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The Autobiography of Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln

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THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY
OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

THE ORIGINAL, WHICH WAS WRITTEN
FOR CAMPAIGN PURPOSES, SEEMS TO
HAVE DISAPPEARED. COLLECTORS ARE
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"TO THE MEMORY OF LINCOLN"

THE LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION

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I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families, perhaps I should say ^{second families} My mother, who died in my ^{tenth} ~~ninth~~ year, was of a family of the name of Bank, some of whom now reside in Adams, and other in Mason counties, Illinois. My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Rockingham County, Virginia, to Kentucky, about 1781 or 2, where, a year or two later, he was killed by Indians, not in battle, but by stealth, when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest. His ancestor, who was Quaker, went to Virginia from Berks County, Pennsylvania. An effort to identify them with the New ^{of the same name} England family, even is nothing more definite, than a similarity of Christian names in both families, such as Enock, Levi, Mordecai, Solomon, Abraham, and the like.

My father, at the death of his father, was but six years of age; and he grew up, literally without education. We removed from Kentucky to what is now Spencer County, Iowa, and, in my eighth year. We reached our new home about the time the State came into the Union. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals, still in the woods. There I grew up. There were some schools, so called; but no qualification was ever required of a teacher, beyond "Reading, writing, and ciphering." ~~Reading, writing, and Arithmetic~~ ^{supposed to understand Latin} to the Rule of Three. If a struggler ^{happened to sojourn in}

the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a
wizzard— There was absolutely nothing to excite
ambition for education. Of course when I came of
age, I did not know much— Still somehow, I could
read, write, and cipher to the Rule of Three, but
that was all— I have not been to school since—
The little advances I now have upon this stow of educa-
tion, I have had picked up from time to time under
the pressure of necessity—

I was raised to farm work, which I continued
till I was twenty-two— At twenty-two I came to
Illinois, and passed the first year in Macon
County— Then I got ^{at that time} New Salem ~~(then~~,
in Sangamon, now in Menard County, where I per-
manied a year as a sort of blacksmith
stow— Then came the Black Hawk war,
and I was elected a Captain of Volunteers—
a success which gave me more pleasure
than any I have had since— I went the
campaign, was elected ran for the Legislature the
same year (1832), and was beaten— the only time
I ever have been beaten by the people— The next,
and three succeeding biennial elections, I was elected
to the Legislature— I was not a candidate
afterwards. During this Legislative period I had
studied law, and removed to Springfield to
study, practiced it— In 1846 I was once elected
to the lower House of Congress— Was not a can-
didate for re-election— From 1849 to 1854, lived

enclaves, practical law more assiduously than ever
before - Always a whig in politics, since generally
on the whig electoral tickets, (making active con-
cesses - I was losing interest in politics, when
the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused
me again - What I have done since then is
pretty well known.

If any personal description of me is thought ~~worth~~
desirable, it may be said, I am, in height, six
feet, four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing, on
an average, one hundred and eighty pounds; dark
complexion, with coarse black hair, and grey eyes -
no other marks or bands recollected -

Wm J. W. Hale.

Yours very truly
A. Lincoln



Washington, D.C. March 26. 1852

We the undersigned hereby certify that the
foregoing statement is in the hand
writing of Abraham Lincoln.

David Davis
Sylvan Churchill
Charles Sumner

THE FARM

On which Abraham Lincoln was born lies two and a half miles south of Hodgenville, Kentucky, forty-five miles south of Louisville, almost in the geographic centre of the State of Kentucky, and within one hundred miles of the centre of population of the United States. Lincoln was seven years old when his father and mother moved across the Ohio River into Indiana. Since then the Lincoln farm has changed hands but three times. In 1905 the farm was in a sad state of neglect and tied up in the litigation of an estate. The courts ordered it to be sold at public auction. It was purchased by a group of patriotic citizens who organized The Lincoln Farm Association, a patriotic society created to preserve the Lincoln Birthplace Farm as a National Park. This Association, with headquarters at 74 Broadway, New York City, now has over 150,000 members, who have raised over \$150,000 for this purpose. President Roosevelt will deliver the Lincoln Centennial address on the Farm and lay the cornerstone of the Memorial Hall on February 12, 1909. President Taft will dedicate the building when it is completed.