

# The Birthplace of Lincoln

No Other American Farm Says Mount Vernon Has Produced Such a Wonderful Crop of Patriotism

By HORATIO BLISS

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Two miles from Hodgenville, Ky., is a one hundred and ten acre farm that raises little except patriotism. The crops on it are for the most part stunted and have a discouraged appearance. Perhaps this dejection comes from dodging about to miss the rocks or from trying to find fertility in the soil, a hopeless task. Whatever the cause, the fact remains that the latest tenant was unable to make enough from the place to meet the taxes, just as the earliest one of record, a certain farmer carpenter of the name of Thomas Lincoln, failed to get enough out of the barren acres to pay for them.

Yet this stony, unproductive spot of earth is now one of the world's shrines. On Feb. 12 presidents, governors, judges, cardinals and cabinet ministers forgo their duties and dedicate these rocks and sterile soil patches to the people for all the days to come. On one of the hills a white memorial hall patterned after a Greek temple will likewise be consecrated and left as a Mecca for future generations. The temple incloses an old one room log cabin, with a stick chimney one door, one window and no floor at all. In this cabin was born a man child whom the world has taken to its heart—Abraham Lincoln, war president and liberator, man of meekness and mercy, strange compound of sorrow



MRS. LINCOLN IN 1861.

and of laughter. He, the babe that came here of parents poor and almost illiterate, is the reason for the temple for the crowds and for the oratory. He is likewise the reason for the nation existing at all in its present form. So these humble acres are not all unproductive, even though they cannot grow crops, for they brought forth great souls to lead a people from bondage and to place before men's eyes type of charity and forbearance that will make us all tenderer and better for having seen.

The Lincoln farm, after passing out of the ownership of Thomas Lincoln belonged for many years to a family of the name of Creal, after which it was bought by a New York capitalist—Mr. Dennett, who made some improvements on it with the idea of changing it into a national park. This was abandoned, however, because of business reverses. The farm became tied up in the litigation of the Dennett estate and for years was neglected. At last it was sold at public auction by the authorities of Larue county, Ky., when it was purchased by Richard Lloyd Jones as a representative of Robert J. Collier. A Lincoln farm association was formed, with Governor Folk of Missouri at its head, and various distinguished men on its directorate. To this body Mr. Collier turned over the farm, popular subscriptions were raised, a memorial building was erected, and other improvements were made. As a result the Lincoln birthplace farm on Feb. 12 will be opened to the public as a national park. From a scenic aspect it is a beautiful spot. Near to the plaza fronting the memorial building is the famous rock spring, and not far distant is a picturesque creek, on the banks of which the boy Lincoln played.

In addition to the dedication of the farm, a statue of Lincoln will be unveiled in Hodgenville. More important still, it is now practically certain that some form of memorial will be erected at Washington, a step that should have been taken long ago.

Everything connected with Abraham Lincoln is held precious by the American people. His birthplace and his tomb, his acts and his words, the people with whom he associated, all are objects of a popular interest such as has been aroused by few men in the history of nations. Compared with Lincoln's simple greatness most of the characters grouped around him suffer by contrast. This is true even of his family. For one I feel that jus-

tice has never been done Mrs. Lincoln. She was not without a prophetic quality in divining her husband's future eminence, she had spiritual insight, she suffered many sorrows, and despite her difference from Mr. Lincoln in temperament and inherited manners and beliefs she was loyal to him throughout.

One other character has been minimized much in the same way—William H. Seward, Lincoln's chief competitor for the presidential nomination and afterward his secretary of state. One thing that can be said for Seward is that he was man enough to acknowledge Lincoln's greatness when he saw it. He refused to plot against his chief, as did some of his fellow members of the cabinet. He was a wise counselor and unselfish statesman. He had enough foresight to buy Alaska when the public scoffed at him for the act. The truth about Seward is that he was of a very high type, but notwithstanding his height was overshadowed.

