

# Lincoln Boyhood

Magazine - FREE

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial



# The Slate

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Indiana's First National Park



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## Mission

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

## The Slate

A special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.

### **Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial**

3027 E. South Street  
Lincoln City, IN 47552

### **Visitor Information/Headquarters**

812-937-4541

### **Superintendent**

Kendell Thompson

### **Design Team**

Paula Alexander  
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# Park Passes

## *America the Beautiful*

The National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Passes

### **Annual Interagency Pass - \$80**

*Valid for 12 months from month of purchase*

Admission to all federal fee areas.



### **Senior Pass - \$10**

*Lifetime Pass*

U.S. citizens age 62 or older can purchase a Lifetime Senior Pass.

### **Access Pass - FREE**

*Lifetime Pass*

U.S. citizens with permanent disabilities can receive a free lifetime Access Pass.

### **Volunteer Pass - FREE**

*Valid for 12 months*

The Volunteer Pass is for volunteers who accumulate 500 hours of service.

### **Lincoln Boyhood Park Pass - \$10**

Good for one year's admission to the park from date of issue.

# Hiking Trails

“There I grew up...”

Abraham Lincoln wrote these words in reference to his southern Indiana home.



Here you have the opportunity to walk on the same ground that Abraham Lincoln did when he was a boy growing into a man. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial contains more than two miles of nature trails. The park is open daily from dawn til dusk.

## **Lincoln Boyhood Trail**

The trail begins at the Nancy Hanks Lincoln gravesite and ends at the Living Historical Farm. Along its trail you will find the exhibit shelter at the lower parking lot and the Cabin Site Memorial.

Length: 1/2 mile

## **Trail of Twelve Stones**

This trail connects the Cabin Site Memorial and the Flagpole. Along its course are stones from various buildings associated in one way or another with Lincoln's life. Small bronze plaques explain the significance of each stone. Pick up your trail guide at the Memorial Visitor Center.

Length: 1/2 mile

## **Lincoln Boyhood Nature Trail**

This loop trail is located in an area known as the “North 40” in the northern portion of the park. The land was a part of the original Thomas Lincoln farm but is heavily wooded today. Pick up your natural history trail guide at the Memorial Visitor Center.

Length: 1 mile

# Visitor Services

## Memorial Visitor Center

*8 a.m. to 4:30 pm (Jan. 1 - March 10)*

*8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (March 11 - Nov. 3)*

*8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Nov. 4 - Dec. 31)*

Completed in 1943, the building was designed with two halls and a connecting cloister. The Memorial Court features five sculpted panels marking significant periods in the life of Abraham Lincoln. A good place to begin your visit, pick up a park brochure, map and trail guide.



## Park Orientation Film

The story of Lincoln's youth is told in "Forging Greatness: Lincoln in Indiana". This 15-minute film is shown daily, every half hour, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The program is open-captioned and hearing assisted devices are available upon request.



## Museum Exhibits

Artifacts and exhibits portray the life of Abraham Lincoln. Learn about his family, boyhood, and frontier life in Indiana.

## Living Historical Farm

*8 a.m. - 5 p.m., mid-April through September*

The Living Historical Farm is a working pioneer homestead with a log cabin, outbuildings, split rail fences, livestock, gardens, and field crops. Rangers dressed in period clothing perform a variety of activities typical of daily life in the 1820s. From mid-April through September the buildings are open. Visitors are invited to visit and browse around the farm site throughout the year.



