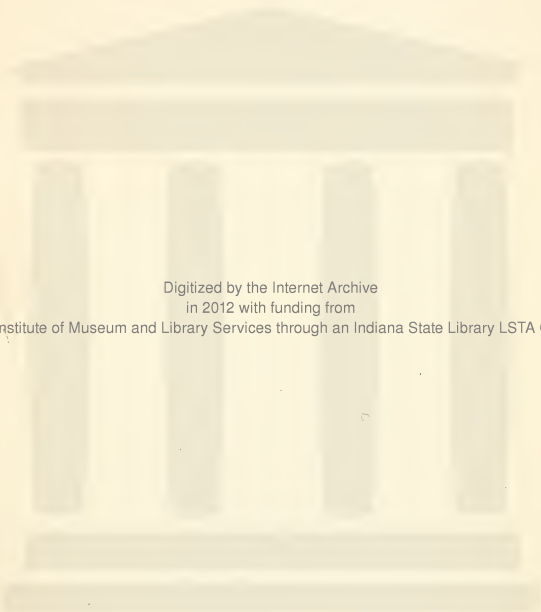




Miller, Marion

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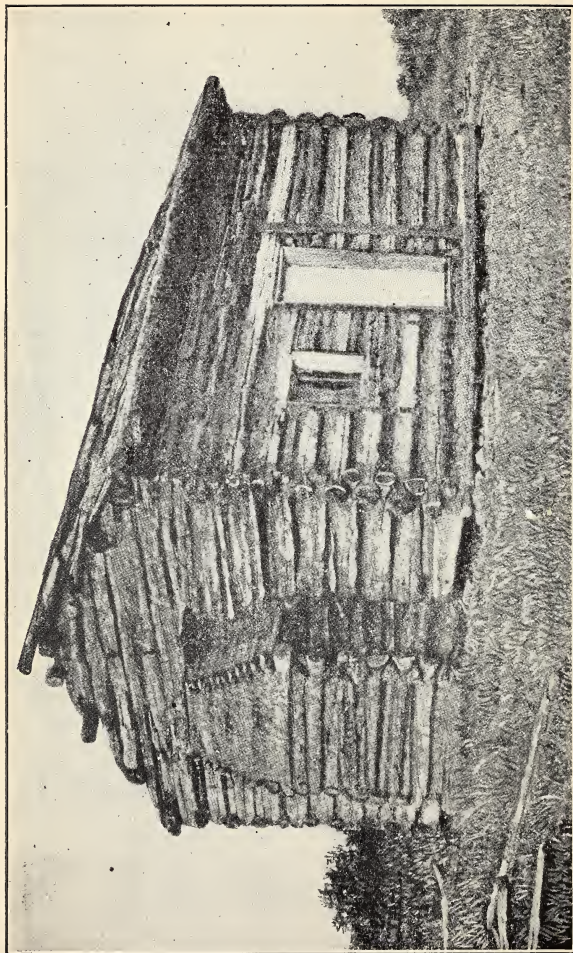




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THE BIRTHPLACE OF LINCOLN

Three miles west of Hodgenville, Larue (formerly Hardin) County, Kentucky

THE WORKS OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
The True Story of a Great Life

With Critical Estimates
Stories and Anecdotes

Introductions and Special Articles by

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

WILLIAM H. TAFT

CHARLES E. HUGHES

JOSEPH H. CHOATE

HENRY WATTERSON

ROBERT G. INGERSOLL

And Others

Managing Editors

JOHN H. CLIFFORD

MARION M. MILLER

VOLUME I

THE UNIVERSITY SOCIETY INC.
NEW YORK

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PREFACE

IN the preparation of this *Life of Abraham Lincoln* the object of the editors has been to make as nearly as possible a distinctively personal biography. It is not intended to present a history of the origin and early development of the Republican party, of anti-slavery discussions, or of the Civil War. The main purpose is to make intimately known to the reader the man Abraham Lincoln from his infancy to his death.

His ancestry, parentage, childhood and youth; his surroundings and occupations, and the society in which he lived, in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois; the laborer, flatboatman, storekeeper, soldier, legislator, lawyer; the lone student, making the most of his scanty opportunities through all the vicissitudes of his strange life—such topics are familiarly treated, and the pictures of early hardship and struggle supply a most impressive background for the study of that grand career whose culmination placed him among “the choice and master spirits of this age” and of all ages.

No novel of frontier life could be so captivating as the story of the rail-splitter who proved himself “a true-born king of men.” The editors have endeavored to give this great life-story largely through the recitals of those who knew Lincoln well in all the periods of his growth and activity. Incidents, anecdotes, peculiar experiences, personal intercourse, interspersed with his

own unique sayings, both serious and humorous—these features render this, in the better sense, a “story-life” of Abraham Lincoln, himself the most famous story-teller of his time.

Besides the biography proper, comprised in twenty-six short chapters, this volume contains a liberal collection of the most treasured stories and anecdotes either told by Lincoln or concerning him. Every effort has been made to include only such “Lincoln stories” as have well-established authenticity.

