

# LINCOLN LORE

No. 132

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

October 19, 1931

## LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF  
THE LINCOLN  
HISTORICAL  
RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION



ENDOWED BY  
THE LINCOLN  
NATIONAL LIFE  
INSURANCE  
COMPANY

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### LINCOLN'S MYTHICAL BIRTHPLACES

The present attempt by a New York judge to discredit the generally accepted birthplace of Abraham Lincoln near Hodgenville, and to center attention on a farm purchased by the president's father on Mill Creek, Hardin County, Kentucky, in 1803 invites the tabulation of the many other places which have claimed the site of Lincoln's nativity.

*Jonathan's Creek, Swain County, N. C.*

Another version of the North Carolina origin of Abraham Lincoln locates the birthplace of the president on Jonathan's Creek instead of Oona Lufta. The affiant who was ninety years of age when he submitted his testimony about Lincoln's birthplace was in agreement with other traditions associated with the Oona Lufta story but felt sure Jonathan's Creek was the site of the birthplace cabin.

*Oona Lufta, Swain County, N. C.*

Several years ago an attorney gathered 300 pages of printed evidence to prove that Abraham Lincoln was born in North Carolina. Most of the witnesses agreed that the place of Lincoln's birth was in the home of Abraham Enloe on Oona Lufta. Several members of the Enloe family testified to the truth of this tradition.

*Caravan, Enroute to Kentucky*

It is not strange that one tradition has it that Abraham Lincoln was born during the migration of his parents into Kentucky. This is also a version of the North Carolina tradition although it is not clear from the signed testimonials whether or not the nativity occurred in North Carolina or Kentucky, presumably in North Carolina. "Whether he first saw the light in the woods, on the roadside, or in a dingy hovel, it matters not," is the way the compiler of this story puts it.

*Lynn Mountain, Tennessee*

The claim that Abraham Lincoln was born in Tennessee is based on the visit which Thomas Lincoln made to his Uncle Isaac. Dr. Nat Hayden, the local historical authority, says that Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks lived in a cabin on the slope of Lynn Mountain and here the president was born.

*Beech Fork, Washington County, Ky.*

If one will refer to the government

blueprint map of Rural Free Delivery Routes leading out of Springfield, Washington County, Kentucky, he will find "Birthplace of Abraham Lincoln," conspicuously marked on Beech Fork, about eight miles north of Springfield. The cabin in which the parents of Lincoln were married once stood here, and tradition claims they lived here until Abraham Lincoln was born. There was an Abraham Lincoln born in the community but he was a cousin of the president.

### MEMORANDUM FOR THOMAS HICKS

I was born February 12, 1809, in then Hardin County, Kentucky, at a point within the now county of LaRue, a mile or a mile and a half, from where Hodgen's Mill now is. My parents being dead, and my own memory not serving, I know of no means of identifying the precise locality. It was on Nolin Creek.

A. Lincoln.

June 14, 1860.

*Stone House, Thatcher's Mill, Bourbon County, Ky.*

Daniel Thatcher, owner of Thatcher's Mill, told a citizen of Winchester, Kentucky, that "Abraham Lincoln was born near Thatcher's Mill, not in the stone house, as many suppose, but in a log cabin long since destroyed." There is a tradition still prevalent that the old stone house was the birthplace of Lincoln. Division of opinion between the claims for the stone and the log structures seems to have been about equal.

*Cabin, Thatcher's Mill, Bourbon County, Ky.*

Rev. Samuel Rogers, an early pioneer preacher, gave this reminiscence to his daughter, from whose book this excerpt is taken. "Abraham Lincoln was born near Thatcher's Mill, on or near the line that divides Clark County from Bourbon County. . . . I have often seen the place where he was born." There was an Abraham Lincoln, also son of a Thomas Lincoln, born not many miles away.

*Talbot Place, Hardin County, Ky.*

More than ten years ago the editor of Lincoln Lore interviewed T. S. Gardner of Elizabethtown about a tradition relating to the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. Gardner said: "I have heard Jesse Talbot, who lived to be 85 years old, tell the story many times, that Abraham Lincoln was born in an old log cabin on the farm known as the Talbot Place, about three miles from Elizabethtown."

*"Pop" Martin Place, Hardin County, Ky.*

Clint Crume, a relative of Ralph Crume, uncle of Abraham Lincoln, told the writer that he had often heard an aged negro repeat a tradition current in the community that

"Lincoln was born on the old 'Pop' Martin place on the Hardin-Breckenridge Line." Another Nancy Hanks lived in this vicinity which may have been responsible for the tradition.

*Lincoln Cabin, Elizabethtown, Ky.*

Some of the early historians claimed that Abraham Lincoln was the first child of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, and that his birth occurred while his parents were living in the Elizabethtown home. Abraham's sister, Sarah, was born at Elizabethtown but not in the cabin of Sarah Johnston.

*Race Street, Elizabethtown, Hardin County, Ky.*

Samuel Haycraft thought Abraham Lincoln was born at Elizabethtown and wrote to him about it. Lincoln replied: "I was not born at Elizabethtown." He explained to Haycraft that he did have a sister, two years older than himself, who was born there. His step-mother, Sarah Johnston Lincoln, lived in the Elizabethtown cabin, often erroneously featured as the Lincoln cabin. John D. Johnston, the step-brother of Abraham Lincoln, was born in this cabin but the Lincolns never lived in it.

*Mill Creek, Hardin County, Ky.*

Thomas Lincoln bought a farm on Mill Creek in Hardin County three years before he married Nancy Hanks in 1806. They possibly lived there until the Elizabethtown cabin was ready for occupancy sometime that same year. It is alleged that they remained on the farm until after Abraham Lincoln was born.

*Mouth of South Fork, Larue County, Ky.*

What may be called a family heirloom in the way of a tradition has come down through "Old Billy Larue" who said Abraham Lincoln was born on a farm on Nolin River at the mouth of South Fork. He said he ought to know for his father lived just across the creek.

*Knob Creek, Larue County, Ky.*

A case of mistaken identity is responsible for the tradition that Abraham Lincoln was born in the cabin on Knob Creek, where his parents lived for five years. Abraham's brother Thomas was born here and the neighbors trying to remember events which had happened long ago were confused about the name of the child.

*Plum Orchard, Buffalo, Larue County, Ky.*

A cabin in the plum orchard near where the town of Buffalo now stands has often been associated with the Lincolns, and a local tradition has sprung up that Abraham Lincoln was born there. Dr. Barton was firmly convinced that the Lincolns lived there until just before the birth of Abraham. Others feel they did not move so soon and that here the natal day was observed.