

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace

Administrative History



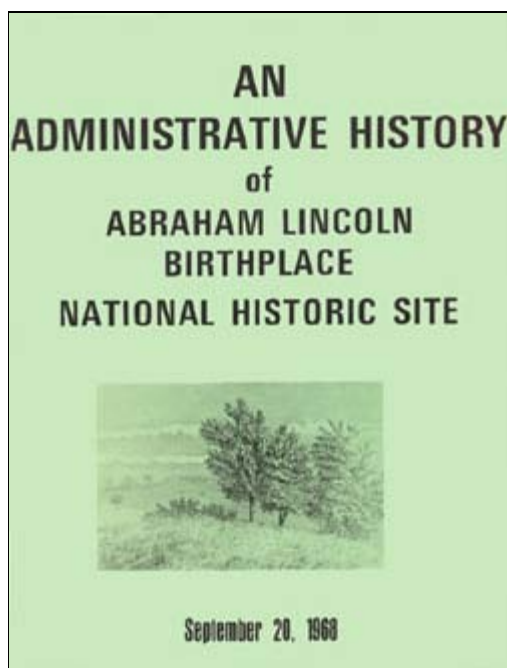
An Administrative History of ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE Hodgenville, Kentucky

**by
Gloria Peterson**

September 20, 1968

DIVISION OF HISTORY
Office of Archeology and Historic
Preservation
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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FOREWORD

This Administrative History of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, ABLI-1, has been prepared in order to provide a documented tool to be used in the management and administration of the area. It is hoped that some knowledge of past policies and practices at the Birthplace will be of help to administrators both on and off the site in future planning and development.

I wish to thank Edwin C. Bearss of the Division of History for reading the manuscript and providing me with guidance in its preparation. I also extend my gratitude to Superintendent Jerry Schober of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site and his staff for their help in the researching and development of this report.

Gloria Peterson
September 20, 1968

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<http://www.nps.gov/abli/adhi/adhi0.htm>
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CHAPTER I:

THOMAS LINCOLN BUYS A FARM

In December 1808, Thomas Lincoln, the father of Abraham, received from one Isaac Bush an assignment of a parcel of land in central Kentucky, on the "waters of the South Fork of Nolin, Containing Three Hundred acres Beginning at or near a spring called the sinking spring to be Twice as long as wide Including as much of a Grove called the little Turkey Grove as will fall within the Boundreys aforesaid." [\[1\]](#) On this land, somewhere in the vicinity of a knoll by the Sinking Spring, he build a rough cabin in which his son Abraham was born, in February of the following year.

Larue County, in which the tract is presently located, was not organized until 1843. At the time of Lincoln's birth, as he later stated in some brief autobiographical notes, the land lay within Hardin County. It was fourteen miles from Elizabethtown, the county seat, and approximately three miles south of Hodgenville, the present seat of Larue County.

The land is rolling upland plain, and the soil of the farm, although not particularly fertile, was ample to support the corn, beans, squash, and the few head of livestock that provided the livelihood of the early Kentucky pioneers. A large white oak, still standing on the property, was mentioned in land titles preceeding Lincoln's and is believed to have been over 100 years old at the time of Abraham Lincoln's birth.

The area around Hodgenville was not generally inhabited by Indians in historic times, but was used rather as hunting and fishing grounds by the Cherokees, Chickasaws, and tribes of the Iroquois nation. The first white men in Kentucky were probably the French, but as early as 1750 Dr. Thomas Walker explored eastern Kentucky on behalf of the Loyal Land Company, heralding the dawn of English competition with the Indians and the French who claimed the territory as part of the French colonial empire.

The Treaty of Paris of 1763 ended the French-British disputes over the territory, although the Proclamation of 1763 forbade English settlement of Kentucky; and when colonization began a dozen years later, the pioneer emigrants found Kentucky truly a "dark and bloody ground." The clearing and homesteading provoked violent clashes with the Indians who resented this invasion of their game reserves.

In spite of these dangers, however, in November of 1788 Robert Hodgen and John Close built two mills on the Nolin and South Fork Creeks. These mills later became the nuclei of two permanent settlements in Hardin County. [\[2\]](#)

In February of 1786 a 60,000-acre entry Virginia. One-half and Joseph James in William Greenough (or Greenveigh) received or patent from the Commonwealth of of this property was bought by John Hood tracts of 15,000 acres each.

Richard Mather, a land speculator from New York, bought James' 15,000 acres and an added

30,000 acres of the same patent from William Weymouth. A few years later he began to sell tracts to incoming settlers. One of those to purchase property from Mather was David Vance, who entered into an agreement with him on May 1, 1805, to the effect that Vance would hold a bond of 300 acres from Mather, but Mather would hold a lien on it until the entire sum of the purchase price was paid. In November of the same year, Vance signed the bond over to Isaac Bush, who signed it over to Thomas Lincoln in December 1808. Time passed, and none of the three paid the debt on the land to Mather. In September 1813, Mather reappeared to claim his lien and filed suit against Vance, Bush, and Lincoln. Vance having disappeared, Bush and Lincoln answered the bill. Lincoln stated that he knew of the lien at the time of the purchase, but thought part of it had been paid off. Nevertheless, he offered to make up the difference. For some reason, the court decided in favor of Mather, and the land was offered for sale by a commissioner in March 1814. In December 1816 it was sold to John Welsh for \$87.74. [3]

The Nolin Creek or Sinking Spring Farm was first surveyed on December 4, 1837, in connection with a suit between McKelvey Fogle and the John Welsh heirs. Research has shown that "This survey establishes beyond doubt the boundaries of the 300-acre tract of Vance's which Thomas Lincoln purchased from Isaac Bush on December 12, 1808." The survey begins "at a large white oak thirteen poles above the sinking spring or Rock Spring." This white oak is the same boundary oak used in previous surveys as a starting point and is the same which stands today as one of the principal identifying features in the deed of conveyance of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site to the United States in 1916. [4]

The Lincolns, on losing the suit, moved on to Knob Creek, not far from the Sinking Spring Farm and remained there until 1816. It was the first home of which Abraham Lincoln had any recollections. Nevertheless, he later identified his birthplace as being "at a point within the now County of Larue, a mile or a mile and a half from where Hodgen's Mill now is. . . . It was on the Nolin." [5]

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CHAPTER II:

AS A MONUMENT TO HIS MEMORY

As the years passed, portions of the original 300 acres of the Sinking Spring or Nolin Creek Farm were sold to various persons. The area immediately around the spring, where the birthplace cabin traditionally stood, contained about 110 acres and devolved into the hands of the Creal family.

In the Spring of 1865, John B. Rowbotham, an artist-journalist, was sent by a Cincinnati publishing firm to make a picture of Lincoln's birthplace. He described the site in a letter to William H. Herndon:

From E.T. [Elizabethtown] proceed to Hodgenville which is about ten miles south east of there-inquire the way to Rock Spring Farm owned by Mr. R. A. Creal better known as "old Dickey Creal." The Farm is about 3 miles south of Hodgenville and a good straight road. The site of Mr. L.'s birthplace is on this farm about 500 yards from Mr. Creal's house. It is situated on a little knoll or rising ground and is now a barley field. Some rocks indicating the site of the chimney are still there. At the edge of the field are two old pear trees planted by Th. Lincoln - between which - was a gateway leading to the house. Mr. Creal remembers him well. Near the spot is a very romantic spring from which the farm takes its name - & where no doubt Mr. L. as a Child often strayed. [1]

The Rowbotham visit was probably one of the earliest attempts to determine the site of Lincoln's birth. There was little local interest in the site--the people of the area were amused by the occasional pilgrim or journalist who came through to cut a souvenir cane from one of the trees on the farm.

R. Wintersmith, the elector for the Fifth Congressional District of Kentucky, had sent a friend in Cincinnati such a set of canes in October 1860. An ardent supporter of "Honest old Abe," he claimed that the "Long-plumb stick was cut from the very place in the house where the bed stood when he [Lincoln] was born. The house has been removed." The canes were almost certainly meant to be used in Lincoln's presidential campaign, for Wintersmith assured his friend McKeehan, "You can certainly recommend them as coming from off his birthplace, as I cut them myself." He identified the birthplace as being "in Larken [Larue] County, formerly of this county. [Hardin; he was writing from Elizabethtown]." [2]

The first attempt to commemorate the site at the Sinking Spring by the Government was made on July 12, 1886, when Rep. Thomas A. Robertson of Kentucky introduced House Resolution No. 200 calling for the appropriation of \$10,000 "to erect a granite shaft, on the Creal place, 3 miles south of Hodgenville, Larue County, Kentucky." The appropriation was to be made on the condition that the land be donated to the Government. The resolution was referred to the Committee of the Library and failed to be reported out. Robertson, a native of Hodgenville, was probably much more conscious of the value of the site than were other legislators of that

time.

The Louisville Commercial of March 26, 1894, announced that an option to buy "the old Creal place" with a view toward the establishment of "a resort of national interest like Mount Vernon or the Hermitage" had been contracted by Major S. P. Gross. Major Gross, "the genius who presided over the destinies of the restaurant in the Kentucky building at the [Chicago] World's Fair," was supposed to have contracted to pay not more than \$3,000 for the 110-acre property. He would not divulge his exact plans, but it was assumed that he would improve the place with the expectations of "disposing of it to the Government." The newspaper evidently interviewed Major Gross or sent a reporter to Hodgenville for supplementary information on the purchase. The article noted that only a "stray tourist" visited the spot:

From Hodgenville only a country road leads out to the old homestead and the visitor finds himself under the necessity of hiring a lively rig to reach it. . . . Of the old single-room log hut in which the President was born there remains only a heap of stones where the rough chimney stood. All else has disappeared though the decayed stump of what is said to have been a pear tree is seen near by. [3]

For some reason Gross never proceeded further with his project, and in November of the same year Alfred W. Dennett, restaurant chain owner and patron of missionary organizations, bought the 110 acres of the "old Creal place" for \$3,000 on three installment notes due in six, twelve and eighteen months. [4]

Dennett and his sometime partner, the Rev. James W. Bigham, had often engaged in money-making enterprises for the benefit of the missionary cause. It is certain that the preservation and improvement of the "Lincoln Spring Farm," as it now came to be called, was promoted for this purpose. A short while after the sale, Dennett made Bigham his agent and assigned him the management and development of the property designated in the contract as the "Lincoln Birthplace." The Louisville Courier-Journal article announcing the sale mentions no cabin standing on the site or elsewhere, nor does it intimate that the location of a "birthplace cabin" was a part of Dennett's plans. He admitted that it was to be a profit-making enterprise and that he would turn it into a public park and build a large hotel on the grounds. The 1895 encampment of the GAR nearby would provide him with his first visitors. He was planning to have "special trains run down to Hodgenville" to transport the veterans out to the farm. [5]

The Larue County Herald of August 29, 1895, announced that Bigham had been instructed by the owner of the farm, Dennett, to "have built at once a log cabin on the Lincoln Farm exactly where stood the cabin in which Lincoln was born, and the cabin is to be built of the identical logs that were in the original cabin." [6] With no further ado, Bigham purchased the logs of an old cabin standing on the nearby property of John A. Davenport and had the cabin re-erected at the spring. [7]

This is the earliest written account of the existence of the "original Lincoln Cabin." In the November 1895 issue of McClure's magazine, however, Ida Tarbell, in an article on Lincoln' boyhood, related that "the cabin was long ago torn down, but the logs were saved. The new owner [Dennett, through Bigham] in August 1895, rebuilt the old cabin on the original site." [8]

In the Tarbell article was reprinted a post-card photograph of the cabin as it stood at the spring in 1895. This view of the cabin, the source of which was for years unknown, was finally proven to be one of a set of photographs of the farm taken by Russell T. Evans, of Evans Art Co. in Elizabethtown. They were apparently commissioned by Bigham for souvenir or promotional material. [9] If McClure's used this material in the Tarbell article on

Lincoln, they were probably in contact with either Dennett or Bigham and accepted their word as to the authenticity of the logs in the rebuilt cabin.

The articles in the Larue County Herald and McClure's probably surprised a great many local people who had not been aware of the existence of "the identical logs that were in the original cabin." It certainly seems strange that Major Gross, a figure of more prestige and entrepreneurial reputation in Kentucky than Bigham or Dennett, did not discover the existence of the "identical logs" on the Davenport farm. Nor was he told this interesting fact by any of the local people with whom he must have had dealings in order to search the title and negotiate the option. The Louisville Commercial article announcing the Gross option in March 1894 stated plainly that except for a few stones from the chimney "all else has disappeared."

It is also difficult to believe that neither Rowbotham nor Wintersmith, both early pilgrims to the birthplace site, would not have been told had the original birthplace cabin remained in altered form, on another site.

The "written lecture, descriptive & historic," which Bigham prepared after he had re-erected the cabin at the spring took great pains to establish a connection between the logs he bought from Davenport and the logs of the original cabin built by Thomas Lincoln. It was well known in Larue County that Dr. Jesse Rodman had been commissioned to see President Lincoln some time during the Civil War [10] to petition for the relief of the draft in that area. Bigham stated that it was George Rodman, brother of Jesse, who had gone to Washington and returned with such admiration for Lincoln that he removed the cabin, still standing at the spring, and re-erected it on his property, now in the hands of John Davenport. [11]

Research has shown this story to be largely spurious. An affidavit taken in the spring of 1906 from Lafayette Wilson by agents of the Lincoln Farm Association, which had purchased the farm and cabin, states that he (Wilson) moved the logs of a cabin from the spring in March 1860. [12]

Mrs. Zerelda Jane Goff had asserted a few days earlier that it was Lafayette Wilson who moved them and that they were re-erected into a cabin on the property of Dr. George Rodman. [13]

In March of 1860, when Lafayette Wilson asserts he moved the logs, Abraham Lincoln was not yet President of the United States, and there was of course no draft in Larue or any other county, as the Civil War did not begin until April 1861. Furthermore, a search of the land records in the Larue County Courthouse in Hodgenville by Benjamin Davis of the National Park Service in 1948 failed to reveal any documentary evidence to show that either George Rodman or his far more prominent brother Jesse ever owned or occupied the land later in the hands of the Davenport family. [14]

It may be concluded that the owner of the Davenport property in 1860 probably hired Lafayette Wilson and his stated assistant, James Dyer, to disassemble a log cabin on the Lincoln farm to supply logs for a cabin he was building on his own property. The statement of Mrs. Goff that this was the land belonging to Rodman may be explained by the influence of the Bigham story which was probably well-circulated in the Hodgenville area. The belief that the removal of these logs was in any way motivated by a desire to preserve the birthplace of the great Civil War President is not substantiated by historical evidence. Further, it cannot be proven or disproven, except circumstantially, that the cabin standing on the Creal property at the time of its removal by Wilson contained any or all of the logs used by Thomas Lincoln to construct the cabin in which his son Abraham was born in February of 1809.

