

# LOSING LINCOLN

## A MODERN DAY MARTYR

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## **DEDICATION**

**Based in great part on Wikipedia and their Project Gutenberg for their vast collection of public domain materials, including, in no small part of the 1914 book**

**“Abraham Lincoln-A Story and A Play”.**

**This book is directed toward and dedicated to more youthful readers and the adults who teach those students. Lincoln’s story is a great model for honesty, integrity, thrift, hard work and determination. Abraham Lincoln obviously owed his success to setting goals for himself and following through. This story of his life exemplifies all the best qualities we, a vast majority of those hear from, wish for ourselves and our children. Without Going into detail about the brilliant political and government policy details of his career, this book details the exciting and adventurous life Lincoln lead from his childhood and up to the time of his assassination.**

**The greatest value of this book will be to show youthful readers how important the moral qualities already mentioned, are to anyone who aspires to succeed in life .**



**Abraham Lincoln's inaugural Bible**

## Modern Day Martyr

### THE STORY BEGINS

The story begins as Abe Lincoln's parents are newly married and starting a family. In the new home where she went to live with her husband, the young wife and future mother of yet unborn Abraham Lincoln, did not have the comforts to which we are accustomed. There were no carpets to spread over the rough, unpainted floor and only a few pieces of homemade furniture. The cooking was done before a big fireplace from which the burning logs gave the only light after the sun had set. After Abraham's sister was born, the family moved to a different place, called Rock Spring Farm. The country around was quite beautiful, and near the cabin, half hidden by a clump of trees and bushes, was a deep spring of clear water.

On this farm the little Abraham first saw the light of birth, and here he lived until he was seven years old.

In the woods nearby he could watch the squirrels and rabbits at play. There was the spring close at hand with its song of gladness; there were berries to pick and nuts to gather. Yet the little boy must often have been lonely, since he had few playfellows. Then, when night came, there was no cozy, cheerful home with its bright light to welcome him—only a small, dark cabin with its bare walls and floor, and a hard bed under the roof, through whose cracks the rain could beat down on the child's face below.

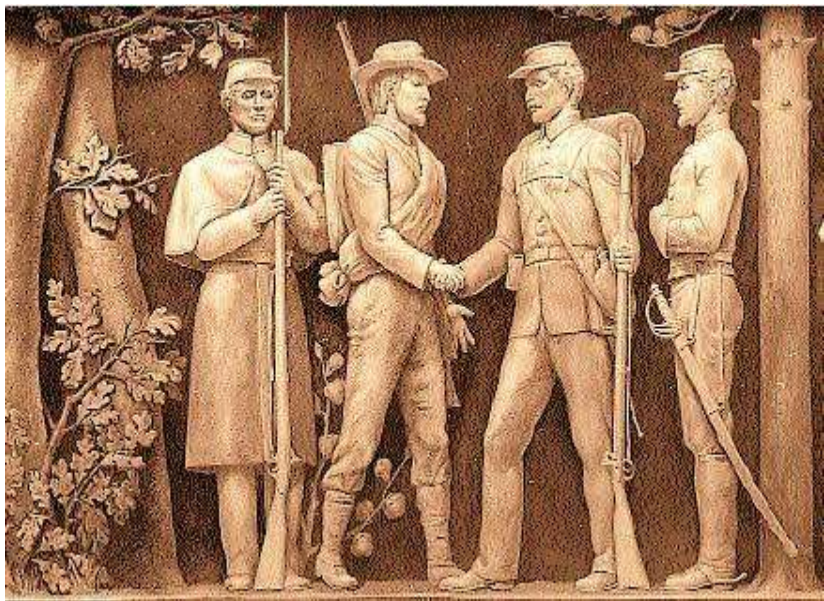
Abraham could not have been happy in those days.

Afterwards, when he became a man, he seldom spoke of them, even to his dearest friends. There was a small school-house not far from the farm, and here Abraham and his sister

learned their a-b-c's. Afterwards, they went for a short time to another school four miles away.

**I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to the light I have. I must stand with anybody that stands right — stand with him while he is right and part with him when he goes wrong. Lincoln**

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Peace at last



**9<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry Regiment attacking at Antietam.**





**President Lincoln meets with General George B. McClellan in the general's tent at Antietam, Maryland at the site of that decisive battle.**

Abraham's father was "easy going" as people say. He liked talking with his friends and dreaming dreams better than hard work. Stories came to him of a richer country in Indiana where he might have a better farm.

"I will go there and look the country over," he said to his wife. It was a long ways off, but as he was a good carpenter he decided to make a flat boat on which he could float down Knob Creek, which was only a short way from his home. Then, moving from one river to another, he would at last reach Indiana.

The boat was soon made and Mr. Lincoln started out on his journey. When he reached the new country he was much pleased, and there, in the midst of a forest, he decided upon the place for a home. He would return at once for his family.

