

ENOCH LINCOLN

1788-1829

The land for the town of Lincoln was purchased from Enoch Lincoln, who was governor of the State of Maine at that time, and the town was named for him.

Enoch Lincoln was born in Worcester, Mass. Dec. 28, 1788. He received a degree of Master of Arts from Bowden College, entered Harvard, studied law with his brother and was admitted to the bar in 1811. He practiced in Salem and Worcester going to Fryeburg, Maine in 1812.

Fryeburg, which was incorporated in 1777, was a village of attractive scenery and local importance. It had been the scene of the most memorable and important Indian combat in the state. Mr. Lincoln spent his first weeks here in rambling about the woods and holding converse with nature and her simple children. He was very much interested in the Indians and their welfare. He won their friendship, studied their language and ways of living. He believed the French to be the Indian's best and truest friend.

Mr. Lincoln was elected to congress March 16, 1818 and served eight terms. He was elected as the third governor of the state of Maine and began his duties January 1827. He was twice re-elected serving from 1826 to 1829. As governor, he was distinguished by his zealous devotion to the people's interests and the scholarly character of his state papers. His messages were noted for their suggestiveness, point, brevity and good taste. One of his Thanksgiving speeches became so popular that it was printed on satin by his admirers for future preservation.

One day Governor Lincoln was traveling in New Hampshire and not being sure of his direction he inquired of a small boy

who was out, ax in hand, chopping one of the logs of a formidable pile of wood. Mr. Lincoln asked the lad several questions which the boy answered promptly and with more than usual self-reliance for one of his years. Mr. Lincoln thanked him and said, "Now tell me your name?"

The boy replied, "My name is Levi Lincoln Osgood, sir. I was named for one of our governors of Massachusetts."

Gov. Lincoln, the fourth son of Levi Lincoln, took from his purse a coined dollar, handed it to the boy, and said,

"Tell your father I shall come this way again, and if he is willing I will put you in school. You are a smart boy."

The boy took off his hat, bowed and thanked the governor in a manner much beyond his years.

True to his word, Mr. Lincoln kept his promise.

Mr. Lincoln is often referred to as the Poet-Governor. During his governorship he wrote a poem of two thousand lines entitled "The Village." No poem of so wide scope and sustained length had thus far appeared in our land. The poet Lowell was not yet born and Longfellow, Whittier and Holmes were mere school boys. This poem deals with many, many different subjects. It was published anonymously and fell into obscurity. It is believed that its great length kept many from reading it. Mr. Lincoln is speaking for the Indians in the following extract from his lengthy poem:

"Ye spoilers of all that the red men possessed,
 Why disturb ye thy shade in the peace of the grave?
 In the region of spirits why trouble my rest,
 And blacken the fame of the great and the brave?
 When ye came o'er the big rolling waters afer,
 We received you as brothers and gave you our food;
 But ye burst on our heads with your thunders of war,
 Ye plundered our wigwams and drank of our blood.
 Ye robbed from our hunters the wilds of their game,

With our wives and our children ye drove us away.
To our chiefs with the furies of discord ye came,
And incited our tribes on each other to prey.
Ye never with us from the calument smoked,
Nor the sagemite feast of our friendship partook
Ye white men, complain not of ills you provoked,
For our laws and our customs we never forsook."

Mr. Lincoln's health began to fail during his last year as Governor. He was not afraid of death. He conversed on the subject hour after hour, and with perfect composure. Although delirious in his last hours he never uttered an equivocal sentiment or improper word. He never lost sight of his personal dignity.

During his last hours, he arose in his delirium, and delivered an address in eloquent and powerful language, though it was occasionally incoherent. He then sank into an untroubled sleep.

Governor Lincoln died October 8, 1829, having nearly completed his forty-first year. He was never married. He was buried with public honors on the grounds fronting the capitol at Augusta, where his remains still repose.

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The following song was sung in Lincoln and vicinity over a hundred years ago. Victoria Folsom (a former resident of Transalpine) contributed same after the author had searched many years for it.

OLD POD-AUGUR TIMES

I'll sing to you of good old times
When people were honest and true,
Before their brains were addled and crazed
By every thing strange and new,
When every man was a working man
And earned his livelihood,
And women were smart and industrious
And lived with their families good.

In the days of Andrew Jackson,
And old Grandfather Grimes,
When a man wasn't known by the clothes he wore,
In old Pod-Augur times.

Young men didn't loaf about the streets
And struggle with bad cigars,
Nor stay out nights when they should be
At home with their daddy's and ma's.
But now they'll gamble, and drink mean rum
And guzzle with leger beer,
And when their daddy's foot the bills
They find them pesky dear.

When we old men were farmer boys
We had neither dollars nor dimes,
But worked from daybreak till candle light
In old Pod-Augur times.

Young girls didn't hug and kiss their beaux
Whenever they came to court,
Nor battle around on roller skates
And pound the piano-forte,
They kept men off at good arm's length
And made them know their place,
And they played on washboards, kettles and brooms
With amazing skill and grace.

They didn't lay abed till eleven A. M.
But got up in the morning by times,
Nor they didn't elope with the old man's coachman
In old Pod-Augur times.

The old men didn't drive fast horses
Nor gamble with cards and dice,
Nor they didn't run church lotteries
For it wasn't considered nice,
But now they'll gamble and drink mean rum
And live hypocritical lives,
And wives run away with each other's husbands
And men with other men's wives.

Nor they didn't have delirium tremens
Nor perpetrate horrible crimes,
But cider was good and rum was pure,
In Old Pod-Augur times.

S U P P L E M E N T

Brazilla Delano and his wife Annis Delano used to live down by Cold Stream Lake beyond Cy Perkins near the old Hayden Place. His son Daniel lived there with him awhile. Daniel moved from there over to the Burlington Road beyond Edwards. He lived in the Francis Doble House. The hill running down towards Dan's Place has always been called the Dan Delano Hill.

Mr. Delano moved from here over to the town of Lee. He moved from Lee up to the town of Kingman and while going up the Railroad Track one day the train ran over him and killed him.

He has relatives living in both Lee and Lincoln at the present time.
