



Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor
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Lincoln Historical Highway Markers In Kentucky

A paper bound book entitled *Guide to Kentucky Historical Markers* was published by the Kentucky Historical Society in 1969. It lists 976 markers of which twenty-eight deal with Abraham Lincoln (some markers mention him only by name), his family, collateral relatives, in-laws and associates. The index reveals that the surnames of Lincoln and Boone appear on more markers than those of any other noted families in Kentucky.

Kentucky's program of marking historical sites or incidents began in August, 1949. In March, 1962, Governor Bert T. Combs allocated state funds to broaden the program and assigned it to the Kentucky Historical Society. Today under the direction of Walter Allerton Wentworth the project is moving forward with remarkable accuracy and speed.

Although numbers appear on the markers to assist readers with a quick reference when using the guide, they are not consecutive which indicates that earlier markers have been abandoned. The texts of the Lincoln markers in this compilation for *Lincoln Lore* have been arranged alphabetically according to Kentucky counties. Since one or two have very little interest for the Lincoln student, the wording on the reverse side has been deleted. The texts of the two markers pertaining to Lincoln County are included because genealogists believe that President Abraham Lincoln and General Benjamin Lincoln may have had a common progenitor back in England.

The texts of the twenty eight markers, including a few statements with which the editor does not entirely agree, follow:

1003

SHELTER FOR LINCOLNS
(E. side Ky. 261, Hardinsburg,
S. city limits, Breckinridge Co.)

In the autumn of 1816 the family of Abraham Lincoln, then 7 years old, migrating to Indiana, rested and recuperated for about three weeks in a cabin that stood here. Local residents gave them food. Lincoln route in Kentucky started near Hodgenville and went through Elizabethtown, Vine Grove, Harned, here to Cloverport, river ferry. Lincolns traveled by ox-cart.

73

LINCOLN FAMILY TRAIL
(Cloverport, US 60, Breckinridge Co.)

Abraham Lincoln, then a lad of 7, with other members of the Thomas Lincoln family crossed the Ohio River on a log raft ferry near here in 1816. The Lincolns were moving to Indiana.

552

JOSEPH HOLT
(US 60, 3 mi. E., Cloverport,
Breckinridge Co.)

Six miles to the north are birth place and grave of Joseph Holt, 1807-1896. He was Commissioner of Patents, Postmaster General and Secretary of War in Buchanan's Administration, 1857-1861. Lincoln made him Judge Advocate General of the Union Army, 1862. Holt

prosecuted conspirators in the assassination of Lincoln, 1865. He retired as Judge Advocate, 1875.

885

LINCOLN'S FATHER HERE
(Burkesville Courtyard, Ky. 61, 90,
Cumberland Co.)

Thomas Lincoln made claim for land in Cumberland County in May, 1801. In Jan., 1802 and again in 1804 he was appointed constable. On Sept. 5, 1802, he was commissioned ensign in Cornstalk Militia of Cumberland County. Returned to Washington County. Married Nancy Hanks 1806. To this union Pres. Lincoln was born. Thomas brought to Ky. from Va. as a child, 1782.

70

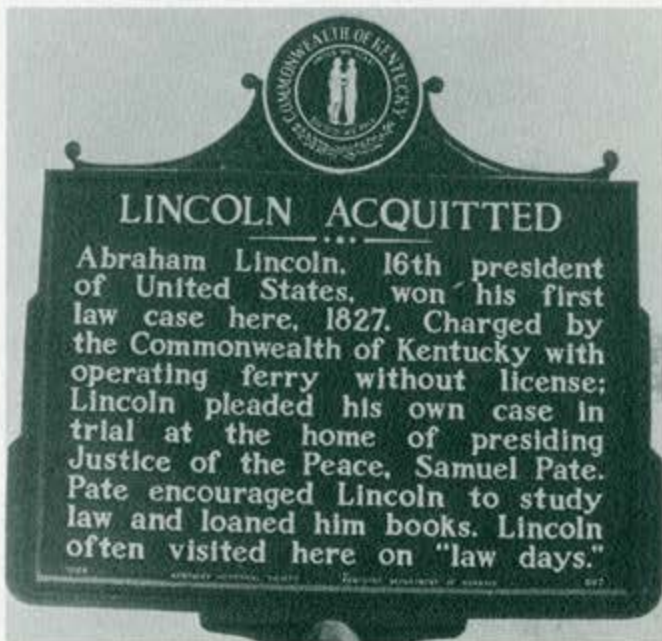
CAMP DICK ROBINSON
(7 mi. NW of Lancaster,
US 27, Garrard Co.)

