



LIFE

MICHELLE
OBAMA

A Portrait
of the First Lady

From the Editors of
The American Journey
of Barack Obama



Certain steps along the way carried special resonance: When Michelle campaigned in South Carolina, speaking at a church that had been built in 1865 by freed slaves—perhaps her great-great-grandfather among them—she was engaged in a way that she might not have been at the next pancake breakfast in an endless stream of pancake breakfasts. Here, on May 3, 2008, in Kempton, Indiana, the Obamas battle a stiff breeze as they approach a house that Barack's great-uncle built more than 100 years ago. The Dunham family, as represented by Barack's maternal great-great-great-grandparents, had been pioneers in this region and had owned the land on which the house was built as early as 1847 or '48. It is an irony not lost on the Obamas that, while these particular Dunhams were not slave owners, others among his maternal ancestors were. Michelle, Barack and their children have all aspects of slavery represented in their heritage.

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