pony Performance- obediency; Costume Class-any costume except with a Western theme; English Equestrian-Saddle Seat or Hunt Seat, pony and rider to be suitably tacked and attired.

The rules include: 1) Decatur Humane Society and all persons affiliated with the production of this show will not be responsible for any accident, injury to, or loss of any person, animal, or property on the premises. 2) Entry fee in each class is $3.00; an office charge of $1.00 per pony entered is payable with the entry fee, Post Entries accepted. 3) Judges decisions will be final. Cards will be posted. 4) This show is operated under American Horse Show Association Rules. Abuse of cruelty to animals on the premises will cause dismissal of the show.

HISTORICAL SITES & STATUES IN DECATUR
WE SALUTE THE POST OFFICE AT MOUNT PULASKI

Abraham Lincoln, as a young lawyer, rode on horseback from town to town on the 8th Judicial Circuit. He tried many cases (before Judge David Davis) in this courthouse. The famous Lincoln "horological cradle" case was tried at Mount Pulaski.

Starting in 1856 the courthouse was used as a schoolhouse until 1877. The post office was then moved into the old courthouse until 1936 when the State of Illinois restored the building and made it a Lincoln Shrine. The post office was moved into a brick building on the west side of the square until January 1, 1963 when a new leased facility was built for the Postal Service.

The Mount Pulaski post office serves a city population of 1,732 and has a total of 3,420 customers, including two rural routes. It is a second class office with receipts last year of $39,832.54.

Abraham Lincoln had a private post office box when he lived in Springfield. The Springfield Post Office was remodeled in 1858 and the box was moved to Mount Pulaski. It is now in the Abe Lincoln Shrine in that city.

The people of Mount Pulaski feel that they are walking in the tall shadow of a great President, Lawyer, POSTMASTER, and man...Abe Lincoln.

In keeping with our Lincolnland theme this month we salute the Post Office at Mount Pulaski. The information is furnished by Harry Van Hook, Postmaster.

The post office at Mount Pulaski was established March 27, 1837 in a log cabin one and one-half mile south of the city and was named Scroggin, Sangamon County, Ill. One year later, the name was changed to Mount Pulaski and the post office was moved to a two story log cabin at the present site of the city, which then had a population of 300.

In 1848, the county seat was moved to Mount Pulaski and a brick courthouse was built by the citizens of the city.
Our first newsletter brought many favorable comments, both from the employees at the Springfield Post Office and Postmasters at associate offices.

These comments were certainly appreciated and we sincerely hope that this monthly publication will serve the purpose for which it was intended — to publish articles of interest to our entire postal family.

We are proud of our masthead which features "Lincoln as Postmaster" and certainly adds to the elegant makeup of our publication.

Again, we solicit items for publication from employees of the Springfield Post Office as well as Postmasters from our Associate Offices. Send them to: Postmaster, Springfield, Illinois 62703.

We have listened to Postmaster General Klassen's statements of March 29 outlining policies of the U. S. Postal Service concerning courtesy to our customers, service improvement, cost reduction and actions to be taken to achieve these goals. We join with all of you in pledging our support of these policies.

The thousands of dedicated employees will play a vital role in building a U. S. Postal Service that is responsive to our customers' needs with standards of service that meet or exceed 95% "next-day delivery" goals.

All of us working together, with trust and confidence, as a team can produce a level of service and efficiency unsurpassed in Post Office annals.

The U. S. Postal Service announced plans for an improved money order system.

This system will improve service to the public by reducing issuance time, by offering a modern paper check-style money order and an improved customer receipt.

The receipt will contain all pertinent information regarding the money order, such as the serial number, the date of issue, the office of issue, face amount, and the payee and payer names and addresses.

Tests of the new system will start about October 1, 1972, followed by operational introduction on a regional basis in February 1973. Total nationwide conversion will be completed July 1, 1973.

PERSONALS

Congratulations to Harold E. Stephens, newly appointed postmaster at Havana. He was first appointed as a temporary substitute carrier in 1948 at Rushville and was assistant to the Postmaster in that city before being named Officer in Charge at Havana some 30 months ago.

Congratulations to Robert L. Toliver and William G. Tisckos, clerks at the Springfield Post Office who have recorded their 10th consecutive 100% scheme examination. Allyn E. Crouse recorded his 9th. Other clerks who recently completed 100% scheme exams are Louis E. Walls, Bernard T. Goulet and Willard Dean.