# Points of Interest

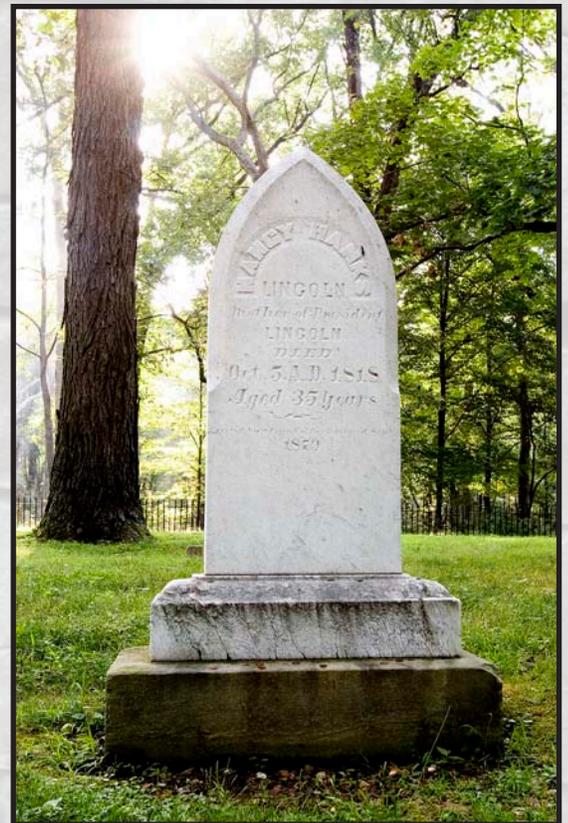


## The Allee

This landscaped, tree-lined walkway that leads to the Nancy Hanks Lincoln gravesite was designed by the noted landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and was completed in 1930. The 120 foot tall steel flagpole was first erected in the island in the parking lot in 1931, but moved to its present location in 1944. It is one of the tallest in the National Park System.

## Nancy Hanks Lincoln Gravesite

The existing headstone, erected in 1879, marks the burial spot of Abraham Lincoln's mother, who died of milk sickness in 1818. Others who died of the disease are buried on the wooded knoll as well. In the late 19th century, the hilltop served as the Lincoln City cemetery and most of the marked graves date from that period.



## Cabin Site Memorial

In 1917, the site of what is believed to have been the third Lincoln cabin was located and marked. In 1936, the State of Indiana excavated the site and found the remains of sill logs and a stone hearth. Following the excavation, a bronze casting was placed over the outline of the cabin's foundation and the low stone wall was built.

# Interpreting Lincoln: A Work in Progress

By  
Mike Capps

Chief of Interpretation and  
Resource Management  
Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

**Every memorial in its time has a different goal.**  
*Maya Lin, designer of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial*

How we choose to remember and commemorate our past says as much about us and our collective memory as it does about the events and people we seek to memorialize. On February 12, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed legislation establishing the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial as a unit of the national park system – Indiana's first. It was the culmination of an effort that had begun in the late 19th century with the marking of Nancy Hanks Lincoln's gravesite and had continued into the 20th century with additional development meant to pay tribute to a great American and his humble beginnings.

The development of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial has embodied an evolution in the way Abraham Lincoln has been remembered. Since, initially, there was little remaining evidence of Lincoln's residence in Indiana, the efforts were focused on commemorative features such as the cabin site memorial, the creation of a memorial landscape and the construction of the Memorial Visitor Center. The experience of visiting the site was considered an opportunity to remember Abraham Lincoln

and to reflect on his rise to greatness. But with the designation as a national park unit, the emphasis shifted from mere reflection to more of an opportunity to learn and actively engage with the site. A museum and a living history farm were added and an interpretive staff employed to tell the story.

The formal transfer of the site from the State of Indiana to the National Park Service took place in a ceremony in front of the Memorial Visitor Center on

July 10, 1962. Following that transfer, the NPS undertook several development projects. One of the first was the relocation of Highway 162 so that it passed to the south of the memorial building instead of directly into and through the plaza.

Another major project was the addition of offices and a museum to the memorial building. The NPS had identified the need for more space soon after taking over operation of the park. At first,



Secretary of the Interior Stewart K. Udall speaks at ceremony transferring the park from the State of Indiana to the National Park Service, July 10, 1962.



Superintendent Al Banton shows Senator Vance Hartke the exhibits in the museum – part of the 1966 addition to the Memorial building.

it was proposed that a separate building be built near the gravesite but Superintendent Robert Burns aggressively opposed the proposal and maintained that the integrity of the gravesite must be preserved. Conceding his point, NPS officials dropped the idea of a separate building and decided to adapt the existing memorial building to meet its needs. In order to compliment the original structure and and to leave its basic appearance unchanged, the addition was designed to enclose the cloister into a lobby with a visitor contact desk and sales area and some interpretive space. An auditorium, office space, a library and storage room were added to the rear of the cloister. On August 21, 1966, the new addition was formally dedicated.

In addition to the work on the visitor center, the NPS also built two residences, a utility building, an exhibit shelter and small parking lot near the historic farm site. St. Meinrad

sandstone was used for the residences to match the memorial building. A major addition to Lincoln Boyhood came about in 1968 when the Lincoln Living Historical Farm was created. Because there was not enough documentation to accurately reconstruct the

Lincoln farm, it was decided to re-create a farm that was representative of the 1820s time period. The farm would be used as an interpretive tool to help visitors understand what life was like for the Lincolns and other Indiana pioneers.



