





ABRAHAM LINCOLN LOG CABIN

ST. CHARLES SCHOOL FOR BOYS

FRANK D. WHIPP, Managing Officer

ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS



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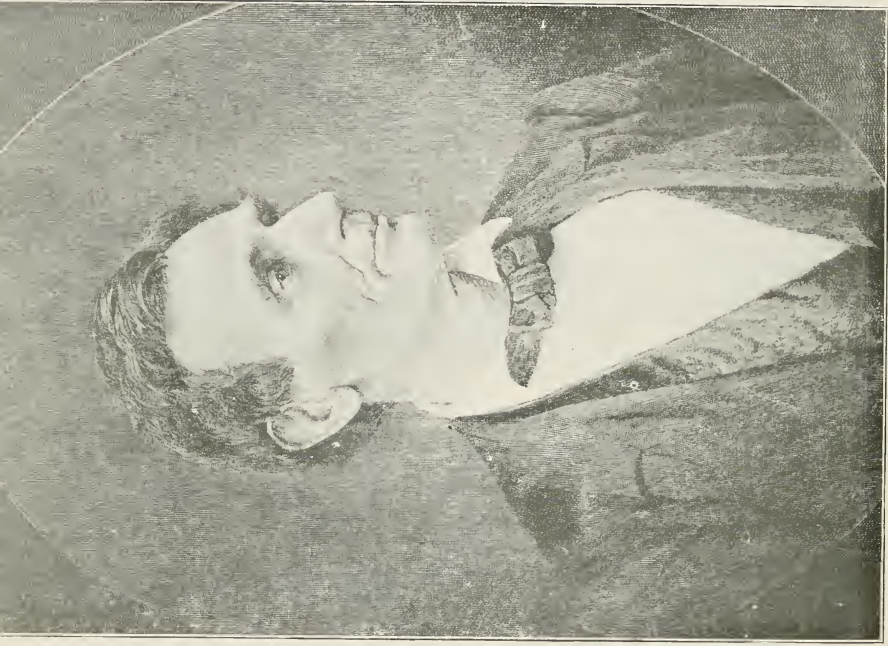
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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Engraving said to be the most life like of any in existence, loaned to us by  
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## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

THOMAS Lincoln, a descendant of colonial pioneers, earned his living "hiring out" to any farmer who would have him. He had no chance to earn an education, and he grew to manhood without learning to write his name. He was physically strong and had a cheerful disposition that made him friends. His sound sense and quiet manner were noted, and he had the reputation of being a good spinner of yarns.

When Thomas was twenty-five he was working for Joseph Hanks, who owned a carpenter shop. Mr. Hanks had a lovely, gray-eyed sister called Nancy. She was a tall, slim girl, dark and delicate-looking, usually, she was sweet-tempered and lively, but at times she had moods of melancholy that gave to her face a sad expression which people were quick to observe. She had gone to school and could read and write. Her favorite and only book was the Bible.

Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks fell in love, and on June 12, 1806, they were married. Thomas and Nancy lived in Elizabethtown for about a year. Their daughter Sarah, was born here on the tenth of February 1807. Following this event they moved to their place on Nolin Creek.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln was an efficient housekeeper. Her hearth was always swept, her cabin tidy, her children clean. She sheared her own sheep and spun the wool into cloth. She was her own tailor and seamstress. She helped her husband in the field with axe and hoe. She was a sprightly woman of superior character.

In this clean log cabin with one window, a door, and a wide outside chimney made of poles and clay, on a cold winter's day, February 12, 1809, a little baby was born in Hardin County, Kentucky. This newborn infant was a fine healthy son of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln. This baby was named Abraham. Sarah, his sister, was delighted with the baby who lay in a bed of furs staring at the rafters and cracks overhead.



Mary Todd Lincoln  
wife of Abraham Lincoln.



The Lincolns lived on Nolan Creek until Abraham was four years old. In 1813 the family moved to Knob Creek. Thomas Lincoln put Abe to work doing the easiest tasks of the field just as soon as he was strong enough to pull weeds and carry tools. Abe helped his mother, too, carrying wood and water.

Corn dodger and potatoes were staple foods, the potatoes being sometimes peeled and eaten raw like apples; and in the bitter cold weather potatoes hot from the ashes were given the children on their way to school or when an errand took them a great distance, to serve them as hand warmers.

When Abe was seven years old, the family moved to Indiana. Abe and his mother worked in the woods and helped his father build a new home. It was simply a hut made of rough logs and limbs of trees. It had no door and no windows. One side of it was left entirely open. In winter Abe's mother used to hang up some buffalo skins before this wide entrance to keep out the cold.

