

## **The Freedom Trail**

Lincolnshire's sense of adventure and pioneering spirit has helped shape the world in a Freedom Trail stretching across the Atlantic and beyond.

Lincolnshire was the birthplace of Methodism, where stout men of religion fled the county to found Boston in Massachusetts, it is one of the few places to see the inspirations behind the American Constitution.

### **Epworth**

Retrace the footsteps of history, this time of the Methodist Church. Join the Wesley Trail and visit the Old Rectory and Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in the historic town forever linked to the church's founder John Wesley. From humble beginnings of Wesley's preaching in Lincolnshire, today worldwide, it is estimated that there are around 70 million Methodists. [www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk](http://www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk)

### **Gainsborough**

John Wesley preached on several occasions at Gainsborough Old Hall, one of the best-preserved timber halls in Britain, which also has strong Pilgrim Fathers connections too. [www.gainsborougholdhall.co.uk](http://www.gainsborougholdhall.co.uk)

### **Boston**

Closely tied to the first attempt by the Mayflower Pilgrim Fathers to flee England in 1602, Boston remained a hotbed of religious dissent. In 1612 preacher John Cotton became vicar of St Botolph's Church, better known as the Boston Stump because of its 272ft high spire. Persecuted for his non-conformist preaching, his congregation grew and eventually sought religious freedom in America – later founding the city of Boston, Massachusetts. A memorial celebrates the five men from the town who became early governors of Massachusetts. Visit the American Room opened in 1938 by US Ambassador Joseph Kennedy at Fydell House, a classical 18th century merchant's residence.

[www.boston.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.boston.gov.uk/tourism)

### **Lincoln**

History, culture and a vibrant modern waterfront create a rich heritage in this former Roman fortress town. Lincoln Cathedral dominates the skyline and at Lincoln Castle, opposite the Cathedral, you can see one of only four original copies of the Magna Carta from 1215, often considered as the corner-stone of liberty and the chief defense against arbitrary and unjust rule in England. When representatives of the young republic of the United States gathered to draft a constitution, they turned to the legal system they knew and admired - English common law as evolved from Magna Carta.

For more information in Lincolnshire's Film locations or to arrange a visit to the county please contact Charlotte Goy, Media Executive on 01522 561670 or email [charlotte@visitlincolnshire.com](mailto:charlotte@visitlincolnshire.com).

