



http://archive.org/details/abrahamlincolnbekcflinc

Abraham Lincoln before 1860

Knob Creek Farm

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

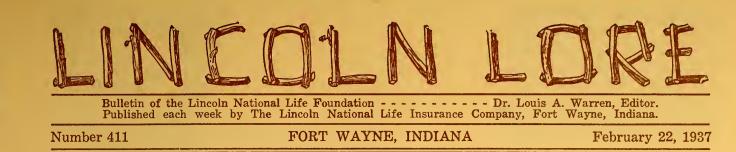
From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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NO5 (

REEK Farm





THE KNOB CREEK FARM-PLAYGROUND OF LINCOLN

The Knob Creek farm was the Kentucky home which Abraham Lincoln remembered when he was interviewed about his childhood days. In writing to an old acquaintance of his father's he said, "The place on Knob Creek, I remember very well." Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln moved to this farm in 1811, when Abraham was but two years old and remained there until the late fall of 1816.

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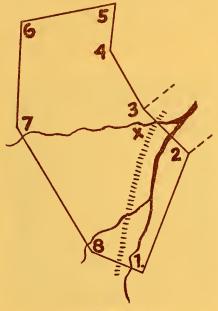
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Under what terms Thomas Lincoln gained possession of this 238 acre farm we have not been able to discover. He was taxed for a portion of it at least, and was also made a defendant, and later a co-defendent, in a suit of ejectment brought against him. The most likely supposition is that George Lindsey assigned 238 acres to Thomas Lincoln for a money consideration and was to hold the deed until such a time as the payment would be completed. Before a deed had been made, however, the land was in litigation. Following is the boundary calls for the tract:

Knob Creek, 228 Acre Tract

- 1. Beginning with two sugar trees North 19 degrees, East 141 poles to a dogwood tree and ash tree corner to a 100 acre tract.
- 2. North 48 degrees, West 74 poles to a beech tree.
- 3. North 29 degrees, West 65 poles to a popular tree on the east side of a hill.
- 4. North 58 poles to an ash tree.
- 5. South 76 degrees, West 105 poles to a white ash tree.
- 6. South 117 poles to a stake.
- 7. South 31 degrees, East 168 poles to a sugar tree.
- 8. South 70 degrees, East 54 poles to the beginning.

On the first day of January, 1815, a Bill of Ejectment was brought against Thomas Lincoln and nine of his neighbors who were occupying tracts of land within a ten thousand acre survey. The plaintiffs, who lived in Philadelphia were Abraham Sheridan, Thomas Stout, and Hannah Rhodes, heirs of Thomas Middleton, under whom they claimed a prior right to the property. Out of the nine defendants, Thomas Lincoln was selected as the one against whom litigation should be taken first for a test case. In the bill of exceptions filed with this suit, it is apparent that Thomas Lincoln did not have a clear title to all this land as George Lindsey was made a co-defendant and is called the "Landlord of said Lincoln."



KNOB CREEK FARM

x-Site of cabin.

Numerals—Corners of survey noted in text. River—Knob Creek.

Road-Old Cumberland Road, Louisville to Nashville.

Thomas Lincoln moved from the place to Indiana in the late fall of 1816, while the land was still in litigation and just before leaving he paid his lawyer for services rendered in the suit. The case continued in the courts until the June term, 1818, when a jury with Robert Bell as foreman brought in a verdict in favor of Lincoln and Lindsey for \$17.891/2, the costs in the suit, and which also revoked the claim that had been brought against their property. Failing to get the plaintiffs' representative, Kennady, to pay the claim, Lincoln probably through his Kentucky attorney, brought suit against the original plaintiffs, May 17, 1819. In September, 1820, a verdict was rendered and I. W. Larue was foreman of the jury which found for Lincoln and his damages were placed

at \$21.36. This suit also dragged on until May, 1821, when an endorsement shows the Philadelphia defendants to be non-inhabitants. It is doubtful if Thomas Lincoln, then living in Indiana, ever was able to collect any of the expenditures. The story about his having sold the farm for several barrels of whiskey, while the title to the farm was in question, is undoubtedly pure fiction.

