16 TURN LEFT

17 Cemetery: Five of the six shown graves are from the Bale family, who last lived in the Rutledge Tavern and made New Salem into farmland after everyone moved. The last one is from the Ferguson family who lived in the Lukins' house after they left; both families ran the house as a shoemaker shop. As you can see, many of the graves show them being aged around a year old when they died; this was very common back then as they did not have today's medical practices.

18 Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*): There are three basic leaf designs for this tree: a glove shape, a simple rounded edge shape , and a "W" type shape. When crushed, the leaves and twigs give off an attractive spicy fragrance. The bark and roots have medicinal properties and can be used to make tea.

19 Boy Scout Cabin: This was built in the 1930's. It did not stand very long because it burnt down within the next few years and was not rebuilt. The Boy Scouts still leave their mark along the trail as you can see when you pass by the posts with the Boy Scout Law on them.

20 Pileated Woodpecker Holes (*Dryocopus pileatus*): Being the size of a crow, this is the largest woodpecker. The long oval holes it leaves in trees are unmistakable. This black-backed bird with bright red crest on its head can be heard loud and clear as it searches for insects.

21 TURN LEFT

22 Ironwood (*Betulaceae*): With its smooth, thin-stripped bark and its velvety soft leaves, this tree loves to grow in the shade of neighboring, taller trees. It gets its name from its extremely dense wood.

NOTE Watch out for a variety of plant species and other interests along the trail, such as:

Boy Scout Law Posts
Six-spotted Tiger Beetle
Virginia Creeper
Poison Ivy
Stinging Nettles
Gooseberry
May-apple
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Trillium
Japanese Honeysuckle
Japanese Barberry
Violet

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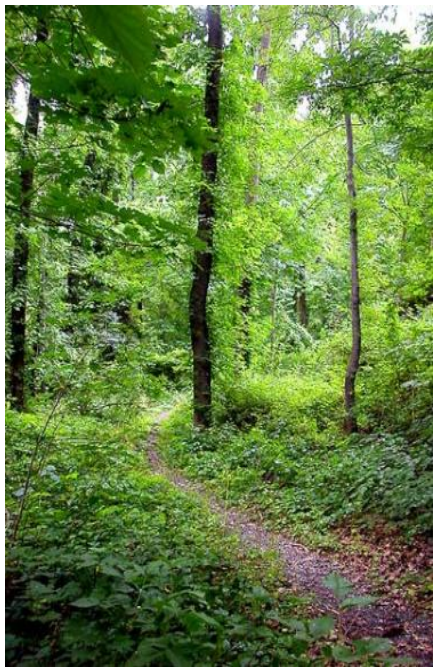
MENTOR GRAHAM'S FOOTSTEPS

A self-guided hike at:

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site



Compiled by
New Salem Naturalists:
Ashley Phillips and Kristen Bess
2008

1 Hazelnut (*Corylus*): This tall shrub with double toothed leaves provides husk enclosed nuts that can be used for flour, candy, or just plain nuts.

2 Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*): These are most easily pointed out by the thorns jutting from its bark to keep off grazing animals, but not all have this genetic feature. It can also be distinguished by its many leaflets that make up one leaf.

3 Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*): With pointy tipped leaves rather than lobed, the leaf points are separated with deep U-shaped sinuses. With age, the bark becomes nearly black with deep reddish cracks. Tannic acid (tannin) can be found in the nuts and bark; tannin was used for tanning animal skins. This tree is highly susceptible to oak wilt disease.

4 Mockernut Hickory (*Carya tomentosa*): Having a straight trunk and compound leaves made up of alternately attached leaflets, this tree is valued for its strength in furniture. The large, thick-shelled fruit with small meat kernels inside give it the name "Mockernut".

5 Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker Markings (*Sphyrapicus varius*): This medium-sized woodpecker can be identified by its yellowish chest and belly. They make small round holes in horizontal rows creating a sort of "sap tap" from which to eat. Like other woodpeckers, these birds can peck a tree until they girdle it.

6 Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*): With its gray-colored, corky-ridged bark, hackberry is easy to identify. In the fall, the dark, purple, berry-like fruit supplies birds with a tasty treat.

7 Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*): This tree's medium sized, fleshy, green fruit can be found all over the trail. Its leaves are made up of 15-23, alternately attached leaflets and its brown to black bark covers wood that is highly valued in the furniture business.

8 Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*): The long, gray, smooth bark strips of this tree curl up at the end giving the tree a shaggy appearance that is unmistakable. Underneath these bark strips are where bats love to hang out and sleep.

9 Ohio Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*): Also known as Stinking Buckeye, referring to the foul odor of the flowers and most other parts of the tree when crushed, these trees were planted as a landscape tree in dry upland areas for its attractive autumn foliage. Its large poisonous seeds are avoided by wildlife.

10 Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*): Different from the White Oak in that its bark has a smoother texture, which is deeply furrowed giving it an almost shiny look. The leaves are finger-like lobes that are pointed at the tips instead of rounded. The reddish brown wood that this tree has is what gives this Oak its name.

11 White Oak (*Quercus alba*): Illinois' state tree is easily identified by its light gray bark with limbs pointing upward and by its rounded, finger-like lobed leaves. This tree is very important in the lumber industry, and it produces edible acorns each fall. The smoother, lighter patches on the bark are called Corticium Patches and are caused by the *Corticium* fungus; this will not kill the tree.

12 Rocky Branch Creek: This creek runs over limestone rocks from the Ordovician period. Animal tracks can sometimes be seen in the mud, and water striders can be seen skimming the top of the water.

13 TURN RIGHT

14 Double Trunk: This White Oak gets its unique double trunk because 80-100 years ago it was cut down. In the 1800's, trees were cut down for various reasons, so double trunked trees are easy to spot along the trail. Also, all of the green brush would have not been here because fires were regular. A wagon could have easily been pulled through this area.

15 Schoolhouse: Built prior to 1830's, this original schoolhouse site was first used as a church until Mentor Graham moved near by and doubled it as a "blab school". Rebuilt in the 1930's along with the rest of the village, the school was moved into the village in 1966 due to vandalism. Rumor has it that when school was in session you could hear the children from a mile away.