Interpreters working at the living historical farm, 1973.

Following archeological testing of the site, which revealed no remnants of the historic farm, ground clearing began in February 1968, and by April, the buildings and fences were standing.

All of the logs for the buildings came from old structures found in Spencer and surrounding counties. It

generally took one day to knock down the old building, another day to move it, and approximately two weeks to rebuild it on site. When completed, the complex included a hewn log cabin, hewn log barn with shed, a smokehouse, a corncrib, a chicken house and a workshop, all enclosed by split rail fences. Research about 19th century farm life enabled park staff to begin conducting living history interpretation on the site.

With the completion of the living historical farm, development of the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial was complete. What had started as a site that was

primarily commemorative in nature has evolved into a place where visitors can engage with the Indiana Lincoln story through the museum exhibits, movie presentation, and by interacting with the rangers at the visitor center and the living history farm.

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is the premier Lincoln

site in Indiana and one of the most significant in the country. It is a fitting tribute to the boy who grew up here to become the man that meant so much to this country. The National Park Service is proud to be entrusted with its care and is dedicated to fulfilling the long-standing tradition of preservation that began with those first efforts to mark the gravesite 133 years ago.

# Remembering the Early Years of..





# Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

# Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

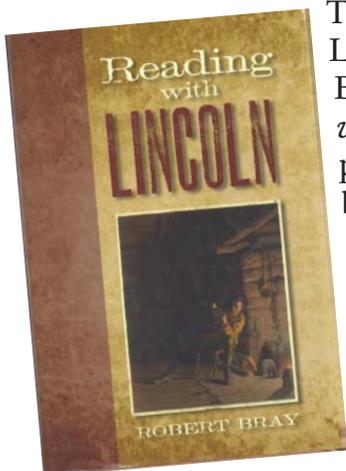
This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. In honor of this historic event, the National Park Service has a full calendar of celebratory events. It is with great excitement that we invite you to help us commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Indiana's first national park.

*For latest information, please consult the park's website: [www.nps.gov/libo](http://www.nps.gov/libo).*



## 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Day February 19, 2012

Ceremonies to honor Abraham Lincoln and his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, have long been a tradition at the site. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, these consisted of reunions by veterans of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic). Beginning in the 1920s, the Boonville Press Club began sponsoring annual programs. Initially held at the pavilion that was built near the gravesite of Nancy Hanks Lincoln in 1909, the ceremony was later moved to the memorial building. Regardless of the location, though, an integral part of every program has been a walk, or pilgrimage, to the gravesite on the hill.



The featured speaker at the 2012 Lincoln Day program will be Robert Bray, author of the book *Reading with Lincoln*. Books are available for purchase and Robert will be signing books before and after the Lincoln Day event.

The annual program is being held on the actual 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary date of the signing of the legislation that created the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Gravesite at the annual placing of memorial wreaths during the Lincoln Day celebration.

# 1962 Days: The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## July 7<sup>th</sup> – July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### Saturday, July 7, 2012

#### *1962 Days! A Fun Filled Celebration and Alumni Homecoming*

Join us at the park for a day of food, music, games and fun. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will host a variety of family friendly events, including an classic car show highlighting cars from the 1960s; live music from a 1960s cover band; and crafts and games at the Living Historical Farm.

We especially welcome all alumni of the park, including past volunteers, interns, and employees.

### Sunday, July 8, 2012

#### *Re-Dedication of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial: A Day of Commemoration and Remembrance*

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial welcomes a number of special speakers and musicians during this re-dedication ceremony in the Abraham Lincoln Hall.

### Monday, July 9, 2012

#### *Family Day at the Farm*

The Lincoln Living Historical Farm will offer historical games and crafts for the whole family to enjoy. Taste period food cooked over an open fire, help the blacksmith with his trade, or join the farmer as he handles the chickens, horses, sheep and cows.

### Tuesday, July 10, 2012

#### *Naturalization Ceremony*

Please join us as we host the park's first ever naturalization ceremony and help us welcome a new group of American citizens. The ceremony will be held in the Abraham Lincoln Hall.