The family lived in this shed for about a year; then they moved into a new log cabin which they had built, and which had four sides to it. They seemed to have made a new set of furniture for the new house. Abe's father got a large log, split it in two, smoothed off the flat side, bored holes in the under side, and four stout sticks for legs; that made the table. Three-legged stools served as chairs. In one corner of the loft of this cabin, the boy had a big bag of dry leaves for his bed. Whenever he felt like having a new bed all that he had to do was to go out in the woods and gather more leaves.

He worked about the place during the day, helping his father and mother. For his supper he had a piece of cornbread. After he had eaten it, he climbed up to his loft in the dark, by a kind of ladder or wooden pins driven into the logs. Five minutes after that, he was fast asleep on his bed of sweet-smelling leaves, and was dreaming of hunting coons, or of building a big bonfire out of brush.

Abe's mother was not strong; and, before they had been in their new log cabin a year, she fell sick with a terrible fever and died October 5, 1818. Before she died she called Abe and Sarah to her, enjoining them to care for their father, to do always what was right and true, and to love God. Long as he lived Abraham Lincoln retained a vivid impression of that dark day, and he never failed to obey those solemn words. When a man he said "God bless my mother; all that I ever have or hope to be I owe to her."

As a minister could not be obtained to give the religious rites when his mother was buried on the farm, Abe sent word to Rev. Elkin, of Kentucky to come to Indiana and say prayers over his mother's grave. A few months later Rev. Elkin journeyed through the snow to repeat the divine words the boy so craved to hear.



The Lincoln Home at Springfield. Visited by hundreds of thousands each year.

From far and near neighbors gathered to listen and pray under the wide sycamore that sheltered the humble mound over Nancy Hanks Lincoln. And the service done, Abe felt that the memory of his gentle mother "who gave us Lincoln and never knew" had been sanctified at last.

About one year after the death of his wife, Mr. Lincoln married Sally Johnson, a widow with three children of her own. She was a superior woman and an excellent mother. Abe loved her dearly. Mrs Lincoln was also fond of Abe, and treated him with greatest kindness, doing all she could to promote his education. Speaking of him after he had grown to be a man, she said, "Abe never gave me a cross word or look, and never refused to do anything I asked him. Abe was the best boy I ever saw or expect to see."

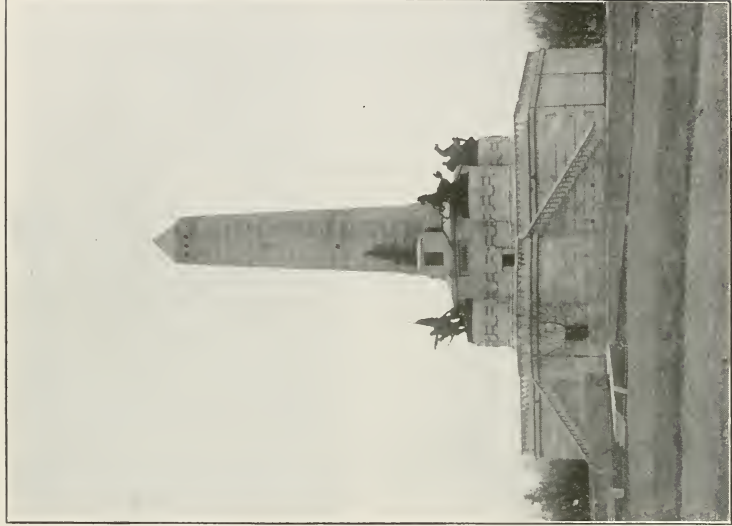
Young Abraham had very little schooling, less than a year all put together, but during all these years of hardship and work he was hungry for reading matter. He read the Bible through and through. He would walk miles to borrow a book. On one occasion a borrowed volume, Weem's Life of Washington, was left too near a crack in the house and became spoiled by the rain. The owner charged him three day's work at pulling fodder for this book.

Before the fire in the evening time, young Lincoln would read by the light of the great blazing logs heaped up in the open fire. Sometimes he spent his evenings writing or ciphering upon the back of the broad wooden fire-shovel using a piece of charcoal for a pencil. In this way he obtained a meager education.

At nineteen Abraham Lincoln had reached his full height. He stood nearly six feet four inches, barefooted. He was a kind of good-natured giant. No one in the neighborhood could strike an axe as deep into a tree as he could, and few, if any, were equal to him in strength. It takes a powerful man to put a barrel of flour into a wagon without help, and there is one in a hundred who can lift a barrel of cider off the ground; but it is said that young Lincoln could stoop down, lift a barrel on his knees, and drink from the bung-hole,

In 1830 Thomas Lincoln decided to move to Illinois. Abraham drove the four-ox team which drew his father's wagon loaded with their earthly possessions. The patient oxen were driven without lines. They obeyed Abraham's voice and the motion of his whip.

