

BEMENT, ILL.

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SIMONI, OWENS

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Illinois

Illinois Towns

Bement

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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LINCOLN-DOUGLAS MEMORIAL



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Bement, Illinois

Lincoln-Douglas Memorial

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"Lincoln-Douglas" was the subject of the formal address of the dedication by Henry R. Rathbone of Chicago, representative in congress at large for Illinois. Mr. Rathbone was eminently fitted by both inheritance and talents for the task set for him that day, his father and mother being so closely associated with the tragedy of President Lincoln's death.

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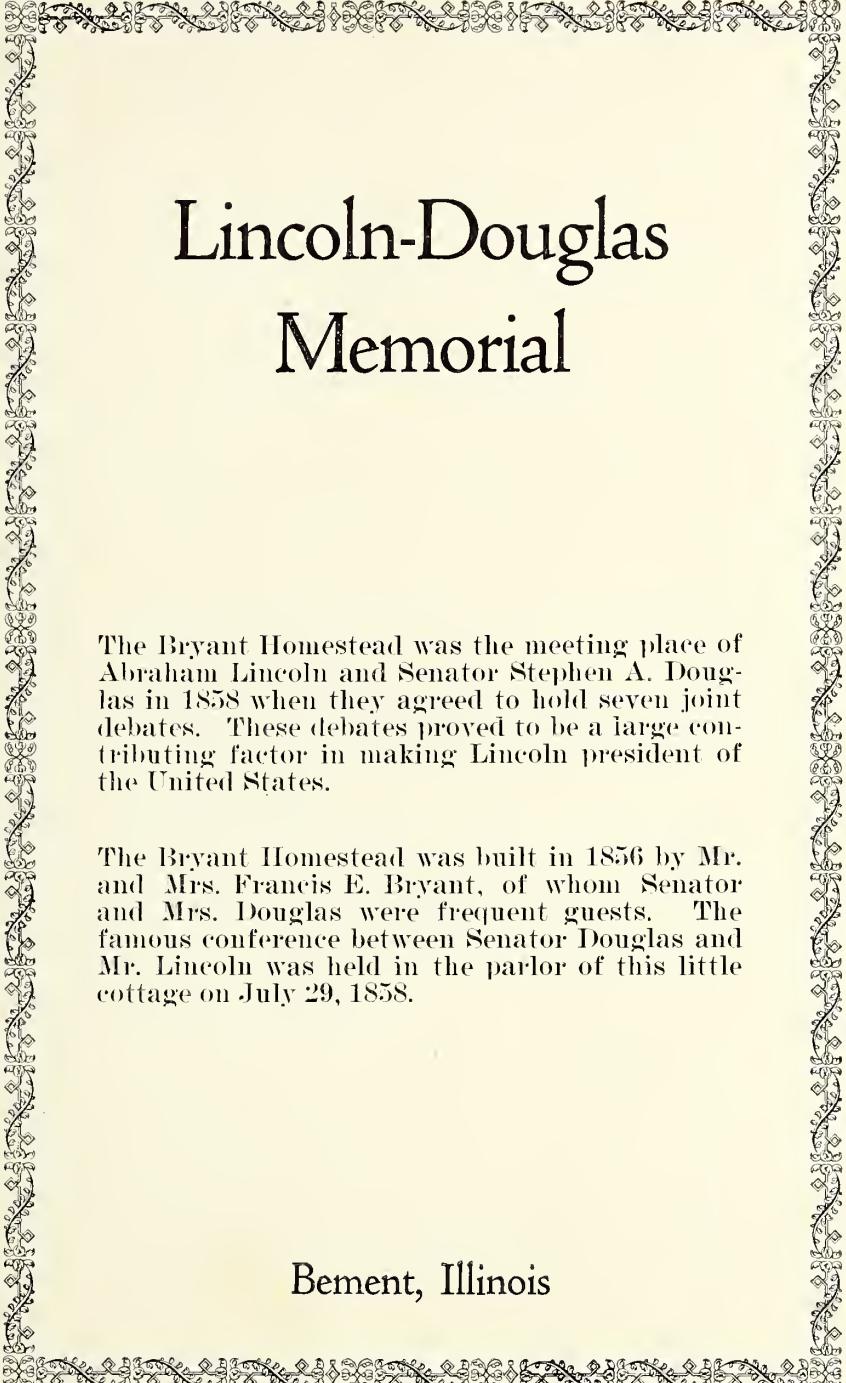
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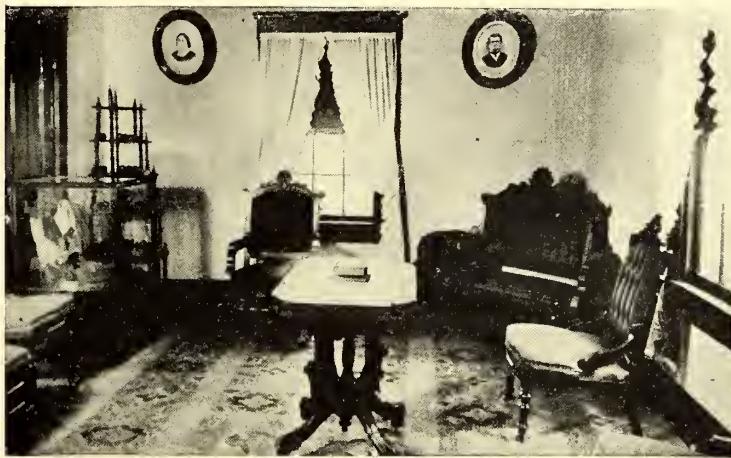
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BRYANT HOUSE, BEMENT, ILLINOIS

Exterior

Photograph by the Author



BRYANT HOUSE, BEMENT, ILLINOIS

The Room in which Mr. Douglas and Mr. Lincoln formally agreed to meet in Joint Debate

44

41 THE BRYAN HOUSE, BEMENT, ILL. The Republican State Convention met at Springfield, June 16, 1858 and nominated Lincoln for United States Senator. Lincoln delivered his "House Divided" speech in the stately Hall of Representatives and the fight with Douglas was begun. Beveridge, vol2.p.633 gives the story of the meeting of Lincoln and Douglas on the road near Monticello, where they agreed to meet at the house of F.E. Bryant in ^BBement to ~~arrangange~~ arrange the details of the debates, which had been the subject of an interchange of letters.