Here in 1861 under authority issued by President Abraham Lincoln, General William Nelson organized the first camp in Kentucky for enlistment of Federal troops in the War Between the States.

1082

UNIQUE FATHER AND SON
(Greensburg, US 68 opposite
"Old Courthouse," Green Co.)

Reuben Creel, Greensburg native, appointed by Lincoln as consul from U.S. to Chihuahua, Mexico, 1863.



Photograph courtesy of W. A. Wentworth,
Chairman of Kentucky Highway Marker Program,
Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Highway Marker No. 667 located on Ky. 334, three miles west of Hawesville, in Hancock County.



Photograph courtesy of W. A. Wentworth, Chairman of Kentucky Highway Marker Program, Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.

The Pate house (to which the highway marker refers) in Hancock County, Kentucky, where Lincoln was tried before a Justice of the Peace for allegedly operating a ferry across the Ohio River without a license.

Served until 1866. His son Enrique C., in turn, served as ambassador from Mexico to U. S., 1907-09. Reuben went to Mexico with Gen. Ward, Greensburg native, serving as his interpreter during Mexican War. Remained after war. Early home stands here. (Reverse not included)

719

LINCOLN'S MENTOR
(Ky. 61, 8 mi. N.
Greensburg, Green Co.)

Three miles west, birthplace of Mentor Graham, 1800-86, "The Man Who Taught Lincoln." Sixty years a teacher. Green County 1818-26. After Illinois voted down slavery, moved to New Salem, 1826. There, from 1831-37, as tutor and friend, he had incalculable influence on Abraham Lincoln, his public life. Graham died at 86, South Dakota. Re-buried at New Salem, Ill., 1933.

846

LINCOLN'S LAW PARTNER
(Greensburg, old courthouse
lawn, Green Co.)

Birthplace of William H. Herndon, 1818. Family moved to Illinois, 1820. An anti-slavery advocate and partner with Abraham Lincoln in practice of law, 1844-61. Herndon, Mayor of Springfield; State Bank examiner. After Lincoln's death, devoted life to biography of his friend. Wrote "Herndon's Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life," 1889. Died 1891, Springfield, Ill.

667

LINCOLN ACQUITTED
(Ky. 334, 3 mi. W.
Hawesville, Hancock Co.)

Abraham Lincoln, 16th president of United States, won his first law case here, 1827. Charged by the Commonwealth of Kentucky with operating ferry without license; Lincoln pleaded his own case in trial at the home of presiding Justice of the Peace, Samuel Pate. Pate encouraged Lincoln to study law and loaned him books. Lincoln often visited here on "law days."

932

**LINCOLN-HAYCRAFT
MEMORIAL BRIDGE, 1936**
(Elizabethtown at bridge, Hardin Co.)

Here along Severn's Valley Creek Samuel Haycraft, Sr. built mill raceway in 1796. Thomas Lincoln, father of Pres. Lincoln, employed in building it, received his first monetary wages when about 21 years of age. Abraham Lincoln, age 7, with his family on way to Indiana in 1816, crossed this creek about here and went thru Elizabethtown.

858

ROUTE OF LINCOLNS
(Vine Grove, Ky. 144, Hardin Co.)

