



The 1847 Lincoln visit to Lexington has *two* mysteries:

First, similar to the 1841 visit, is the question as to how the Lincolns travelled to Louisville to Lexington. William H. Townsend writes that upon arrival in Louisville by steamboat from Saint Louis, the Lincolns “caught the first train east.” Townsend also relates that Mary’s cousin Joseph Humphreys “had ridden from Frankfort on the same train with the Lincolns without knowing who they were, walking the short distance from the depot while the Todd coachman hunted up the baggage of the guests he had come to meet.” The L&O was still four years away from completing the Louisville line.

Second, and more important, did Abraham Lincoln and Henry Clay meet in Lexington? Clay was leader of Lincoln’s Whig Party. Lincoln was a rising politician. Mary was notorious for her ambitious plans for Lincoln’s future. Robert Todd cosponsored Clay’s speech denouncing the Mexican War and sat on the dais. William H. Townsend makes several undocumented references to Lincoln meeting Clay in Lexington where no such empirical evidence exists. Given the social mores of the times, it is almost unbelievable that the two did not meet at least once during this three-week period.