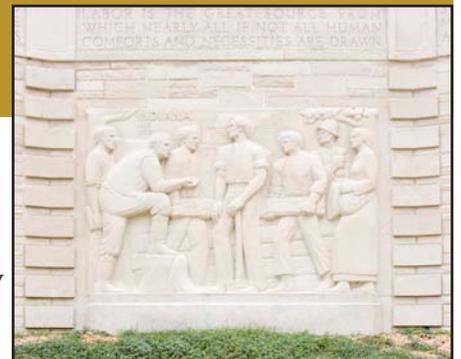
## Constructing Our Past – National Memorials within the National Park System

### October 10-12, 2012

*Open to the public*

As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is hosting a conference focusing on the 27 “memorial” sites within the national park system. We will examine their history, and how they serve as tangible evidence of the ways our collective memory undergoes change and is sometimes influenced by more than a pure desire to objectively preserve our history. We will examine such

questions as: Why did they receive this designation? Are there commonalities between the sites? Are there special challenges to administering and interpreting such sites as opposed to those with different designations? What do they say about how we remember and commemorate our history?



In April 1865, some residents of the nearby town of Elizabeth, later to be known as Dale, went to the Lincoln farm area and posed for pictures in front of what was reputed to be the Lincoln's 1829 cabin.

**Q: Who was present at both the laying of the cornerstone, and the stroke of the pen?**

**A: Pat Yellig Koch**



Construction of the memorial building began with the placing of the cornerstone on May 21, 1941. The children in this photograph are Joe Hevron and Pat Yellig (Koch). They represented the thousands of schoolchildren who had contributed to funds for the development of the memorial. Also pictured, from left to right, are J.I. Holcomb, a member of the Lincoln Union executive committee; Col. Richard Leiber, director of the state department of conservation; and Frank Wallace, acting commissioner of state parks.



Pat Koch was standing in the Oval Office watching President John F. Kennedy sign the act creating Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. She is not shown in the photo memorializing that day, but the President gave her a pen used that day to sign the documents creating the memorial.

The National Park Service and Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial would like to thank the following partners, organizations and government agencies for their cooperation and support in order to bring the best experience to the visiting public during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.



# JUNIOR RANGER PAGE

Taking care of the environment is an important part of being a Junior Ranger. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial preserves the location where Abraham Lincoln grew from a boy to a man. It also preserves meadows and woodlands that many animals call home.

Abraham Lincoln loved animals. At school one day he read an essay on the wickedness of being cruel to helpless animals. Abraham's step-sister also remembered him saying that an ant's life was to it, as sweet as ours.

Southern Indiana was very different when Abraham Lincoln lived here. Abraham wrote in his 1859 biography, "It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up."

Be a nature detective! Use your eyes and ears to find examples of the things shown here. Most can be found on just a short walk along a park trail.

Something Tall

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Something that Flutters

---

Something that Jumps

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Something that Wiggles

---

Something Soft

---

Something Sharp

---

Something Hard

---

Something Slow

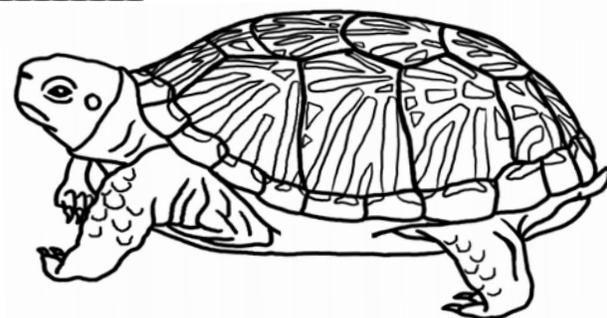
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Something that Smells

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Something in a Hurry

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# LINCOLN BOYHOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL

By Supt. Robert L. Burns  
(presiding superintendent in 1965  
Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial)

*This column was printed in The Dale News on January 15, 1965. Superintendent Robert Burns was attempting to raise the public profile of the new park. As part of his publicity tour, Burns hosted a weekly television show and occasionally appeared as a guest columnist in The Dale News.*

Since it is so near the beginning of 1965, perhaps it is a good time to talk about other beginnings such as, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. The United States Congress authorized the establishment of the Memorial in February 1962. In July 1962 Governor Welsh handed the title to 144 acres of Indiana land to Secretary of the Interior Udall during a ceremony at Lincoln City.

Thus the Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial became the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. By August 1963 the title had been cleared and the Deed of Transfer was recorded in the Spencer County Courthouse. On August 15, 1963 the Federal Register published the notice of the establishment of the new National Memorial. On August 27, 1963 the first NPS (that's National Park Service) employees arrived to take physical possession in the name of

the United States Government. Many persons have confused the new federal area with the existing state area. Lincoln State Park is larger now than it was when the Memorial was established. No Lincoln State Park land is going to be transferred to the Memorial – none, I say – not any - absolutely not!