In the autumn of 1816, Abraham Lincoln's family traveled this old pioneer trail through Vine Grove, established in 1802, when migrating from Knob Hill farm, Larue County, Kentucky, to Spencer County, Indiana.

833

HELM CEMETERY
(Elizabethtown, US 31-W, Jct.
with Ky. 447, Hardin Co.)

This pioneer cemetery includes the graves of John LaRue Helm, who served two incomplete terms as Governor of Kentucky, and his son, Confederate Gen. Ben Hardin Helm, who fell at battle of Chicamauga, September 20, 1863. Gen. Helm and Abraham Lincoln married half-sisters, Emilie and Mary Todd, the daughters of Robert S. Todd of Lexington, Kentucky.

136

LEXINGTON
(Lexington, North Limestone,
US 27, 68, Fayette Co.)

Settled by Robert Patterson and companions in 1779. Major frontier town. Home of Henry Clay, Mary Todd, John C. Breckinridge; and of Transylvania College, College of the Bible, and University of Kentucky.

1001

ELLERSLIE
(US 25 & 421, Lexington Reservoir,
Fayette Co.)

The home which stood on this site from 1787 to 1947 was built by Levi Todd (1756-1807), who named it for his ancestral village in Scotland. He was one of a party of hunters who named Lexington in 1775; first Fayette County clerk; aide to George Rogers Clark, 1779, Kaskaskia Expedition; Maj., Battle Blue Licks, trustee, Transylvania; grandfather of Mary Todd Lincoln.

12

MARY TODD LINCOLN
(501 Short St., Lexington,
Fayette Co.)

On this site Mary Todd, wife of Abraham Lincoln, was born Dec. 13, 1818, and here spent her childhood.

11

TODD HOUSE
(573 W. Main St., Lexington,
Fayette Co.)

Home of Mary Todd Lincoln from 1832 to 1839. To this house in after years she brought Abraham Lincoln and their children.

945

ARCHITECT'S SHRYOCK
(149 North Broadway,
Lexington, Fayette Co.)

"Best known surname in Kentucky architecture is Shryock." Family home, erected by Matthias Shryock (1774-1833), here. Designed first Episcopal church in city, 1814 and Mary Todd Lincoln home on W. Main. Son, Cincinnatus, born here, 1816. First Presbyterian Church, built 1872, considered his best. Also designed many homes. Died, 1888. Both buried in Lexington. (Reverse not included)

101

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
(1 mi. E. of Eastwood,
US 60, 460, Jefferson Co.)

Two miles northeast of here Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the president, was massacred by Indians in May 1786. Long Run Baptist Church, standing on the Lincoln land grant, marks the traditional site of the pioneers grave.

The original marker was erected by The Filson Club 1937.

174

FARMINGTON
(Bardstown Rd., Wendell St.,
Louisville, Jefferson Co.)

Historic residence completed by John Speed in 1810 from designs by Thomas Jefferson. Abraham Lincoln was a guest here of his close friend Joshua Speed in 1841. Open to the public.

120

LINCOLN KNOB CREEK FARM
(6 mi. NE Hodgenville,
US 31E, Larue Co.)

Abraham Lincoln, (1809-1865) lived on this 228 acre farm, 1811-1816. He wrote in 1860 "My earliest recollection is of the Knob Creek place." A younger brother was born here.

827

LINCOLN'S PLAYMATE
(Pleasant Grove Baptist Church,
Ky. 84 Larue Co.)

To the west, in Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, is the grave of Austin Gollaher, 1806-98. Lincoln, while president, once said, "I would rather see (him) than any man living." They were schoolmates and playmates when the Lincoln family lived in this area, 1813 to 1816. Gollaher is credited with rescuing Lincoln from flooded waters of Knob Creek.

774

COUNTY NAMED, 1780
(Stanford Courtyard,
US 27, 150, Lincoln Co.)