With the claim of Mr. Middleton's heirs disposed of, the changes in title to the Knob Creek farm can now be traced from the original patent to the present owner.

By virtue of a treasurer warrant No. 13319, James Love, on June 1, 1790, became the possessor of two hundred and thirty-eight acres of land on Knob Creek. He assigned this piece of property to George Lindsey on May 24, 1802. Lincoln probably acquired the property in May, 1811, but after the litigation over the title evidently it reverted to Lindsey.

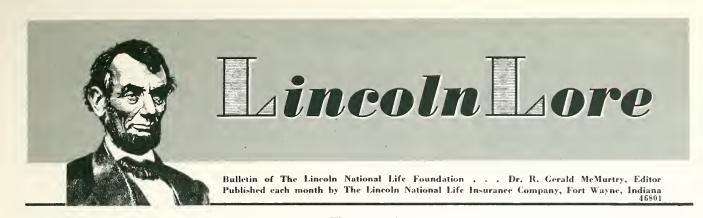
Lindsey attempted to sell the property to John Price but it was again thrown into litigation and was finally sold by a court commissioner to William Bush.

Charles Boone later secured the property from Bush but the date on which the transaction took place has not been learned. In 1846, Boone sold three tracts of land to Nicholas Rapier, among them the Lincoln tract. Nicholas Rapier disposed of the large area of land including the Lincoln tract to Charles Rapier. John W. Crady purchased three hundred and eight acres including the Lincoln tract of two hundred and thirty-eight acres from Charles Rapier on March 23, 1911.

The present owner, Chester Howard, acquired the property from Crady and has built a log cabin on the traditional site of the Lincoln home.

This is now the only tract of land on which Abraham Lincoln lived for any considerable space of time which has not become in part at least, a national shrine. This was the playground of Lincoln and by far the most picturesque of all of the Lincoln homes. It is hoped that some day this farm, too, may become a national reservation.





Number 1619

man El

Fort Wayne, Indiana

January, 1973

Re-Discovering The Supposed Grave **Of Lincoln's Brother**

Editor's Note: In the February, 1946 issue of the Lincoln Herald, I published an article bear-ing the above title. This is an account of a field trip I made in the summer of 1945 with the late Judge Otis M. Mather of Hodgenville, Kentucky, and my seven-year old son, Stephen, to the Redmon cemetery in the vicinity of the Lincoln home on Knob Creek. We were seeking the supposed grave of young Thomas Lincoln, Jr. As the magazine then had a limited cir-culation and because no new evidence has been discovered in the intervening twenty-eight years, it is thought appropriate to reprint (with some slight changes and deletions) the original article. This is, of course, done with the permission of Lincoln Memorial University, the publisher of the Lincoln Herald. R.G.M.

Since the fall of 1933, a grave in the Redmon family cemetery, in the Knob Creek section of Larue County, Kentucky, has been marked as being that of Thomas Lincoln, Jr., the in-fant brother of Abraham Lincoln. In fact, all the evidence now available, which consists merely of a tradition and a crudely carved tombstone, seems to substantiate the claim that the grave of the infant Thomas has actually been discovered.

Little is known of this third and last child of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. The dates of his birth and death were not entered in the Lincoln family Bible, but at least he lived long enough to receive a name. The best evidence that his-torians have concerning the earthly existence of the infant brother are the words of Abraham Lincoln. In preparing an autobiographical sketch in 1860 for John Locke Scripps and writing in the third person, Lincoln made this statement, "He (Abraham) had a sister, older than himself, who was grown and married, but died many years ago, leaving no child, also a brother, younger than himself, who died in if for all? who died in infancy."

Thomas was born two or three years after Abraham's birth. Biographers cannot seem to agree on the date. Some advance the year 1811, while others are inclined to select the year 1812. In fact, some historians have used both dates, at different times, in their published works. With-out question, the infant brother was born while the family resided on their Knob Creek farm.

