

# LINCOLN LORE

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

Number 1364

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

May 30, 1955

## MEMORIALIZING THE LINCOLNS IN KENTUCKY

On this Memorial Day ninety years after the death of the Emancipator, Kentucky is dedicating a bronze plaque at the farm where Abraham Lincoln spent his boyhood days. The Kentucky Historical Society, the Boy Scouts of America, Old Kentucky Home Council, Kentucky Highway Department and the University of Kentucky are collaborating in the project. The speaker for the occasion will be Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry of Lincoln Memorial University, a well known student of Lincolniana, who was born and lived for many years in old Hardin County which originally embraced the Knob Creek Home of the Lincolns.

### Site of Knob Creek Home, Larue County

It was the thought of the early biographers that Lincoln spent most of his boyhood days at the birthplace farm but certain court documents now available prove that by May 11, 1811 when Abraham was but two years old, his father moved his family to the Knob Creek location. Abraham in a letter to a Kentuckian comments, "The place on Knob Creek I remember very well." This farm might well be called the early playground of Abraham Lincoln. Including the memorial to be dedicated today, several other spots of Lincoln historical importance in Kentucky, as yet not properly marked, are mentioned.

We trust that this is but the beginning of a renewed interest by Kentucky in the marking of historical sites in the state associated with Lincoln and his kinsfolk. Certainly the fact that one of the world's outstanding figures and America's most revered personality was born in Kentucky should be sufficient reason for claiming the state's interest.

### Lincoln's Brother's Grave, Larue County

It is not known generally that Abraham Lincoln had a brother born two or three years after his own birth. The child who died in infancy was named Thomas for his father and is buried in a private cemetery near the Knob Creek Home. The grave should be permanently marked.

### Site of Lincoln Log School House, Athertonville

An extremely important site associated with Abraham Lincoln's early days is the spot where stood the first log school house Lincoln attended as a boy. Documents are available which definitely locate the building as early as 1800. A road order specified that "the road from Rolling Fork was to intersect the old road near a school house on Knob Creek." The log building stood near Athertonville on the same highway that runs by the Knob Creek Home. The fact that the name Lincoln has been a favorite one for grammar schools and high schools all over America should encourage the marking of this first Lincoln school.

### Abbey of La Trappe, Nelson County

Illinois has marked the resting place of Azel W. Dorsey, a Kentuckian, who taught Lincoln mathematics in an Indiana School House. It would be appropriate indeed to mark the grave of Zachariah Riney, Lincoln's first school teacher who is said to be buried in the cemetery of the Abbey of La Trappe not far from New Haven.

### "The Bigg Hill", Larue County

It would contribute much to the prestige of Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, if an historical tablet could be placed at the bottom of "The Bigg Hill" which marks the beginning of the segment of road on which Thomas was appointed surveyor on May 13, 1816. The Muldraugh's Hill road is said to have received one of the earliest grants of government aid for road building in the nation.

### Berry Home Site, Washington County

While it is true that the cabin in which the Lincoln-Hanks marriage ceremony took place in Washington County has been removed and preserved at Harrodsburg, Kentucky, it would seem appropriate to mark the actual site where the cabin originally stood in Washington County. A tablet might serve the double purpose of marking the early home of Lincoln's mother.

### Site of Hughes Station, Jefferson County

A permanent marker should be erected to point out the site of Hughes Station where Abraham Lincoln's grandfather for whom the President was named, was massacred by the Indians in 1786. The Long Run Baptist Church burial grounds which was once within the pioneer's 400 acre tract contains the remains of grandfather Lincoln.

### Fort Knox Cemetery, Hardin County

The actual grave of only one of Abraham Lincoln's four grandparents is identified. It is located in a cemetery within the Fort Knox reservation in Hardin County not far from where the gold of the United States lies buried. It would be appropriate for the government to properly mark and enclose this burial plot.

### Thompson's Ferry, Hancock County

Some time between Thanksgiving and Christmas in the year 1816 the Lincoln family left Kentucky for Indiana. The mother and daughter in the family were never to return to Kentucky again. It would be appropriate indeed to mark the Kentucky terminal of Hugh Thompson's Ferry opposite Troy, Indiana where the Lincoln family left Kentucky soil for the Hoosier state.

### Site of Speech, Morganfield

Abraham Lincoln is known to have made one political speech in Kentucky and that was at Morganfield in the Tippecanoe and Tyler's campaign of 1840. Lincoln was a Whig elector from Illinois and was campaigning in southern Illinois for Harrison and arrived at Shawneetown, Ill. on Monday, September 7. Through the influence of George W. Riddell of Morganfield, Kentucky he was persuaded to speak in Riddell's town the following day and was accompanied by a large delegation of Whigs. The hotel where he was entertained at dinner and the site where he made the speech would offer excellent opportunity to commemorate the only speech Lincoln ever made in the state of his birth.

### Joshua Speed Home, Louisville

Lincoln's closest personal friend was Joshua Speed of Louisville, Kentucky whose brother James later became a member of Lincoln's cabinet. In the month of August 1841 Lincoln paid a visit to his friend Joshua and spent several days with him. A tablet memorializes his friendship for Joshua and the visit paid him in 1841 might be timely indeed if placed near the Speed home.

### Mary Lincoln Home, Lexington

The fact that Irving Stone's novel *Love is Eternal* about Mary Todd Lincoln has been the most widely read book of the past year and the excellent objective study *Mary Lincoln. The Biography of a Marriage* by Ruth Painter Randall will make the home occupied by Robert Todd at the time his daughter married Abraham Lincoln a must on the itinerary of tourists travelling through Lexington. Here something more than a tablet might be expected. Nothing less than the refurbishing of the Todd dwelling which is still in a good state of preservation, as it appeared when Mary left it for Springfield in 1839, would answer public demand. It was in this same home where Lincoln visited on his way to Congress in 1847.