# Lincoln—the First American President

## **By ELMO SCOTT WATSON**

A BRAHAM LINCOLN, the first American President? Yes, he was!

Now, that doesn't mean that an attempt is being made to upset commonly accepted history nor to deny George Washington, who was "First in War, First in Peace and First in the Hearts of His Countrymen," the further honor, usually accorded him, of being the first chief executive of this republic. But the fact is that Lincoln, not Washington, was the "first American President" and for this reason:

When a child is born, its

nationality is that of its parents, regardless of its birthplace. The parents of all the **Presidents** from Washington down to Buchanan were born before the Declaration of Independence was signed and were therefore British subjects, even though they were born in America, Lincoln's father and mother were the first parents of a President born after July 4, 1776. So he was the first chief executive, born in the United States of AMERICAN parents and therefore he was the first **REAL** American President.

That characterization of Lincoln, however, is not based alone on a mere technicality in regard to the nationality of his parents. More important is the fact that there was blended in him the strains of the two cultures which were such a vital force in the making of America. One was from New England and the other from Virginia.

It was just 300 years ago that the first of the Lincolns came to America. Samuel Lincoln was his name and he was born at Hingham in Norfolk, England, in 1619. In 1637 he emigrated to the Massachusetts Bay colony and lived there until his death in Hingham, Mass., in 1690. From this original immigrant seven Lincolns can be traced in direct line to the man who became President.

. . .

#### A Migratory Family.

As the years passed successive generations of the Lincolns felt that urge for a westward migration which was such a striking characteristic of the pioneer stock that conquered the wilder-ness of North America and did so much to build in it a new nation. Not one of the seven died in the same town in which he was born and only one died in the same state. The westward faring of the Lincolns took them from Massachusetts to New Jersey to Pennsylvania, to Virginia, to Kentucky, to Indiana. They came finally to Illinois from whence they sent one of their sons back East again, there to die and in the dying, as well as in his living, to achieve immortality.

Here is the record of those seven Lincolns:

Samuel Lincoln was born in Hingham, England, in 1619 and died in Hingham, Mass., in 1690. His son Mordecai Lincoln, Sr., was born in Hingham, Mass., in 1657 and died in Scituate, Mass., in 1727. His son

achusetts Bay colony there arrived in Virginia a little group of 27 persons. They had been deported from England as a punishment that was being inflicted upon Cromwell's men who were captured by the Royalists, now back in power. Among them was a man named Thomas Hanks whose origin is unknown except that the Hankses were Malmesbury men. In the American colony Thomas Hanks, through va-rious purchases, became an important landowner in what is now

Gloucester county. In the Virginia land office at Richmond are preserved some of the patents granted to Hanks and they show that he held several hundred acres of land adjoining the estate of a certain Col. Richard Lee, who had established his home in Virginia 12 years before Hanks' arrival. Lee was a Royalist, one of the foremost in Virginia in support of Charles I. and one of the first to hail Charles II as the lawful sovereign of England. And now he found himself next-plantation neighbor to Thomas Hanks, the Rebel, who had been deported from England because he had ridden with the Ironheads of

#### Lincoln and Lee.

Oliver Cromwell!

How amicably the two men lived as neighbors we have no means of knowing. But we do know that the Lees and the Hankses in the years that followed, intermarried. Two centuries later two men, who claimed Col. Richard Lee as a common ancestor, found themselves arrayed against each other in a greater civil war than their forefathers had known in



Memorial which marks the birthplace of Nancy Hanks in Mineral county, W. Va.

you used it to split rails with which to fence the land you had won from those same "red devils," it meant that this land was going to be yours to have and to hold and to hand down to your children. So they elected the "Rail - Splitter" President and who knows how much that election was due to the fact that in 1860 America was still frontierminded? Nearly a hundred years before

that time there had been another Abraham Lincoln who might have been an even greater frontier hero---if the "red devils" had spared his life. He was Capt. Abraham Lincoln, the grandfath-er of the "Rail-Splitter," who sold his comfortable home in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in 1780. Then he started west with his wife and their five children-Mordecai, aged eleven; Josiah, nine; Mary, siz; Thom-as, four; and Nancy, a baby in the strong arms of her mother, Bathsheba Lincoln.