There is no documentary authority available to prove that the given name of the infant son was "Thomas." The earliest mention of the name appears on page 22 of J. G. Holland's biography, *The Life Of Abraham Lin*coln, Springfield, Massachusetts, 1866.

This is undoubtedly the original source for later biographers who made an effort to compile information concerning Lincoln's immediate family. Holland, apparently had some misgivings with respect to its ac-curacy, because he put the name in brackets. It is quite likely, however,



From The Herald Post, Louisville, Kentucky

The original limestone slab bearing the initials "T.L." which was dis-covered_in the Redmon cemetery by James Taylor in the fall of 1933 as a marker over what is believed to be the grave of Lincoln's brother.

that the President may have told more than one of his interviewers that the boy's name was Thomas. Present

the boy's name was Inomas. Present day biographers, for want of contra-dictory proof, accept the name, Thomas, as accurate. The causes of the death of the child, whom some say lived only three days, cannot be explained. How-ever it is possible that during his ever, it is possible that during his illness the family had the services of illness the family had the services of a professional physician. From the years 1811 to 1814, Elizabethtown, Kentucky, the county seat of Hardin County, had as one of its physicians, Dr. Daniel B. Potter. This doctor was a college graduate of recognized ability, and there is documentary evidence that he had some contact with Thomas Lincoln.

In 1814, the doctor died of the "cold plague," and, in the settlement of his estate, a record appears in the administrator's accounts in the form of a credit to Thomas Lincoln for \$1.46. The services rendered by Dr. Potter were certainly between his arrival in Hardin County in 1811 and his death in 1814. Likely the doctor's bill was rendered for services in the years 1811 or 1812, during the illness of the boy baby.

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boy baby. A Knob Creek tradition relates that with the death of the child, the father made a coffin for his infant son, and that George Redmon, a neighbor living on an adjoining farm, coveried the remains on his shoulder carried the remains on his shoulder for about three-quarters of a mile over a rugged path from the Knob Creek Valley home to his more pre-tentious log house on the brow of Muldrough Hill, where funeral serv-ices were held. The burial was said to have followed in the Redmon fam-ture for the server. ily cemetery located about seventy-five yards from the Redmon cabin.

This tradition, related by the de-scendants of the Taylor family, one-time neighbors of the Redmons, did not receive very much consideration from students who have delved into the Kentucky phase of Lincolniana. Not until the year 1933, when the so-called grave of Lincoln's brother was discovered, was the tradition revived. Many historians were until then of the opinion that the infant Thomas was buried in the Little Mount Cemetery located about three miles east from Hodgenville. However, exhaustive efforts made to locate the grave there proved to be futile.

It was a crew of relief workers, under a foreman named James Taylor, that made the discovery of the grave in the early fall of 1933. With the task of cleaning and clearing old and neglected graveyards, the fore-man selected the Redmon cemetery, then the property of Fred De Spain, as their special project. This cemetery is located about half-way between Hodgenville and New Haven, not far from U.S. Highway 31-E. About seventeen marked graves, arranged in two orderly rows, were uncovered by the workmen, and a third irregular row with four isolated graves was likewise cleared of sassafras, sumac, briars and weeds. Two of the isolated graves have no inscriptions on the lichen-covered headstones, while another one bears the initials "S. B."

In this irregular row of graves, which archaeologists might term as intrusion burials, Taylor noticed a



Canfield and Shook

The initials of Thomas Lincoln which appear in a corner cupboard owned by The J. B. Speed Art Museum of Louisville, Kentucky. A comparison of these initials with those carved on the grave stone reveal a striking similarity.

small, partially sunken grave, probably that of a child, near a scrawny walnut tree. As the headstone was missing, he dug down about a foot in the wet earth where the stone might be covered, and his W. P. A. shovel struck something hard. With increased effort the obstruction, which proved to be the marker, was re-moved. The earth was so wet it covered the stone, which was set aside to dry. It was not long before the triangular-shaped limestone marker could be cleaned and examined. The stone measured, roughly, about eight inches by fourteen inches, which in all probability was the broken top of a larger slab which the President's father had selected to identify the grave. It bore the letters "T.L." inscribed in peculiar pioneer fashion.

