

Romines, Gentrys, Barkers, Oskins and Lamars are buried in this sacred ground. The graves of Sarah Lincoln Grigsby and husband Aaron Grigsby are also here.

Sarah died in childbirth on Jan. 20, 1828 at age 21. Her baby died and was buried with her. "On the night Sarah passed away, Abe was at Reuben Grigsby, Sr.'s house. One of the family said later, 'He was out in our little smoke house doing a little carpenter work, when Aaron, Sarah's husband came running up from his house a quarter-mile away and said that Sarah had just died. I never will forget that scene. Abe sat down in the door of the smoke house and buried his face in his hands. The tears slowly trickled from between his bony fingers and his gaunt frame shook with sobs.'"

CRAWFORD SCHOOL SITE

The first school Abraham and Sarah Lincoln attended in Indiana stood east of the church and graveyard on Noah Gorden's land. The site has not been accurately located.

"The one room hewn log building was 16 feet wide by 26 feet long. It had a greased paper window, a puncheon floor and split log benches. Pegged to the wall above the door was a fine pair of buck antlers." Abraham's teacher was Andrew Crawford. He probably kept school in the winter of 1819-20.

According to Nathaniel Grigsby, Crawford taught



his pupils good manners along with "the three R's." It was in Crawford's "blab" school that 11-year old Abraham secretly helped Ann Roby spell the word "defied" (by pointing to his eye) in a spelling contest. Lincoln's education in Indiana, in his own words, was gained by "littles." Although he attended three school terms under five different teachers, he said that the "aggregate of all his schooling did not amount to one year." Stand and listen for a moment. With some imagination, you might hear children's voices among the sounds of birds and rustling leaves.

HOME AGAIN

Your walk followed the same paths young Abe used more than 150 years ago. As you return, follow the old road back to the lane turnoff or continue the few extra yards to the paved sidewalk leading back to the amphitheatre. Continuing on trail 5 will also take you back to where you began.

To discover more about the Indiana's landscape when Lincoln lived here, visit the Lincoln State Park Nature Center. To explore Lincoln's life and his contributions, visit the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza in Lincoln State Park and the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, which is operated by the National Park Service.

ABOUT THE LINCOLN PARKS

Lincoln State Park was established in 1932 to provide recreation, and to protect and preserve the Thomas Lincoln family homestead and the grave of Abraham's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln. During the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps built Lake Lincoln, reforested 1,750 acres of farmland, built trails and campgrounds, and developed the 115-acre Nancy Hanks State Memorial.

The Indiana Lincoln Union, formed in 1926, hired landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr., to design the Memorial grounds. Later, Indiana architect Richard Bishop designed a handsome stone memorial building and the furnishings to go with it. The building opened in May 1944 under the administration of

the Indiana Department of Conservation, which also managed Lincoln State Park.

In 1962, the State transferred the Memorial to the National Park Service. It was renamed Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. Both of the "Lincoln Parks" added acreage during the 1960s and '70s, increasing the state park size to 1,747 acres and the national memorial to about 200 acres. The Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza in the state park was dedicated as a recognition of Lincoln's 200th birthday in 2009.

In June 1987, Indiana's first outdoor drama, "Young Abe Lincoln," opened in the \$3.5-million, 1514-seat amphitheatre in Lincoln State Park. Billy Ed Wheeler's drama highlighted Lincoln's life during the 14 years he spent growing up in southern Indiana (1816-1830). In 2009, as part of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration in Indiana, a new dramatic play by Ken Jones, "Lincoln: Upon the Altar of Freedom," replaced "Young Abe Lincoln." In 2012, music returned to the production when Ken Jones teamed with Christine Jones and Jamie Strawn to compose a score and introduce "A. Lincoln: A Pioneer Tale." For more information about productions at the amphitheatre, visit lincolnamphitheatre.org.



Lincoln State Park
 15476 N County Road 300
 Lincoln City, IN 47552
 (812) 937-4710
stateparks.IN.gov/2979.htm

Artwork by Charlie Boren

A Neighborhood Walk Lincoln State Park

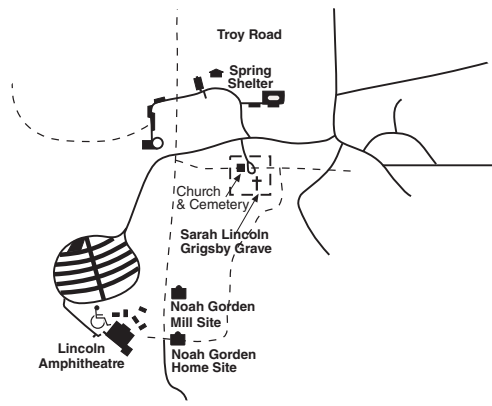


Take an easy hour-long walk to become a part of the Little Pigeon Creek Community. Follow the paths young Abraham Lincoln walked 150 years ago. This 1-mile woodland stroll contains short sections of two historic roads and visits the Little Pigeon Church and the graveyard where Abraham's sister Sarah is buried.

For comfort and safety, please stay on the recommended pathways.

