

# Later Elizabethtown Years

## Famous Stepmother from Elizabethtown

At the age of thirty-one years, widowed with three children, **Sarah Bush Johnston** married a forty-three-year old Thomas Lincoln on December 2, 1819 in the large house situated behind her cabin. The house, known as the Patton house on North Main Street in Elizabethtown, was occupied by lawyer, Benjamin Chapeze. The Rev. George L. Rogers, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, presided over the union.

The couple with Sarah's worldly goods and three children set out for Indiana immediately after the wedding in a wagon owned by Ralph Crume, who lived in the Howevalley area of the county, and was the husband of Lincoln's sister, Mary.

The physical, moral, and mental contributions which Sarah made to the life of Abraham Lincoln was acknowledged by him in later years. Upon being interviewed by one of Lincoln's biographers, she said, "I induced my husband to permit Abe to read and study at home as well as at school. At first he objected but finally he, too seemed willing to encourage him - would let him read on and on until he quit of his own accord.

Out on the Illinois prairie of Coles County when told the news of Lincoln's assassination his stepmother said: "I knew they'd kill him. I ben awaiting fur it." She died in 1869.



Courtesy of the Lincoln Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana

ABRAHAM LINCOLN AFFECTIONATELY CALLED SARAH BUSH LINCOLN "MOTHER," HE WAS APPARENTLY CLOSER TO HER THAN HIS FATHER. LINCOLN SUPPORTED HER AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER IN 1851. LINCOLN'S FINAL VISIT WITH HER OCCURRED ON JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 1, 1861 JUST BEFORE HE LEFT ILLINOIS FOR THE WHITEHOUSE AS PRESIDENT.

## Landmark Commemorates Crossing



Abraham Lincoln, age 7, with his family on their way to Indiana in 1816, crossed this creek about here and went through Elizabethtown. This would be the last time Abraham Lincoln would be in Elizabethtown or Hardin County, Kentucky. The **Lincoln-Haycraft Memorial Bridge** is situated just below the site of the mill race and river channel of Thomas Lincoln's first employment in the county. He was employed by Samuel Haycraft, Sr., an early settler of the area.

## Wintersmith Casts Only 1860 Vote For A. Lincoln In Elizabethtown Election

Robert Lawrence Wintersmith, Sr., was the only Elizabethtown resident to cast his vote for Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 presidential election.

Immediately after the election, Samuel Haycraft, Jr., the Hardin County Court Clerk, knowing of Mr. Wintersmith's high regard for Lincoln and the Republican Party, wrote to Lincoln asking him to use his influence in securing the position of postmaster of Elizabethtown for Wintersmith's son, D. C. S. Wintersmith. The Wintersmiths were the only Elizabethtown family to receive government patronage during Lincoln's administration.

Lincoln's sister-in-law, Emilie Todd Helm, eventually became the Elizabethtown Postmistress through government patronage during a later administration.



Courtesy of the Elizabethtown News, Elizabethtown, Kentucky

NO CANDIDATE OF A PROMINENT POLITICAL PARTY EVER RECEIVED AS FEW VOTES FOR THE PRESIDENCY AS LINCOLN DID IN HARDIN COUNTY IN HIS TWO PRESIDENTIAL BIDS. THIS COUNTY, THE FIRST HOME OF LINCOLN'S PARENTS AND HOME OF MANY RELATIVES, CAST ONLY SIX VOTES FOR LINCOLN OF THE 2,091 POLLED IN THE 1860 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

### LOCAL 1864 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RETURNS

	McClellan	Lincoln
<u>Hardin</u>	1010	83
<u>LaRue</u>	700	17



Telegraphic election returns, dated November 9, 1864, revealed that in Elizabethtown General McClellan received 239 votes to Lincoln's 30 votes.

J. O. Long, a resident of Hardin County, voted for Lincoln for president, in the year 1860. Because of the intense feeling against him for his action, he decided to depart to Ohio and later became a friend of Warren G. Harding.



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**LINCOLN - FAMILY and FRIENDS**