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### Kempton resident finds Obama's Indiana ties

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FEATURED VIDEO  
Local home with ties to Obama family history



Kempton resident Shawn Clements' home dates back more than 100 years.

KEMPTON, Ind. (WFLI) - As presidential hopeful Barack Obama stomps across the state for a final chance to round up votes, a local homeowner gives him a piece of history.

Kempton resident Shawn Clements' home dates back more than 100 years, including seven generations. But it's not his family. It's the heritage of 2008 Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Clements said he talked with the senator and his family on a campaign stop to his home.



Clements said the land travels back in time to Jacob Dunham, the senator's fourth great grandfather.

"He just said hey man how's it going. He was a regular person," said Clements.

Clements and a handful of Kempton community members greeted Senator Obama and his family. The campaign stop before Indiana's primary election gave Clements a chance to give Obama a history lesson.

"He wanted to know how much land that was out there that they owned," said Clements.



Clements said he talked with the senator and his family on a campaign stop to his home.

The land came through Obama's family in the 1840s. They built the three-story home in the 1880s. Clements said the land travels back in time to Jacob Dunham, the senator's fourth great grandfather.

"He willed the land down to Jacob Mackey Dunham, which is Senator Obama's third great grandfather. His second great grandfather was also Jacob William Dunham. Left here and went to Kansas. He passed away in Kansas in 1936," Clements said.

The rest of Obama's relatives were born in Kansas, including his mother Ann Dunham, born in 1942. Clements even said the presidential hopeful's political background may be in his bloodline.

"One of his ancestors from Indiana that was a Democrat in the Indiana General Assembly and here he is a Democrat running for president. There's no doubt that the Dunham line is his direct line that has influenced him the most, has shaped his world the most because that is what he knew," said Clements.

As for the house, Clements said it's a local attraction, complete with tours to passers-by. He plans to continue refurbishing it to live in it, but said more could be in store.

"I live in the house and that's my home and that's the number one focus. The house is a pretty good size and I have toyed with the idea of maybe a bed and breakfast later on down the road. These houses and stories like this are who we are. It's part of our heritage, it's part of our culture. It's

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how we got to the point where we are now," Clements said.

Clements said Michelle Obama, the senator's wife, told him she wants to visit again to introduce their children to their father's ancestry.

Report by Renetta DuBose, WLFJ.

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