Here also are estimates of Lincoln’s character and achievements as presented in the eloquent tribute of Robert G. Ingersoll and the memorable eulogy pronounced by Henry Watterson.

The life of Lincoln cannot be fully understood without a study of his letters and speeches, including the great debates with Stephen A. Douglas. As a stump speaker and an orator of singular effectiveness Lincoln left the impress of his genius on the body politic no less plainly marked than the influence of his character and deeds.

Owing to the comparative brevity of the present Life, it has been deemed best to give here but few quotations from speeches and letters, but in the other volumes of this series all the speeches are included, together with as many of the letters as are considered interesting or important. Read in connection with the Life, these will leave little wanting that is needful to a full appreciation of the personality and public services of the “first American.”

For instance, the reader of the chapter entitled “Widening Renown” should also read not only the speeches delivered by Lincoln in Ohio after

the famous debates, but likewise the Cooper Union (Institute) address and letters written at the period of its delivery. Those who are interested in the chapter that tells of Lincoln's love-affairs should read in connection therewith his letters to Speed, to Mrs. Browning, and to Miss Owens.

The editors have received from many publishers kind permission to use material contained in more elaborate biographies. Special acknowledgment is made to the A. C. McClurg Company for selections from Arnold's *Life of Abraham Lincoln*; to the N. D. Thompson Company for excerpts from *The Every-Day Life of Abraham Lincoln*, by Francis F. Browne; to the Baker and Taylor Company for passages taken from the *Life of Lincoln*, by Henry C. Whitney; and to others, for similar favors, thanks are likewise due.

Considerable use has been made of interesting material found in Lamon's *Life of Lincoln*, especially such as relates to Lincoln's earlier years. From the excellent biographies by Herndon and Weik, Joseph H. Barrett, and James Morgan—each admirable in many respects—important facts, observations, incidents, and anecdotes have been borrowed. The editors also acknowledge their indebtedness to Ida M. Tarbell's *Life of Lincoln*, than which they have found none more complete and satisfactory.

While nearly all the biographies of Lincoln heretofore published have been carefully consulted, and choice extracts taken from many of them, it does not appear necessary to mention every work thus drawn upon. Particular credit, however, must be given to these: *Abraham Lin-*

coln: a History, by John G. Nicolay and John Hay; *The True Abraham Lincoln*, by William Eleroy Curtis; *Six Months in the White House*, by F. B. Carpenter; *Lincoln: Master of Men*, by Alonzo Rothschild; *Abraham Lincoln*, by Henry Ketcham; *Recollections of Abraham Lincoln*, by Joshua R. Speed; *Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln*, by distinguished men of his time, edited by Allen Thorndike Rice; and *Recollections of the Civil War*, by Charles A. Dana.

JOHN H. CLIFFORD.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. Ancestry of Abraham Lincoln . . .	I
II. Birth and Early Life	10
III. Life in Indiana	19
IV. Early Life in Illinois: Laborer and Storekeeper	40
V. Soldier, Postmaster, and Surveyor .	57
VI. Lincoln Enters Politics: State Legisla- tor	70
VII. Lincoln as a Lawyer	84
VIII. Life on the Circuit	98
IX. In Congress	105
X. The Debates with Douglas	111
XI. Widening Renown	123
XII. Love Affairs and Marriage	136
XIII. Education and Literary Traits . . .	151
XIV. Personal Characteristics: Physical and Mental	160
XV. Personal Characteristics: Moral and Religious	168
XVI. Nomination and Election	177
XVII. The President Elect	190
XVIII. Journey to Washington and Inaugura- tion	198
XIX. The President and His Cabinet . . .	208
XX. Civil War Begins: Fall of Fort Sumter	217

CHAPTER	PAGE
XXI. Lincoln and His Generals	227
XXII. Lincoln and His Soldiers	243
XXIII. Defeats and Victories	253
XXIV. The Emancipator	263
XXV. Reëlection: End of the War	271
XXVI. Death of Lincoln: the Nation's Sorrow	281
 TRIBUTES AND STORIES:	
The Greatness of Abraham Lincoln	297
A Man Inspired of God	324
Additional Lincoln Stories	338

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

CHAPTER I

Ancestry of Abraham Lincoln

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the sixteenth President of the United States, was born in a log cabin in the backwoods of Kentucky on the 12th day of February, 1809. He was born to a very humble station in life, and his early surroundings were rude and rough, but his ancestors for generations had been of that tough fibre, and vigorous physical organization and mental energy, so often found among the pioneers on the frontier of American civilization.

His forefathers removed from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania in the first half of the seventeenth century; and from Pennsylvania some members of the family moved to Virginia, and settled in the valley of the Shenandoah, in the county of Rockingham, whence his immediate ancestors came to Kentucky. For several generations they kept on the crest of the wave of Western settlement.

The family were English, and came from Norfolk County, England, about the year 1638, when they settled in Hingham, Mass. Mordecai Lincoln, the English emigrant to Massachusetts, removed afterward to Pennsylvania, and was the great-great-grandfather of the President. His son John, who was the great-grandfather of the President, moved to Virginia, and had a son Abraham, the grandfather of the President. He

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