Capt. Abraham Lincoln carried with him three treasury warrants each acknowledging receipt of 160 pounds in Virginia money and each calling for 400 acres of land to be located in any county in Virginia, Kentucky

A state of the sta Wanter \$ 30 Conte Ro aller for Contraction of the

### Thomas Hank's patent for 530 acres adjoining land of Colonel Lee in Virginia.

Lincoln

England. They were President Abraham Lincoln of the United States of America and Gen. Robert E. Lee, commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the Confederate States of America.

During those two centuries the Virginia Hankses, like the Massachusetts Lincolns, had also begun to move westward, although not traveling so far as the New Englanders. Some time after the Indian uprising of 1675 and Bacon's rebellion of 1676 Thomas Hanks disappeared from history ad started the line which would come to its greatest glory in the little boy who was born in a Kentucky log cabin 128 years ago this month. That line was as follows:

sunlight shed its glory on an awak-ening world at dawn, so he shed abroad the light of God in the hearts Mordecai, dropped the red raidof men. The writer of these leser in his tracks. Despite this tragedy the sons pens these words with the prayer that as this portion of God's Holy

widow, Bathsheba, continued to live on their new farm. That autumn when George Rogers Clark organized a company to fight the Indians, the settlers made contribution of arms and provisions to the extent of their ability. Highest in appraisal on the list was a fine rifle credited to "the widow Lincoln." One wonders if it was the rifle, notched with the knife of young Morde-cai after he had avenged the death of the first Frontiersman, Abraham Lincoln.

Later the Widow Lincoln moved with her brood to a home on Beech Fork in that part of Nelson county which later be-came Washington county and light of life. II. Freedom (vv. 31, 32). there she lived until they were grown. One of them, young Tom Lincoln, was serving in the militia at the age of seventeen. In 1798 he went to work as a hired hand for an uncle who lived on the Wautauga in Tennessee and, returning from there, he stopped in Cumberland county and bought some land. In 1802 he was made a constable in that county but he evidently didn't linger there long. He moved to Hardin county and in 1803 bought a farm on Mill Creek.

Most of the young folks of Kentucky in those days married early. But Tom Lincoln didn't seem to be in any hurry to get himself a wife and settle down. That is, he didn't until his eyes finally rested one day on a twen ty-three-year-old girl who had come with her family from Hampshire county, Virginia, (later Mineral county, West Virginia) back in 1784 when she was only a year old. Nancy Hanks was her name and she was the natural daughter of Lucy Hanks. But folks also called her Nancy Sparrow because Lucy Hanks changing from the ways of her wild girlhood, had become the faithful wife of Henry Sparrow.

#### A Century-Old Mystery.

Who Nancy Hanks' father was is still as much a mystery today as it was that day more than three-quarters of a century ago when Abraham Lincoln told one of his friends that his unknown grandfather was "a Virginia gentleman" from whom he had inherited whatever fine qualities he had. It was probably a mys-tery also when the Hankses came entucky.



IMPROVED

UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

SCHOOL Lesson

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for February 7

JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE

WORLD

LESSON TEXT-John 8:12, 31, 32; 9:1-11. GOLDEN TEXT-I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. PRIMARY TOPIC-When Jesus Passed

JUNIOR TOPIC-When Jesus Passed By. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC-

How Jesus Is the Light of the World. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC-

"The Light of the World Is Jesus!" Who does not remember

with what delight we as children

sang "Come to the light, 'tis shining

for thee . . . The Light of the world is Jesus." How precious was the truth that thus flooded our souls.

Jesus was the light, and just as the

Word is studied and taught,

the light may break forth on many

a soul caught in the bewilderment of

simple words fraught with beauty and rich in meaning.

