

# LINCOLN LORE

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## THE LINCOLNS—FRONTIERSMEN ALL

The same year that the Mayflower landed at Plymouth, a boy by the name of Samuel Lincoln was born at old Hingham in England. Seventeen years later, on June 20, 1637, this boy Samuel disembarked at Boston, not far from Plymouth Rock. The spirit of adventure which brought him to the new country may have found expression in the experience of his offspring, who soon began to migrate to the frontier communities of America and establish their homes on the very crest of Western civilization.

Samuel Lincoln and his wife had a family of eleven children, all born before Massachusetts became a Royal Colony. Two of their grandchildren, Mordecai and Abraham Lincoln, had migrated to New Jersey within a dozen years of the time that territory was accepted as a Royal Colony.

William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, had been dead but twelve years when Mordecai Lincoln moved from New Jersey into the new colony named for Penn. The Lincolns set up some of the first iron forges in the state and in the very community where Mordecai Lincoln's old home still stands are the stacks of a great modern steel plant.

About the time Patrick Henry was presenting his argument in the House of Burgesses at Williamsburg, Virginia, against the unjust taxation of the colonies by England, John Lincoln, great grandfather of the President, moved into the state of Virginia beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains. His own grandson, Thomas Lincoln, father of President Lincoln, was born in Virginia in 1776, not more than twenty-five miles from the birthplace of Thomas Jefferson.

Ten years before Kentucky was made a state in the Union and while Virginia was still looked upon by Eng-

land as one of her colonies, Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of his famous namesake, moved his family across the Allegheny Mountains into the dark and bloody ground. Pushing on, to within a few miles of where the Ohio River stopped further progress westward, and on the very frontier of the most westward boundary of the Old Dominion, the pioneer Abraham Lin-

coln River into the territory of Indiana, which had that very year, 1816, become a new state in the Union. Again the Lincoln family was living out on the very frontier of Western civilization. Abraham Lincoln, in later years described the country where his Indiana home was located as "a wild region with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods."

Thomas Lincoln continued to be sensitive to the appeal of the frontier and in 1830, moved on to Illinois and erected another cabin on the very edge of the great prairie.

Abraham Lincoln, himself, was a child of the frontier. He was born in the state farthest west at the time of his birth and the second state to come into the Union after the close of the Revolutionary War. As a boy of seven he reached the new state of Indiana and at twenty-one, his home was located farther west until he was but a short distance from the great Mississippi.

His eyes were still on the frontier when he advised a young man seeking information about a good place to settle, "I think I would go to Kansas—to Leavenworth or Atchison." His last words spoken to a visitor at the White House, just before leaving for Ford's Theatre on the fatal night of April 14, 1865, referred to the opportunities in the far west.

The year 1937 marks the 300th anniversary of the arrival at Boston of Abraham Lincoln's first American ancestor, Samuel Lincoln. Beginning June 20, a series of pageants commemorating this event will be conducted in the various places where the subsequent generations of Lincoln built their homes. These programs will emphasize the fact that the Lincolns were "Frontiersmen All."

## Lincoln... Child of the Frontier



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## THE EXTENT OF THE NATION AT HIS BIRTH

February 12, 1809

coln settled his family in Hughes Station, near Fort Nelson, now Louisville. Here in 1786, just ten years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and but three years after the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States, the grandfather of the President, although but forty-two years of age, was massacred by the Indians.

The same year that the War of 1812 was concluded, Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, moved across the