Mr. Lincoln's life falls into two great divisions—that preceding the repeal of the Missouri compromise and the formation of the Republican party and that following these twin events. His one term in congress was the last important public service in the first period. Following this were five or six years of law with little or no politics. In congress Lincoln had gained a reputation as a story teller and wit, had made one or two campaign speeches, had introduced a measure to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia and had refused to say that the Mexican war was righteous. Following his term he had applied for the office of land commissioner, to which he had not been appointed, and had been offered the governorship of Oregon, which he declined. In 1850 he refused another nomination to congress and in 1852 delivered an eulogy on Henry Clay. It was in 1854 that he really re-entered politics, being stirred thereto by the repeal of the Missouri compromise. That year he was elected to the legislature, but refused to serve. He was also a candidate for United States senator, coming within a few votes of winning. With rare unselfishness he threw all his strength to Lyman Trumbull and elected him. For Lincoln to go to Trumbull, who had but a handful of supporters, was like the tall wagging the dog, but it prevented the election of a proslavery man.

In 1856 Mr. Lincoln participated in the formation of the Republican party, making his great "lost speech" at Bloomington. He also received 110 votes for vice president in the Republican national convention and ran for elector on the Fremont ticket. Two years later came his great debates with Douglas, which were held at Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy and Alton. As a result he had a popular majority, but was beaten by holdover senators and a gerrymander. Following the struggle with Douglas Mr. Lincoln made speeches in Ohio, Kansas, New England and the famous address in Cooper Union, New York. Early in 1860 the Illinois state convention instructed him for president and in the national convention that met at Chicago, May 16-19, he was nominated on the third ballot. In the following campaign Mr. Lincoln remained at home and declined to make speeches. The Democratic party split on slavery, which made his election possible. Following the announcement of the result many of the southern states seceded, but the president elect refused to be drawn into any public utterance as to his policy. On Feb. 11, 1861, he started to Washington, making a few short addresses on the way and secretly passing through Baltimore because of rumors of possible



WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

assassination. After his inauguration his history became that of the country in her most gigantic struggle. The supreme events of his administration as they affect his fame were the issuance of the emancipation proclamation on Sept. 22, 1862, and its official promulgation on the 1st of January following, Vicksburg and Gettysburg on July 1-4, 1863; the Gettysburg address on Nov. 19, 1863; the second election to the presidency and second inauguration, and the assassination on April 14, 1865, five days after Appomattox.