Dennett began almost immediately after the purchase of the farm and cabin to seek their sale

to the United States Government. He was perennially in debt, and apparently was unable to raise the capital necessary to improve and administer his acquisitions himself. In April of 1896 Rep. John W. Lewis of Kentucky introduced H.R. 8589 into the House. The bill provided for the appropriation of \$100,000 to ascertain the location and investigate the title to the Abraham Lincoln birthplace with a view toward purchasing the land and erecting a National Soldiers' Home. Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, the bill failed to be reported out of committee.

This was to be the last legislative effort for some time in behalf of the Lincoln birthplace. In January 1899, Bigham went to Washington for Dennett to lobby for the sale, but repeated efforts among members of the Kentucky delegation came to nothing. [15] Suddenly, the next month, Dennett conveyed the property to his associate David Crear of New York. The purchase price on the conveyance was left blank. This was an obvious maneuver to protect various debts he had to Crear, for Dennett was in serious trouble with his creditors in New York. Desperately, Dennett searched for Congressional relief from the extra financial burden of the Lincoln farm. He visited Washington twice in 1900. In March of that year he wrote to Bigham "nobody but God Almighty, in my opinion, can sell that property. . . ." [16]

The birthplace cabin, however, was proving a better investment. It was dismantled and moved from its place at the spring for display at the Nashville Centennial in May 1897. There it stood on the midway alongside another Bigham purchase, the "original birthplace cabin of Jefferson Davis," illustrating, no doubt, the humble beginnings of the two Civil War leaders. [17]

The logs of both cabins were next transported by Dennett to New York, where they remained in storage until May 1901. At that time they were rented to a pair of showmen who took them to Buffalo for the Exposition. At the end of the Exposition it was stated that half of the logs had been lost on their way back to New York City. The logs were to remain in the basement of an old mansion in Long Island until they were rediscovered and the cabin reconstructed first at Central Park in Louisville and then at the birthplace farm by the Lincoln Farm Association in 1906.

The Cincinnati Commercial Tribune of August 4, 1901, reported that Thomas J. Thomas, a wealthy Negro and ex-slave of Larue County, planned to devote the whole fortune left to him by a former master to convert the Lincoln farm into a home for "old and decrepit ex-slaves." David Crear, reported as the owner, showed reluctance. The plan for some reason did not progress further. [18]

Sinking deeper into financial despair, Dennett filed a petition for bankruptcy in November 1901. For some reason he did not schedule the Lincoln farm among his assets and although some of his creditors brought this up against him, he was never questioned about it in court. After Dennett's discharge for bankruptcy in September 1903, it remained for Crear to defend his title to the birthplace farm. Finally, however, in May of 1905, the Larue County Circuit Court ruled Dennett's conveyance to Crear as fraudulent and the farm was ordered up for commissioner's sale. [19]

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CHAPTER III:

IN TRUST FOR THE NATION THE LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION

The sale by the commissioner of the Lincoln farm in 1905 attracted a great deal more attention from the press than had previous sales of the property. The event was advertised for two separate weeks in the Louisville Courier-Journal, which called it "a sale of national importance [which] will attract people from many other states because of the interest attaching to the famous old farm." [1] It was expected that although there were ample possibilities for turning the property into a national park, the land was not particularly good and "as a farming venture it would not claim a high price." There were few in the vicinity who could afford to pay very much for the land. "If the bidding is confined to neighboring farmers, it is predicted that the birthplace of the immortal Lincoln will be sold very cheap." The average price of land in that section was \$15 per acre.

The postmaster of Hodgenville, Thomas B. Kirkpatrick, had been taking an active interest in the fate of the birthplace farm. Approximately a year before the sale, he had been in communication with William Jennings Bryan about spearheading a popular subscription drive to purchase the farm and present it to either the county, State or Federal Government. The movement did not get under way, but Bryan was in agreement about the basic goals of the plan: "It is nothing to the credit of the American people that Lincoln's birthplace has been neglected. . . . the time will come when our posterity will regret the ruin and decay of the old log cabin and the magnificent spring." [2]

The farm at the time of the sale presented a decidedly run-down and neglected appearance. A portion of the fields was grown up in sassafras and locust bushes and "fences are so dilapidated that they scarcely afford sufficient protection to the few scattered patches of corn and tobacco which are to be found." Dennett was supposed to have cleared the farm and planted blue grass which was now ragged and overgrown. The article in the Courier-Journal of August 27, 1905, reproduced the photograph of the cabin taken by Evans in 1895 and some later views of the site after the cabin had been removed. A large flagpole, which had never been used, marked the spot where the cabin had stood. [3]

On August 28, 1905 Richard Lloyd Jones bought the farm for \$3,600 in the name of Robert J. Collier, editor of the popular Collier's Weekly. There was a large crowd of out-of-town people present at the sale in Hodgenville, but only a few of them bid. Among them were John E. Burton of Milwaukee, a famous collector of Lincolniana, and Edward J. McDermott of Louisville, representing the New York Christian and Missionary Alliance. [4] Many years later, Jones recalled that it was he himself who first conceived of the plan to preserve Lincoln's birthplace. While visiting with Col. Henry Watterson, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal, he was encouraged to visit the farm, then in the hands of David Crear:

It occurred to me that something should be done to mark the birth of such a

giant. . . . I had no idea what to do with it if I could get it, but the notion of acquiring it impelled me to get information. I left word with a local lawyer to notify me if it was ever offered for sale.

Back in New York, Jones interested Collier in "somehow marking that birthplace. . . . Whatever we did [toward the preservation of the farm] we would need the help of Mr. Collier's magazine." [5]

Robert Collier received possession of the farm in December of that year. The Courier-Journal rejoiced that the farm at last "has fallen into the hands of men of wealth who are willing to spend large sums to beautify and ornament it in the proper way." [6]

In a large spread in the February 10, 1906, issue of Collier's, Jones presented to the public for the first time the plans of the newly formed Lincoln Farm Association:

When the Lincoln Farm Association, actimated by the highest patriotic motives, gives to posterity the purifying inspiration of a Lincoln righteousness, then indeed the government of the people, for the people and by the people shall not perish from the earth, and the old Kentucky birthplace will not have been saved in vain.

The role of Collier's in this venture was to save the birthplace farm from "the exploitations of speculators for vulgar show and unwholesome popularity." Jones stressed that the magazine held the farm "in trust for the nation" and had "no ulterior object in view." The park which the Association planned to establish at Lincoln's birthplace would "differ widely from our other national parks, such as Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge [sic], Vicksburg and others, in that it will express our national unity rather than preserve the memory of our lamentable differences."

Everyone who contributed no less than 25 cents nor more than \$25 would receive an engraved certificate of membership in the Lincoln Farm Association. The money thereby raised would be used to restore the cabin to its original site, clean and protect the old spring , plant the fields in bluegrass and erect at lease one monument and historical museum.

Endorsements solicited from President Theodore Roosevelt and Speaker of the House Joseph G. Cannon praised the plans of the Association. President Roosevelt stressed the importance of simplicity in carrying out improvements, and Speaker Cannon warned against the disposition of the property to the Government: "For once accepted by the Government, it will be practically impossible to make conditions that would forever keep the park as its projectors would have it kept." [7]

On February 14, 1906, an account was opened with the U. S. Mortgage and Trust Co. in New York. All accounts and books of the Association were placed with the New York firm of Barrow, Wade, Guthrie & Co. Offices were opened at 74 Broadway, with Gov. Joseph W. Folk of Missouri as President. In March, Frederick J. Pierce was installed as general manager. [8]

The Lincoln Farm Association was incorporated on April 18, 1906, for the purposes of honoring and perpetuating the memory of Abraham Lincoln, the taking and holding of 110 acres of his birthplace farm, and the development and maintenance of the same. The original Board of Directors included many illustrious names:

Joseph H. Choate

Jenkin Lloyd Jones

Henry Watterson	Norman Hapgood
Cardinal Gibbons	Ida Tarbell
August Saint-Gaudens	Horace Porter
Charles A. Towne	Edward M. Shepard
Joseph W. Folk	William Travers Jerome
August Belmont	Robert J. Collier
William H. Taft	Thomas Hastings
Albert Shaw	Clarence H. Mackay
Lyman J. Gage	Richard Lloyd Jones [9]
Samuel L. Clemens	

The Board of Trustees included the above as well as Oscar L. Straus, John A. Johnson; Charles Evans Hughes, Samuel Gompers, Augustus E. Willson, William Jennings Bryan and Charles E. Miner. [10]

An immediate search for the whereabouts and recovery of Lincoln's "original birthplace cabin" was launched. Jones reported in the February 10, 1906, issue of Collier's that the cabin had been

sold to an exhibitor, who has taken it about the country as a traveling show and who now holds it intact in a cellar in Stamford, Connecticut, for ransom. It will never be given back to the people, to whom it should belong, but can be brought back, and this will be done . . . Vandal hands have carried off the humble cabin wherein a giant soul was born. [11]

The cabin, of course, had not been carried off by "vandal hands, " nor was it held for ransom in a cellar in Stamford, Connecticut. The logs resided in the basement of the old Poppenhusen Mansion at College Point, Long Island, where they had been stored by their owner, David Crear. He had come into control of them since Dennett became insane and was committed to a state hospital in California in April 1904. In February 1906, Norman Hapgood, member of the Board of Directors, bought the logs from Crear for \$1,000. [12] A triumphant tour of the logs back to their original site on the birthplace farm was arranged for June 1906.

The logs were loaded on a flatcar which left Pennsylvania Station in New York City on June 6. The car was decorated with flags and bunting and portraits of Lincoln and was guarded by a special detachment of the Kentucky Militia under the command of Capt. Neville S. Bullitt. Stops included Baltimore, Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Indianapolis. [13]

The logs arrived in Louisville on June 12 and were set up in Central Park as part of the Kentucky Homecoming Week festivities. A reporter from the Courier-Journal described the logs as they lay ready to be put together: "All that can be seen is a pile of rough and partially decayed logs, an old door which is minus one of its panels [sic] and a rough mantel-piece." [14]

The June 15 edition of the Courier-Journal showed a picture of the reconstructed cabin in Central Park and noted that spectators were disappointed that it had no roof. [15] After Homecoming Week the cabin was stored until the site at the farm could be prepared.

In May, the Association had engaged the Hodgenville law firm of Williams and Handley to determine the authenticity of the cabin. Four of the twelve affidavits taken by Williams and Handley concerned the cabin, the rest related local recollections and traditions about the birthplace farm. On May 28, Judge John C. Creal, who sold the farm to Dennett and had

lived on part of the Lincoln farm since his birth in 1836, attested that the house which Bigham removed from the Davenport place in 1895 "was a comparatively new house when I knew anything about it." [16]

The authentication of the cabin in the possession of the Lincoln Farm Association was based on the affidavits of the above mentioned (Chapter II) Lafayette Wilson and Zerelda Jane Goff, and the remarks of John A. Davenport, from whom Bigham had purchased the logs. He stated that he had come to Larue County in 1863 and lived near the Lincoln Farm:

That in 1875 he moved into the cabin built of the logs from the Lincoln cabin: That when he first came to this county in 1863 [he was then 13 years old] it was well known by all the older residents that these logs were taken from the Lincoln Cabin at the Spring. [17]

The Lincoln Farm Association was satisfied by the results of this perfunctory investigation that the cabin, despite its colorful history in the preceding ten years, was indeed the original cabin built by Thomas Lincoln for his family in 1808, and made plans to enshrine it in a grand memorial hall to be built on the farm. The conflicting testimony of Judge Creal, who had lived on the property most of his life and had had personal dealings with Bigham and Dennett, was disregarded. Williams and Handley submitted their evidence with these remarks:

We have obtained the above facts, which are the best obtainable at this late date at some considerable trouble. Many more witnesses could be had testifying substantially to the facts, but this would be merely cumulative and we close the testimony with the submission of the facts to the public, believing that the American people will not be so unreasonable or critical as to demand more conclusive evidence of the birthplace of this great American. [18]

On June 19, Robert Collier conveyed the farm and cabin to the Lincoln Farm Association. The conveyance was carefully worded as to the authenticity of the cabin:

[I, Robert Collier, party of the first part] by these presents do bargain sell, and convey unto the said party of the second part, the Lincoln Farm Association, its successors and assignees, the log cabin called the Abraham Lincoln log cabin, and which has been and is now exhibited as such, and which was sold to me, the party of the first part and said to be the log cabin or part of the same in which Abraham Lincoln was born. [19]

At the first annual meeting of the Board of Directors on February 18, 1907, Richard Lloyd Jones, secretary of the Association, reported that a total of 29,000 persons had contributed to the fund. The average contribution in 1906 had been 31 cents, which left a margin of only 14 cents after the considerable expense involved in paying for the five-room office suite, the engraved membership certificates, and publicity had been deducted. The amount of the average contribution rose in 1907 to 85 cents, but the association was still running at a deficit. The Memorial Fund received a boost later that year with the contributions of Clarence Mackay, who donated 400 shares of "Mackay companies preferred stock" worth \$29,247 in 1907, and Mrs. Russell Sage, who made an outright gift of \$25,000.

Frederick Pierce, the association's general manager, contrived many schemes for raising the money needed to improve the birth place. It was he who devised the tour of the old logs to Louisville, during which time more than 600,000 circulars were distributed in various cities soliciting funds for the work of the association. A list of 1,100 daily newspapers had been secured, each paper promising to run a series of articles on the movement. Mailing lists and club subscription sheets were collected for employees of several large industrial concerns,

and efforts to enlist the help of patriotic organizations in forming local committees for fund-raising were made. The views of "leading men in all lines of activity" were eagerly solicited, and a particular effort was made to enroll students of elementary and secondary schools in "Lincoln Leagues" for the collection of contributions. [20]

During 1907, Jules Guerin and Guy Lowell, distinguished landscape artists, were sent to survey the grounds and make recommendations for improvements. A long-time resident of the area, who also lived on the property, was appointed caretaker. The promotional booklet distributed for Lincoln's Birthday in 1907 spoke of the "cordial cooperation pledged by many surviving commanding generals of the Confederate Army." The GAR officially endorsed the work of the Association and "empowered its Commander-in-Chief to call upon its upwards of 6,000 posts and enlist all patriotic citizens." [21] Samuel Gompers pledged the support of the National Federation of Labor in February of 1907. By August, the 80,000 members of the Daughters of Liberty had been solicited for contributions.