Our sincere sympathies to Richard C. Groesch, assistant postmaster at the Springfield Post Office, and his family in the death of his sister, Ruth.
EDITORIAL

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NOTICE TO DRIVER: DRIVE COURTEOUSLY; OBSERVE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS; PROTECT CHILDREN
mount pulaski courthouse
STATE HISTORIC SITE
THE COURTHOUSE

Mt. Pulaski Courthouse is a two-story brick building, standing today as it did in Lincoln's time. The courthouse is an excellent example of Greek revival architecture as found in Illinois.

The first Logan County courthouse was at Postville now in the southwest part of Lincoln. The Postville Courthouse was purchased in 1929 by Henry Ford and stands in Greenfield Village at Dearborn, Michigan. The state has reproduced this building on its original site where it stands as a state memorial.

Court sessions were held in Postville between 1840 and 1848. In 1847 the booming town of Mt. Pulaski, named for Count Casimir Pulaski of Revolutionary War fame, offered a business block and a new building as an inducement to move the county seat. The Mt. Pulaski backers won the resulting election. To build the courthouse, the citizens raised $2,700 which was supplemented by a county appropriation of $300.

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RESTORATION

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Gradually the historians have found furniture
used in this period and once again the historic Mt. Pulaski Courthouse has the appearance it had in Lincoln's day, including most of the law books and the gavel used by Judge David Davis when he held court here. The jail in the basement has not been restored.

LINCOLN AT MT. PULASKI

Cradle Case: Many interesting cases were heard in the Mt. Pulaski Courthouse on the old Eighth Circuit. A famous case tried by Abraham Lincoln at Mt. Pulaski was what was known as the "horological cradle" case. The case involved the trade of an alleged patent on a cradle for a valuable tract of land.

The patent as described by Mr. Lincoln in his declaration was "a cradle, rocked by machinery, with weights running on pulleys, the cradle was the pendulum and which being wound up would rock itself until it ran down, thus saving time to mothers and nurses." Lincoln operated the cradle in open court and when Judge Davis asked, "how the thing could be stopped when desirable," Mr. Lincoln replied, "It's like some of the glib talkers you and I know, Judge, it won't stop until it runs down."

Partners: The Mt. Pulaski courtroom saw much of Lincoln who for nearly a quarter of a century rode the circuit, first as a partner of John T. Stuart, later as an associate of Stephen T. Logan and finally as a senior member of the firm of Lincoln and Herndon, a partnership later dissolved by Lincoln's assassination.

One of Mt. Pulaski's leading attorneys, Samuel C. Parks, was also associated with Lincoln. Parks gathered the cases and Lincoln joined him in the trials. Lincoln had similar associations in other counties.

THE CIRCUIT COURT SYSTEM

Illinois' circuit court system, adopted in 1839, was patterned after that of Kentucky. The state was divided into multi-county circuits, each with a judge who traveled from county to county within his jurisdiction until he completed the judicial business of each county. Court sessions
sometimes lasted as long as six weeks at a county seat.

Following the same route were groups of traveling lawyers who met with their clients on courthouse lawns, under nearby trees or on the public streets. At night they gathered convivially in village inns. Some of these men had been well educated in the east, while others, like Lincoln, had little formal training. "Circuit-riding" provided a real test of an attorney's legal skill and wisdom. Attorneys of Lincoln's day served a thinly scattered population and had to ride the circuit in order to make a living.

Eighth Judicial Circuit: It was a hard life with small fees, pioneer living conditions and extensive, difficult travel. The Eighth Judicial Circuit, for example, was very large, at one time encompassing 11,000 square miles, slightly larger than the state of Maryland.

There were periodic alterations, but none of these appreciably reduced the circuit's size during the time Lincoln followed the route regularly.

Lincoln labored on the Eighth Circuit full time for a dozen years and on a part time basis for several more, but he seemed to thrive in that environment. His famous story telling sessions, the close friendships he formed and the political contacts he made in those years apparently compensated him for the weary hours of travel, the poor food and inferior lodging. Except for the two years he served in Congress, he devoted at least half of each year to circuit traveling until he became President.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

Nearby Lincoln points of interest are the Lincoln Home, the Old State Capitol and the Lincoln Tomb, all in Springfield. Other state parks and memorials involving Lincoln include Metamora Courthouse, Postville Courthouse, Vandalia Statehouse, Lincoln Log Cabin, Railsplitter State Park, Lincoln Trail, Lincoln Trail Homestead, Lincoln's New Salem, Lincoln Monument and Lincoln Trail Monument.

For further information concerning Illinois State Historic Sites write to the Department of Conservation, 405 E. Washington, Springfield, IL 62706.
Lincoln Tableau relives early courthouse scene.

