



## *Listening to the Past*

Brownie Badge



### ★ *If These Buildings Could Talk*

If buildings could talk, what would they tell us? Did you know that buildings tell us a lot about the people who lived in them? Take a tour of President Lincoln's Cottage. Who built this Cottage and why? How is this house similar to and different from the White House? Why do you think President Lincoln chose to spend so much time at the Soldiers' Home?

*In the space below, draw a picture of the place you like to go to get away.*



### *Did You Know?*

*The Cottage was built over 160 years ago! The photo above is a photo from Mary Lincoln's family album and it was used to help historians bring the house back to what it looked like when Lincoln lived here.*

### ★ *Visit the Oldest Cemetery*

The United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery is located just outside the entrance gate to the Armed Forces Retirement Home and President Lincoln's Cottage. Did you know that this cemetery was established in 1861, three years before Arlington National Cemetery, which makes it the oldest national cemetery? The first season President Lincoln lived in this cottage, more than 1200 Civil War soldiers were buried there. Visit the Cemetery and do the following activities:

- *Find some of the oldest dates on the gravestones and write them down. How old were the people when they died?*
- *Write down some of the most unusual names you find. Are most of those buried here men or women? Why?*
- *Take photographs, or draw pictures of the gravestones.*

## ★ *Tell Stories of the Past*

President Lincoln's Cottage uses primary sources to tell visitors about President Lincoln's time here. As you tour the Cottage, listen carefully to the stories of Colonel Scott and George Borrett, two men who visited President Lincoln here. Why did these men travel out of the city to visit the president? What do their visits tell us about President Lincoln? Do you think it would be that easy to visit the president today?

*If you had the chance, what would you want to talk to the president about? Write your answer in the thought bubble!*



## *Acting Out*

In the fall of 1864, a young woman named Miss Harrington visited President Lincoln with Englishman George Borrett.

*Imagine you are Miss Harrington. In the space to the left, write a story about your experience.*

*At your next meeting, share the story with your troop!*