He could not float his flatboat up stream, however. So sold it to a settler nearby, and started on foot for Kentucky.

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With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds...

At this time Abraham was seven years old and his sister Sarah was nine. Like all other children, they were probably pleased when their father got back and told of the new home which they were to seek in Indiana. They could not walk all the way, because the country was too rough and wild. But the father got two horses on which the children and their mother rode during the first part of the journey.

Towards the end they travelled in a farm wagon which Mr. Lincoln hired from one of the settlers along the way. At last they reached a stretch of thick forest, and there in its midst

they made ready to settle. Winter was near and shelter must be put up at once. Abraham's father set to work and built what is called a half-faced camp. That is, the house had only three sides. The fourth was left open.

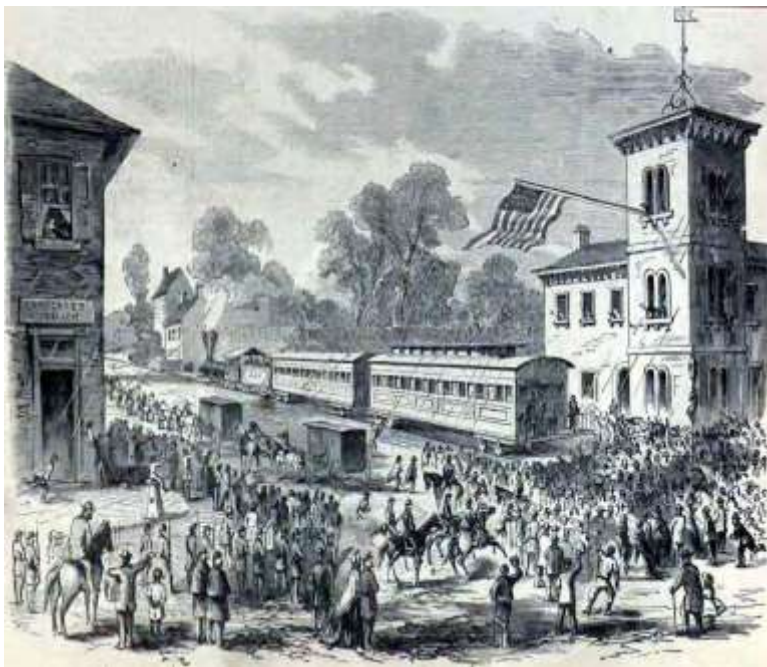
There was no floor, neither were there windows or chimney, and the wind and rain were free to beat their way inside. For about a year this was the only home that the family had.

Abraham was tall and strong for his age, and he worked hard, helping his father clear the land for a farm. From morning till night his long arms were busy felling the trees or plowing the ground for a garden. When his mother needed meal for making bread, the boy would fill some bags with corn, and then carry it on horseback to the mill seven miles away, to have it ground.

By the end of the year the boy had helped his father make a better home than the poor half-faced camp, but even now

there were neither windows nor door nor floor. Soon afterwards Abraham's mother, who had borne so many hardships, suddenly became very ill.

There was no doctor at hand to save her, and she died, leaving her two children with their father to get along as best they could. How deeply Abraham had loved this tender mother, who had already done so much for him! He never forgot her, and whenever he spoke of her afterwards his voice grew soft and tender. He called her his "angel mother."



Address to congratulatory crowd two days after Lincoln's second election to the presidency.



Portrait of [Dred Scott](#). Lincoln denounced the Supreme Court decision in *Dred Scott v. Sandford* as part of a conspiracy to extend slavery.

After she died, Abraham's sister Sarah, who was then only eleven years old, became the housekeeper. She cooked and sewed for her father and brother as best she could. It must have been hard work for the poor child, and she was probably glad when the next year her father went back to Kentucky, to marry a widow whom he had known in her girlhood.

### School Days

The new stepmother brought a large wagonload of furniture and clothing to her Indiana home. One of the pieces was a bureau which had cost fifty dollars. It must have seemed very wonderful to Abraham and Sarah, who had been used to rough homemade furniture all their lives.

When Mrs. Lincoln looked around her new home she said she would not be satisfied until a floor had been laid. The house must also have windows and a door. When these had been



attended to, and the furniture set in place, Abraham was more comfortable than he had ever been in his life.

The stepmother had a loving heart, and though she had three children of her own, she treated Abraham and Sarah very kindly and did all she could to make them happy.

“Even if we live in these backwoods, they must have book learning,” she declared. “They shall not grow up ignorant.”

There was a small schoolhouse not far away, and soon after the stepmother had taken charge of the family, the children began to go to school. There they studied “readin’, writin’ and cipherin’.”

There were few books in the school, and neither paper nor ink, as it was nearly impossible for people living in the midst of the forest to get such things. The school-house itself was small and dark. When the door was closed the only light

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