Most of the graves in the Redmon cemetery are marked with full inscriptions or initials. In addition to those already mentioned, other stones bear the initials "A. R.," "S. R.," and "G. R.," all undoubtedly graves of the Redmons. One of the more elaborate stones is that of George Redmon, which bears the following inscription:

> In Memory George Redmon Died March 21, 1847 Aged 69 yrs. 8-12

George Redmon was the patriarch of the pioneer family, and it was he whom Thomas Lincoln succeeded as surveyor of that part of the road leading from Nolin to Bardstown, which lies between the "Bigg hill and the Rolling Fork." According to the court order of May 18, 1816, "all the hands that assisted said Redmon (were ordered to) assist said Lincoln in keeping said road in repair." It was George Redmon who shared with Thomas Lincoln, along with eight other neighboring farmers, land title difficulties which were largely responsible for the migration of the Lincolns to Indiana in the late fall of 1816. There is every indication that the best of relationships existed between the two families until the Lincolns left the state. Other members of the Redmon fam-

Other members of the Redmon family who are interred in this pioneer cemetery are Mina Redmon, 1803-1852; Delilah Redmon, 1779-1857; George P. Redmon, 1810-1860 (the son of the patriarch); and Nancy Morgan, with a death date which might be deciphered as 1839. When the "T. L." stone was un-

When the "T.L." stone was unearthed, it did not occur to any of the workmen, who were natives of that community, that the marker might locate the remains of a member of the Lincoln family. Not until several days later did Taylor remember the tradition that his father had told him (which he had heard in turn from his father) that the Lincoln child was buried in the Redmon cemetery.

The news of the discovery then spread rapidly and soon a local historian, the late John J. Barry, the editor of the Rolling Fork Echo, of New Haven, was to give the story to the world. Historians were fascinated with the discovery and they could see no "obstacles to the plausibility of the hypothesis." Archaeologists and geologists examined the limestone marker, noting particularly the age of the rough edges, and pronounced it as indigenous to Kentucky, with the belief that the edges and carved initials could be well over 121 years old. The letters were, likewise, pronounced to be of the pioneer style, a design of which might have developed before printed books were put to general use in that part of Kentucky. The shape of the letter "L" was thought to be particularly typical of that pioneer period. The initials "T.L." found on the

The initials "T.L." found on the gravestone are not the first to be attributed to Thomas Lincoln. As is well known, he was a cabinet maker, and it appears that his specialty was corner cupboards. One of these cupboards found in Hardin County, which has been proved beyond all reasonable doubt to be the work of the President's father, bears in an obscure place on the left of the top shelf the initials "T.L." and the date "1814." A comparison of the cupboard's initials with those on the grave stone show a striking resemblance of an individualistic style of lettering. This cupboard is on public exhibition and is now the property of The J. B. Speed Art Museum of Louisville. Kentucky.

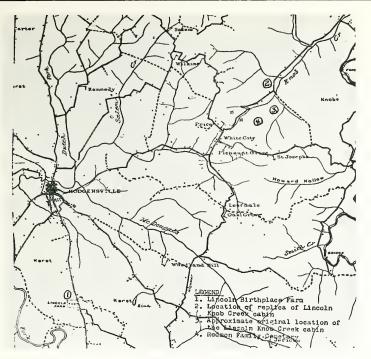
Louisville, Kentucky. The editor of *The Herald-Post*, Louisville, a newspaper no longer published, believed the story of the discovery of the Lincoln grave to be especially significant. Francis E. Wylie was sent to the scene of the discovery and under the dateline of October 23, 1933, published an illustrated, copyrighted article entitled, "Grave of Lincoln's Infant Brother Believed Found — Stone Engraved "L.' Supports Kentucky Burying Ground Tradition." Likewise the editor of the American Motor Traveler, a magazine published by the Ohio Oil Company, Findlay, Ohio, sent a staff writer named George F. Jackson to Larue County to prepare an article for the February, 1934, issue of their publication. This article, entitled "Grave of Lincoln's Infant Brother Discovered," was republished in the form of a reprinted folder and widely distributed.