For Benjamin Lincoln, 1733-1810. Born Mass. In War of Revolution took Mass. Regts. to reinforce New York, 1776; at Saratoga, 1777, cut Burgoyne's communications with Canada; 1778, command of Southern Dept. Commissioned by Washington to receive sword of Cornwallis at British surrender, Yorktown, 1781. Sec. of War, 1781-84. Led forces that quelled Shay's Rebellion.

860

LINCOLN COUNTY
(Stanford Bypass,
Jct. US 27, 150, Lincoln Co.)

Benjamin Logan built Logan's Fort at St. Asaphs, mile to west, 1776. Kentucky County, Virginia, formed 1776. First land court, St. Asaphs 1779. Kentucky made into Lincoln, Jefferson, Fayette counties, 1780. In 1785 part of Lincoln taken for Madison and Mercer counties. Stanford named and made county seat, 1786. Records in courthouse from 1781, oldest in the state.

1109

CREELSBORO
(Creelsboro, Ky. 1313, Russell Co.)

Laid out, 1809, named for Elijah and Elza Creel, pioneers whose son, Reuben, served US in Mexico; his son Enrique served Mexico in US. An interpreter for Gen. W. T. Ward during Mexican War, Reuben stayed on there, was appointed US Consul, 1863, by Pres. Lincoln. Enrique was Governor of Chihuahua State, 1903 to 1906, and Mexican Ambassador to US, 1906 to 1909.

854

WASHINGTON COUNTY
(Marion County line, Ky. 55,
Washington Co.)

The first county formed by first Assembly of Kentucky, 1792. Named for Geo. Washington. Springfield, county seat, laid off, 1793, by Matthew Walton; veteran of War of Revolution, legislator. Courthouse built in 1816, oldest used as such in state (1965). First settlers in area, 1776. Lincoln's grandfather came this part Ky., 1782; parents married in county, 1806. (Reverse not included.)

526

LINCOLN HOMESTEAD
(US 150, Ky. 55, Springfield
Courtyard, Washington Co.)

The certified marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln to Nancy Hanks, parents of Abraham Lincoln, is on file

here in Washington Co. Courthouse. Here also preserved is full account of the wedding. Lincoln Homestead State Park, seven miles north, now marks the site of log house where marriage was performed June 12, 1806 by the Rev. Jesse Head, Methodist Pastor.

1038

JESSE HEAD HOMESITE
(Main St., N. of Courthouse,
Springfield, US 150, Washington Co.)

On June 12, 1806 he performed the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, who, in 1809, became the parents of Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the U.S. Head, born in Maryland in 1768, "came a-preaching" to Kentucky in 1798. Cabinet maker, justice of peace, on Sundays he preached fearlessly. Moved shop to Harrodsburg, 1810, kept on preaching, began newspaper.

649

**WOODFORD COUNTY'S
CIVIL WAR GENERALS**
(US 62, Versailles, Woodford Co.)

Maj. Gen. Charles William Field, 1828-1892, Confederate soldier, engineer; West Point, 1849. Frontier service in southwest to 1855, instructor in cavalry tactics West Point to 1861. Colonel 6th Virginia Cav. 1861. Brig. gen infantry brigade 1862. Opened battle at Mechanicsville; fought at Cedar Mt., 2nd Bull Run, in latter seriously wounded, never fully recovering, 1864, maj. gen. in command Hood's Texas div. Bore heavy part in battles at Cold Harbor and Petersburg. His division half of Lee's army and only effective fighting unit intact left to surrender at Appomattox.

Brig. Gen. James S. Jackson, 1823-1862, Union soldier, lawyer, Congressman, veteran Mexican War. Authorized by Lincoln, he recruited 3rd Ky. Cav. in fall 1861. For a time commanded Buell's entire cavalry. Commissioned brig. gen., assigned to command 10th Div. of Buell's army, July 1862. Leading troops at Perryville, he was killed Oct. 8, 1862. Forney wrote: "To die such a death, and for such a cause, was the highest ambition of a man like James S. Jackson . . . He was a Union man for the sake of the Union; and now with his heart's blood, he has sealed his devotion to the flag."