I. Light (John 8:12). The text says, "Then spake Jesus." When? Just after he had

silenced the hypocritical accusers of a woman taken in sin, and had

spoken the word of peace to her

troubled soul. She was to "go and

sin no more" because she had met

him who is the "Light of the World." They that follow him "shall

not walk in darkness"; they are the children of light, they have the very

three things in these verses. (1) A condition, "If ye continue in my

condition, "If ye continue in my word." This means not only a pro-fession of faith but a daily appropri-

ation and realization of his truth in life. (2) A promise, "Ye shall know the truth." The philosophies of men

profess to be a seeking after truth but how few there are who look to

the one place where it can be found

-in Jesus Christ. (3) A result,

"the truth shall make you free."

Truth always sets free. Men are enslaved because, as in some for-

eign lands, they have not had the

opportunity to learn the truth (we

have failed to send it) or because

they have rejected it. III. Vision (John 9:1-11).

one who was bound is free.

8:34), not its master.

Our study centers around three

this dark world.

Walking in the Light With Jesus.

in darkı

LETTY HOLMES, clad in her crisp, white uniform, spanked the naughty chimpanzee which had spilled his tea to the plaudits of the crowd around the cage marked Kindergarten. Not until the conclusion of her act, when she sat rocking Jocko, the baby ape, did she notice that a young man with bristling red hair was grinning at her.

"A man with a face like that," she was thinking, noting the bulging forehead, the conspicuously small nose, the beady eyes and freckles, "ought to be on the inside looking out." Yet he appeared intelli-gent and highly interested in her performance. How could she know Brandon Tyre's sensibilities were wounded because the most beauti-

ful girl he had ever seen was that The Fleming Animal Farm was about to feed its roaring lions raw meat. The spectators moved away from Letty's kindergarten, all save

a few. A middle aged Romeo smirked at the little nurse. "Say, "Say, Sister, is that the only thing you can get to rock?" he mocked. The girl ignored him, but her chair ceased its motion. "Sup you remember," she heard "Suppose eard the

homely young man bridle, "Miss Holmes is a lady. Doing her job and doing it well."

and doing it well." "Thanks, Mister," she smiled, wondering how he had found out her name. "Just another fresh guy. Rastus, give him the razz." Rastus, the largest of the three anthropoids, cavorted from a trapeze, emitting a flow of abusive

sounding jargon. "Oh, I didn't mean any harm, Cutie," wheedled the Romeo. "How about a little spin after hours to cool off? My car will be waiting-" "So will you. I don't make dates with visitors.'

"Perhaps I didn't make myself clear," Tyre walked up to the old

Free! Four letters, but what depth of meaning! Chains have fallflirt, his palms itching. "You don't mean to tell me she's dated up," exclaimed Romeo, backing away, "with a baboon like en off, prison doors are open. The But here we are concerned with

an even more important liberty, the you! For five continuous days Letty freedom of the soul. Many there noticed the same cheerful, homely are who boast of their independence but who are naught but slaves. Jesus said, "Whosoever committeth face at her every performance. She chatted with Tyre, now and then. "You must love animals. Or maysin is the servant of sin" (John be." she considered, "you work here." How shall they be freed? Note

"I do love animals," he confessed. "I've been promised a job as soon as there's a vacancy, and I'm sort of learning what I can about the place.

"Maybe you expect to get my act," Letty laughed at him, "and get me fired."

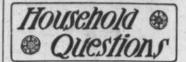
"That's not a bad idea," he re-turned seriously. "Only of course, I wouldn't do it unless you got a better offer."

"Not likely," she said. "No other work for women except selling pop or taking tickets. Besides, I

love my apes." Tyre looked at her adoringly. She loved her apes! She loved her apes! The words sang like music in his "If she can do that, perears.

