

LINCOLN LORE

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THE BURIAL PLACES OF THE LINCOLNS

Memorial Day, with its patriotic and military aspects coming down from the Civil War period, after the passing of the Grand Army of the Republic, will more and more become Decoration Day.

While the participation in the anniversary by the World War veterans has in some measure revived the national significance of the celebration, it is the "strewing of flowers" which characterizes the holiday more truly than oratory and salutes. As such it has become a day of recognition for all the departed ones. It seems timely in this issue of Lincoln Lore to point out the burial places of the Lincolns.

A close friend of the family, Isaac N. Arnold, states that Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, in the month of October, 1874, related the following incident to him. She said she had been to City Point and Richmond with Mr. Lincoln, just a few days before his assassination, and they were driving along the James River when they came to an old country graveyard. She described it as "a retired place, shaded with trees, and early spring flowers were opening on nearly every grave. It was so quiet and attractive that they stopped the carriage and walked through it. Mr. Lincoln seemed thoughtful and impressed. He said: 'Mary, you are younger than I. You will survive me. When I am gone, lay my remains in some quiet place like this.'"

The members of the Lincoln families are for the most part buried in obscure spots withdrawn from the usual avenues of travel, such as the place admired by the President.

LONG RUN CEMETERY Jefferson County, Kentucky

Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the President, was massacred by the Indians in May, 1786, while working on his 400-acre farm in Jefferson County, Kentucky. Tradition claims that his body lies buried in an unmarked grave in the cemetery of the Long Run Baptist Church, where a log meeting house had been erected on the Lincoln tract of land when the place was first settled. This cemetery is about eighteen miles from Louisville, just north of where the Louisville-Lexington Road crosses the stream known as Long Run.

MILL CREEK CEMETERY Hardin County, Kentucky

The widow of the Pioneer Lincoln, Bathsheba Lincoln, passed away at the home of her daughter, Nancy Lincoln

Brumfield, and is buried in the Mill Creek Churchyard. Her grave has recently been identified by descendants of Mrs. Brumfield, whose burial place is marked with a stone properly inscribed. The small stone on the grave of the Widow Lincoln bears no inscription. The Mill Creek burial ground is twelve miles north of Elizabethtown and at least two miles from the Elizabethtown-Louisville Highway.

REDMOND BURIAL GROUND LaRue County, Kentucky

Just recently there has been discovered, in the community where the Lincolns lived on Knob Creek, a private burial ground which is thought to contain the body of Abraham Lincoln's infant brother, Thomas. A stone with the inscription "T. L." was unearthed, and evidence points strongly to the fact that it marks the grave of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln's youngest child. The cemetery is seven miles north of Hodgenville on the road leading to Bardstown.

THE CENOTAPH

And so they buried Lincoln? Strange and vain!
Has any creature thought of Lincoln hid
In any vault, 'Neath any coffin-lid,
In all the years since that wild Spring of pain?
'Tis false—he never in the grave hath lain.
You could not bury him although you slid
Upon his lap the Cheops pyramid
Or heaped it with the Rocky Mountain chain.

James T. McKay, *Century Magazine*,
February, 1890.

NANCY HANKS MEMORIAL PARK Spencer County, Indiana

Lincoln's mother lies buried on the crest of a hill in what must have been a neighborhood cemetery about one-quarter of a mile south of the Lincoln cabin site. The first inscribed marker on the grave was placed there by P. E. Studebaker on November 27, 1879. It bears the following inscription:

NANCY HANKS / LINCOLN /
MOTHER OF PRESIDENT / LINCOLN /
DIED / OCTOBER 5 A.D. 1818 /
AGED 35 YEARS / Erected by a friend
of her martyred son 1879 /

The burial ground and adjacent acres have been made into a state park situated adjacent to Lincoln City in Spencer County.

PIGEON CHURCH CEMETERY Spencer County, Indiana

The only sister of Abraham Lincoln, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, was one of the first to be buried in the cemetery of Pigeon Church, which is situated about one mile southeast of the Lincoln

cabin site. Her grave was marked originally with a simple, rough headstone, but, on Memorial Day, 1916, a tombstone was erected bearing the following inscription:

SARAH LINCOLN / WIFE OF /
AARON GRIGSBY / FEB. 10, 1807 /
JAN. 20, 1828 /

GORDON CEMETERY Coles County, Illinois

Lincoln's father and his stepmother occupy graves in the Gordon Cemetery at Shiloh Church, halfway between the towns of Farmington and Janesville. The original monument on Thomas Lincoln's grave was erected May 7, 1880, by his grandson, Robert Todd Lincoln, and bore the following inscription:

THOMAS LINCOLN / FATHER OF
/ THE MARTYRED PRESIDENT /
BORN / JAN. 6, 1778 / DIED / JAN. 15,
1851 /

In 1924 another monument replaced the original and bears this inscription:

THOMAS AND SARAH BUSH
LINCOLN / 1778-1851 — 1788-1869 /
FATHER AND STEPMOTHER OF
OUR MARTYRED PRESIDENT /
THEIR HUMBLE BUT WORTHY
HOME / GAVE THE WORLD / ABRAHAM
LINCOLN / Erected by the Lions
Clubs of the State of Illinois /

OAK RIDGE CEMETERY Springfield, Illinois

Mrs. Lincoln against much opposition followed out the President's wish that he should be buried in a quiet place. Although his tomb has now become the mecca of thousands of pilgrims annually, Oak Ridge Cemetery, in 1865, was a new and little-frequented burial ground. The President's body was placed in the receiving vault at the cemetery on May 4, 1865, but in December was moved to a more permanent vault, finally being placed in the Lincoln Tomb September 19, 1871. In the remodeled tomb, dedicated on June 17, 1931, are deposited the bodies of Abraham Lincoln; his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln; and three of his four children, Edward, Willie, and Thomas.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The only child of Abraham Lincoln to reach maturity was Robert Todd Lincoln whose body lies in the Arlington National Cemetery. He served as secretary of war under two presidents and was a United States minister to Great Britain. He died July 25, 1926.