For awhile, Lincoln circles were enthusiastic over the discovery of the supposed grave of Lincoln's brother. Judge Otis M. Mather, of Hodgenville, whose hobby was the study of the life of Lincoln and Kentucky history, made a careful survey of the site and the traditions concerning the infant brother and the newly found grave. Then too, professional historians like William H. Townsend, Winston Coleman, Jr., Louis A. Warren, and others made their way to the so-called grave. The historical problem connected with this discovery was one which no one could prove, yet at the same time one which could not be intelligently refuted. For awhile, so many interested people called at the farm of Fred De Spain to see the grave it was thought best to preserve the grave-marker by placing it in the vault of The Lin-

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From the original manuscript in the Lincoln National Life Foundation

When Samuel Stevenson served as administrator of the estate of Dr. Daniel B. Potter of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, he collected \$1.46 on account from Thomas Lincoln. The medical service was rendered between the arrival of Dr. Potter in Hardin County in 1811 and his death in 1814. It is believed that this account may have some connection with the death of the third ehild of Thomas Lineoln, who died during the residence of Dr. Potter at Elizabethtown. Samuel Haycraft, Jr., who wrote A History of Elizabethtown, Kentucky And Its Surroundings in 1869, referred to Dr. Potter as a "regular graduate" and stated that he was "in reality well skilled in his profession," and "his death was justly eonsidered a real loss to the com-munity."



A section of a geological map of Larue County, Kentucky, showing the location of the Lincoln Birthplace Farm, the replica of the Lincoln Knob Creek cabin, the approximate, original site of the Lincoln Knob Creek cabin and the Redmon Family eemetery. Many of the roads and highways on this map have been relocated.

coln National Bank at Hodgenville. There it remained for many months. Soon this flurry of interest in Lincoln's brother's grave subsided, and only a few historians and biographers remembered the details of the discovery. Next, the W.P.A. discontinued its activities in providing relief work, and the cemetery quickly reverted to its wild, natural state with a lush growth of weeds, sumac, and sassafras. Also, the ownership of the farm was changed. Fred De Spain, who had received so much publicity as the owner of the cemetery, sold out and moved nearer to town. Also, the stone marker bearing the initials "T. L." was taken out of the bank vault and placed in a meat house. Little Tommy Lincoln's fame was short lived.

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During the summer of 1945, I spent several weeks of my vacation in Kentucky, and, growing tired of inac-tivity, I decided to rediscover the grave of Lincoln's brother. Fortun-ately, I called at the law office of Judge Mather, who immediately real-ized that I could never locate the grave due to the relocation of county roads and the inaccessibility of the pioneer cemetery. Very graciously, he offered to be my guide, and, with my seven-year-old son, Stephen, we set out by car in quest of the grave, which was located approximately six or seven miles northeast of Hodgenville. Traveling as far on wheels as possible, we finally were forced to abandon our car and follow our course on foot. Even the Judge experienced some difficulty in keeping his bearings in this isolated country, but, eventually, we found the tobacco patch where R. Beauchamp

Brown, the present owner of the farm and cemetery, was at work, and, then, we knew that we had achieved our objective.

Upon examination of the cemetery, we found it a tangled mass of brambles and weeds, and, after locating the walnut tree which was our general marker for the identification of the historic spot, we sighted the crude stone that had been placed over the supposed grave. The original marker was still locked in the meat house, which we, unfortunately, did not see on this visit, but which we had seen earlier while the stone was being preserved in the bank vault.

