

# Early Elizabethtown Years

## Lincoln Employed to Build Haycraft Mill

The first record of Thomas Lincoln in Elizabethtown is dated July 13, 1796, when he was employed by Samuel Haycraft, Sr., the first miller of Hardin County. Lincoln was paid approximately \$150.00 for his labor in the excavating of ground and the construction of a mill and raceway on Severns Valley Creek. Records also indicate that Richard Berry, a neighbor of Lincoln in Washington County, Kentucky, worked on this project. Lincoln's future bride, Nancy Hanks, was a member of the Berry family.



Hardin County History Museum Photo Collection

The pioneer watercourse of Haycraft's Mill along Severns Valley Creek in Elizabethtown. The mill once stood to the left of the water channel. In the top right of the photo is the L & N railroad bridge that was constructed several years later.

IN THE YEAR 1797, THOMAS LINCOLN IS SHOWN ON THE HARDIN COUNTY TAX LIST AS TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD OR OVER. HIS NAME APPEARS FREQUENTLY AFTER THAT ON THE TAX LISTS. RECORDS ALSO INDICATE HE ACTED AS A SURVEYOR, PATROLLER, GUARD OF PRISONERS AND JURYMAN FOR HARDIN COUNTY.

## Thomas Lincoln, the Carpenter

Thomas Lincoln helped to build this 1805 cabin, located to the north of Elizabethtown, for Hardin Thomas. His work on this home included cabinet work, the mantel, baseboards, stairway, doors and windows, as he was a joiner or finish carpenter.



Hardin County History Museum Photo Collection

The original mantel that Thomas Lincoln constructed for this home that stands near Freeman Lake is now housed at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in the Officer's Club.

## Bleakley Montgomery Store Ledgers

The financial standing of Abraham Lincoln's father is best portrayed by a study of his accounts in Bleakley & Montgomery's ledgers and day book. These accounts with the Elizabethtown mercantile reveal that Thomas Lincoln had excellent credit and his purchases were not inconsiderable.



Courtesy Lincoln National Life Foundation, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Bleakley & Montgomery's Ledgers and Day Book is laid open to Thomas Lincoln's account of May 16, 1806.

ON JUNE 16, 1806 THOMAS LINCOLN MARRIED NANCY HANKS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY. THE HONEYMOON MUST HAVE BEEN SHORT, FOR ON JUNE 16, FOUR DAYS LATER, WE FIND THOMAS IN ELIZABETHTOWN AGAIN BUYING "SUNDRIES" TO THE AMOUNT OF 7 SHILLINGS AND 3 PENCE FROM BLEAKLEY & MONTGOMERY.

## New Arrival to the Lincoln Family

Abraham Lincoln's only sister, **Sarah Lincoln**, was born in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, on February 10, 1807. She was two years and two days older than her famous brother. Family tradition has it that she was named in honor of Sarah Shipley Mitchell, her mother's cousin and childhood playmate.

While living in Spencer County, Indiana, Sarah Lincoln married Aaron Grigsby on August 6, 1826, and set up housekeeping. She died in childbirth on January 20, 1828, leaving her brother grief stricken and without siblings.



### LINCOLN - FAMILY and FRIENDS

Funded in part by the Kentucky Humanities Council Inc. in association with the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.