Your walk begins at the southeast corner of the Lincoln State Park Amphitheatre Dining Pavilion.

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NOAH GORDEN HOME SITE

Noah Gorden was a farmer and miller. He and his family of six lived here from 1816-1829 in a log farmstead. All that remains are a clearing in the woods, big yard trees and a fenced-in well.

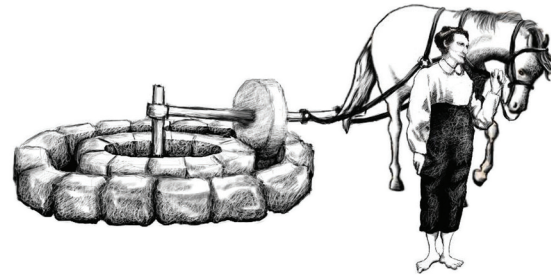
Gorden's farm was a little more than a mile south of the 160-acre Thomas Lincoln farm. Noah, William Whitman and Thomas Lincoln, Abraham's father, rode horseback (120 miles round trip) to Vincennes to make the down payments on their land at the United States Land Office.

Just before Gorden moved to Missouri, he sold his property to John Romine, who operated the mill for several more years.

Before starting down the hill, look back up the trail. Reuben Grigsby and his family of eight lived over this ridge a mile in the distance. The family included sons Nathaniel and Aaron Grigsby. Aaron married Sarah Lincoln. Josiah Crawford lived near the Grigsbys. Abraham once damaged a 75-cent book borrowed from Crawford and pulled corn for three days to pay him back.



Walk down the path until you see a sign to your right that marks the presumed Gorden Mill site.



NOAH GORDEN MILL SITE

Noah Gorden built a horse-operated corn grinding mill in this vicinity in 1818. It is here that 11-year-old Abraham Lincoln was "kicked by his horse, and apparently killed for a time."

As the story goes, others were ahead of Abraham at the mill, so he had to wait his turn. It was a slow process as the horses walked round and round providing power to grind the grain. Abraham once noted that "his dog, Honey could lick up the cornmeal as fast as the millstones could grind it." When his turn came, the lanky, black-headed boy hitched his horse to the beam, dumped his corn into the hopper and clucked at the horse to "Git up." Suddenly the horse let fly with both hind feet and knocked Abraham flat to the ground, unconscious. Accounts vary, but Abraham was out for some time. As he "came to," he apparently finished what he was saying: "Git up, git up you old hussy!" The words, of course, were directed at the horse at the instant Abraham was kicked.

Walk 200 yards or so and cross Buckhorn Creek on the wooden bridge. Buckhorn drains into the 58-acre man-made Lake Lincoln. A hundred yards farther is the intersection with historic Gentry Store-Troy Road.

GENTRY STORE-TROY ROAD

The Lincoln family may have traveled this old road on the way from Kentucky to Indiana in December 1816. Gentryville is about 2 miles west (left) along this old trace; Troy is 18 miles southwest, on the Ohio River. The ferry crossing was near Troy. Some

accounts place their departure for Illinois on March 1, 1830, over this road to Gentry's store. This route took them through the heart of the community. They could have said their goodbyes to friends and neighbors, and visited the Little Pigeon churchyard to pay respects to Sarah Lincoln Grigsby for the last time.

Follow the trace to your right until you see several sycamore trees.

SAMUEL HOWELL PLACE AND SPRING SITE

Lincoln's former law partner, William Herndon described Samuel Howell's spring and property in 1865. The spring's exact site is not known but it is believed to have been located close to the dead cottonwood tree. The home site was to your left, up the hill, where the park shelterhouse is visible.



Herndon wrote, "I then proceeded to old Samuel Howell's house north of the graveyard about a half-mile, drank out of a good spring near the Little Pigeon Meeting House out of which Abe had kneeled and drunk a thousand times. Spring close to the corner of old Howell farm...I passed the spring (then went) a little east, southeast up a small rise in the ground and landed at the now famous meeting house called the Little Pigeon Meeting House." The selection of a site for the meeting house was influenced by the nearby spring at Samuel Howell's.

Continue toward the church. Look on the right for some high banks and an old roadbed veering a little to the right and uphill toward the churchyard. This is the original road that Herndon described as "going up a small rise in the ground" into the churchyard.



LITTLE PIGEON BAPTIST CHURCH AND GRAVE OF SARAH LINCOLN GRIGSBY

Shortly after 1821, a 30 x 26 foot hewed log church was built. Thomas Lincoln was responsible for the walnut pulpit, window casings and cabinet work.

Notice the cornerstone of the present-frame church building. Constructed in 1948, this building replaced another frame building that was built near the same spot in 1875. The original church in which Abraham Lincoln served as the sexton stood 90 feet to the southeast, behind and slightly to the right of the present building. The main door of that building, which had fireplace chimneys at the north and south ends, faced east. According to Herndon, one could walk 150 feet east from the church door and stand at Sarah Lincoln Grigsby's grave.

As you cross the gentle swale of the old Gentry Store-Troy Road behind the church, look for the oldest and earliest burials on the left, or the east side, of the churchyard. Members of other pioneer families such as the

