



Once again, Henry Clay is in Lexington during the time of the Lincolns' 1849 visit.

William H. Townsend writes, "The three weeks that Lincoln spent in Lexington on this trip were not all devoted to business and litigation. As in 1847, there was much opportunity

for visiting among kinsfolk and friends. The Widow [Betsy] Todd and Mary's young half brothers and sisters were at 'Buena Vista,' and the Lincolns visited them there, riding back and forth to Lexington on the steam cars. Henry Clay, again United States senator-elect, did not leave for Washington until November 1, and if Mary took her husband to visit her friend at 'Ashland,' he no doubt heard much concerning the defeat of gradual emancipation in the recent election."

Although no documentation exists to verify the two ever met in Lexington, Townsend's adamant assertion they did, and "several times," suggests the historian was convinced these two iconic political figures of the same party most surely did.

Lincoln served just one term in Congress, but he was called upon to deliver the eulogy for Clay in Springfield, Illinois, after the "Western Star" died on June 29, 1852.

As for how the Lincolns travelled to Lexington, this trip is documented as by steamboat from Saint Louis to Frankfort, then by train to Lexington. Presumably, the return was by the same route.