On and on they traveled until they reached the timbered lands on the Sangamon river. They settled in Macon County, ten miles west of Decatur. Here young Lincoln helped his father build a cabin and to fence in ten acres of land.



Lincoln Monument, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield  
Last resting place of the Great Emancipator

In the summer Abe started out to earn his first money for himself. He needed new trousers. He engaged to split four hundred rails for every yard of cloth, colored a butternut brown, which it took to make him a pair of trousers. It took fourteen hundred rails to pay for the trousers.

He engaged in a variety of occupations. He made two trips down the Mississippi River on a flatboat loaded with merchandise for New Orleans. He came back full of arguments against slavery.

Young Abe hired out to tend a grocery and variety store in New Salem, Illinois in 1831. There was a gang of young ruffians in that neighborhood who made it a point to fight every stranger. The leader, Jack Armstrong, made up his mind to try his hand on "Tall Abe." He attacked Lincoln, and he was so astonished at what happened to him that he never wanted to try it again. From that time on the Armstrongs were true friends of "Tall Abe." He earned the title of "Honest Abe" while clerking here by being honest and faithful in all things.

In 1832 he was made captain of a company of volunteers enlisted for the Black Hawk war. After Lincoln returned from the war he was made Post Master of New Salem. He found time to do some surveying, and began the study of law.

When he began to practice law, everybody who knew him had confidence in him because he was honest and keen. In 1834 he was a candidate for the Legislature and was elected. He met Stephen A. Douglas, his future rival, and took part in moving the state capitol of Illinois from Vandalia to Springfield. He formed a partnership with an old lawyer and opened up an office in the new capitol. He became a leading politician in the Whig party. In 1842 he married Miss Mary Todd of Kentucky. In 1846 he was elected to Congress. In 1856 Lincoln took part in the formation of the Republican party. The joint debates between Lincoln and Douglas attracted national attention. In 1860 Lincoln was nominated for the presidency of the United States. He was elected president the following November. He piloted "The Ship of State" safely through the Civil War and preserved the Union. He gave the world one of the choicest pieces of literature, "The Gettysburg Address."

On April 14th 1865, the world was thrown into a state of mourning because of the assassination of the "Saviour of our Country". He was buried at Springfield, Illinois. In his death, the nation lost its greatest hero. No other American was ever mourned as was our martyred president. He was a man of the people. He rose from obscurity into eminence. He was a man of integrity and ability; his hand was at the helm during the most perilous period of our national existence; but the reason for such profound and universal grief must be sought in the fact that, somehow, in the death of Abraham Lincoln each individual felt that he had lost a just, a wise, a patient personal friend. - Academic Department.



Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Erected as an Inspiration for the lads of the St. Charles School for Boys

# ST. CHARLES SCHOOL FOR BOYS

FRANK D. WHIPP, Managing Officer

THE St. Charles School for Boys is located on a 1200 acre tract of land in Kane county, in the Fox River Valley, one of the most picturesque spots in Illinois, a little over three miles west of St. Charles and Geneva, and only thirty-eight miles west of Chicago, on the Lincoln Highway. The buildings consist of fourteen cottage in the central group and eight farm cottages. The buildings in the central group are built of red brick with red fire tile roofing, costing approximately \$35,000.00 each. The approximate value of the plant is \$1,250,000.00. The capacity of each cottage is about fifty boys and each cottage is in charge of a couple, designated as Housefather and Housemother, who look after the boys, as nearly as possible as if they were in their own homes. Each boy attends school one-half a day. There are also school, hospital and other utility buildings.

The object of this school is to furnish care, training, education and a home to the delinquent boys committed here by the courts of Illinois; in other words, this is state boarding school for boys. Only boys between the ages of ten and seventeen may be committed here. All expense of maintenance and education are paid by the State of Illinois and the relatives are not required to reimburse the state for this service. This school has been in operation almost twenty years and during that time between seventy-five hundred and eight thousand boys have received training here. On April 15, 1925 there were 750 actually present in the school, and 850 boys on parole, who are visited and supervised by the division of Pardons and Paroles of the State Department of Public Welfare.

