

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

No. 381

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

July 27, 1936

## A CABIN OF UNIVERSAL FAME

The log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born has become the best known home in all the universe. No structure where a man of any nation has dwelt is more quickly recognized by people the world around than the house of logs in which Abraham Lincoln first saw the light of day.

On February 12, 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt visited the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln in order to take part in a program which launched the project looking to the preservation of the Lincoln cabin. On June 14, 1936, President Franklin Roosevelt made a journey to the same place, not to deliver an address, but to visit the humble cabin much as a private citizen to gain inspiration at the shrine. Year by year outstanding world citizens from many nations make the pilgrimage to the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln.

The original Lincoln cabin itself once went on a lengthy itinerary, having been shown at the Tennessee Centennial at Nashville, Tennessee, and in many of the large cities of the country. On the one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth in 1909, it was returned to its original site. As the cabin is no longer available for exhibition purposes the next best method of allowing the general public to get a glimpse of what the birthplace of Lincoln was like is to construct replicas of it. Many of these have been erected throughout the country and even Denmark has built a Lincoln cabin in one of her parks. In 1920 The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company erected a replica of the cabin in Foster Park at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Three years later Miss Mary Bowditch Forbes built a Lincoln cabin on her estate at Milton, Massachusetts. Both of these log houses are built to the exact specifications of the Hodgenville cabin now preserved in the beautiful memorial structure there.

The Fort Wayne Lincoln cabin has recently been rebuilt in a more favorable location near the entrance of Foster Park. It is surrounded on three sides by a typical pioneer rail fence and the landscaping has been arranged to harmonize with a cabin home. The furnishings for the cabin were ob-

tained in Kentucky in the county where Abraham Lincoln was born.

Many requests have come to the Lincoln National Life Foundation from Boy Scout Troops and other organizations for information which would be helpful in building a replica of the cabin. This issue of Lincoln Lore presents sufficient instructions for the building of an accurate replica of the Lincoln cabin.

### Foundation

Field stones were used under the foundation logs although sometimes large stones supporting the four corners of the cabin and the four corners of the chimney were all that were required.

### General Plan

The cabin is 17 ft. x 13 ft., outside measurements, with a door 5 ft. 8 in. by 2 ft. 8 in. and a window 2 ft. square in the front wall of the structure. On the left side wall is an opening for the fireplace and a log and stick chimney 6 ft. 6 in. wide and 3 ft. 11 in. deep. The back and right walls of the cabin are without openings.

### Front Wall

The front wall is eleven logs high to the eaves. To make room for door and windows several logs of different lengths are necessary. Log Measurements follow:

1 log	.....	19 ft.
4 logs	.....	17 ft.
6 logs	.....	7 ft. 7 in.
4 logs	.....	6 ft. 9 in.
2 logs	.....	3 ft.
2 logs	.....	1 ft. 9 in.
Door casing, overall	.....	2 ft. 8 in. wide 5 ft. 8 in. high
Window casing, overall	.....	2 ft. square

### Right Side Wall

The right side wall is ten logs high including the long eave log. Above the eave are three more logs which complete the gable. Log Measurements follow:

1 log	.....	15 ft.
9 logs	.....	13 ft.
1 log	.....	9 ft. 6 in.
1 log	.....	5 ft. 6 in.
1 log	.....	2 ft. 6 in.

### Back Wall

The back wall is plain with all logs the same length except the eave log which extends out on each end 12 inches beyond the rest of the back logs. Log Measurements follow:

1 log	.....	19 ft.
10 logs	.....	17 ft.

### Left Side Wall

The fireplace is cut out of the left wall. The sixth log directly over the fireplace is the first one to extend the full length of the side wall. There are four more full length logs including the eave log and three shorter ones in the gable. Log Measurements follow:

1 log	.....	15 ft.
4 logs	.....	13 ft.
5 logs	.....	4 ft. 3 in.
1 log	.....	9 ft. 6 in.
1 log	.....	5 ft. 6 in.
1 log	.....	2 ft. 6 in.

### Chimney

The chimney against the left wall is five logs high in back and six logs high on each side. On top of these logs smaller sticks are used to build the chimney tapering off until they reach the height of the ninth side log of the cabin. (The chimney may be extended to the roof.) Log Measurements follow:

12 logs	.....	4 ft. 10 in.
5 logs	.....	6 ft. 6 in.
30 sticks from	.....	6 ft. 6 in. to 3 ft. 3 in.

### Roof

The roof consists of five poles besides the two eave logs of the walls, and on these, three courses of hand made singles are placed. These shingles are held on by an extra ridge pole and three more poles extending across the roof where the courses of shingles join. Pole Measurements follow:

12 poles	.....	19 ft. long
----------	-------	-------------

Sufficient hand made shingles for 3 courses on each side of roof.

### Picture Available

The Lincoln National Life Foundation will be pleased to furnish a picture of the cabin to any group which anticipates building a replica.