Maj. Gen. Eli Long, 1837-1903, Union soldier, graduated from Kentucky Military Institute, 1855. Frontier service against Indians until 1861. Organized 4th Ohio Cavalry as colonel, 1862. Commissioned brig. gen., 1864. Commanded brigade during Atlanta campaign, 1864. He led an assault at Selma, Alabama, March 1865, where his bravery inspired the troops in Union's greatest cavalry victory and for which he was breveted maj. gen. During the Civil War he was wounded five times and cited for gallantry five times. After war lived at Plainfield, New Jersey and is buried there in Hillsdale Cemetery. (Reverse not included.)

HORSES

Both Abraham Lincoln and his father could appraise the value of a horse. While a soldier in the Black Hawk War, Lincoln appraised his stolen horse and equipment at \$120. While Thomas Lincoln in 1811 described an stray horse as follows: "... a gray mare 8 years old 14 hands high. Branded on the near thigh but not legible a scar on her off side with a dark spot on her neck on the off side under the main about the size of a dollar a sore Back trots natural appraised to \$20."

The above description appears in an old Hardin County (Kentucky) stray book with entries from 1806 to 1815. While the Kentucky pioneers may have been at a loss for words concerning a lot of mundane things, they certainly knew how to describe the color of a horse. The nine hundred and six entries in the old stray book contains these different descriptive colors: bay, bright bay, dark bay, brown bay, dark brown, light brown, dun color, gray, dapple gray, dark gray, flea-bitten gray, iron gray, bright gray, bright iron gray, milk and caider (sic) color, sorrel, bright sorrel, brown sorrel, yellow sorrel, roan, red roan, strawberry roan, yellow, white and flea-bitten white.

The Lincoln Highway

Editor's Note: With today's super-highway system, the old Lincoln Highway laid out in 1913 is all but forgotten. Extending from New York, N. Y. to San Francisco, California, a distance of 3331.5 miles, its construction cost in 1928 amounted to more than \$100,000,000 not including the \$50,000,000 which was spent upon its 250 miles of city streets.

Doubleday's Encyclopedia, 1940, provides further details which are reprinted with permission.