John Russell Pope, the eminent architect, was selected to design the memorial building in which the cabin would be enshrined. The association at that time had in mind a large two-story museum with a design similar to the front of the White House. There was to be a central court with a copy of Saint-Gaudens' famous Lincoln statue from which an avenue of trees would lead to the entrance of the museum.

A business depression in October of 1907 produced such a marked falling off of contributions that the office staff was reduced by one-half. In November, the contracting company of Norcross Brothers began construction of the memorial building on a \$237,101 contract. The association began to be concerned that work would not be completed by the centennial of Lincoln's birth in 1909. It was at this time that the policy of not soliciting contributions of more than \$25 was discontinued. Jones reported in 1908, "in order that work might not be delayed beyond the centenary of Lincoln's birth, the Executive Committee deemed it advisable to make special efforts to raise the necessary money for this work." [22]

Accordingly, Jones spoke to several Representatives and Senators early in the year in favor of a bill asking a Congressional appropriation to help the association in the construction of the memorial building. H.R. 20435 was introduced in the House by Representative Martin B. Madden of Illinois on April 7, 1908.

It called for an appropriation of \$100,000 "to aid the Lincoln Farm Association of New York to build and endow a national memorial to Abraham Lincoln on the site of the Lincoln Birthplace Farm in Kentucky." In the Committee of the Library, the sum was reduced to \$50,000. A similar Senate Bill to the same end and a series of petitions and joint resolutions failed to impress upon Congress the urgency of the situation and no Government funds were forthcoming.

The original plan of the architect for the memorial building had to be somewhat revised. Pope had provided for a central court with a movable roof in which the cabin would be placed. Around this were to be the museum halls, the main room being convertible into an auditorium for patriotic gatherings. It is fairly clear that the Lincoln Farm Association and many of its supporters intended the birthplace farm to be the site of the country's principal monument to Lincoln. A combination of financial problems and a feeling that such a memorial would be more appropriate in Washington, which was the scene of his greatest accomplishments, led the Association to abandon many features of this plan. The Association also proposed to keep the grounds growing in corn, squash and bluegrass "as it has always done since the day Thomas Lincoln took his little family to venture into the wilderness beyond the broad Ohio." [23]

The centennial of Lincoln's birth on February 12, 1909, arrived without the completion of the Memorial Building. President Theodore Roosevelt and a number of dignitaries were invited to come to the cornerstone ceremonies. The Louisville Courier-Journal of that day predicted that when the monument was completed Hodgenville would become "a new Mecca in America and the Lincoln Farm a second Mount Vernon." [24] The day was cold and rainy. The papers reported that the rain had begun early in the morning and the red, white and blue decorations looked "a fright." Nevertheless, President and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Miss Ethel Roosevelt, Secretary of War Luke E. Wright, Governor Augustus E. Willson of Kentucky and 7,993 other visitors slogged up the rain-soaked hill to where the cabin stood on the site of the Memorial Building. The Courier-Journal wrote of the event:

When in the days to come a beautiful Doric temple shrines the "log cabin of destiny," when landscape artists have worked a paradise, let us not forget to doff our hats, broad-brimmed or silk, to the Lincoln Park Association [sic] and its generous founders. [25]

The Memorial Building and grounds were completed in the fall of 1911. More than 3,000 people were present on November 9 to witness Joseph M. Folk, Governor of Missouri, in behalf of the Lincoln Farm Association, turn the property over to the State of Kentucky. Gov. Augustus Willson of Kentucky accepted the trust pending necessary legislation and stated that Kentucky would add to the \$50,000 trust fund set up by the association for the maintenance of the farm. President William Howard Taft, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Lincoln Farm Association, gave an address.

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CHAPTER IV:

LINCOLN FARM AND THE WAR DEPARTMENT, 1916-1933

Almost as soon as the Park had been completed, a campaign was launched to secure legislation allowing its conveyance to the United States Government. The plan of Governor Willson of Kentucky, to accept and maintain the Park for that State, apparently did not bear fruit. On June 3, 1912, only seven months after the dedication of the park by President Taft, Representative Ben Johnson of Kentucky introduced H.R. 25074. The bill called for the acceptance by deed of gift or conveyance from the Lincoln Farm Association of "the land . . . embracing the homestead of Abraham Lincoln and the log cabin in which he was born, together with the memorial hall inclosing the same; and . . . an endowment fund of \$50,000 in relation thereto."

No funds were requested for appropriation; the sole source of revenue for the maintenance of the Park was to be the interest on the \$50,000 invested in City of Louisville bonds. The bill was referred to the Committee of the Library. A Senate bill with an identical text had been introduced by Senator William E. Borah of Idaho. Both bills languished in the Committees of the Library throughout the 62nd Congress.

In April of 1913, Senator Borah again introduced the identical bill in the form of S. 602. Representative Johnson also brought forward H.R. 12802 in February of 1914. The bills were identical to those of 1912 and were again referred to the Library Committees, where they died. The intrepid Senator Borah introduced it yet again in January 1916, and was followed by Representative Johnson with H.R. 8351, a bill destined for success. The bill escaped the icy clutches of the Library Committee on February 18 without amendment. On the House floor in April it was amended and passed, and referred to the Senate on April 15. A Senate debate on June 3 led to a further amendment, and the bill passed the Senate. The House concurred in the amendment and the bill became law with President Woodrow Wilson's signature on July 18, 1916. When he delivered the speech of acceptance at the park in September of 1916, Wilson became the third President of the United States to visit Lincoln's birthplace.

The passage of H.R. 8351 was a festive occasion in the House of Representatives. The body had resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole House and a series of speeches on Lincoln and his heritage were delivered by members of the House. There were several Congressmen who had known Lincoln; Speaker Joseph Cannon reminisced about Lincoln on the circuit in Illinois, at the Republican Convention, and the election of 1860. There were others, such as Representative Isaac Sherwood of Ohio, a member of Congress in 1873, who were Civil War veterans or were old enough to remember Lincoln's administration. Representative Simeon D. Fess of Ohio expressed the general climate of enthusiasm for the Lincoln Farm project with his remarks:

This proposition will connect his [Lincoln's] greatness as he left us with the simple beginnings of his life and will refresh the future generations with the inspiration of American opportunity. For that reason I want to speak my favor of the reception of this gift by those whose hearts are filled with gratitude toward the memory of this great men. [PROLONGED APPLAUSE] [1]

The bill provided in Section 4 for the jurisdiction over the property to be placed in the hands of the Secretary of War. An early reading of the bill had vested these powers in the President and the Secretary of State. For some reason this obvious error was not corrected in committee, but required amendment from the floor.

The deed of gift or conveyance between the Lincoln Farm Association and the United States was signed on June 19, 1916. In consideration of the sum of one dollar, the United States received the 110 1/2 acres "known as the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln" and all buildings and appurtenances, which "shall be forever dedicated to the purpose of a National Park or reservation." The United States further agreed to "preserve said lands, buildings, and appurtenances especially the LOG CABIN in which ABRAHAM LINCOLN was born and the Memorial Hall enclosing the same from spoliation, destruction, and further disintegration . . . and further agrees that there shall never be any charge or fee made to, or asked from the Public for admission to said Park or Reservation."

The United States accepted title also to a \$50,000 endowment fund which, according to the report of the Committee of the Library, provided the property with an income of more than \$2,000 a year, enough for it to be self-sustaining. [2]

The Farm regulations drawn up by the Secretary of War and subject to his jurisdiction provided for a non-resident Farm Commissioner and the assistance of a custodian, who was to reside on the farm or its immediate environs. Richard Lloyd Jones had volunteered his services for the position of commissioner, but the Government ruled that he must be paid a nominal salary of \$100 per year. The rationale for the commissioner system was explained in this way:

It is believed that it is only through an organization of this general character whereby the general executive officer will not be required to reside thereon, that such services in that capacity can be enlisted as will make the farm what the originators of the conception proposed to make it, namely, an ever increasing source of inspiration to the American people. [3]

John A. Cissell, a resident of the Lincoln Farm property and grandson of John Creal, was appointed custodian on September 14, 1916. He had served in this position under the Lincoln Farm Association since 1910.

It cannot be determined that any investigation of the authenticity of the birthplace farm and cabin was ever made under the auspices of the War Department. None was made at the acceptance of the property by the United States Government in 1916. As late as November 1928, the War Department's official policy on the matter of the cabin was that it had been authenticated by Act of Congress. A letter questioning the presentation of the cabin at the Park brought this response:

The perusal of the Act of Congress approved July 17, 1916 (39 Stat. 385) will give you the official history of Lincoln's birthplace. In view of the above mentioned and the action taken in acceptance of the farm and memorial in pursuance thereof, the War Department does not question the authenticity of the statement that the cabin is the birthplace of Lincoln. [4]

The regulations for the maintenance and operation of the farm charged the custodian with enforcement of the rules against private notices, hunting, trapping, purchase, sale or use of liquor, solicitation, or grazing of livestock. The sale of refreshments and souvenirs by persons not employees might be permitted by the Farm Commissioner, or, subject to his consent, by the custodian on specific public occasions. [5]

Jones, as commissioner, was charged with making periodic visits to the farm and submitting reports to the Secretary of War. By 1926, the Commissioner arrangement was beginning to show signs of strain. Jones' report for July 1925-June 1926 submitted to the Secretary of War that the ruling by the War Department, disallowing travel expenses for anyone but the commissioner himself, had prevented him or his representative from visiting the farm that year. [6] In February 1927, Representative Martin B. Madden disclosed to the Secretary of War that an investigation by a committee formed by the Hodgenville Chamber of Commerce revealed the Memorial Building and its surroundings to be in a state of deterioration. "There is a commissioner I think," wrote Representative Madden, "who it is said has been on the ground only once in seven years." He suggested that a new road be built and a new commissioner appointed. For this position Madden recommended the Quartermaster General, who could easily coordinate the job with the Department of War. [7]

The Quartermaster General had already been charged, in July 1926, with "supervising and acting upon matters pertaining to the Lincoln Farm and Memorial." [8] The War Department, however, hesitated to remove Jones as commissioner because he had been one of the original members of the Lincoln Farm Association, which had established the Park without cost to the Government. [9]

As a solution to the problem, the Secretary's Office suggested in March that Jones relinquish routine duties while retaining the right to be consulted on important questions. He was at that time an editor of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Tribune, and left the impression that "the affairs of the farm now need more immediate supervision than he seems to be in a position to give." In April, Jones received notice from the Quartermaster General of the removal of his general administrative duties as commissioner. These affairs were to be placed in the hands of a regional quartermaster "for those purposes not involving decisions as to policies, concerning which you would be consulted as heretofore." [10]

The attentions of the War Department were next turned toward two important areas of improvement at the farm: flood control and the construction and paving of a good road from the highway past the farm to the court and memorial building. Commissioner Jones had urged capital investment in improvements at the farm, as the interest from the endowment fund was only enough to pay the salaries of Custodian Cissell and his assistant W. C. Ragsdale, who also worked part of the acreage in tobacco and bluegrass. In June 1926, Jones had suggested an outlay of \$25,000 for a drainage system and a dam and reported that the Kentucky State Engineering Department had submitted an estimate of \$24,964.75 to build the road to the Memorial Building. An appropriation, perhaps by the 70th Congress, of about \$55,000 would be needed to underwrite these projects. [11]

The annual floodings of the court, spring, and Memorial Building area were caused by a run-off from the generally higher surrounding fields and a stoppage of the spring drainage. Almost every year, the court and parking area were inundated with several feet of water, and at times large branches of trees and fence rails were found stuck in the spring run off basin. The mud and slime left by the receding flood waters made conditions for visitors, both on foot or in vehicles, most unpleasant. The lack of a paved road connecting the main part of the Park with the highway also contributed to bad conditions. Visitors would oftendrive their cars across the open fields to park around the flagpole in the court. A picture taken by the Army Corps of Engineers in August 1929 (Plate 6) show the location of the plaza in a basin.

In March 1927, a memorandum from the Quartermaster General to the Assistant Secretary of War spoke of the "extensive repairs and improvements [which], are necessary to keep this shrine in proper condition." [12] It was beginning to be realized that a substantial appropriation would be essential if the Government were to be true to its pledge to "forever protect, preserve and maintain said land . . . from spoliation, destruction, and further disintegration."

The number of visitors by 1927 totaled nearly 20,000 annually. Each year 8,000 cars were driven on to the property. Another factor in the rapid increase of visitation in 1927 and 1928 was the establishment of a tour to Louisville, Mammoth Cave, Lincoln Birthplace, and Bardstown by several bus companies. [13]

The Jeffersonville (Indiana) Quartermaster Depot suggested the drawing up of a topographical map and the erection of permanent boundary markers at each corner as a preliminary step toward the needed improvements. A resurfacing with gravel of the present park road, which was in a rough, washed-out condition, was suggested. The construction of a concrete dam, 75 feet along the crest and 15 feet high, it was felt, would help to alleviate the flood problem. [14] The Engineering Division of the War Department suggested in April that the proposed road follow as closely as possible the "old Telford Road," presently sixteen feet wide. The distance between curbs was to be extended to 21 feet, and a rock asphalt wearing course 1-1/2-inch thick laid from curb to curb. [15] Five thousand dollars was allocated by the War Department for this project during the fiscal year 1928-1929. An "auto camp site" to be located at some distance from the Memorial Building was proposed in order to relieve the unsightly congestion of cars at the approach to the Memorial. Foot trails were planned for visitors to the Memorial Building.

Inspection of the grounds and sanitary facilities at the farm by the Kentucky State Bureau of Sanitation Engineers in October 1928 revealed that the water supply for drinking purposes, provided exclusively by the Sinking Spring, "can only be classified as 'suspicious' because of the lack of toilet facilities on the farm." [16] The location of the "spring house" caused the outlet of the spring to be flooded in heavy rains.

The toilets, located about 200 feet from the rear of the Memorial Building, were found to be "in the most unsanitary condition possible." Papers, trash, and leftovers from picnickers were strewn about the grounds. The report concluded: "The toilets, the rubbish, and consequently the water supply at Kentucky's most famous memorial create conditions which are unsanitary and certainly a menace to the health of visitors to the Lincoln Farm." [17]

The accompanying memorandum requested that the Governor bring this matter to the attention of the Federal Government.