Much to our disappointment, we found, too, that the log home of George Redmon, which had for several years past been used for a tobacco barn, had just recently been dismantled and the logs neatly stacked in one corner of the field. It is of interest to note that the original sidewall logs of the Redmon cabin measured from eighteen to twenty-one inches thick.

While trying to relive the historic scene that was undoubtedly enacted in this cemetery in 1811 or 1812, I could not help but think how the gods of chance had dealt so graciously with Abraham and, at the same time, had been so parsimonious with Thomas. At least, he made one contribution to his more fortunate brother. The mere fact that Lincoln had an elder sister and a younger brother silences the charges made by the President's political enemies that he was illegitimate. Then too, the earthly existence of the brother refutes the attacks made against the father, in regard to the President's paternity.

One conclusion we did reach, in our fatigued condition, was that the world will never beat a path to the grave of Thomas Lincoln, Jr.

Lincoln Remembered A Stone House In Kentucky

When Dr. Jesse Rodman of Hodgenville, Kentucky, called on President Lincoln in Washington, D. C., in regard to Larue County's 1863 quota under the military draft, they conversed at some length about the area around Knob Creek where the President had lived from 1811 to 1816.

Lincoln told Rodman that two objects in Larue County "which were most impressed upon his memory were a big tree that was somewhere on South Fork and the 'Stone House.'"

Otis M. Mather in his book, Six Generations of LaRues And Allied Families: . . . , 1921, described the "Stone House" as follows: "The quaint dwelling, situated two miles east of Hodgenville, which was erected about the year 1800, with limestone walls so thick as to be suggestive of a fortification, is yet well known to the people of the locality by the same name which had lingered in the mind of President Lincoln. He probably saw it often in his childhood as he travelled between the Knob Creek home and Hodgen's mill."

The "Stone House" still stands on property once owned by Gustavus Ovesen and later by Claude Williams. The house is located two miles east of Hodgenville on the Bardstown Road (Route 31-E). While Otis M. Mather referred to the building as a dwelling, it might also have served occasionally as a fortification, a school house and a spring house.

A photograph of the Old Stone House was first published as a frontispiece in J. Rogers Gore's book, *The Boyhood Of Abraham Lincoln*, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1921.

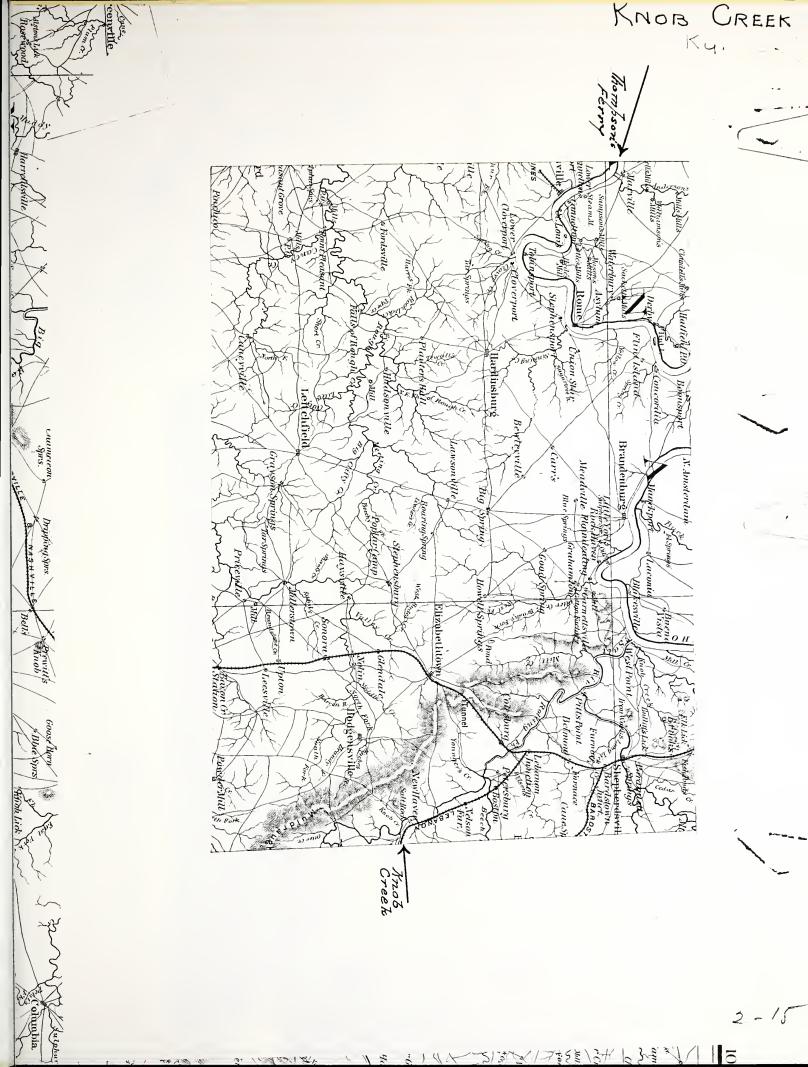
Louis A. Warren in his article, Living Lincoln Memorials, 1929, made the following statement about the "great tree somewhere on Nolin River":

