

Lincoln Lore

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THOMAS LINCOLN'S CABIN HOMES

There has been considerable interest shown of late in the history of the Lincoln cabin, which John Hanks and Abraham Lincoln are said to have built for Thomas Lincoln, upon his removal to Illinois. The discoveries, associated with this cabin, seem to invite a very brief tabulation of the many homes which Thomas Lincoln occupied, from the time of his birth, in 1776, until his death, in 1851.

Linville Creek, Virginia

Thomas Lincoln's father, on August 7, 1773, purchased two hundred and ten acres of land on Linville Creek, in Rockingham county, Virginia, where he had been living since his marriage in 1770. It was in a cabin on that tract of land that Thomas Lincoln was born, in the year 1776. He lived there until 1782, when his parents migrated to Kentucky.

Green River, Kentucky

There is a bare possibility that the Lincolns lived on a tract of land situated in Lincoln county, now Casey county, when they first arrived in the Kentucky country, late in the year 1782. It is more likely, however, that they resided in Crow's Station, near where Danville, Boyle county, now is, if they contemplated working the Green River lands. The ferocity of the Indians would not allow a scattered population at this time. Crow's Station was the headquarters of the pioneer, Lincoln, earlier in the year when he was on his prospecting trip in Kentucky.

Long Run, Kentucky

The first residence of the Lincoln's, in Kentucky, of which we have positive evidence, is on Long Run, in Jefferson county. Here the family also found it necessary to live in the fort at Hughes Station when the Indians were troublesome; but likely they occupied the cabin on their 400-acre tract during part of the time. In the year 1786, when Thomas Lincoln was but ten years of age, his father was massacred by the Indians at this place.

Beech Fork, Kentucky

The exact site to which the Widow Lincoln moved her family, after the

massacre of her husband, has not as yet been determined, although the general location is made known by a road order which speaks of her cabin on Beech Fork. Here she reared her family and kept her home together until all the children with the exception of Thomas, were married. Three weddings in the Lincoln home in the year 1801 were indirectly responsible for the removal of the family to Hardin county.

Marrowbone Creek, Kentucky

On November 28, 1801, Thomas Lincoln purchased a tract of land in Cumberland county, Kentucky. He undoubtedly put up a temporary structure to show possession and "batched" there long enough to claim the land grant. There is evidence that his residence here was for short periods, as he was often found in Hardin county at various intervals.

Mill Creek, Kentucky

The next purchase of Thomas Lincoln's was made to provide his mother with a home. In the fall of 1803 he paid 118 pounds, cash, for a farm on Mill Creek, about twelve miles northwest of Elizabethtown, in Hardin county. He divided his time between this and his Marrowbone Creek farm. His sister and her husband lived with his mother.

Middle Creek, Kentucky

After Thomas Lincoln married Nancy Hanks, in the Berry cabin, on Beech Fork, he brought his bride to Elizabethtown, situated on Middle Creek in Hardin county, where he had purchased a lot and built a cabin. Here they lived for two years, and here their first child was born. The identical location of the cabin is not known, and the picture often exhibited as their Elizabethtown cabin home is spurious.

South Fork of Nolin, Kentucky

Thomas Lincoln moved from Elizabethtown to his new purchase on the south Fork of Nolin late in the year 1808. This farm was the largest tract of land he had owned and he paid two hundred dollars cash for it. It was here on February 12, 1809, that Abraham Lincoln was born. The cabin was situated three miles south of where Hodgenville, LaRue county, now is, and in what was then Hardin county.

Knob Creek, Kentucky

About two years after Abraham Lincoln was born his father moved the family to a cabin on Knob Creek and secured possession of a tract of land there. No photograph of this cabin home seems to be available. Here Abraham lived from the time he was two years of age until he was seven. This cabin site was also in what was then Hardin county but which later became LaRue county. It was the last Kentucky residence of the Lincolns.

Little Pigeon Creek, Indiana

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas in the year 1816, Thomas Lincoln

moved his family to what is now Spencer county, Indiana, and settled on the Southwest Quarter of Section 32, Township 4, South of Range 5 West. Tradition speaks of three different shelters which were erected on this site. The cabin which stood there at the time of the family's removal, like other Lincoln cabins, mysteriously disappeared. This was the home of Abraham Lincoln from the time he was seven until he became of age.

Sangamon River, Illinois

On March 14, 1830, the Lincoln caravan went into camp at Decatur, Macon county, Illinois. Ten miles southwest of this town, near the Sangamon river, the men of the party, with the assistance of John Hanks, erected a cabin. This is the cabin which has been given so much prominence in recent press dispatches, and which has furnished information for at least two interesting brochures about its being exhibited on Boston Common. Pieces of the cabin were sold for souvenirs. What was left of it was lost at sea while enroute for England, so tradition states.

Buck Grove, Illinois

Sickness, the rigors of a cold winter, and possibly Abraham's leaving home, were responsible for the Lincolns starting back towards Indiana after a year's residence on the Sangamon. They were persuaded to settle in Buck Grove close to some of Mrs. Lincoln's relatives where a cabin was erected in Section 5, Township 11, Range 8. Lincoln remained here on this first Coles county site for three years.

Walker's Place, Illinois

There seems to be some evidence that Lincoln moved from section five to section ten at the conclusion of his Buck Grove residence, and purchased forty acres of land on which he built a cabin. This home was about three quarters of a mile south of where the town of Lerna, Coles county, now stands.

Plummer's Place, Illinois

On November 25, 1834, Thomas Lincoln purchased eighty acres of land, in the same township where he was then residing, securing a half of the quarter section number sixteen. Here a cabin was erected and a residence established until the sale of the property on December 27, 1837. This was probably the third cabin Thomas Lincoln had erected in Coles county.

Goose Nest Prairie, Illinois

By the spring of 1838, Thomas Lincoln had become established in the cabin on the new purchase at Goose Nest Prairie, also in Coles county. Here he lived until the day of his death, in 1851. The place where he died finally came into possession of the National War Museum company but, like some of the former homes of the pioneer, its disappearance is clothed in obscurity.