An investigation of the issue for the Quartermaster General revealed that there was simply not enough labor at the farm to keep the place properly policed. In November 1928, the total funds available for the maintenance of the farm were \$1,700 annually from the interest on the endowment fund. Of this sum \$1,200 went to pay the custodian's salary, \$100 to Commissioner Jones, \$300 for the assistant to the custodian, who worked ten days per month, and \$100 per year for the purchase of tools, fuel, and supplies. [18]

It was clear that additional funds for the maintenance of the farm would have to be made available. The liquidation of the endowment fund bonds was brought forth as a possible solution, but such a measure would have to be authorized by Congress. On December 21, 1928, Representative Maurice H. Thatcher of Kentucky introduced H.R. 15657: "To provide for the improvement and preservation of the Lincoln National Park or Reservation." The bill authorized the appropriation of \$100,000 "for the purpose of protecting from disintegration

and of improving, beautifying and preserving" the farm.

In his report for the hearings held on January 9, 1929, Col. W. R. Gibson of the Quartermaster Corps stated that prior to the present fiscal year, no Government funds had been expended for the Lincoln farm, other than the interest from the endowment fund:

This amount has proven to be entirely insufficient with the result that the roads, grounds, buildings and fences have deteriorated. The entire farm is in a run-down condition and cannot be placed in the condition which it merits without the expenditure of a considerable sum of money.

He added that the Government having accepted the property, "a kind of 'Holy of Holies'," the public should have the opportunity of visiting it under conditions of convenience.

The improvements to the farm to be covered by the appropriation would include rebuilding and extending the road from the highway to the Memorial Building, the construction of suitable parking space, the construction of a comfort station and rest rooms, and a proper drainage system. Repairs to existing buildings and fences, landscaping, planting, and marking of boundaries were also to be carried out under the authorization. The improvements could be maintained by a small annual appropriation. [19]

On February 4, 1929, the bill was passed by the House. Representative Thatcher wrote to Colonel Gibson, "The bill went through exactly as agreed upon." [20]

The next day it was reported and passed by the Senate in lieu of S. 5228, which contained essentially the same text. The bill was approved by President Herbert Hoover on February 14, 1929.

A survey of the property had been made by the Jeffersonville Quartermaster and completed on July 2, 1928. [21] Assigned as construction quartermaster in charge of improvement and preservation of land and buildings at the farm, Capt. Francis I. Maslin reported for duty in April 1929. He found no buildings on the farm except a barn, a toolshed, and the Memorial Building. His preliminary recommendations for improvement brought this statement of policy from the Quartermaster General:

The general policy of this office is to approve only such plans as will restore the farm and birthplace of Abraham Lincoln to the condition it was at Lincoln's birth. An exception to this, of course, will be the modern necessity that has arisen for a proper road to enable autos to have access to the Memorial, but the point that it is desired to impress is that the surroundings must be kept simple and old-fashioned as far as possible. [22]

A preliminary inspection of the grounds by Col. F. W. Van Duyne of the Quartermaster Corps revealed the extent of deterioration at the farm. Of the 110 acres of the property, about ten acres were being cultivated as a farm; the rest was uncared for, except for five acres near the Memorial Building. An old log house near the entrance to the park which had been built by the Creal family around 1860 had an assortment of shabby outhouses, including a chicken-coop and pigpen, used to store coal. It was recommended that it be restored, but not as a superintendent's lodge, as had previously been suggested.

The two crude wooden toilets were in poor condition. The tool house was beyond repair, but the frame barn was worthy of repainting. The lack of fresh water facilities except at the spring was noted, and installation of a suitable water supply system was urgently recommended. Drainage was "poor" and roads bad. There was no government transportation provided; mowing was done by a laborer with the help of his own team. The Memorial

Building needed new plastering and painting on the interior, and the removal of an unserviceable furnace in the cellar. A persistent leak on the roof over the porch needed repairing. [23]

The prospect of improvements at the park received a large amount of enthusiastic support from citizens of the Louisville area. Captain Maslin expressed concern, however, that these very conditions "create a situation which renders the whole project peculiarly liable to adverse criticism." He suggested that the final plans for improvement be passed on by the Fine Arts Commission, "which will effectively protect the War Department from later unfavorable comment." [24]

By June 1929, about \$4,000 had been spent on some general repairs. New fencing was erected, stone steps and retaining walls constructed by the spring, and the interior of the Memorial was repainted. A test bore was made as a preliminary step toward reducing the drainage problem. [25]

About 2,500 old rails were obtained from Fort Knox and set up around those sections of the park visible from the highway, the approach road, and the plaza. Openings in the fence were subject to some political considerations. Maslin reported that a certain "group in Hodgenville [which is] seeking to capitalize on the national eminence the farm has attained" would be antagonized should these gaps in the fence be closed.

The farm was surrounded by cultivated fields, but because the soil was poor, several families sought to make some extra money by selling souvenirs, such as canes, miniature log cabins, and post cards just outside the park boundaries. A gas station and rooming house had been set up nearby, and two local entrepreneurs were running a restaurant and dancing establishment, the Nancy Lincoln Inn, immediately adjacent to the farm. It was becoming clear to War Department officials that steps would soon have to be taken to regulate the access of such commercial ventures to the birthplace in order to preserve the integrity and dignity of the historical scene.

Twenty years before, a section of the old boundary oak had been filled with concrete and banded with iron and guy wires. The tree was in danger of being strangled by the iron band and old decay had been detected behind the concrete. A tree surgeon gave it a 50 per cent chance of recovery. [26]

Work began on a solution to the drainage problem in August 1929. It was determined that additional underground channels for water run-off would be the best idea, for that system provided the most flexibility. Diversion of the water to adjoining properties before it reached the farm, or impounding the water on the adjoining Nancy Lincoln Inn property, were rejected because of the difficult political problems that would arise. Pumping to the next watershed, creating a water reservoir on the farm, or elevating the plaza about six inches would be inadequate and too expensive. [27]

In September, extensive repairs were programmed for the roof of the Memorial Building. The old tile and concrete was to be removed down to the weatherproofing which would be patched. Sixteen-ounce soft copper flashings would be added and a new roof laid. The contract with Kirchdorfer-Hutchison Co. of Louisville for the job was completed in May of the following year. In April 1930, F. W. Owens Co. of Louisville received \$1,900 contract for the construction of granite steps on the east and west sides of the Memorial Building, to balance the setting and provide access to the comfort station, to be located in the rear of the Memorial Building. [28]

By May 1930, the revised plan for the comfort station had been sent to the Quartermaster General and the site graded and staked out. A pit was excavated for the septic tank; steel

reinforcing and poured concrete had been added. A leaching field of terra cotta pipe was laid out to connect the distributor box with the septic tank. A. 250-feet long walk from the comfort station to the plaza was laid out and shrubbery planted. [29]

The plaza was closed to auto traffic as of May 14, 1930. The approach road, constructed by George M. Eady of Louisville, was 1,662 feet of rock asphalt and extended from the park entrance on the Jackson Highway to the 80-feet wide parking facilities facing the Memorial. It was completed in November 1930. A well, pumping 115 gallons per day, was drilled by H. W. Childers of Louisville. The Daugherty Lumber Co. of Hodgenville built the log comfort station and 1,000 feet of limestone walk. The septic tank, completing the comfort station facilities, was installed by Captain Maslin and his personnel in December 1930. [30]

The problem of picnickers on park grounds was settled by the influence of Representative Thatcher in obtaining a pavilion to be set up in the vicinity of the comfort station to the rear of the Memorial. Ladies of the Womens' Clubs of Hodgenville had been given permission early in 1926 to sell souvenirs inside the Memorial Building. For several years the superintendent, the War Department, and visitors to the park had expressed concern over the appropriateness of such activities. In July 1929 Representative Thatcher met with representatives of the two clubs, but did not express himself publicly on the subject. In private, however, he confided to Captain Maslin that such activities were a disgrace to the memory of Lincoln. He suggested that a kiosk be built for this purpose, somewhat removed from the Memorial Building. When the pavilion was built, a section was reserved and walled for the ladies to sell their souvenirs. [31]

The log house at the entrance to the park, known as "the Old Creal place," had stood vacant for years. Visitors passing the farm on the Jackson Highway occasionally mistook it for the birthplace of Lincoln and did not stop to enter the farm. In 1930, Maslin suggested that it be renovated and used either as a residence for the superintendent or a living exhibit of a 19th century Kentucky farmhouse. The whole structure needed extensive repairs, and the project was shelved for the time being.

In November 1930, Maslin was relieved of his duties at the farm and supervision was turned over to Capt. W. L. Bartley of the V Corps Area in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

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CHAPTER V:

THE PARK UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, 1933-1948

Jurisdiction over the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace was transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior in August 1933. The move was welcomed by many influential local people. Malcolm Bayley, associate editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal, which had always taken an active interest in the affairs of the park, wrote in 1931 to the Director of the National Park Service pledging publicity support for the transfer. "Naturally we feel here that the move would be helpful, especially since Mammoth Cave [50 miles from Hodgenville] will also be a Park Service ward." [1]

Physical conditions at the Park had improved greatly since the War Department began its improvement program in 1929. But the taste in which such improvements were executed and the gradual encroachment of commercial establishments spoiled, in the view of Park Service personnel and some visitors, the natural simplicity of the area. A letter from a Dayton, Ohio, citizen received the marginal endorsement of the Director of the Service, Horace M. Albright. D. B. Kneisley had visited the Farm in 1918:

[I was] pleasantly surprised at the natural condition of the Farm, totally void of all artificial adornment . . . a humble tribute to a great pioneer and a monument in the wilderness.

I returned to the farm two years ago to find the entire place destroyed and commercialized. Tourist cabins, curio shacks, broad expanses of hard cement, cemented spring, shrubbery planted in every corner de-naturalized . . . by the government which speaks of CONSERVATION with every session of Congress. [2]

An inspection by the National Park Service in February 1934 resulted in many of the same conclusions. The Nancy Lincoln Inn, although offering for sale a tasteful selection of hand crafted souvenirs, was located "in a rather unfortunate position so far as the monument is concerned." It faced the Memorial and was not adequately concealed by the sparse group of trees on the park boundary.

The spring, in what was once a beautiful natural setting, had been transformed into a "walled-in artificial place approached by steps walled in on each side with a high retaining wall and too much masonry." The pavilion was now useless, for picnicking had been discontinued on park grounds. These facilities were provided by the Nancy Lincoln Inn. A development plan, it was concluded, was needed "so as to avoid additional mistakes in the location of buildings." [3] The Director of the National Park Service concurred: "The whole Abraham Lincoln Birthplace area has been badly handled from a landscape standpoint and there is a great deal to do to bring it back to the ideal although in some directions steps have been taken that can never be remedied." [4]

Custodian John Cissell was given full responsibility in handling matters and problems at the park as directed by the Department of the Interior. In response to inquiries from the National Park Service, Cissell returned Commissioner R. L. Jones' oath of office as "I have not seen or heard from Mr. Jones for three years or longer." [5]

Funds authorized for expenditure at the park during Fiscal Year 1934 amounted to \$4,960. The same amount was laid out for 1935. No construction was programmed for physical improvements. These items were to be funded separately under the Public Works Administration. [6]

The PWA, in Federal Project No. 412, provided \$900 to be used between November 1934 and January 1935 for repairs to the Memorial Building. F. P. No. 414 (March-June 1935) expended \$9,000 for the planting of trees, and F. P. No. 413 provided \$2,250 for the improvement of park grounds. No major physical developments were planned or executed by the PWA. [7]

In 1933 Lucien Beckner was appointed research historian at the park under the CWA. He was assigned "to reconstruct the neighborhood of Lincoln's birth during the decades from 1800 to 1820, so as to give a background for any picture of the little boy, Abe, that may be drawn or conceived." The project had to be terminated, however, for lack of funds. [8]

Several travel journals, as well as park visitors, had commented on the shabby main entrance to the park. A metal-and-wire gate hung between two low granite pillars and what appeared to be a hand-lettered sign announcing "ENTRANCE LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE" stood among the unkempt vegetation. [9] Members of the Hodgenville Rotary Club wrote to National Park Service Director Arno Cammerer expressing their desire to help improve the entrance to the park. The owners of the Nancy Lincoln Inn also offered property to the Government for the same purpose. [10]

It was decided that an accurate and complete boundary or contour survey of the present Government-controlled area would be in order. The War Department apparently had obtained the original deeds and other papers in lieu of an abstract of title upon the acceptance of the farm in 1916. [11]

It was becoming increasingly apparent that much in the way of background research and authentication would be necessary to make the park the source of knowledge and inspiration its founders had intended.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the park on June 14, 1936, he found the scene unchanged from the condition it had been in at the transfer from the War Department. He was greeted by Custodian John Cissell, Rep. E. W. Creal and a cheering crowd estimated at 50,000 to 60,000 people. [12]

Administrative procedures also remained as they had been under the War Department. All the records of park business were kept in the Washington office. There was no clerk; Mrs. Cissell did part-time typing and filing with no pay. The Superintendent's son hired as a laborer, acted in the position of guard and ranger, and a room in Superintendent Cissell's private residence served as the park office. [13]

A visit by Historian Roy Appleman of the National Park Service in March 1938 pointed up many irregularities of interpretation and presentation of historical material at the Birthplace. A section of the old flag-pole that had been used by Dennett and Bigham to mark the site of the cabin after its removal from the farm had somehow been incorporated in the cabin exhibit and remained, imbedded in the concrete floor in the center of the cabin. The purpose of the

five-foot length of flag-pole had been the object of considerable speculation on the part of visitors. Appleman recommended that it be removed at once, along with the concrete on the cabin floor. An earth floor, certainly more appropriate to the exhibit, would not be difficult to maintain, as the cabin was permanently indoors.

The door and window frames on the cabin were of sawed lumber with large machine-made nails. These were replaced by period fittings of hewed lumber and peg fastenings constructed by Superintendent Cissell. The problem of historical accuracy in the construction of the cabin was a persistent one. When the Memorial was built, what were believed to have been the "original dimensions" of the cabin were cut down to allow a certain space between the cabin and the walls of the Memorial. Accordingly, some of the logs were rudely sawed off, giving the cabin a decidedly unauthentic appearance. Likewise, many of the logs were missing or rotten and had to be replaced by logs of a more recent vintage.

Little or no attempt was made at the final reconstruction of the cabin in 1909 [see Plate 6] to notch or hew the logs as they would have appeared in a cabin built with hand-tools on the Kentucky frontier in 1809. Because of the careless notching and fitting of the logs, unusually large gaps between logs in the walls had to be filled in with a clay daub [see plate 5].