"There are a few residents of that region today who remember hearing of a famous old tree on Nolin River near Buffalo, but it has been down so long its location has been forgotten. Just recently, however, some authentic information about this tree has come to light. Dennis Hanks, the boyhood associate of Lincoln, wrote to one of his relatives in Kentucky on March 25, 1866, and among his many inquiries was this one: 'Is the old Lunderner (?) poplar a-standing yet? I was born within thirty steps of that tree in the old peach orchard.'"

Warren continued: "This is undoubtedly the tree which Lincoln remembered and it has not been difficult to locate the place where it stood. It was near the old mill site at Buffalo, on one of the branches of Nolin River. It is difficult to imagine the enormous growth which these old trees achieved."

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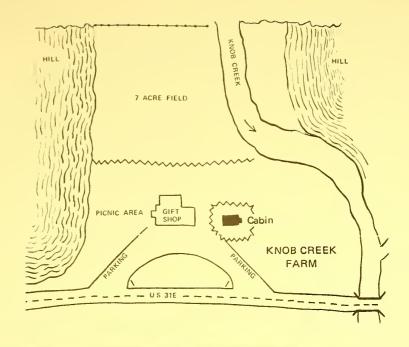




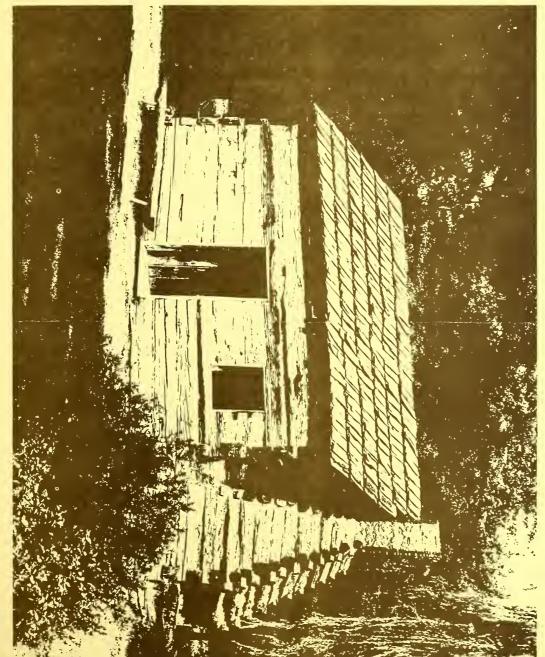




🖌 To Nashville



LINCOLN's BOYHOOD HOME



Knob Creek Hodgenville, Ky. (42748) Open Daily April 1 through Nov 1

two years after the removal to Indiana. She	died Oct. 5th, 1818.		THE CABIN			The cabin was re-built in 1931 with logs	taken from Austin Gallaher's cabin. It contains	many interesting historic items and antiques.				ABOUI THE LINCOLN FAMILY		Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of	the United States, lived five years, 1811-1816,	In a log cabin built on this site. He was brought	here at two years of age by his parents. Thomas	and Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Abraham had a	sister, Sarah, who was two years older than he,	and a younger brother, Thomas, Jr., who died	in early childhood.		"Referring to his Kentucky homes, Abra-	ham stated: "My earliest recollection however,	is of the Knob Creek place Our farm was	composed of three fields, it lay in the valley	surrounded by high hills and deep gorges."	These bottom lands were the most fertile acres	Thomas Lincoln ever owned and a degree of	prosperity, not equaled elsewhere, was enjoyed	by the family while residing here.	"On May 12 1916 Thomas I incolo was	appointed by the Hardin County Court as	supervisor of the Nolin-Bardstown road	"Between the "Big" Hill and the Rolling Fork."	This road passed by his cabin and also the	school house, two miles north, attended by	Sarah and Abraham.		"In Lincolns left this place for Indiana	in the late fall of 1816."	Louis A. Warren