This is one of the most instructive passages in Scripture. A man born haps—in time—!" Fifteen chimpanzee acts later blind is seen by Jesus. His disciples note his intent and begin to found Letty Holmes and Brandon Tyre slated for a movie. He was, she thought, the most interesting theorize on a theological question. They had learned so little of the man she knew. My, what an edu-cation! He had been everywhere; observed everything. While listencompassionate spirit of Jesus that they saw in this blighted life only an illustration of a theological theing to him she forgot how homely ory. May God help us that we may he was.

never be so blind. Jesus goes at once to work. He For three days now he had had a job, taking care of the ponies. was in the world to do the works of The elephant man, who rode the kiddies around in a howdah on Jumbo's back, had been fired. Cruelty had been hinted. There had been several changes.



Pastry made with too much wa ter is tough and hard. Use only enough water to hold the ingredients together, mix quickly, roll and handle as little as possible. . . .

Grease your measuring cup before measuring syrup or molasses and the ingredients will not stick to the sides of the cup.

. . .

Do not put too much wax on floors. A little wax and plenty of polishing makes a better-looking floor.

. . .

Doeskin and chamois gloves become stiff and harsh unless washed in tepid suds and rinsed in slightly soapy water.

Do not use soft butter or lard in making pie crust. The shorten-ing should be hard and cold.

A mixture of equal parts of salt and vinegar will quickly brighten copper or brass ware. © Associated Newspapers -- WNU Service



The researches (of these doctors) S led them to believe that colds result from an acid condition of the body. To overcome this they prescribe various alkalies." That's why, today... LUDEN'S COUGH DROPS 54

ALKALINE FACTOR

#### Independence

Independence is one of the most marked qualities of human beings. -John C. Merriam.

# Why Laxatives **Fail In Stubborn** Constipation

Constigned of the second secon

**Helping Others** 

What do we live for, if not to make life less difficult to others?-George Eliot.

## **Strength During** MIDDLE LIFE

Strength is extra-important for women going through the change of life. Then the body needs the very best nourishment to fortify it against the changes that are taking place.

In such cases, Cardui has proved

helpful to many women. It in-creases the appetite and aids diges-

Mordecai Lincoln was born in Scituate, Mass., April 24, 1686, and after a residence in New Jersey died in Berks county, Pa., in 1736. His son

John Lincoln was born in Berks county, Pa., in 1716 and

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

died in Virginia in 1788. His son Capt. Abraham Lincoln was sorn in Virginia in 1744 and died in Kentucky in 1786. His son

Thomas Lincoln was born in Virginia in 1778 and died in Ilois in 1851. His son

Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky in 1809 and died in ington in 1865.

o much, for the moment, for w England's contribution to "Man of the Ages."

Seventeen years after the first t the Lincolns came to Mass-

Thomas Hanks. His son was William Hanks. Born probably in Gloucester county, Virginia, about 1655. Died in Richmond county in 1704. His son was John Hanks. Born in North

Farnham parish in Richmond county, date unknown, and died in 1740. His son was Joseph Hanks. Born in North Farnham parish, December 20, 1725. Died in Nelson county, Ken-

tucky in 1793. His daughter was Lucy Hanks. Born probably in 1766 in Richmond county, Virginia, and died in 1825(?). Her daughter was

Nancy Hanks. Born in Mineral county, West Virginia in 1783. Died in Spencer county, Indiana, October 5, 1818. Her son was Abraham Lincoln.

In 1860 the America which had once hailed those frontier he-roes, "Old Hickory" Jackson and "Old Tippecanoe" Harrison was ready now to hail another frontiersman — "Old Abe" Lincoln. True, as an Indian fighter, his record in the Black Hawk war wasn't "much shakes" when compared to Jackson's conquest of the Creeks and Harrison's victories over The Prophet and Tecumseh and their Shawnees.

The "Rail-Splitter" Elected.