# An Appreciation of Lincoln

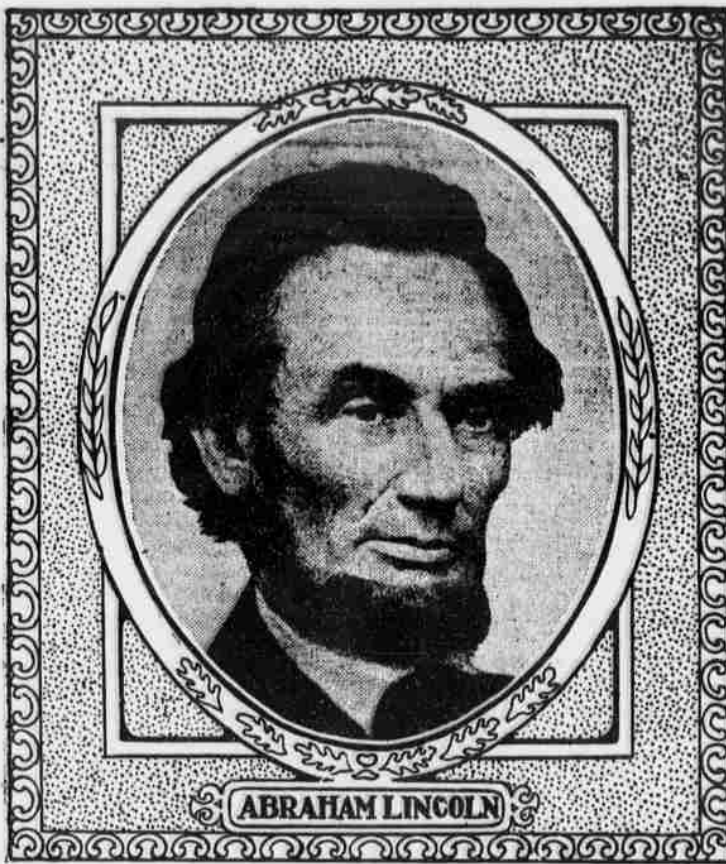
By Robertus Love

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**S**OMEWHERE down thar round Hodgenville, Kaintuoky, Or tharabouts, a hundred year ago, Was born a boy ye would'n thought was lucky; Looked like he never would'n have a show. But \* \* \* I don't know. That boy was started middlin' well, I'm thinkin'. His name? Why, it was Abraham—Abe Lincoln.

**P**ORE whites his folks was? Yes, as pore as any. Them pioneers, they wa'n't no plutocrats; Belonged right down among the humble many, And no more property than dogs or cats. But \* \* \* maybe that's As good a way as any for a startin'. Abe Lincoln, he riz middlin' high, for sartin'!

**S**OMEHOW I've always had a sort o' sneakin' Idee that peddygrees is purty much Like monkeys' tails—so long they're apt to weaken The yap that drags 'em round. No use for such! But \* \* \* beats the Dutch How now and then a lad like Little Aby Grows up a president—or gavnor, maybe.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

**A**BE LINCOLN never had no reg'lar schoolin'; He never quarterbacked nor pulled stroke oar, Nor never spent his time and money foolin' With buried langwidges and ancient lore. But \* \* \* Abe l'arned more To set him forrerd in the human filin' Than all the college fellers' kit and bilin'.

**A**BE LINCOLN never did git hifalutin'— Not even thar in Washin'ton, D. C. He jist kep' common, humble, ord'n'ry, suitin' His backwoods corn patch raisin' to a T. But \* \* \* jiminy gee! Why, Abe was any statesman's peer and ekul And wise as Solomon or old Ezekul.

**I** RECKON I'm a bit old fashioned, maybe, But when I want a pattern for a man I'm middlin' shore to measure Father Aby And out to fit his homely human plan. And long 's I can I'm hootin' loud and rootin' proud, by hucky, For that old boy from Hodgenville, Kaintuoky!

## The Gettysburg Address

Remarks at the Dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863.

**F**OURSORE and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow, this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

### The Ball Players.

Martin, the little brother of Pitcher Ed Walsh, will be given a chance to display his idea of the national pastime with the Chicago Americans next spring.

Mr. Mendez, the Cuban pitcher, reported signed with Cincinnati, is said to be as black as a coal scuttle. Now some one will rise up and insist on drawing the color line.

Cleveland's Eastern league captives don't look to amount to much. Barger won thirteen and lost thirteen for Rochester, and Stanley won eleven and lost twenty-one for Montreal.

Manager Joe Cantillon of the Washington Americans says that when the Nationals meet the Detroiters in a two game series at San Antonio, Tex., he will send Burns and Johnson against the league champions.

Cincinnati's new college pitcher, Tom Cantwell, hails from Winchester, Va., and will not be of age until next year. He weighs 200 pounds and is six and a half feet high. He is now taking a postgraduate course at Georgetown university.

**Snowless Lands.** Over two-thirds of the land surface of the earth snow never falls.

### Household Hints.

The quickest cleaner for a sticky bread or cake pan is a crust of stale bread.

A dish of water kept on the radiator will improve the air of a steam heated room.

A scratch on polished furniture can be almost obliterated by rubbing vigorously with linseed oil.

Fringed dollies are kept in better condition if the fringe is brushed with a small nail brush rather than with a comb.

The darkest stain on mirror or window pane can generally be routed with a flannel dipped in spirits of camphor. Rub until dry.

A good silence cloth for the dining table can be made with a double thickness of white flannel laid with the soft side on the inside and quilted on the machine. Edge with a binding of white tape.

**An Isle of Many Names.** The French island which was known as Bourbon under the ancient regime was named Reunion under the revolution, Ile Bonaparte under the empire and Bourbon under the restoration and is Reunion now.



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