The Academic Department of the school which is in charge of a corps of seventeen trained instructors is a branch of the public school system of Illinois and is housed in a modern school building. The school course covers the first eight years work as described by the Illinois State Course of Study, upon completion of which pupils are awarded diplomas. All eighth grade graduates are entered in the commercial class in which the Gregg system of shorthand is taught, together with the accompanying studies given in the regular Gregg Stenographic Course, including typing. The Palmer method of business penmanship is taught. Last year there were forty graduates from the eighth grade.





Preparing Site for Lincoln Cabin



There is an attractive library containing about two thousand volumes, and the books have been approved by the Illinois Library Extension Commission.

In a school of this kind, military training is almost a necessity because it teaches prompt obedience and the discipline of the institution is handled in an orderly way. The military organization consisting of ten companies is in charge of a trained military officer, and the band of thirty-five pieces is in charge of the bandmaster. Weather permitting, every Sunday afternoon dress parade is held on the campus which is usually well attended by visitors from surrounding towns.

Religious services are held every Sunday, Protestant services in the Amusement Hall, and Catholic in the Auditorium of the School. Churches of other denominations hold services at different times.

The school has a magnificent Gymnasium building with swimming pool. The building and equipment costs \$75,000.00, the money being donated by the Commercial Club of Chicago.

The health of boys is looked after by a physician, two trained nurses, and a full time dentist. The school has a modern up to date hospital building fully equipped.

The farm department is organized in eight units where boys are cared for in colonies.

Pure whole milk is a very important factor in feeding the youth of this school and the production from our one hundred ten dairy cattle is now about one hundred eighty gallons daily, which enables the management to supply almost a quart of whole milk each day, both to the boys and officers of the school. The dairy cattle are now entirely free from tuberculosis. The old herd was disposed of some time ago and the present one consists of cattle purchased which were tested and certified to be free from this dreaded disease. Furthermore the present management has discontinued the issuance of separated milk to the boys and is now furnishing whole milk. The milk separators and churn have been dismantled and discontinued, and now instead of supplying the officers with butter from the milk intended for the boys it is purchased on the market.

Work is one of the best medicines for the delinquent boy, and the school is administering considerable of this medicine in the way of industries. The boys manufacture all of the clothing, and make all the shoes worn by boys. They operate a carpenter shop, print shop, machine shop, tin shop, blacksmith shop, do all of the repairing of harness, shoeing of all the horses, and looking after the blacksmithing necessary on the farms and about the transportation department. One of the most important departments is the bakery where bread, cookies and pies are made for the officers and boys.



Boy's Lake from Lincoln Log Cabin

A new department recently established is the rug weaving department where waste materials such as discarded uniforms, socks, overalls, shirts and other articles are converted into rugs. This new industry has not only added greatly to the appearance of the interior of the buildings but as an occupational therapy has been of great benefit to the boys.

Play is just as important as work in caring for these boys and the school is well equipped with playground apparatus, a mile race track for athletic field sport, and several base ball diamonds. The management believes that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" therefore recreation and play are encouraged.

A monthly magazine "The Boy Agriculturist," is published and distributed free of charge to people throughout the state.

The boys have also constructed a large reservoir or lake, the work being done during a school vacation. Then a pavillion was erected on its shores, with cooking ranges convenient, so our boys may have an occasional taste of camping life so dear to youth.

They have also built a fountain on the shore of the lake from which a two inch stream of pure water is continually discharged and flows into the lake. A beautiful little island in the lake makes a pretty picture and furnishes a wonderful place for a party or picnic for the boys. Duck island, so named because of the large number of ducks on the lake is gained by crossing a new bridge known as Character Bridge. They call the fountain the Fountain of Youth. We have a zoo, which contains two bears, four foxes, two monkeys, a wolf and many other smaller animals; also a beautiful swan. Many of these have been presented by friends of the boys' school.

Many of our citizens look on this institution as a prison but it is more of a rural school, away from city environment where the boys may be properly trained. There is no stone wall surrounding the institution and no cells in which boys are confined. Kindness and strict discipline are the slogans of the institution.

Among the recent improvements at the St. Charles School for Boys which represents work done by boy inmates, is; Adams Stone Gateway and Fence along the Lincoln Highway. The gateway has been embellished by the planting of shrubbery, and the front driveway has been decorated by a row of shade trees planted on each side, together with a cement walk leading from the Highway to the Administration Building. The Sinton house on the 200 acre farm recently acquired by the State has been completely remodeled, and the addition to the Industrial Building has been finished. An old dairy barn has been converted into a root cellar, and numerous sheds for housing farm implements have been constructed. The horse barn was also remodeled into an automobile repair shop.



Boy's Lake with Amusement Hall in Background



Another view of the log cabin, showing rail fence in front



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St. Charles School for Boys  
St. Charles, Illinois







