

# Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was the grandson of <sup>the</sup> Abraham Lincoln who left the beautiful valley of the Shenandoah in Virginia for the wilds of Kentucky in the year 1780.

Only two years after, while still a young man while working one day in his field he was stealthily approached by an Indian and shot dead.

His widow was left in extreme poverty with five little children three boys and two girls.

Thomas the youngest was four years old at the time of his father's death.

No record was kept of the

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life of one so poor as he was. He was poorest of the poor. His home was a wretched log cabin, his food the coarsest and meanest. Education he had none. He never could read or write, but marrying Nancy Banks a noble woman but daughter of another poor family, her nobility impressed itself upon her sons, especially her second son, the subject of this sketch who was born <sup>in Kentucky</sup> Feb 12 1809.

Said Lincoln of his mother years after her death. "All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother's blessings on her memory."



The earlier life of Lincoln was one of hardship and toil with but the most limited advantages for an education.

When eight years of age his father sold his cabin and small farm and moved to Indiana. When ten years of age his mother died.

Having considerable mechanical skill he built a boat to carry the produce of the farm down the Ohio river to market.

One morning as he was standing by his boat at the landing two men wished him to take them to a steamer on the river. He sculled them out with

their baggage when each of them tossed him a silver half dollar to him.

He declared it was the most important day of his life. He was more hopeful and confident from that time on.

At 19 years of age a neighbor engaged him to take <sup>charge</sup> of a flatboat and cargo of produce down the Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans a distance of more than one thousand miles. He made the trip in safety sold the cargo, then walked most of the way home.

In 1830 his father sold his squatter's claim and emigrated to Mazon Co Illinois locating

upon the banks of the Sangamon river.

At twenty one years of age Lane after being his father comfortably housed, struck out for himself.

He saw the importance of an education, and exerted himself to the utmost to gain it.

He borrowed an English grammar and completely mastered it.

He sought the society of the most intelligent men in that region,

joined a debating club, took the Louisville Journal which he not only read but carefully pondered <sup>all</sup> its leading articles.

In 1832 when the celebrated Indian chief Black Hawk

Crossed the Mississippi river and with a large band of savages was ascending Rock River, he and others organized a company that chose Lane as its captain.

After his return from that war that ended in the defeat of Black

Hawk he was proposed as a candidate for the Illinois legislature.

Popular as he was at home yet in the general vote he was defeated.

Then for a short time he acted as a postmaster, his only

post office being his hat. All letters he received he carried

around and delivered to those addressed as he chanced to

meet them,



Next he was a surveyor and one very successful  
 In 1832 he again became a candidate for the Legislature and was triumphantly elected. Being advised to study law he borrowed some books and took up the task with intense energy. In 1836 was re-elected to the State Legislature at the age of twenty seven. He was continued in the legislature for several successive sessions. In 1839 he removed to Springfield the new State Capital and here practiced his profession as a lawyer. He would never advocate a cause he did not believe was just. He was intensely

anti slavery, and <sup>in after years</sup> won national renown in his debates with Stephen A Douglas, as they visited several points in the State of Illinois. In 1842 Mr Lincoln married a Miss Mary Todd of Springfield. In 1846 Mr Lincoln was nominated for Congress from the Sangamon District and elected by a large majority. From this time on his career was rapidly onward and upward finally landing him in the Presidential Chair. Nor did his triumphs end with this distinguished honor. His emancipation proclamation of Sept 22 1862, and the one



enforcing the same on Jan 1 1863.  
attracted <sup>to him</sup> still more the attention  
of the civilized world.

He was re-elected President in  
1864, by a majority of two hundred  
and twelve out of two hundred and  
thirty three electoral votes.

The concluding words of his  
second inaugural, together with his  
cruel assassination in Washington on  
the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1865, and  
death at 7.20 next morning are -  
the thrilling events that still immortalize  
his name!

We quote his words; sentiments  
that every patriot may well  
ponder over and maintain  
"With malice toward none, with

Charity for all, with firmness for 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;  
to care for him who shall have borne the  
battle, and for his widow and orphan;  
to do all which may achieve and  
cherish <sup>just and</sup> a lasting peace among  
ourselves and all nations"

The games of Washington  
and Lincoln will go down  
to the remotest ages of earth's  
cycling years, as the  
saviors of our glorious  
Republic.

Read at Grand Prairie Grange  
Abraham Lincoln  
By Cyrus H Walker