But the ax was as potent a symbol as the rifle. Of course, it wasn't as useful to defend your cabin against the onslaughts of the "red devils." But, without it, you couldn't have built your cab-in in the first place. And when

issued in due course of time. But he did not live long to enjoy his new domain.

then being such a county. Thus

it was that an Abraham Lincoln

crossed over the mountains into what was then "the West" and became the first Frontiersman

Late in the spring he entered

400 acres of land on Floyd's Fork in what later became Jefferson

county, Kentucky, and a little later 800 acres below Green Riv-

er Licks in Lincoln county. Two years later an official survey

was made and his patents were

A Frontier Tragedy.

One morning in May, 1786, while Capt. Abraham Lincoln was at work on his farm near Hughes Station on Floyd's Fork

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Survey of Capt. Abraham Lincoln's 800-acre farm on Green River, Ky.

a skulking Indian shot him down. nding his younger brother, Josiah, to the station for help, seventeen-year-old Mordecai sprang into the cabin and seized the long rifle which rested on two den pegs set in the logs over the fireplace. Then, as the hideously-painted red man dart-ed from his ambush toward the place where little Tom Lincoln sat crying beside the body of his dead father, a shot from the long rifle, poked through the un-chinked longs of the cabin by

Lincoln wasn't troubled by the fact that there was a taint on the name of Nancy Hanks.

In June, 1806, he went back to Beech Fork and there on June 12, in the big double log house of a family named Berry, Rev. Jes-

God. He and the Father always work. Let us follow his blessed example. "The King's business re-quires haste." Let us work "while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work."

By a loving and gracious act, Jesus stirs in the heart of the man that faith which causes him to go, to wash, and, glory to God, he sees! Such a personal experience of the divine power of the Son of God leaves no doubt in the man's mind that the one who caused him to see "is a prophet." All of a man's doubts concerning the deity of Jesus Christ disappear when he becomes his Saviour. Read the remainder of the chap-

ter and note how this man's faith is victorious in the face of trials, persecution, and even of excommunication; for outside the temple he met Jesus and takes him as his Lord. As Dr. Scroggie puts it, "His excommunication was a promotion. He went from the synagogue to the Saviour."

#### Thinking of Self Only

Show me the man who would go to heaven alone, and I will show you one who will never be admitted there.-Feltham.

Laws to Fit the People Laws should be like clothes. They should be made to fit the people they are meant to serve .-- Clarence Darrow.

**Divine** Confidence

Divine confidence can swim upon those seas which feeble reason cannot fathom .-- W. Secker.

Beware of Hypocrisy There is nothing against which our Lord warns us so terribly as hypocrisy.

"Gee, I may be the next to go." said Letty nervously.

Tyre was passing the Kindergar-ten with a bucket of bread and milk for a small Thibetian bear. "If you get fired I know another posi-tion you can have," he said enigmatically. On Saturday night she told him

she was discharged from the Fleming Animal Farm. She was highly indignant. "No one can say I've mistreated my pets," she cried. Then, "Tell me about that new job, Brandon."

"It's-it's taking care of he blurted out. me," thought maybe you wouldn't mind having me around even if you are as beautiful as an angel and I uglier than Jocko. I love you so, Letty, and maybe you could learn to love me-the way you did the other-

"Don't say it!" the girl broke in. "You talk as if you were the Missing Link. Why, I think you've got the kindest face I know. I—I might take you up on that offer, only I'd hate to think you asked me just because I was going to be down and out."

Tyre took her in his arms. "Silly, I just had to be sure you might care for me before I told you. We're going to manage this place togeth-er. I had you fired, dear. Haven't you guessed I'm Angus Fleming's grandson?"

**One Secret Kept** 

One Secret Kept Mrs. Smith-My husband talks in his sleep. Doesn't yours? Mrs. Jones-No, and it's so ex-asperating. He only smiles!-Stray Stories Magazine.

tion, favoring more complete trans-formation of food into living tissue, resulting in improved nutrition and building up and strengthening of the whole system.

**Use of Leisure** The use of your leisure is a card index to your character.



is due to acid, upset stomach. Milnesia wafers (the orig-inal) quickly relieve acid stomach and give necessary elimination. Each wafer is 4 teaspoon 35c