Appleman's report concluded: "This is the grossest example of mistreatment of an historic structure that has ever come to my attention. It is apparent that a problem exists relative to the representations made to the public concerning this building." [14]

An attempt was made to use part of the \$9,000 of interest accumulated in the endowment fund toward the completion of a basic historical study long overdue at the park. Unfortunately, it was discovered that under the conditions of the deed of conveyance, those funds could not be used for anything except physical maintenance and improvement. [15]

On the 130th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, in February 1939, the National Park Service released a statement for the press, describing the park and citing the loyal service of Superintendent Cissell. In preparation of this release, the Director was advised that "an effort has been made to avoid controversial statements relating to the Lincoln cabin . . . for reasons of policy (ie: the inheritance of parks and problems from other agencies) I believe some of its inferences to be . . . timely." [16]

The future direction of interpretive programs at Lincoln's Birthplace was becoming a matter of importance. The National Park Service had depended, for much of its information about the birthplace on the research and opinions of Dr. Louis Warren, who published for the Lincoln Life Foundation a monthly newsletter known as Lincoln Lore. In May 1939, Historian Appleman visited the park with Dr. Warren in order to discuss future development programs.

The ancient white oak had received considerable tree surgery in the past. Appleman recommended that five acres around this historic tree be acquired in order to "insure adequate privilege of taking measures needed from time to time to extend the life" of the tree.

Four marble panels with inscriptions about Lincoln's parents and poems in tribute to his life had been erected inside the Memorial Building by the Lincoln Farm Association. Two of these panels contained some legendary and entirely fictional information about the lives and origins of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. Their removal and replacement with corrected texts was recommended for an early date.

Appleman regretted the over-formal development of the grounds and the unfortunate placement of "too many flagstone and concrete walks, courts, and unnecessary and undesirable buildings." The pavilion was pretentious and largely useless and should be

removed.

Interpretation, as exemplified by the treatment of the cabin, the main exhibit, most urgently merited the attention of Park Service personnel. Dr. Warren stated at that time that he thought "the present cabin displayed in the Memorial Building is genuine and authentic." Appleman felt, however, that the subject was still open to research and re-examination by the National Park Service. Neither the War Department nor the Lincoln Farm Association, he observed, had ever established the identity of the land (much less the cabin) through the use of land records and other such documents:

The Park Service has never done it, and so far as a documentary basis establishing the authenticity of the site is concerned, none exists in government files to the best of my knowledge. The area was inherited by the National Park Service. Its antecedents to some extent are based on tradition.

Photocopying of the land records in the Larue County Court house was done by Melvin Weig of Morristown National Historical Park in preparation for further study.

Historical markers at various points of interest were recommended, and a small museum to be set up on Park grounds, perhaps with a room for administrative purposes. An additional 348 acres of the original Thomas Lincoln Nolin Creek Farm was recommended for purchase. It was estimated that this would not cost over \$15,000. [17]

Superintendent Cissell had almost complete autonomy over the direction of interpretation at the Park. His duties in this line consisted of: "The usual routine of service . . . rendered to the visiting public, lecture information, questions answered regarding the Lincoln family, the cabin, and the neighboring acres, and Lincoln's boyhood days while in Kentucky." As there was no handbook and the National Park Service distributed only a one-sheet informational bulletin on the park, Superintendent Cissell and his assistants had to rely upon their own resources. Those resources, in March 1940, were basically "stories and legends [sic] of the Lincoln family as has been handed down to me by the old settlers." [18] The Regional Director was advised that Superintendent Cissell "has limitations" and what he said in the future should be reviewed and prescribed by an historian. [19]

On August 18, 1938, a bronze plaque of the Gettysburg Address was placed on the interior wall of the Memorial Building just to the left of the entrance door. It was donated by the Women's Relief Corps of Seattle. This was a slight departure from Park Service policy, as it was generally agreed that only material referring to Lincoln's boyhood or parentage would be appropriate at the Birthplace. The plaque was removed recently when the interior of the building was painted and has not been replaced.

In February 1937, a bill had been introduced in the House by Rep. Rene Louis de Rouen of Louisiana to change the designation of the Abraham Lincoln National Park to the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park. This move, it was explained in a letter from Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes to Rep. William Bankhead was proposed in order to

describe more accurately the type of area preserved, bringing [it] in line with the policy that has developed over a period of years . . . Obviously, these areas are not "national parks" in the same sense as Glacier, Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite and others. [20]

On August 11, 1939, the measure was approved by President Franklin Roosevelt in the form of S. 2046.

The park having been placed in the historical category, more background research was

planned to make up some of the glaring deficiencies in interpretation. It was suggested that an Historical Aide be hired with the \$1,000 yearly income from the trust fund. He would help in the preparation of literature and the handling of visitors. Historian Paul Satterfield was appointed to prepare an historical handbook on the area. Little work was done, however, for Satterfield was transferred to Fort Jefferson National Monument in 1944 as part of a reduction of labor caused by wartime conditions.

Part of the endowment fund bonds, invested in the City of Louisville, came due in 1941. The redeemed value of \$2,000 was reinvested in 2 1/2 per cent United States Treasury Bonds of 1967-1972. [21] In 1944, \$15,000 of the trust fund was re-invested in 2 1/2 per cent and 2 3/4 per cent United States Treasury Bonds.

The two incorrect tablets on the interior walls of the Memorial Building were temporarily covered with plaster and paint in February 1941. The "old Creal place" was demolished and removed from the site. The grounds where the house had stood were graded and seeded. Some members of a CCC camp located at Mammoth Cave worked on the Boundary Oak and split 2,000 fence rails donated by Mammoth Cave. [22]

July 1940 was the greatest travel month in the history of the park. Registering guests numbered 30,125 of whom 6,448 were from Kentucky. On the Fourth of July alone, 3,615 persons registered at the Park. [23] In 1942, the Memorial Building was kept open from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the winter. Copies of a 16-page booklet on the area prepared by the National Park Service were available for sale. By the spring of 1942 there was a sharp drop in visitation due to World War II gas and tire rationing. [24]

As of July 1942, supervision of Abraham Lincoln National Park was placed in the hands of the Superintendent of Mammoth Cave. Since the two areas were only 50 miles apart, it was felt that Mammoth Cave, with its larger staff and more varied resources, could help Superintendent Cissell with many problems in the administration of the birthplace. [25]

A study was made in 1944 toward the purchase of 5 1/4 acres around the Boundary Oak. It was discovered that a documented report on the chain of title and the boundaries of the Lincoln Nolin Creek Farm was essential. Photographic copies of key documentary evidence would be necessary to make sure that the tract was really a part of Thomas Lincoln's farm. [26]

Not a great deal was accomplished at the Park during the years from 1940 to 1945. World War II occupied the minds of Congress and the budget planners. A reduction of labor in 1944 reduced the park staff by two laborers. Travel showed a 72 per cent decrease over the previous year. Many of those who did visit were servicemen from nearby Fort Knox. [27]

Almost immediately after the war was over, however, efforts were again exerted to purchase the 5 1/4 acres for the protection of the Boundary Oak, and to research the title and authenticity of the birthplace farm and cabin. Negotiations for the purchase of the property were begun with the owners, James Howell and W. L. Ferrill, in January 1945. "This six-acre tract," wrote the Acting Director of the Park Service to the Secretary of the Interior, "adjoins the park on the southwest and serves as a watershed, and in addition will give us complete ownership of the land surrounding the famous white oak." [28] The use of \$90 from the trust fund for this purpose was approved by the Comptroller General on January 13, 1945. The deed, dated June 15, 1945, gave the title to the Department of the Interior, but the land did not become part of the Park until so designated by Act of Congress in 1949.

Historian Benjamin Davis was transferred in January 1947, from Mammoth Cave to the Birthplace as Historical Aide. His first duty was to examine and direct the interpretive program at the park. The free folder distributed in 1947, he felt, confused the visitor with the

depiction of an artist's conception of the cabin with larger, round poles, pane glass windows, and a chimney extending above the roof. The interpretive procedure, as it then stood, tended to give more information than interpretation.

There had been a 272 per cent increase in visitation in 1946 over the previous year. It was urgent that careful, detailed research be done toward an accurate and truly interpretive presentation of the farm and its exhibits. [29]

In 1948 Davis prepared a "Report on the original Thomas Lincoln Nolin Creek Farm, Based on Court Records." That June he also completed the collection of documents necessary to trace the chain of title from the Commonwealth of Virginia through ownership by Thomas Lincoln. "A Report on the Abraham Lincoln Traditional Birthplace Cabin" was also submitted. Roy Hays, an insurance investigator, had prepared for publication in the Abraham Lincoln Quarterly an article entitled, "Is the Lincoln Birthplace Cabin Authentic?" The National Park Service, to whom the editors of the Quarterly had sent a copy of the manuscript, set Davis to work on the evidence submitted by Hays.

When, in October 1948, the Hays article appeared in print, a storm of news releases and publicity washed over the Birthplace and the Park Service. The actions taken by the Park Service in response to this affair will be discussed in Chapter VII.

In July 1948, Richard Lloyd Jones and his wife visited the Park and invited Davis and Superintendent Taylor Hoskins of Mammoth Cave to visit him in Tulsa in the fall to discuss the activities of the Lincoln Farm Association. In August, with the passing of Charles Evans Hughes, Jones remained the only living member of the original Association. [30]

Effective January 1, 1949, Superintendent John Cissell retired after having been connected with the Lincoln Farm for 42 years. [31] Historical Aide Davis became Acting Superintendent until June 1949, when J. Clarence Lyon, Formerly Purchasing Clerk at Mammoth Cave, was appointed Superintendent. Superintendent Lyon died suddenly on June 27, after only four weeks on duty. Davis served as Acting Superintendent until March 1950, when Ernest L. Wright, Jr., was appointed Superintendent.

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CHAPTER VI:

THE PARK UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, 1950-1968

In May 1948 the first draft of a bill was drawn up authorizing the inclusion in the park of the 5 1/4 acres of property around the Boundary Oak acquired by the Government from Howell and Ferrill in 1945. It was considered too late at that time for action on the matter by the current session of Congress, but on March 7, 1949, Rep. Frank L. Chelf of Kentucky introduced H.R. 3259 "to add to the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, Kentucky, certain land acquired by the United States for that purpose." It was referred to the Committee on Public Lands, which reported it back on March 23 without amendment. On April 4 the Bill passed the House and on May 23 it passed the Senate. It was approved by President Harry S. Truman on June 6, 1949.

Preparation of an historical handbook for the park had long been considered an important part of the interpretive development program. It was begun in 1949 by Historical Aide Benjamin Davis, but never finished. Originally scheduled to replace the 16-page booklet prepared in 1941, the handbook posed serious problems because of the controversial nature of the cabin. Unfinished handbook material now resides in the files at the park.

A survey of buildings at the park made in 1949 revealed that the former pump-house-and toolhouse thirty yards east of the garage, was being used as an office for the Superintendent and record depository. Built in 1930 by the War Department, it was coal-heated and inconvenient. A residence for the Superintendent, planned as early as 1929, was finally erected in 1951 near U. S. Route 31 at the cost of \$17,457. It is frame on masonry and contains five rooms, an oil furnace, electricity, telephone wiring, a range, and refrigerator.

Ernest L. Wright, Jr., was appointed Superintendent of Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park in March 1950, replacing Benjamin Davis, who had been serving as Acting Superintendent since the death of Superintendent Lyon in June of 1949.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower became the fifth President of the United States to visit Lincoln's Birthplace on April 23, 1954. Over 8,000 people attended the occasion. President Eisenhower spoke of Lincoln who "seemed to represent all that is best in America in terms of its opportunity and the readiness of Americans always to raise up and exalt these people who lived by truth." [1]

It was in January 1953 that plans got under way for the construction of an "Administration-Museum Building" at Lincoln's Birthplace. There was a question as to its location; if it were placed in the rear of the Memorial Building, where the restrooms and pavilion then stood, the park could conceivably operate on less personnel. Another choice would be a site, adjacent to the parking area. It was necessary for the planners to ascertain the number of visitors who did and did not climb the steps from the parking area to the Memorial. [2]

Yearly visitation by the mid-1950's had jumped from 133,503 in 1950 to 287,847 in 1955-56. The development of the Kentucky Turnpike in the vicinity and the improvement of U. S. 31 served to increase visitation even more. The interpretive facilities were limited to a tour on foot of the principal points of interest.

In accordance with the MISSION 66 Program of the National Park Service and the rise of visitation at the Birthplace, plans for the construction of a visitor center to be located near the parking area were approved in January 1956. The Museum Prospectus, indicating the direction of interpretive planning to be taken in connection with the new building, recommended that:

no changes [be made] in the present interpretive treatment of the cabin, except that the narrative marker be revised to emphasize more strongly the fact that the National Park Service considers the cabin of debatable authenticity. Recent scholarship has presented a strong case against the cabin's authenticity and has, in fact, introduced evidence that it had its origins in little more than a promotional scheme.

It is curious that this relatively strong language suggesting a distinct possibility of a hoax in the matter of the birthplace cabin, never resulted in any rectification of past interpretive errors, except the removal of the 16-page booklet from circulation. In 1957 it was advocated that Benjamin Davis' 1949 report on the cabin be published by the National Park Service. This report tended to support the increasing conviction of many in the National Park Service that the "existing evidence as to the cabin's authenticity is too weak to support the 'traditional' treatment currently in use in the area." Either the historical marker in the Memorial Building should be changed or the report not published. [3]

As it turned out, the report was not published. A recommendation to the members of the Board of Directors of the Eastern National Park and Monument Association in July 1957 suggested that the cabin be "simply presented" as now, on a marker in the Memorial Building and not receive any special attention in planned exhibits at the new Visitor Center." This policy of interpretation by omission as concerns the birthplace cabin is followed to the present day. [4]

The Visitor Center, containing a main lobby with exhibit panels, administrative offices, restrooms and an alcove seating 25 for audio-visual presentations, was constructed by Clark, Stewart, and Wood, Inc., of Lexington at a cost of \$129,129. The building, of structural steel and masonry, was dedicated on May 30, 1959. [5] A ten-minute audio-visual slide show with narration on "The Lincoln Country" was prepared by Dr. Hollis Summers of the University of Kentucky and was shown in the Visitor Center starting in the fall of 1959. [6]

A new residence for park personnel was constructed in May of 1959. Built by Clark, Stewart, and Wood at a cost of \$22,564, the seven-room wood and siding structure is currently the residence of the Superintendent. The pavilion and restrooms to the rear of the Memorial Building, built by the War Department in 1930, were demolished in August 1959. The ground was leveled and seeded. [7]

In a letter to Senator Thruston Morton of Kentucky, a visitor complained that "everything is being done by someone [at the Birthplace] to detract from the memory of Lincoln." The reference was in particular to the commemorative plaques which had been covered by plaster and canvas in 1941. [8] Senator Morton was informed that the plaques had been cracked in the process of replastering the walls of the Memorial Building and that the material on them had been either incorrect or "largely repetitive of the information presented in the Visitor Center." Replacement was therefore not considered urgent. [9]

This raised the question of policy in regard to interpretive or commemorative features which have lost their meaning or usefulness through changing needs, functions, or tastes in design. The question of the cabin itself, of course, lurks in the background. If plaques and other features erected in the Memorial by the Lincoln Farm Association can be removed by the National Park Service for errors and misinterpretation of events, does not the presentation of the cabin merit similar consideration?

The sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth was celebrated at the park on February 12, 1959. A parade at 9:30 a.m. was followed by addresses by Dr. Rhea Taylor, the executive director of the Kentucky Sesquicentennial Commission, Superintendent Wright and Gov. Albert Chandler, who placed a wreath at the Memorial Building. A special one-cent stamp bearing a portrait of Lincoln made in 1860 by George Healy was issued for the occasion.

In April of 1958, Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky had introduced, for himself and Senator Morton, S. 3617 "to change the name of the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park to Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace." An amendment suggested by the National Park Service, in order that the Service nomenclature be retained, caused the name to be changed to its present designation "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site." H. R. S764, reported to the House on August 24, 1959, passed in lieu of the Senate bill and was approved by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on September 8, 1959.

In February 1960, Jenkin Lloyd Jones, son of Richard Lloyd Jones of the original Lincoln Farm Association, visited the park. When he was told of the lack of material on the activities of the association, he promised to have his father send some documents. In August Richard Lloyd Jones sent a good number of lantern slides, campaign pamphlets, and newspaper clippings which reside at present in the files at the park. This and other interesting material merits the attentions of a qualified historian.

Various ideas for expansion and improvement of park facilities have been advanced in the past few years. The 1964 Master Plan called attention to the smallness of the audio-visual alcove. A room with a capacity of 75-100 persons would be more appropriate for the heavy visitation during the spring and summer months. The expansion of the trail system was also a much-requested need. In line with the increased visitation, it was proposed that the Nancy Lincoln Inn property be acquired and used for picnic facilities. This idea was shelved in 1963 and has not been reconsidered. [10]

A Service directive laid down in 1964, however, proposed the acquisition of a buffer strip along the south boundary, if a change in the ownership of the Nancy Lincoln Inn occurred, to protect the park from adverse developments.

The development of the 50 acres of park-owned land on the east side of U. S. 31 as a golf course was suggested by the Hodgenville American Legion Post "as a memorial to Kennedy and Lincoln." The National Park Service rejected the idea as incompatible with the purpose of the park. [11] Local citizens have urged the development of this property as a picnic area: "There is not a public picnic grounds, roadside park with rest area, nor overnight camping facilities within 40 or 50 miles of this area." [12]

In 1965 the Assistant Director of the National Park Service suggested to Representative Chelf that "some recreational development [is] appropriate" at the park. [13]

The Park is currently in need of several physical improvements. The construction of a new Service Building to replace the one built by the War Department in 1930, repointing and general repair of the exterior of the Memorial Building, and the addition of separate restrooms for park personnel are urgently needed.

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CHAPTER VII:

THE BIRTHPLACE CABIN QUESTION: THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY

The dilemma in which the National Park Service became involved at the acquisition of the Lincoln Birthplace Cabin in August 1933 is partially to be traced to the unwillingness of the Lincoln Farm Association to determine with any degree of accuracy the origin of the cabin they enshrined as the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln in 1909. As stated above (Chapters II and III) most Americans, not the least being the illustrious founders of the Abraham Lincoln National Park, were inclined to accept the colorful mixture of legend, reminiscence and circumstantial evidence put forward as sufficient proof of the authenticity of a structure worthy of such national veneration.

The bureaucratic insensitivity of the War Department, to which the administration of the Lincoln Farm was a rather unwelcome concern, only perpetuated a condition of doubtful historical accuracy. The blame is perhaps to be placed at the feet of the Committees of the Library of the House and Senate, whose responsibility it should have been to produce convincing evidence to back up the authenticity of the acquisition they recommended to Congress as "the homestead of Abraham Lincoln and the log cabin in which he was born."

The records show, however, that the United States Government did not even obtain a title search to the property it received from the Lincoln Farm Association. The deed of conveyance of the farm from Robert Collier to the Lincoln Farm Association, and material collected by Attorneys Williams and Handley of Hodgenville for the Lincoln Farm Association in 1906 seems to have been all the documentary evidence required by the Government to accept the area and administer it as a national park.

There is little doubt that the jurisdiction over the area was misplaced with the Department of War. The National Park Service, established in 1916, or some other bureau of the Department of the Interior should have been given the responsibility for this most un military of national parks. These agencies would have been more directly concerned with the presentation of the birthplace farm and cabin. Nevertheless, the National Park Service was a new agency, and custom dictated that the authority of the War Department be placed over the Nation's historical parks, originally established to commemorate the battlefields of the Civil War.

That the War Department cared little for the affairs of the birthplace is evidenced by the almost complete neglect suffered by the park during the period from 1916 to 1926. In 1926, motions were finally made to raise an appropriation for the construction of a decent road to the Memorial. The park had been existing exclusively on the interest from the trust fund, which provided only \$100 per year for the purchase and maintenance of tools and supplies and no funds at all for improvements made by agencies other than the Superintendent and his part-time assistant.

Additional funds for improvements in sanitation, drainage, and construction were

forthcoming only with Congressional testimony to the effect that "the place is going to rack and ruin." [1]

Interpretation of the site of Lincoln's birth and the cabin in which he was supposedly born received even less attention. So far as can be ascertained, the War Department relied exclusively on information about the site which had been passed on to it by the Lincoln Farm Association. Much of the association's material, moreover, consisted of half-truths and pious exaggerations acquired from Bigham and Dennett and elderly residents of the Hodgenville area.

"At some date in the early 1860's," a 1928 War Department report began, "shortly after Lincoln's election, the cabin in which he was born was bought by George Rodman." The report stated that the cabin was moved about the country and set up at onetime in Central Park in New York (actually Central Park, Louisville) among other unsubstantiated legends. [2]

In May 1933, Dr. Louis Warren's Lincoln Lore, upon which the Park Service depended for much of its information on the birthplace in the early 1930s, related that:

[The cabin's] removal from place to place began shortly after Lincoln's election to the Presidency. An admirer of Lincoln's living about one mile north of the birthplace acquired the famous cabin in the 1860's and moved it to his own farm . . . [After the Nashville Centennial] Central Park, New York was the next site chosen. [3]

A pamphlet entitled The Lincoln Memorial and distributed by the Larue County Herald News and the Nancy Lincoln Inn provided an early source of information to visitors to the park. Visitors were informed that "the cabin in which Lincoln was born is now located on exactly the same site as it was at the time of his birth." The old log house at the entrance to the park, the pamphlet stated, "was built back in the days when the Lincoln cabin was first erected." [4] Subsequent study revealed this house to have been constructed at three separate dates, the earliest of which was not before 1840.

Interestingly, this version does not mention the George Rodman story, although it was later picked up by the National Park Service and appears in the current literature distributed in the Visitor Center. [5]

In the January 1936 issue of the American Historical Review, it was noted that "the spurious nature of much that passes for Lincoln scholarship is strikingly seen in the stately birthplace memorial near Hodgenville, Kentucky."

Junior Historian A. P. Stauffer, on an inspection tour of the park in February of the same year, observed "amazing errors" in the inscriptions on the marble plaques erected in the Memorial Building by the Lincoln Farm Association. The dates given for Thomas Lincoln's move from Kentucky to Indiana, his residence in Indiana, and the date of Nancy Lincoln's birth were unreliable. There were also serious errors as to Nancy Lincoln's parents, childhood, and the date of her marriage to Thomas Lincoln. "Such blunders in so prominent a national shrine," Stauffer concluded, "offer the best example of the need for competent historical service in the marking of historic sites." [6]

The earliest free literature distributed by the National Park Service at the Birthplace was probably the one-sheet, photo-offset bulletin which appeared in 1938. It had photographs of the Memorial Building and of the cabin. The brief text presented the cabin as "traditionally believed to be the one in which Lincoln was born." Supplementary information was provided at the park in the form of lectures by Superintendent Cissell, R. Gerald McMurtry and Robert

L. Kincaid made a tour of the "Lincoln Country" which they described in the October 1938 issue of the Lincoln Herald, published in Harrogate, Tennessee. They were convinced that:

The original birthplace cabin, somewhat reduced in size, is within the walls of a granite building. This cabin was probably erected by David Vance to whom Richard Mather in 1805 sold the 300 acre tract of which part is now known as the Lincoln Farm. . . . The cabin was removed from its original location before the Civil War and not restored until 1890. [7]

It was at this time that Superintendent Cissell described the "lecture information" which he administered to visitors as "historical stories of the Lincoln's truths [sic] that have been handed down to me by my past generation regarding the Lincolns and their years spent in this area." [8]

In 1940 and 1941 serious attention was given to the preparation of a printed historical booklet describing and interpreting the area. After looking into the land records previous to Abraham Lincoln's birth, it was discovered that Thomas Lincoln was the eighth owner of the property on which his son was born. The photocopies of the records in the Hardin County Courthouse in Elizabethtown made by Melvin Weig of Morristown in 1939 helped the Park Service to determine, for the first time by documentary evidence, that the tract had been owned by Thomas Lincoln at the time of Abraham Lincoln's birth.

In the booklet the cabin was presented as the "traditional birthplace cabin," and it was stated that it was "impossible to say with certainty that it is the original cabin." The booklet made no attempt to trace the history of the cabin prior to 1861, but related at length certain material of doubtful authenticity . about its subsequent history:

In March, 1861, Dr. George Rodman bought a log cabin then standing on the birthplace farm and moved it about a mile to the north toward Hodgenville and had it erected on his own farm. Dr. George Rodman, a practicing physician, and an admirer of Lincoln, presumably was the first person to take an active interest in preserving the alleged birthplace cabin, and his action in this connection occurred after a visit he paid to President Lincoln in Washington early in 1861.

The Rodman farm eventually passed into the hands of the Davenport family.

The booklet, reprinted as late as 1955, also relates that after the Nashville Centennial, the cabin was "taken to New York City where it was re-erected and placed on exhibit in Central Park."

It has been stated above (Chapter II) that research carried out by Historical Aide Benjamin Davis at the Birthplace in 1948 failed to reveal any documentary evidence for the Rodman tradition. It was probably Jesse, not George Rodman, who made the trip to Washington to petition for relief of the draft in the later years of the Civil War. The affidavit of Lafayette Wilson states that the logs were moved in March 1860, not 1861. Finally, it cannot be proven that any Rodman owned, rented or occupied the farm that "later passed into the hands of the Davenport family," from whom Bigam bought "the original birthplace cabin" in 1895.

Although the National Park Service was not claiming absolute authenticity for the cabin at this time, neither had it made concerted efforts to present accurate details of its origin.

Substantially little had been added to the store of knowledge handed down to the Government by Bigam and Dennett and the Lincoln Farm Association. Alternate versions of the story were given some airing; the testimony of Judge John Creal, disregarded by the Lincoln Farm Association, was considered. But even the seemingly contradictory evidence

rested on no firmer documentary ground than the affidavits and local hearsay. The discussion of the cabin concluded: "in light of the inconclusive evidence available at the present time, it is impossible to make any definite and accurate statement concerning the origin of the alleged Lincoln birthplace cabin now preserved in the Lincoln Memorial Building." [9]

In June 1948, the National Park Service received the manuscript of an article to be published in the September issue of the Abraham Lincoln Quarterly, a magazine published by the Abraham Lincoln Association of Springfield, Illinois. The article by Roy Hays, an insurance investigator from Grosse Point, Michigan, was entitled, "Is the Lincoln Birthplace Cabin Authentic?" It presented a great deal of evidence that suggested that many of the facts supporting the authenticity of the cabin might have stemmed from the entrepreneurial energies of Bigham and Dennett. Concern was immediately raised in the Park Service about the possible effect of the article upon public reception of the birthplace. Although, as Dr. Warren wrote to Historian Roy Appleman in 1948, the Service had "more or less cleared [itself] by . . . the statement in [its] publication," he feared that "it is going to be a difficult argument to combat." [10]

In a letter to Roy Basler, editor of the Lincoln Quarterly, Chief Historian Ronald Lee noted: "The National Park Service has long been aware of and has made known to the public without equivocation, the chain of ownership of the cabin since 1861 and its various wanderings about the country. We have done this very much as described by Mr. Hays, though, of course, with less colorful detail."

It was the "colorful detail" provided by Hays' article, however, which led Lee, as well as others in the Park Service to re-examine the sources of information for the accepted history of the cabin since 1861. The key to the cabin problem, Lee suggested, might lie in the Rodman papers, if indeed any such papers existed. In addition, an intensive study of War Department files should be undertaken in order to determine how much, if any, research had been done by that agency on the subject of the cabin. [11]

A letter from Hays to Basler, in response to Lee's remarks, substantiates Hays' claim that the Government accepted the cabin without investigation:

My files contain letters from the War Department, the National Archives, and other sources which substantiate my statement that the Federal Government accepted the farm and cabin in 1916 without investigation.