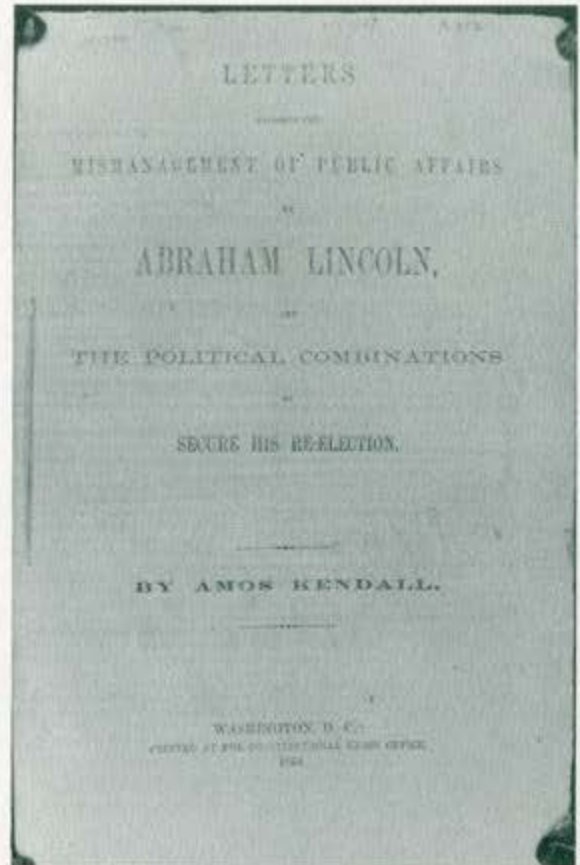
"America's transcontinental Main Street — the greatest automobile road in the world. It was laid out in 1913 by the Lincoln Highway Association as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln. Beginning at Times Square, N. Y. City, this highway terminates in Lincoln Park, San Francisco, overlooking the Golden Gate. Throughout its length of 3331.5 m. it is a well-built road, and no tolls are charged upon any portion of it. Taking into consideration the topography of the country it is the most direct route to the coast. The highway is marked with a red, white, and blue marker bearing a large letter L on a white field. Up to 1928 more than \$100,000,000 had been spent on the Highway, exclusive of perhaps \$50,000,000 spent upon the 250 m. of city streets which are part of the system. The road has been financed by local appropriations of the cities, counties, and states traversed, assisted by contributions made by men and companies interested in highway improvements. The Highway passes through the following towns in eleven states: Jersey City, Newark and Trenton, N. J.; Philadelphia, Lancaster, York, Gettysburg, Chambersburg, Bedford, Ligonier, Pittsburgh, and Beaver, Pa.; East Liverpool, Canton, Ashland, Mansfield, Bucyrus, and Lima, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Ligonier, Goshen, Elkhart, South Bend, and Valparaiso, Ind.; Chicago Heights, Aurora, Geneva, Rochelle, Dixon, and Fulton, Ill.; Clinton, Cedar Rapids, Marshalltown, Jefferson, and Council Bluffs, Ia.; Omaha, Columbus, Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte, and Big Springs, Neb.; Cheyenne, Laramie, Medicine Bow, Rawlins, Rock Springs, and Evanston, Wyo.; Salt Lake City, Garfield, Tooele, Clover, and Ibapah, Utah; Ely, Eureka, Austin, Fallon, Reno, and Carson City, Nev.; Truckee, Placerville, Sacramento, Stockton, Oakland, and San Francisco, Cal.

For more detailed information concerning "The Lincoln Highway" see *Lincoln Lore* No. 536, July 17, 1939.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

This bronze marker (4" in diameter) with three flanges for embedding in concrete, was used to mark the Lincoln Highway in the vicinity of Fort Wayne, Indiana. It bears the following inscription: THIS HIGHWAY DEDICATED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN. The head of Lincoln appears to have been copied from a centennial medallion designed by B. L. Pratt.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

In 1864 Amos Kendall, journalist and former postmaster general, was a severe critic of the Lincoln Administration, and his 46 page pamphlet (M 302) has long been on our want list. Recently a copy has been acquired by the Foundation, and Kendall's series of 18 anti-Lincoln letters dating from March 25, 1864 to October 8, 1864 constituted a formidable Democratic election campaign document. However, Kendall at all times advocated vigorous measures for the prosecution of the war.

"Lincoln was the first . . ."

Lincoln was the first President born beyond the boundaries of the original thirteen states.

Lincoln was the first President born in Kentucky.

Lincoln was the first President to obtain a patent.

Lincoln was the first President (1860) to be nominated in a building (Wigwam) that was especially constructed for a political convention.

Lincoln was nominated by the Republican Convention (1860) which was the first to invite the general public.

Lincoln was the first President to wear a beard.

Lincoln was the first President whose military escort (first inaugural) was really a guard instead of an honorary escort.

Lincoln was the first President to issue a national Thanksgiving Day Proclamation fixing the last Thursday of November as the annual date.

Lincoln was the first President to issue an amnesty proclamation to citizens (December 8, 1863).

Lincoln's second inauguration was the first in which Negroes participated.

Lincoln was the first President assassinated.

Lincoln was the first deceased President to rest in state in the United States Capitol rotunda.

Joseph Nathan Kane: Facts About The President.

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"Next to Jacqueline Kennedy and Eleanor Roosevelt, Mary Todd Lincoln was the most discussed First Lady in presidential history — and the most assailed."

Ishbel Ross: Sons of Adam, Daughters of Eve — The Role of Women in American History.