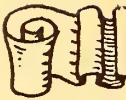
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42. PARLOR OF THE BRYANT HOUSE, BEMENT, ILL. Here Douglas is said to have written the letter in which the times and places of the Debates were designated as follows:

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Copy from book, dark - YOLI!

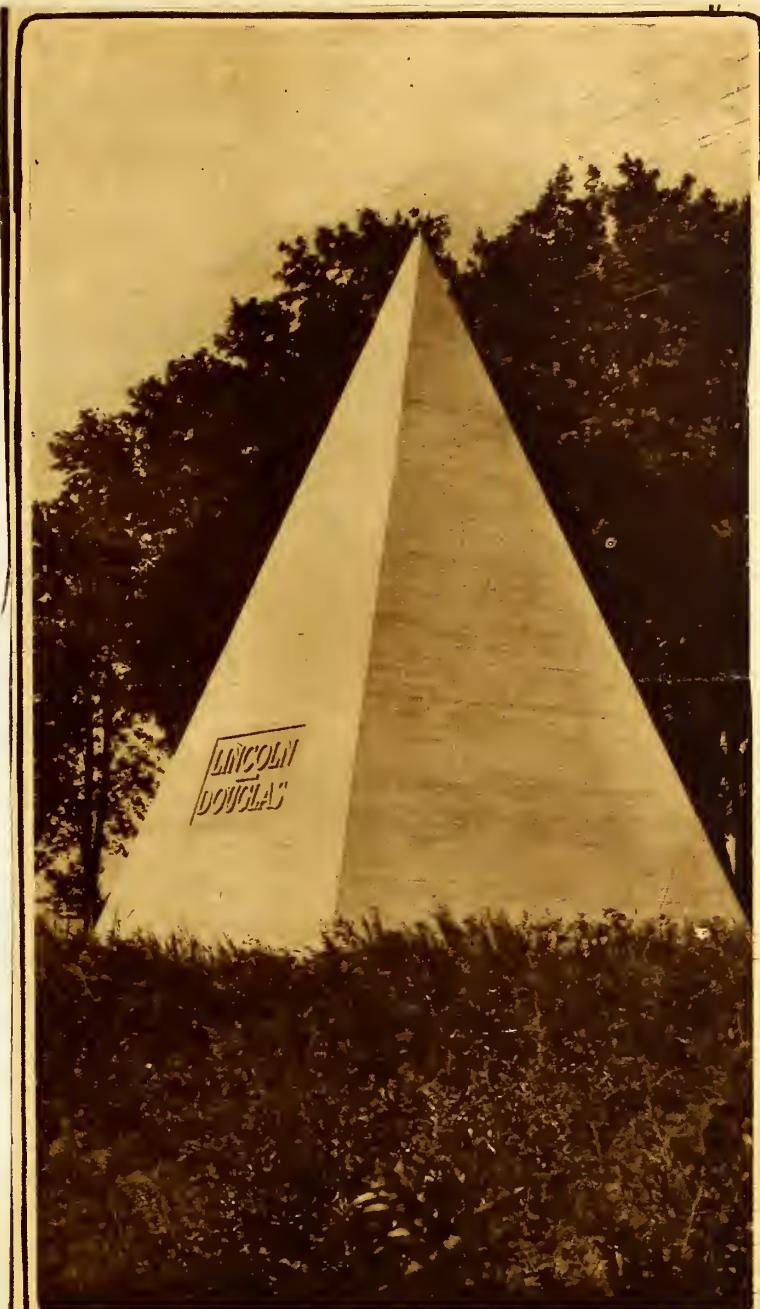




THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL



THE FORMER residence of F. E. Bryant at Bement, Ill., in the southwest room of which Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas held their formal meeting to arrange their famous debate.



LINCOLN and Douglas met on this spot July 29, 1858 (one and one half miles west of Monticello, Ill.), and agreed to a joint debate. They arranged here for the formal meeting held in the house pictured at the upper left.



Courier-Journal Jan. 31, 1961



By SERGEANT DALZELL

Lincoln visits Illinois log home

A BRAHAM LINCOLN had a private pilgrimage to make before leaving Illinois.

From Springfield on January 30 he traveled east by rail to Charleston, Coles County, Illinois. There he spent the night with friends. Then, 100 years ago today, he went into the country with horse and rig.

The President-elect drove to the door of a log farmhouse out on Goose Nest Prairie. It had been the last earthly home of his father, the migrant Thomas Lincoln. Living in it was Sally Bush Lincoln, the good stepmother, awaiting with open arms the boy who had grown so tall in the world.

People would always remember how Sally had encouraged, and defended, when necessary, the gangling young Abe in his efforts "to make something out of himself." Now 72 years old, she laughed and wept as they talked of old times.

Word of the nation's crisis had reached even Goose Nest Prairie. Some would say later that, on parting, Sally sobbed, "They'll kill you, Abe."

Lincoln also visited the grave of the unlettered backwoodsman who was his father.

After a last look at the log house, the man bound for the White House retraced his journey. In Charleston that night, an impromptu reception was staged. People gathered to shake the hand of this man who would always belong to them.

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