The question of a possible investigation by the War Department brings up the history of the Congressional Act of Acceptance. . . . Why should the War Department, when confronted with this statute, make an investigation? The Act of Acceptance makes it mandatory that the Government preserve and protect the cabin in the Memorial Building. [12]

A report by Benjamin Davis suggesting that the cabin might originally have been located on the site of the present parking area, led Historian Appleman to remark that the matter was "an excellent example of what happens when an area is developed prior to or without adequate research." He cautioned Superintendent Cissell that after the publication of the Hays article "it is certain that there will be an increasing amount of criticism and embarrassing questions raised about the cabin, and the Service should foresee this problem and be in a position to meet the situation." The Hays article, he added, was not without serious faults and could be refuted. [13]

The Acting Chief Historian advised the Director of Region I on July 7, 1948, that it would be "best not to argue the question further with Hays but trust Basler to revise the manuscript with appropriate quotations from our 16-page booklet." [14]

Thus armed, the National Park Service prepared to meet the storm which broke in mid-September at the publication of the Hays article. "Log Cabin Enshrined as Lincoln Birthplace a Hoax, Historian Says," announced the St. Louis Post Dispatch of September 18. The Washington Post of September 19 told of "Lincoln Cabin Hoax." Other papers around the country published the allegations of Hays that the National Park Service "has never deceived the people about its [the cabin's] authenticity, but neither has it told the whole truth." [15]

In October 1948 Davis wrote that "the effect of [Hays'] report on our interpretive problem cannot be overestimated." [16] An example of the difficulties of which Davis was speaking was the attitude of a Washington Post reader in October, 1948:

I have no quarrel with the National Park Service. It is not responsible for the Lincoln cabin hoax. The late Robert Collier, publisher of Collier's Weekly is the person who perpetrated it. He bought the log cabin from a fakir, secured the funds for building the mausoleum, and then erected it. That happened many years ago. The National Park Service inherited the hoax in 1933. [17]

Meanwhile, Davis had been combing the Hardin and Larue County land records for proof of the ownership of the Davenport land by either George Rodman or his brother Jesse. In a letter to Dr. Warren, he stated that the Larue County land records positively did not show that George or Jesse Rodman ever had claim to that property. It was Warren who had been the source of the information in the 16-page booklet which stated that "the Rodman farm eventually passed into the hands of the Davenport family."

In reply, Dr. Warren wrote that he had never checked the deeds to the Davenport farm more than to find the deed which the Davenports received from Sam Spriggs in 1864. "He [Warren] did state that he had a memo on his notes that 'Rodman sold property to Spriggs.' My search seems to show that Wilson sold the property to Spriggs." [18]

On the strength of his research in the Hardin and Larue County land records, Davis submitted in February 1949, "Report of Research on the Traditional Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Cabin," in which he suggested that there was no way by which George Rodman could be associated with the ownership of the Davenport property. The Director of Region I felt that:

this report seems to call for a reconsideration by the Service on the attitude it takes toward the traditional birthplace cabin in all of its contacts with the public--including printed literature; signs and markers; and interpretive services given the visiting public by personnel in the Park. [19]

The question of the authenticity of the cabin was submitted by the Director of the National Park Service to a number of leading Lincoln scholars and their opinions placed before the Subcommittee on Historic Problems of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments.

In a letter to a member of the Advisory Board in November 1949, the Director suggested that "if the above-mentioned reports [of Hays and Davis] are sound, it may well be that even the cautious language of our 16-page booklet . . . should be radically revised." [20]

Paul M. Angle of the Chicago Historical Society concluded in May 1949, after examining the Hays article and the Davis report, that:

1. The cabin probably was destroyed long before 1865.

2. In 1865 there was no cabin on the site.
3. It is extremely doubtful that the cabin purchased from John A. Davenport was the reconstructed birthplace.
4. Even if [the cabin] was [authentic] it was subjected to such careless handling between that date and 1911 that no one can have confidence in its integrity as it stands today.

There are many objects out of the past, he added, which simply cannot be documented. But the "connivings of a couple of scamps like Dennett and Bigham" made much of the information arising from their activities highly suspicious. [21]

Professor J. G. Randall, the noted Lincoln scholar, replied that from his perusal of the studies that had been made by Davis and Hays:

I am convinced . . . that the cabin is not authentic and should not be presented as original. I have nothing to add to his [Hays'] article and no reason to doubt his conclusions. The birthplace site has been absolutely identified, but neither the structure nor the logs that constitute it are original. [22]

The other Lincoln authority from whom an opinion was solicited was Dr. Louis Warren, who submitted in April 1950 a full-scale report summarizing the position of Lincoln Lore. He was loath to censure the origins of the cabin tradition:

For nearly thirty years the cabin has made a positive inspirational contribution to an ever-increasing number of pilgrims who pay homage to this American shrine. Before accepting Mr. Hays' conclusion, that a fraud has been perpetuated [sic] on the public, there should be unimpeachable evidence that the early observers identifying the cabin as the one in which Lincoln was born were engaged in a swindle or positively mistaken in the identity of the cabin. [23]

He asserted that in any case he believed that some of the logs in the cabin were authentic.

In response, Historical Aide Davis informed the Regional Historian that he saw no means by which the assumptions of Warren that some of the logs were from the Lincoln cabin could be proven or supported. "Conversely, I see no way by which such a contention can be disproved, because, in my opinion, there is no supporting evidence for or against such a contention" [24]

The opinions of the three Lincoln experts and the Hays and Davis reports were submitted to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments which met on November 2 and 3, 1950. The results of the proceedings were summarized for the Director of the National Park Service by Charles Porter, Chief of the Branch of Preservation and Use:

There simply isn't any trustworthy recorded evidence for the authenticity of the cabin. In view of the mountebank character of Dennett and Bigham, the traditions springing from them are certainly not to be trusted. It is an open question whether the affidavits (our only evidence) reflect the influence of these charlatans.

The Advisory Board recommends that the National Park Service make clear that it considers the authenticity of the cabin debatable. [25]

Since that time the main thrust of Park Service policy has been to stress the authenticity of the birthplace site, which can positively be proved by documentary means. As Director

Newton B. Drury wrote to Tom Wallace of the Louisville Times in December, 1950: "Our main concern administratively and from an interpretive standpoint was not to air the doubt about the Lincoln cabin in such a way as to vitiate the message Americans can get from the birthplace farm, which is unquestionably authentic." [26]

The 16-page booklet is no longer distributed at the park. It was last reprinted--in unrevised form--in 1955. The current two-fold free pamphlet (reprinted 1965) observes that "from 1861 to the present, the history of the cabin which is now displayed within the Memorial Building is fairly clear." The Rodman story, including the doubtful purchase date of March 1861, is related in essentially the same form as in the free folder published by the Park Service in 1941. The ten-minute audio-visual program shown in the Visitor Center emphasizes the "Lincoln Country" of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois while minimizing, in this writer's opinion, the history and interpretation of the birthplace site and cabin.

It is to be hoped that the valuable research conducted in the late 1940s by Historian Benjamin Davis and others and the conclusions drawn therefrom by the Advisory Board on National Parks in 1950 will be considered in future interpretive planning at the park.

Most visitors come to the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site to see the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln; when they are presented with a log cabin of appropriate humbleness and antiquity, enshrined in a granite memorial, no protestations of its "traditional" nature really suffice to inform the visitors of its doubtful authenticity. The delicacies of the situation are acknowledged. Nevertheless, an agency of the United States Government should not engage in patriotic fulfillment. The Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site needs the attentions of a qualified historian, and this historian needs the willingness and cooperation of the National Park Service in rectifying the situation.

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APPENDIX A:

HR 8351

64th CONGRESS
1st Session

A BILL to accept a deed of gift or conveyance from the Lincoln Farm Association, a corporation, to the United States of America, of land near the town of Hodgenville, county of Larue, State of Kentucky, embracing the homestead of Abraham Lincoln and the log cabin in which he was born, together with the memorial hall inclosing the same; and further, to accept an assignment or transfer of an endowment fund of \$50,000 in relation thereto.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the United States of America hereby accepts title to the lands mentioned in the deed of gift or conveyance now in possession of the Secretary of War, together with all the buildings and appurtenances thereon, especially the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the memorial hall inclosing the same, which deed or conveyance was executed on the 19th day of June, nineteen hundred and sixteen, by the Lincoln Farm Association, a corporation, to the United States of America, describing certain lands situated near the town of Hodgenville, county of Larue, State of Kentucky, which lands are more particularly identified in said deed of conveyance. The title to such lands, buildings, and appurtenances is accepted upon the terms and conditions stated in said deed or conveyance, namely: That the land therein described, together with the buildings and appurtenances thereon, shall be forever dedicated to the purposes of a national park or reservation, the United States of America agreeing to protect and preserve the said lands, buildings, and appurtenances, and especially the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the memorial hall inclosing the same, from spoliation, destruction, and further disintegration, to the end that they may be preserved for all time, so far as may be; and further agreeing that there shall never be any charge or fee made to or asked from the public for admission to the said park or reservation.

SEC. 2. That the United States of America hereby also accepts title to the endowment fund of \$50,000 mentioned in the assignment and transfer, now in the possession of the President of the United States of America, which assignment and transfer was executed on the 19th day of June, nineteen hundred and sixteen, by the Lincoln Farm Association, a corporation, to the United States of America, transferring and turning over all its right, title, and interest in and to said endowment fund, heretofore invested in certain stocks, bonds and securities held and owned by the Lincoln Farm Association, and more particularly identified and described in said assignment and transfer. The title to said

endowment fund is accepted upon the terms and conditions stated in said assignment and transfer, namely, that the United States of America shall forever keep the said tract of land described in said deed, together with the buildings and appurtenances thereunto belonging, dedicated to the purpose of a national park or reservation; and further, shall forever protect, preserve and maintain said land, buildings, and appurtenances, and especially the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the memorial hall inclosing the same, from spoliation, destruction, and further disintegration, to the end that they may be preserved for all time, as far as may be, as a national park or reservation.

SEC. 3. That the President of the United States of America and the Secretary of War are hereby authorized to execute, in the name of the United States of America, such instrument or instruments as may be or may become necessary to comply with or carry out the terms and conditions of such gift or gifts and to secure the full benefit therefrom.

SEC. 4. That upon passage of this act and the vesting of the title to the property accepted thereunder in the United States it shall be under the control of the Secretary of War and administered under such regulations, not inconsistent with the law, as he may from time to time prescribe.

July 17, 1916.

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APPENDIX B:

DEED OF CONVEYANCE, LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION TO THE UNITED STATES

THIS DEED OF CONVEYANCE made and entered into the 11th day of April 1916, by and between the LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the STATE OF NEW YORK, and having its principal office in the City, County, and State of New York, party of the first part, and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, party of the second part,

Witnesseth:

That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of One (\$1.00) Dollar, lawful money of the United States to it in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and other good and valuable consideration, has this day bargained and sold, by this Indenture, does grant and convey unto the said party of the second part, the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, its successors and assignees, the following described property: - All that certain tract of land lying and being in the town of Hodgenville, county of Larue, State of Kentucky, known as the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, and the same is bounded and described as follows: -

BEGINNING at a large white oak near a spring on the plot of R. W. Creal now on file in the suit of Mattie Creal, Guardian, plaintiff against T. W. Creal's heirs, defendants; thence south 86 east 157 poles to a corner near a small marked postoak; thence north 162 $\frac{2}{3}$ poles to a stake at Fig. 3 of said plot; thence south 40 west 14 poles to a stake; thence south 2 east 7 $\frac{2}{5}$ poles to a stake at figure 6; thence south 57 east 28 $\frac{2}{5}$ poles to a stake near a spring thence south 62 west 65 poles to a stake in the road; thence south 67 west 125 poles to a dead sassafras tree marked as a corner; thence south 55 east 60 $\frac{4}{5}$ poles to the place of beginning and containing one hundred and ten and one-half (110 $\frac{1}{2}$) acres.

UPON CONDITION that the land hereinbefore described together with the buildings and appurtenances thereto belonging shall be forever dedicated to the purpose of a National Park or reservation and that the party of the second part, the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, agrees to protect and preserve the said lands, buildings and appurtenances especially the LOG CABIN in which ABRAHAM LINCOLN was born and the Memorial Hall inclosing the same, from spoliation, destruction and further disintegration, and to the end that they may be preserved for all times, so far as may be; and further agrees that there shall never be any charge or fee made to, or asked from the Public for admission to the said Park or Reservation.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the foresaid property, together with all and singular the buildings, especially the Log Cabin in which ABRAHAM LINCOLN was born, and the Memorial Hall enclosing the same, and appurtenances thereunto belonging forever unto the said party of the second part, the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, with covenants of general warranty from the party of the first part unto the party of the second part.

THIS IS THE SAME PROPERTY that was deeded and conveyed by Robert J. Collier and his wife Sarah Steward Collier, to the LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION by deed bearing date of the 9th day of November, 1907, and received in the Commissioner's Deed Book, No. 34, Page 377, in the Clerk's Office of the Larue County Court and by Bill of Sale from Robert J. Collier to the Lincoln Farm Association made and executed on the 19th day of June, 1906.

IN WITNESS thereof, the party of the first part, the LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION, has hereunto caused this Indenture to be signed in its name by its President and sealed with its corporate seal and attested by its Secretary, the day and year first above written.

THE LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION

By: JOSEPH W. FOLK

President

(seal)

Attest:

RICHARD LLOYD JONES

Secretary

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APPENDIX C: [HR 15657](#)

70th CONGRESS
2nd Session

A BILL To provide for the improvement and preservation of the land and buildings of the Abraham Lincoln National Park or Reservation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That for the purpose of protecting from disintegration and of improving, beautifying, and preserving the Abraham Lincoln National Park or Reservation established under the Act entitled "An Act to accept a deed or gift of conveyance from the Lincoln Farm Association, a corporation, to the United States of America, of land near the town of Hodgenville, county of Larue, State of Kentucky, embracing the homestead of Abraham Lincoln and the log cabin in which he was born, together with the Memorial Hall inclosing the same; and further to accept an assignment or transfer of an endowment fund of \$50,000 in relation thereto," approved July 17, 1916 (United States Code, title 16, sections 211-214), the Secretary of War is authorized and directed to provide for (1) the improvement of such existing roadways, walks, and buildings in such park or reservation; and (2) the planting of such trees, plants, and shubbery; the construction of such additional roadways, walks and buildings, and of such fences, parking spaces, drainage structures, culverts and bridges; and the making of such other improvements, as in his judgment may be necessary for the preservation, beautification, and protection from disintegration of such park or reservation, including the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born and the memorial hall inclosing the same, which may serve to render such park or reservation convenient for the appropriate use and enjoyment by the public.

SEC. 2. There is authorized to be appropriated the sum of \$100,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary, to carry out the provisions of section 1 of this Act; and authorization is also hereby given for such appropriations as may, in the future, be deemed necessary for the proper protection, preservation, care, maintenance, and operation of the said national park or reservation, including the salaries and compensation of a superintendent and other needed employees.

February 11, 1929

<http://www.nps.gov/abli/adhi/adhiac.htm>
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APPENDIX D: S. 2046

76th CONGRESS
1st Session

A BILL To change the designations of the Abraham Lincoln National Park, in the State of Kentucky, and the Fort McHenry National Park, in the State of Maryland.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Abraham Lincoln National Park, in the State of Kentucky, authorized by the Act of July 17, 1916 (39Stat. 385), and the Fort McHenry National Park in the State of Maryland, authorized by the Act of March 3, 1925 (43 Stat. 1109), shall hereafter be called and known as the "Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park," and the "Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine," respectively, and all moneys heretofore or hereafter appropriated for these areas under previous designations may be used in these areas as redesignated.

