

# LINCOLN LORE

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## LINCOLN LOG CABINS

A great world's fair in America would be incomplete without one or more Lincoln cabins on display. Although there is no original home of the Lincolns being shown at the Century of Progress Exposition, there are several replicas of buildings associated with the life of the president. The opening of the exhibition invites a brief review of the Lincoln cabins which have become famous by having often been reproduced in replica and made familiar by photographic copies.

### Cabins Occupied by Abraham Lincoln

#### *Lincoln Birthplace Cabin*

The most famous of all the Lincoln log cabins is the one preserved in the memorial building at Hodgenville, Kentucky. It is doubtful if any other birthplace home in the country has become so universally known and recognized by all classes of people as has the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born.

The itinerary of this cabin was a long one and its removal from place to place began shortly after Lincoln was elected to the presidency. An admirer of Lincoln living about one mile north of the birthplace farm acquired the famous cabin early in the sixties and moved it to his own farm property where it served for a time as a school house. Someone saw the show value of the old pile of logs, purchased it, and exhibited it at the Tennessee Centennial at Nashville in 1894. Central Park, New York, was the next site chosen for its reconstruction and the one hundred and forty-three logs, properly marked and numbered, were assembled there.

The preliminary announcements and illustrative data with reference to the Lincoln cabin exhibited at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis is rather confusing if an identification is attempted from the sources available. One press report states it was "the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born"; another version of the story represents it as being "the old log cabin he lived in when a child from 1813 to 1816," and an illustrated publication of the fair shows a likeness of the Coles County, Illinois, cabin as the one being exhibited.

We next find the Lincoln cabin stored away in Stamford, Connecticut, after having made an extensive itinerary about the country. While in storage it was acquired by the Lincoln Farm Association and removed to New York for safer storage facilities.

On Wednesday, June 6, 1906, it began its famous trip back to Kentucky to be the feature attraction for the Kentucky Old Home Week celebration at Louisville. The Governor of the state detailed a detachment of five men from the militia to escort the cabin from New York to Kentucky. Its trans-

portation was provided by the Pennsylvania Railroad and the car on which it was moved was beautifully decorated. At Philadelphia, Baltimore, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Columbus, and Indianapolis it was received by the mayors of the respective cities and elaborate ceremonies were conducted at each place. Upon arrival at Louisville a program was arranged in its honor and it was displayed at Central Park.

After the celebration at Louisville it went into storage there until 1909 when it was shipped to Hodgenville and placed on the original site for the centennial celebration of Lincoln's birth at which time the cornerstone of the memorial building was laid. Back

was still standing. It was sold by the owners of the Lincoln farm in 1871 and at that time still occupied the original site. There seems to be no dependable evidence as to just what became of this old cabin after it was taken down by a man in Evansville who had purchased it.

#### *The Macon County, Illinois Cabin*

This is the last of the cabin homes in which Abraham Lincoln lived with his people, and he resided in it but a very short time. This cabin, more often associated with John Hanks who helped to build it, had an extensive itinerary arranged for it. It was exhibited on Boston Common from July 15 to September 9, 1865, and at Barnum's Museum, New York City, from September 18 until the last of October, the same year. It is said to have been lost at sea while enroute to England.

#### Cabins Associated with Lincoln's Father

##### *The Lincoln Marriage Cabin*

Many Washington County, Kentucky, citizens still believe that Abraham Lincoln was born in the same cabin in which his parents were married, although the residence of the Lincolns in Hardin County in 1809 is established by documents. The cabin in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married is now enshrined in a memorial building at Harrodsburg, Kentucky, at least twenty miles from its original site. It is known as the Lincoln marriage cabin.

##### *The Sarah Johnston Cabin*

Many of the early biographies show the picture of a tumble down log shed on Race Street in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, as the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. The Lincoln's never occupied this cabin but it was the home of the widow Johnston previous to her marriage to Thomas Lincoln in 1819. What became of this cabin we do not know although one old citizen says it was shipped away for exhibition purposes.

##### *The Coles County, Illinois Cabin*

This cabin of Thomas Lincoln so often confused with the cabin homes of Abraham Lincoln was brought to Chicago by the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association for exhibition at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. It was rebuilt in the north annex of the old Exposition Building on the lake front.

Many years ago the following notice appeared in a Chicago paper:

"Personal—Public notice is hereby given to owners and others who may claim an interest in the 'Abraham Lincoln cabin' to remove the same from the premises of Libby Prison War Museum, on Wabash Ave., or it will be sold to pay charges or donated to some historical or other society." According to Mr. Gunther this was the Coles County cabin. Part of it at least was destroyed along with Uncle Tom's Cabin which was stored with it.

## CENTURY OF PROGRESS

### Replicas of Buildings Associated with Lincoln

Birthplace cabin

Indiana cabin

New Salem Store

Rutledge Tavern

Room in Springfield Home

Chicago Wigwam

Lincoln Group next to Fort Dearborn

Indiana cabin

Horticultural Exhibit

New Salem Store

Food Exhibit

Room in Springfield Home

Illinois Host Building

to Louisville it went after the celebration to go into storage again and it remained there until 1911 when it was finally rebuilt within the Lincoln Memorial Building on the birthplace farm where it will remain until it crumbles away.

#### *The Lincoln Childhood Cabin*

Abraham Lincoln's second home was a cabin on Knob Creek about ten miles north of the birthplace cabin. The Lincolns occupied this cabin from 1811 to 1816. In 1895 a correspondent of a newspaper wrote about the Knob Creek cabin as follows: "Nothing is left of the old cabin but part of the great stone fireplace. A number of the logs that made up the poor home have been used by Charles Rapier, the present owner of the farm, in building a stable."

#### *The Cabin of Lincoln's Youth*

Many confusing stories are in circulation about the disposition of the cabin occupied by the Lincoln's in Indiana. Very fortunately several pictures of the cabin were taken while it