

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN HOMES ON THE WATER COURSES

The series of books released under the general title *Rivers of America* are of special interest to students of history. Not only were the waterways early avenues of travel but they also furnished the nomenclature for the location of the homes of the Pioneers—a primitive directory for the people living in the wilderness. All the homes of the early Lincolns are conveniently tabulated by the names of the streams which drained their land. These waterways were called branches, brooks, creeks, forks, rivers, runs, etc.

Although small streams at times slightly changed their courses they became the most dependable means of establishing early land surveys. There were but few of the early grants that did not use the meanders of a stream as a property line. Mills dependent on water power, fords and ferry landings gave further means of locating the obscure cabins of the pioneers. The various homes occupied by the father of Abraham Lincoln during that period previous to the birth of Abraham and until he left his father's home at twenty-one years of age are mentioned here by their waterway names.

Linville Creek—Thomas Lincoln the father of the President was born in Virginia on Linville Creek a tributary of the Shenandoah River which flows into the Potomac. To paraphrase an illustration so often used on the great divide in the Rocky Mountains; the rain drops which fall on the Linville Creek farm where the Lincoln's once resided eventually flow by the White House at Washington. From the deed to the Linville Creek property made out to the grandfather of Thomas we make this excerpt with reference to the land: The grantors "sell to the said John Lincoln a tract of land containing 600 acres more or less lying and being in the county of Augusta on Linville Creek."

Long Run—Thomas Lincoln as a small boy removed with his parents to a settlement on Long Run near the present city of Louisville. The deed, by which Mordecai Lincoln, brother of Thomas, conveyed his deceased father's land to a grantee, contains this note of location: "400 acres of land lying in the county aforesaid (Jefferson) on Long Run a water of Floyd's Fork near where Hughes' Station was." Floyd's Fork flows into Salt River, a tributary of the Ohio.

Lincoln Run—After the pioneer Lincoln died on Long Run the widow moved her family including Thomas the youngest son to a cabin on Lincoln Run of Beech Fork. While no deed of conveyance to the widow's property is available we do have a deed of the adjacent Brumfield farm which answers our purpose. Thomas' youngest sister Nancy married William Brumfield. An excerpt from this deed which mentions the Lincoln boundary follows, "From an elm on Lincoln Run, thence up the same in its meanders to an elm corner to Wilford Hayden on the cliff of Beech Fork." Beech Fork is a branch of Rolling Fork which flows into Salt River.

Mill Creek—When Thomas Lincoln was old enough to possess land in his own name he purchased some property on Mill Creek. Later when he joined with his second wife Sarah Bush Lincoln in selling the land he located the 238 acre tract as situated "in Hardin County on the waters of Mill Creek." Mill Creek also flows into Salt River.

Nolin River—It was customary in drafting a land grant or deed to give a general location of the property by designating "the waters" which drained the property although the stream itself might be two or three miles away. In describing his birthplace Lincoln once wrote, "As my parents have told me I was born on Nolin, a mile or a mile and a half from Hodgins' mill." In the original deed of conveyance it is mentioned as "a certain tract or parcel of land . . . on the waters of the South Fork of Nolin." South Fork and North Fork come together to make Nolin River at least two miles from the Lincoln cabin which is sometimes pictured as standing on Nolin River, a tributary of Green River which flows into the Mississippi.

Knob Creek—Several references were made by Abraham Lincoln to the Knob Creek Home. In the autobiographical sketch he prepared for Scripps he stated that as a child he lived "on Knob Creek, on the road from Bardstown, Kentucky to Nashville, Tennessee at a point three or three and one half miles south or southwest of Atherton's Ferry on the Rolling Fork." Later on Lincoln wrote to Samuel Haycraft of Kentucky: "The place on Knob Creek . . . I remember very well; but I was not born there, I was born on Nolin, very much nearer Hodgen's Mill than the

Knob Creek place is. My earliest recollection, however, is of the Knob Creek place." A canoe put in the waters of Knob Creek near Thomas Lincoln's cabin would move over these successive streams on the way to New Orleans; Knob Creek, Rolling Fork, Salt River, Ohio River, and the Mississippi.

Little Pigeon Creek—By the time Thomas Lincoln was ready to migrate to Indiana the government had attended to surveying the land by sections, so that the primary need for waterways as boundary lines and for identification purposes had almost passed. The Lincolns however located their land on the head waters of Little Pigeon Creek which flows into the Ohio.

Sangamon River—The last cabin home which Abraham Lincoln occupied with his parents was in Illinois and he referred to this location as, "on the north side of the Sangamon River at the junction of the timberland and prairie about ten miles westerly from Decatur." Sangamon River flowed by Springfield and New Salem where he batched it until he set up his own home in the town of Springfield. Here the residences were located by street and number rather than by their proximity to the closest waterway. It was over the Sangamon thence to the Illinois and finally into the Mississippi that he made his second trip to New Orleans.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL SPEAKING ITINERARY OF DR. WARREN

Speaking engagements have been made for Dr. Warren on the dates designated, in the following named cities. If you wish to learn where he may be heard telephone the representative of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company in the city mentioned.

January 14, 15; St. Louis. Jan. 16, 17; Dallas. Jan. 20, 21; Fort Worth. Jan. 22; Abilene. Jan. 23, 24; San Antonio. Jan. 27, 28, 29; Houston. Jan. 30; Beaumont. Jan. 31; Port Arthur. February 3, 4; Shreveport. Feb. 5, Little Rock. Feb. 6, 7; Memphis. Feb. 10, 11, 12; Chicago. Feb. 13, 14; Milwaukee. Feb. 17, 18; Madison. Feb. 19; Sheboygan. Feb. 20, Appleton. Feb. 21; Wausau. Feb. 24, 25; Minneapolis. Feb. 26; Racine.