STOCKBRIDGE

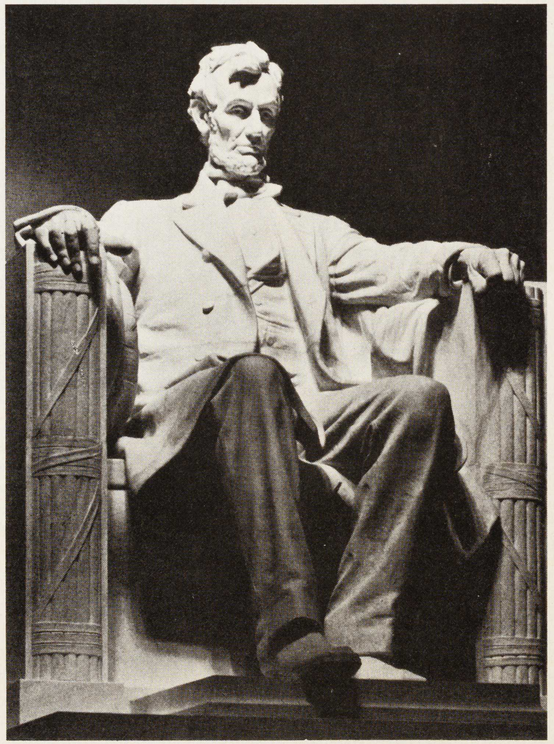
Stockbridge may be a small New England village nestled in the Berkshire mountains, but it made a notable contribution to the spiritual enrichment of our country. In 1730 John Sergeant was the first missionary to the Stockbridge Indians. His home, known as the MISSION HOUSE, stood on Eden Hill. It had been moved down to the village and is now a museum on Main Street.

Mission House

In 1751 Jonathan Edwards became pastor of the frontier church and missionary to the Indians. During his tenure here he wrote his famous work FREEDOM OF THE WILL. "He was the greatest theologian of American Puritanism. For sheer speculative power and magnificence of conception he has not been surpassed by any American philosopher". *(Enc. Brit. v. 8, p. 14)*

In 1944 Eden Hill became home to the Marians. (Prior to our arrival here this property housed [for a short time] the St. Edmund School for Boys — a private institution sponsored by Episcopalians.) Here, we continue God's work through the Divine Mercy Shrine and the Marian Center. Pilgrims who visit us find a haven of peace, a few quiet moments for reflection and meditation.

CHESTERWOOD, in the Glendale section of Stockbridge, was studio and summer home of world-famous sculptor Daniel Chester French (1850-1931). His "Seated Lincoln" in the imposing Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. was his last work. When you visit the Lincoln Memorial in the nation's Capital there you will see above the marble columns MASSACHUSETTS which has primacy of place among the States inscribed.



Courtesy of Chesterwood

"Seated Lincoln"

© 1986 Estate of Norman Rockwell

John Sergeant teaching an Indian

Norman Rockwell, the artist who with a master's touch so ingeniously captured on canvas the "spirit" of America, lived and worked in Stockbridge for 25 years. His first studio over a grocery store on Main Street was rented from Antonio Guerrieri. At that time Mr. Guerrieri was building our Mercy Shrine here on Eden Hill. On several occasions Mr. Rockwell visited us here to see how work was progressing. He was a modest man, richly gifted by God, who poured out the finest aspirations of his soul into his paintings. So many of them reflect the ideals and longings of the human heart. His last painting (left unfinished on his easel) was of John Sergeant instructing an Indian in the Mission House.