Actor portraying Abe Lincoln

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Where Lincoln Practiced Law

The old courthouse at Mt. Pulaski, shown above, used for many years as a postoffice and for police headquarters, is now the property of the state and is being restored as a Lincoln memorial. Mt. Pulaski was one of the many towns visited by Lincoln as he traveled the eighth judicial circuit, and he practiced in this building from 1848 (when the county seat was removed from Postville) until 1855, when the city Lincoln became the Logan county seat.
Lincoln Shrine Restored. Extortion Attempt.

IN THIS PLAIN BRICK STRUCTURE, the old Courthouse at Mt. Pulaski, Ill., Abraham Lincoln once argued cases. The building was opened to the public on Lincoln's birthday, Sunday, for the first time since its purchase by the state in 1936. It has been restored to its original state. The building was erected in 1848; used as a Courthouse until 1855, when the county seat was moved to Lincoln, later being used as a school, jail, post office and town hall. (Associated Press.)
Mt. Pulaski Shrine

State Is Restoring Former Logan Courthouse, Where
Lincoln Practiced On Eighth Judicial Circuit.

Mt. Pulaski, June 29.—The name of Abraham Lincoln is revered and held sacred by the citizens of Mt. Pulaski, not only because of his honesty and sincerity but also because his public career, in a way, had its beginning here and his memory is being perpetuated in this little city where is located one of the two courthouses, still standing in the state, where many of his legal triumphs were won.

The courthouse, which stands in the center of the public square, was built in 1847, and was the second courthouse built in Logan county. The first was at Postville, then the county seat, now a part of the city of Lincoln. The Postville courthouse was sold a few years ago to Henry Ford who moved the building to Michigan.

The county seat was removed from Postville to Mt. Pulaski in 1848 and this city continued as the county seat until 1855 when it was moved to Lincoln. The old courthouse building in Mt. Pulaski, recently deeded to the state of Illinois, stands on one of the highest points in the county. Plans have been prepared and work has started, to restore the building as far as possible, to its original condition, and when completed it will be maintained by the state of Illinois as a Lincoln memorial.

Served Many Uses.

The old building has been put to many uses since the removal of the county seat to Lincoln. By an act of the legislature in 1857, the building and grounds was turned over to a board of trustees of the school district and for many years thereafter it was used for school purposes. A few changes were made to the interior but no alterations were made to exterior for a number of years. Many of the older citizens received their education in the building, among them being G. C. Zehl, the present custodian of the building and grounds.

In later years, as the population of the city increased and larger school quarters were needed, the district erected a school building in the eastern part of the city and the courthouse was abandoned for school purposes in 1878. For a few years thereafter, the building was used for various purposes including a jail, office of police magistrate and police headquarters and about fifty years ago half of the ground floor was leased by the government for post-office purposes. A few years later, the entire lower floor was converted to the use of the post-office.

On Feb. 1, 1938, the postoffice, police magistrate and police headquarters changed locations and the building was turned over to the state of Illinois.

Was Legion Headquarters.

The upper floor, where was located the courtroom in which Abraham Lincoln pleaded cases, has been used in later years as a meeting place for civic organizations and was again used for school purposes in the winter of 1911 after the destruction by fire of the combined Mt. Pulaski High and grade school.

The Mt. Pulaski library also used part of the upper floor for several years and the band headquarters also was maintained there. A year or two after the close of the World War, Ryman-Fultien post, American Legion, established their headquarters on the upper floor of the building and they were the last tenants to vacate the building.

The Mt. Pulaski courthouse is a two-story and basement brick building and is in an excellent state of preservation. It cost $3,000. Of this sum $2,700 was raised by popular subscription and $300 was given by the county. It is historic because within its walls several of the men of that day, who later became nationally famous in legal combat, including Abraham Lincoln who appeared more often in this building than any other in the county, and Stephen A. Douglas, who appeared in no other courthouse in the county.

Natives Recall Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln was a familiar figure in Mt. Pulaski during court sessions of the Eighth Judicial district and is remembered by at least two persons who came in personal contact with him. John C. Mier, now in his ninety-sixth year, a native of this city and its last surviving Civil war veteran, remembers Mr. Lincoln very distinctly, mainly, because Lincoln defended and cleared a group of boys, among them being Mr. Mier, for a prank that almost proved serious to the victim of the prank.

Another citizen who remembers him is Mrs. Jane Holler, now in her eighty-ninth year, who when a girl in her early teens, has a vivid recollection of meeting and shaking hands with both Lincoln and Douglas at a Douglas political rally held in the city of Lincoln in 1858.

In addition at Mt. Pulaski lives one of the nearest living relatives of Abraham Lincoln—Mrs. Susan Upp, whose mother, Mrs. Sarah Lincoln Morris, was a third cousin of the Civil war president.