

A Lark

Abraham Lincoln's first visit to Lexington on August 25, 1841, was a lark. During a visit to his good friend Joshua Speed at his Farmington plantation near Louisville, Lincoln learned that Speed was having difficulty courting Fanny Henning because of her overly-devoted uncle John Williamson. According to William Townsend, in his book *Lincoln and the Bluegrass*, Speed "took Lincoln on the cars to Lexington — his first visit here — in order to have an excuse to drop in again that evening on his way back home."

When they arrived at Uncle John's plantation, Lincoln engaged the older man in a political discussion and "the two young people were permitted to enjoy a rare, uninterrupted evening which went far toward their early engagement."

The adventure did have a serious outcome, as it resulted in Lincoln rekindling his romance with Mary Todd. They were married November 4, 1842.