August 11, 1939

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APPENDIX E: HR 3259

81st CONGRESS
1st Session

AN ACT To add to the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park, Kentucky, certain land acquired by the United States for that purpose.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the approximately six acres of land described in the following recorded deeds to the United States are hereby added to and made a part of the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park in the State of Kentucky:

(a) Deed of conveyance to the United States, dated June 15, 1945, made and entered into by and between J. R. Howell and Mattie Johnson Howell, his wife, and W. L. Ferrill and Minnie Ferrill, his wife, of Hodgenville, Larue County, Kentucky, recorded on June 25, 1946, in deed book numbered 58, page 262, in the records of the county of Larue, Kentucky; and

(b) Quitclaim deed to the United States, made and entered into by and between Carl J. Howell and Dorothy Howell, his wife, of Hodgenville, Larue County, Kentucky, recorded on April 18, 1947, in deed book numbered 59, page 435, in the records of the County of Larue, Kentucky.

June 6, 1949

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APPENDIX F: HR 5764

86th CONGRESS
1st Session

A BILL To change the name of the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park at Hodgenville, Kentucky, to Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park at Hodgenville, Kentucky, shall hereafter be known as Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, and any law, regulation, document or record of the United States in which such historical park is designated or referred to under the name of Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park shall be held to refer to such historical park under and by the name of Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site.

September 8, 1959

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24. Monthly Report, April 1942, RG 79-1912.
25. Memo, Lee et al. to Director, June 2, 1942, RG 79—1911.
26. Memo, Porter to Director, July 26, 1944, RG 79-1913.
27. Memo, Cissell to Superintendent, Mammoth Cave, July 11, 1944, RG 79-1911.
28. Memo, Acting Director to Secretary of the Interior, January 2, 1945, RG 79-1913.
29. Annual Report, FY 1945-46, July 1946, RG 79-1911.69
30. Historical Aide's Report, July 5, 1948, RG 79-1912.
31. Superintendent's Report, January 19149, RG 79—1912.71

Chapter VI

1. *The Herald News*, Hodgenville, Kentucky, April 29, 1954.
2. Memo, Acting Chief of Design and Construction, to Regional Director (I), January 7, 1953, FHD.
3. Memo, Shedd to Appleman, 1957, Files, ALBNHS.
4. Memo, Holland to Members of Bd. of Directors, ENPMA, July 18, 1957, ALBNHS.
5. Building Survey, 1959, Files, ALBNHS.
6. Teletype, Regional Chief of Interpretation to Supt., September 16, 1959, ALBNHS.
7. Building Survey, 1959, Files, ALBNHS.
8. Letter, Morton to Under Secretary of the Interior, October 27, 1959, FHD.
9. Letter, Under Secretary of the Interior to Morton, November 7, 1959, FHD.
10. Memo, Assistant Regional Director to Chief, EODC, August 23, 1963, ALBNHS.
11. Letter, Ochs to Chelf, December 4, 1963, FHD.
12. Letter, Hodgenville Women's Club to Chelf, February 25, 1964, ALBNHS.
13. Letter, Assistant Director to Chelf, March 1965, ALBNHS.

Chapter VII

1. Testimony, Col. W. R. Gibson, QMC, to Committee of the Library, January 9, 1929, WDI.
2. Report on the Lincoln Farm, War Department, June 1928, FHD.
3. *Lincoln Lore*, No. 216, May 29, 1933, FHD.
4. *The Lincoln Memorial*, pamphlet, distributed by Nancy Lincoln Inn, undated, FHD.
5. "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site," 2-fold pamphlet, National Park Service, U. S. Government Printing Office, Reprint 1965.
6. Memo, Stauffer to Chatelain, February 26, 1936, FHD.
7. "From Long Run to Oak Ridge" *The Lincoln Herald*, R. G. McMurtry and R. L. Kincaid, October 1938, Harrogate, Tennessee, p. 21.
8. Memo, Lee to Regional Director (I) September 11, 1940, RG 79-1911.
9. *Abraham Lincoln National Historical Park*, 16-page booklet, NPS, U. S. Government Printing Office, reprint 1955, pp. 10-13.
10. Letter, Warren to Appleman, June 3, 1948, RG 79-1913.
11. Letter, Lee to Basler, June 15, 1948, FHD.

12. Letter, Hays to Basler, June 29, 1948, FHD. This writer has failed to uncover any investigation made by the War Department at any time during its administration of the area. For War Department policy on this matter see Chapter IV, Letter, Secretary of War to Dreher, November 21, 1928.
13. Memo, Appleman to Cissell, June 30, 1948, FHD.
14. Memo, Acting Chief Historian to Director, Region I, July 7, 1948, FHD.
15. *Washington Post*, September 19, 1948.
16. Historical Aide's Report, ALBNHS, October 1948, RG 79-1912.
17. Letter, David Rankin Barbee to *Washington Post*, October 26, 1948.
18. Historical Aide's Report, November 1948, RG 79-1912.
19. Memo, Regional Director (I) to Director, March 29, 1949, FHD.
20. Letter, Director to Mrs. Folk, November 16, 19149, FHD.
21. Letter, Angle to Director, May 26, 1949, FHD.
22. Letter, Randall to Director, January 2, 1950, FHD.
23. "The Traditional Birthplace Cabin," Louis B. Warren, April 17, 1950, FHD.
24. Memo, Davis to Regional Historian, October 7, 1950, FHD.
25. Memo, Porter to Director, November 3, 1950, FHD.
26. Letter, Drury to Wallace, December 15, 1950, FHD.

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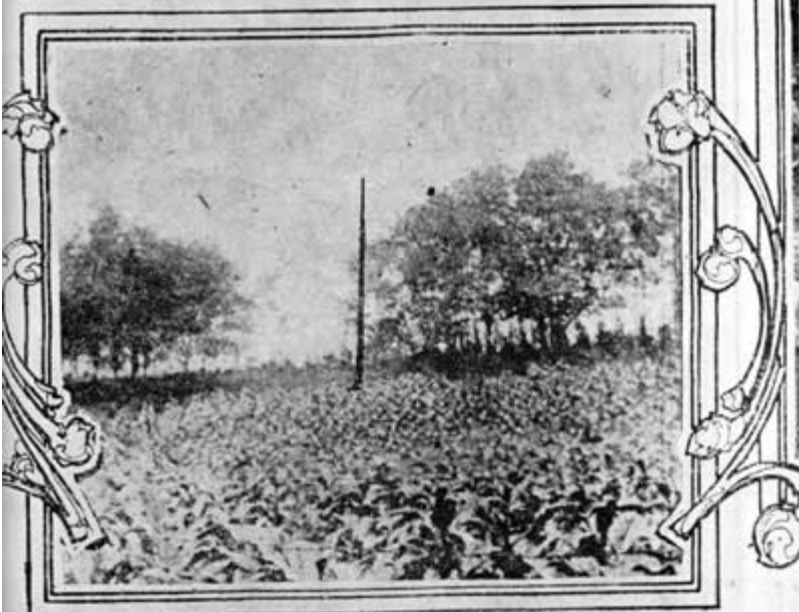
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HISTORIC ROCK SPRING
FARM EXPECTED TO GO
UNDER THE AUCTIONEER'S
HAMMER TOMORROW. ↗

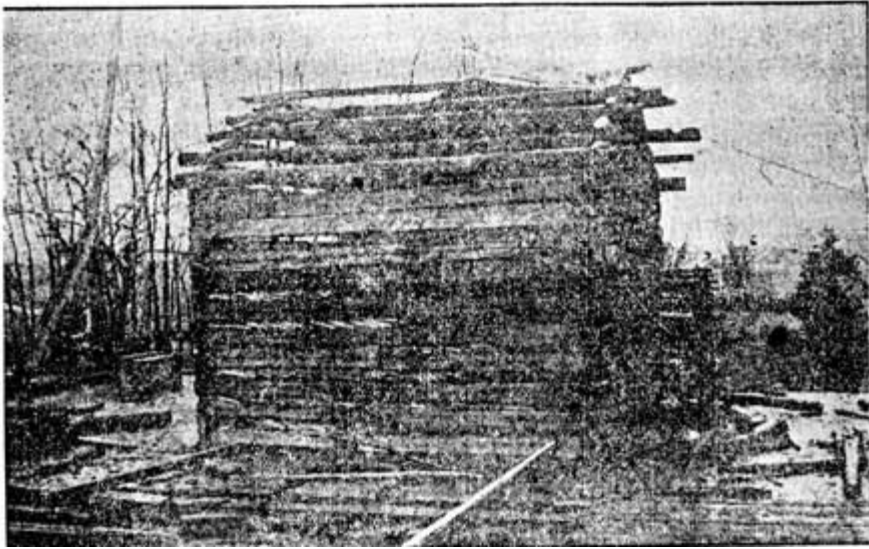


PLACE WHERE CABIN STOOD MARKED
BY FLAGPOLE

six ac
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THE LINCOLN LOG CABIN AS IT NOW STANDS
ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE AT THE OLD FARM

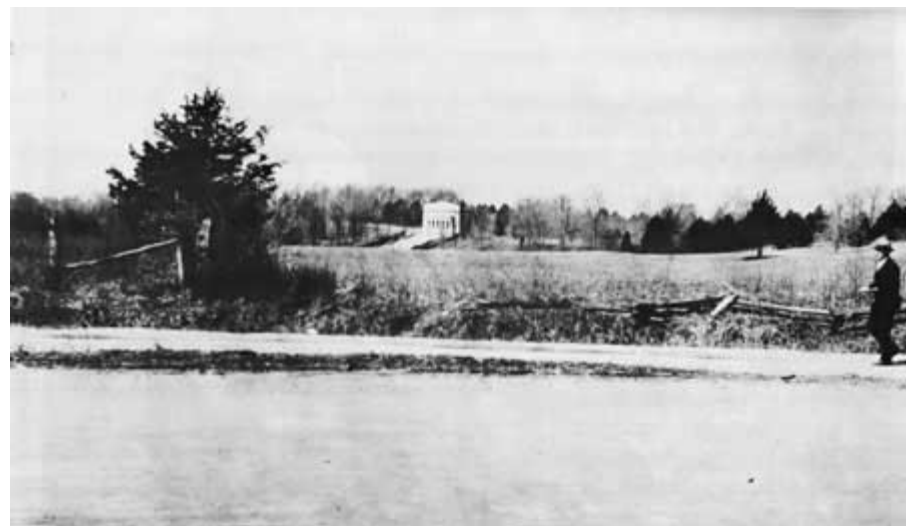






CROWD HEARING PRESIDENT TAFT'S SPEECH ON
STEPS LEADING TO LINCOLN MEMORIAL HALL









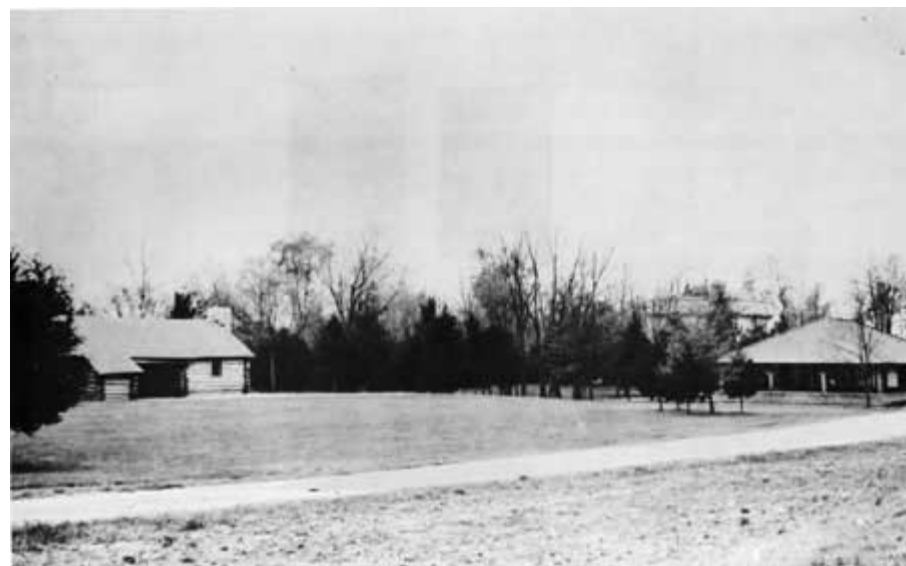


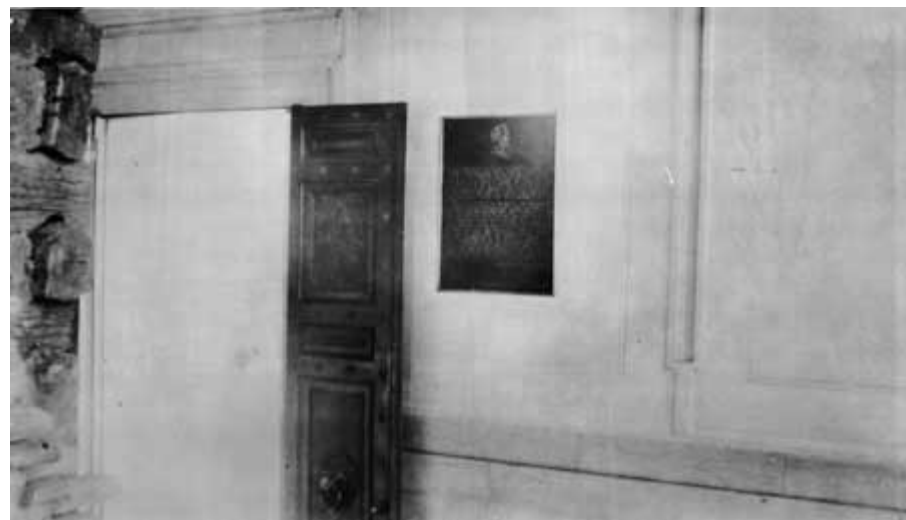
















Abraham Lincoln Birthplace

Administrative History



PHOTOS



Plate I: View of Rock Spring Farm, where President Lincoln was born. From a photograph taken in September, 1895, for McClure's Magazine. The house in which Lincoln was born is seen to the right in the background. Rock Spring is in a hollow under the clump of trees in the left centre of the picture.



Plate II: The Evans Art Co. photo of the cabin taken in 1895 at its site by the spring.



Plate III: Courier-Journal, August 27, 1905.

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