



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

— WAS A —

SALOON KEEPER

SEE ORIGINAL LICENSE AND BOND BELOW



Ordered that William F. Berry in the name of Berry and Lincoln have license to keep a tavern in New Salem to continue 12 months from this date and that they pay one dollar in addition to six dollars heretofore paid as per Treasury receipt and that they be allowed the following rates viz;

<i>French Brandy per 1/2 pint</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Breakfast, dinner or supper</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Peach " " "</i>	<i>18 3/4</i>	<i>Lodging per night</i>	<i>12 1/2</i>
<i>Apple " " "</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Horse per night</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Holland Gin " " "</i>	<i>18 3/4</i>	<i>Single feed</i>	<i>12 1/2</i>
<i>Domestic " " "</i>	<i>12 1/2</i>	<i>Breakfast dinner or supper for stage passengers</i>	<i>37 1/2</i>
<i>Wine " " "</i>	<i>25</i>		
<i>Rum " " "</i>	<i>18 3/4</i>		
<i>Whiskey " " "</i>	<i>12 1/2</i>		

who gave bond as required by law.

ABOVE—An Authentic Copy of Tavern License issued to Berry and Lincoln. Certified by Chas. E. Oppel, Clerk of the Sangamon County Court, Springfield, Ills.



BELOW—Copy of Bond given by Abraham Lincoln, William F. Berry and John Bowling Green in a Penalty of \$300.00 to obey the Liquor Laws of the State.

Know all men by these presents:

We, William F. Berry, Abraham Lincoln and John Bowling Green, are held and firmly bound unto the County Commissioners of Sangamon County in the full sum of three hundred dollars, to which payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seal and dated this 6th day of March, A. D. 1833. Now the condition of this obligation is such that, whereas the said Berry and Lincoln has obtained a license from the County Commissioners' Court to keep a tavern in the Town of New Salem to continue one year. Now if the said Berry and Lincoln shall be of good behavior and observe all the laws of this State relative to tavern keepers, then this obligation to be void or otherwise remain in full force.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (Seal)
William F. Berry (Seal)
Bowling Green (Seal)

According to public records and historical data, the firm of Berry and Lincoln, composed of William F. Berry, son of a Presbyterian Minister, and Abraham Lincoln were "Tavern" Keepers at New Salem, Illinois. They employed a clerk or bar-tender, who afterward stated that while he worked for Berry and Lincoln, they had nothing for sale but liquors and that whiskey sold over the counter at 8 cents a glass. Berry and Lincoln later purchased the Village Tavern owned by James Rutledge and also another "store" where liquors were sold, making three "places" they owned where Whiskey, Brandy, Wine, Gin and Rum were sold. In those days liquors were sold in Taverns and Stores such as are commonly called "Saloons" today.

For further information and data see "Abraham Lincoln" by Carl Sandburg 1929, pages 95 and 98; "Abraham Lincoln" by Senator Albert J. Beveridge 1928, pages 127 and 128, Ida Tarbell's "Life of Lincoln" Vol. 1, page 94, Norman Hapgood's "Lincoln the Man of the People" 1899, page 37, also Col. Lamon's "Life of Lincoln" pages 137 and 138. One year after this license was issued (in 1834) Lincoln was elected a State Legislator for the first time.