	On December 12, 1808, Thomas Lin-	coln bought, for \$200.00, the Sinking	Spring Farm, three miles south of Hod-	gen's Mill (Hodgenville, Kentucky). Before	moving to this farm, Thomas and Nancy	Hanks Lincoln had made their home in	Elizabethtown after their marriage on	June 12, 1806. It was in Elizabethtown	where their first child Sarah was born	in 1807		Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln	brought little Sarah to a one-room cabin	on the Sinking Spring Farm, and it was	here that Abraham Lincoln was born on	February 12, 1809.	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	The Lincolns lived on the Sinking	Spring Farm for about two years before	it was lost to them in the spring of 1811	because of a defective land title. Thus,	in 1811, they moved 10 miles north to	Knob Creek.					Lincoln once wrote that while living on	Knob Creek he and his sister. Sarah, were sent	for short periods, to A, B, C school-the first	kept by Zachariah Riney, and the second by	Caleb Hazle. These were subscription schools	and lasted only a few months. Free schools did	not come to Kentucky until late in the 1830's.		The Lincoln family left Kentucky in	December, 1816 and arrived in the Little	Pigeon Creek section of Indiana after winter	was well under way. There Thomas Lincoln	hurriedly constructed a "half-faced" cabin	more primitive than the home of most cows	and chickens. Abe's mother lived only about
WELCOME TO KNOB CREEK		THE KNOB CREEK FARM	"My earliest recollection is of the Knob	Creek nlace" So wrote Abraham Lincoln on	line A 1860 to Comulal Howerstt of Elizabeth.		town, ry., who had invited him to visit the	place of his nativity. The family lived on the	Knob Creek Farm from the time "Abe" was	two until he was almost eight years old. Here he	learned to talk and soon grew big enough to run	errands such as carrying water, and gathering	wood for the fires. He recalled in later years	numerous memories of his childhood here; a	stone house he had passed while taking corn to	Hodgen's Mill; a certain big tree that had	attracted his bovish fancy; the old homestead;	the baby brother who was born and died here.	the clear stream where he fished and the sur-	rection bills where he misted herrion work	rounding mills where he picked berries were	Impressed on his mind. He could remember	how he stayed by his mother's side and	watched her face, while listening to her read the	Bible. It was here that Abraham Lincoln first	saw slave dealers on horseback, whip in hand,	driving Negroes along the old road to be sold	down South. He remembered that on one	occasion he planted pumpkin seed in every	other hill and every other row while others	planted the corn. The following night a big rain	in the hills sent water through the fields and	washed both corn and pumpkin seed away.	Lincoln never forgot the time he fell in	the swollen Knob Creek while playing on a	footlog near his home. Had it not been for	Austin Gallaher, a schoolmate, "Abe" would	probably have drowned. Austin, with a keen	sense of pioneer knowledge, grabbed a long	pole from the bank and held it out like a strong	arm to the struggling boy. Lincoln spoke of the	incident after he became President.

