

**Dear 50th Company Classmates:**

**At our upcoming reunion in Springfield there will be no “official” schedule of events, apart from the banquet and program on Tuesday evening, October 8 (cocktails, group photos, pre-dinner formalities, dinner, and post-dinner program). We also encourage everyone to join in on the breakfasts (which are part of the reunion package) as a way to socialize and continue our 50th Company bonding process.**

**Your activities and sight-seeing during the rest of the reunion is up to you. There is plenty to do in the Springfield area which has many sites associated with our Sixteenth President, Abraham Lincoln, who lived there for twenty-four years, from 1837 until 1861. These sites include the five-star Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library; the Lincoln Home National Historic Site; a National Historical Park that includes the preserved surrounding neighborhood; the Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices; the church that the Lincoln family belonged to (First Presbyterian) which still has the original Lincoln family pew on display; the Lincoln Tomb and Memorial; and the Lincoln Rail Depot from which he departed Springfield in 1861 for his inauguration in Washington, D.C. and returned to on the way to his interment in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery. Which of these sites, and when, you choose to visit, is up to you.**

**That said, we are fortunate to have an Illinoisan on our planning committee, Brian Flora. Brian knows Springfield and has offered to put together a series of optional visits and events for those who are interested in joining him and Kay as they revisit the Springfield sites. Here's what Brian has in mind:**

**On Monday morning, October 7, he suggests we visit the “must-see” Lincoln Museum and Presidential Library, an easy walk from the hotel. In the afternoon he proposes a guided tour of the Lincoln Home where Abe lived for twenty years while raising his family, arguing with his wife, practicing law, and developing his skills as a state, then national, politician. It's a five-minute walk from the hotel. Then, during the late afternoon cocktail hour at the hotel's Lincoln Room, Brian will offer a fast-paced PowerPoint presentation describing Lincoln's three-week funeral pageant. A special funeral train took him from Washington DC across the country, with frequent stops along the way (including eleven full-blown funerals in 11 major cities), before bringing him back to**

Springfield, his final resting place. “Lincoln’s last Train Ride” is the title of Brian's presentation.

On Tuesday morning, Brian would like to organize a carpool to the moving and beautiful Lincoln Mausoleum and Memorial. It’s about a ten-minute drive from the hotel. In the afternoon, Brian recommends a guided tour of the beautiful Illinois State Capitol Building, also a short drive from the hotel. The legislature won’t be in session, so we won’t see any political “action” on the floor, but Brian says it’s worth a visit because of the art and architecture, Then it’s back to the hotel for the Banquet evening, always a fun, but very meaningful, event.

Wednesday is the optional extra day. For those who have opted to stick around (including most of the Planning Committee), Brian would really like to show off Frank Lloyd Wright’s Dana-Thomas House, one of the best preserved and most complete of his early "Prairie" houses. "Who in the heck is Frank Lloyd Wright?" you may ask. America’s greatest architect ever. Really! At least that’s what he told people.

In the afternoon, there is also the Lincoln-Herndon Law Office a block from the hotel. (BTW, our Brian is a distant relative of Lincoln’s law partner.) And there is also the First Presbyterian Church where the Lincoln family worshipped; it has the original family pew on display in its narthex. Note that Scott is organizing an informal group dinner at Maldaner’s, within walking distance of the hotel. We’ll soon be asking for the names of those who would like to participate.

Bottom Line: Brian urges everyone to do their own on-line research on his proposed sites and whatever else you can find to see or do in Springfield. (Just Google “Visit Springfield Illinois.”) Feel free to make your own decisions on what to do and when. But anyone who is interested in joining him and Kay on their suggested tours should let him know which one(s). He answers to: [flora.brian@email.com](mailto:flora.brian@email.com). Feedback really helps in his planning.

See you in Springfield,

The Communications Team.