Now, let's get to the title and why it is what it is. Some people are confused because the word "PARK," is not part of the name of the Memorial. There is a "Park" next door. The "Memorial" is administered by the National Park Service.

The State of Indiana built the main building as a Memorial to Nancy Hanks and Abraham Lincoln and on that basis it remains a Memorial. Thus, we have the name Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. Although Southern Indiana folks like to say, "we have a National Park now," this is not true. Out of 202 units of the National Park Service only 32 are full-fledged National Parks. To be accurate, you should say "We have a National Memorial now."

There are 14 other National Memorials being administered by the NPS. Three of them are Lincoln areas.

All three of these are in Washington, D.C. They are the Lincoln Museum (this is the Ford Theatre where Lincoln was shot in 1865), the House Where Lincoln Died, and the Lincoln Memorial (a classic structure of great beauty with a seated figure, 19 feet high, of Abraham Lincoln). Concerning the first of these, the Evansville Courier and Press had a good article in the Sunday January 3, 1963 issue about the Ford Theatre and the plans the NPS has for it.

After the NPS accepts an area, a tremendous amount of thought and planning is done to decide how to develop it. Nothing is to be taken away from Nancy Hanks Lincoln and the influence she had on Abe in developing the Memorial. But the decision has been made to concentrate on life and not on death. So the name has been changed from the Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial to the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial to bring into focus the importance of the 14 years our 16th President spent growing up in Indiana; to be specific, in Carter Township, in what became Spencer County, Indiana.

Let's all start calling it Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial!

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

This year we celebrate Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial's Golden Anniversary. After much political wrangling, the park was established as Indiana's first unit of the National Park System in February, 1962—which created a lot of confusion! The park began as a memorial to Abe's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln. So: what, exactly, is a National Park? And what happened to Nancy?

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial was hardly the first attempt in Indiana to commemorate our 16th

president, though it was here that he was first memorialized in a park. Early residents, remembering a young Lincoln soon after he

was assassinated, took photos, then pieces of log as mementos from what was thought to be the Thomas Lincoln cabin. And more formally, Abraham Lincoln has been celebrated in Carter Township since 1881 when a group of Cincinnati businessmen created Lincoln City in an effort to develop a new town on the historic Lincoln homestead.

By 1909, the nation's first, state sponsored Lincoln park was created here, but not to memorialize Abraham, but instead to mark the gravesite of his "angel mother," Nancy Hanks Lincoln. In 1932 an actual "Lincoln Park" did finally

emerge, south of Indiana Highway 162, to give the area three Indiana State Parks associated with Lincoln: Nancy Hanks Lincoln State Memorial, The Colonel Jones House and Lincoln State Park. So establishing Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial as a new national park unit in 1962 was merely the final, logical step in a nearly 100 year effort to mark the boyhood home of our 16th President.

But creating Indiana's first national park also marked the end of the Nancy Hanks Memorial and, to a large

*...the final, logical step in a nearly 100 year effort to mark the boyhood home of our 16th President.*

degree, much of Lincoln City. In response, the park's first superintendent, Robert Burns, wrote in 1965: "Nothing is to be taken away from

Nancy Hanks Lincoln and the influence she had on Abe... the decision has been made to concentrate on life and not on death." And so by 1969, we added the Living Historical Farm.

There were 14 national memorials managed by the National Park Service when Lincoln Boyhood was created. Today there are 27, all of them "National Parks" in practice if not name. Of these, there are seven national park sites that commemorate Lincoln, and four—Gettysburg National Military Park, Ford's Theater National Historic Site, The Lincoln Memorial and Mount



By **Kendell Thompson** Superintendent  
Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

Rushmore National Park—that celebrate the accomplishments, or note the demise, of one of our nation's greatest men. Yet these are all important memorials to events of the past. Lincoln Boyhood celebrates Abraham's youth and his future. His Indiana years are among his most vibrant. Instead of dwelling on past achievement, here we celebrate growth and learning. We celebrate great potential. We memorialize what were likely the most important, formative years in his life and the place where he became the man who would become President.

So fifty years after Superintendent Burns wrote "Indiana Governor Welsh handed the title of 144 acres of Indiana land to Secretary of the Interior Udall in a ceremony at Lincoln City," we rededicate in 2012 this park in Lincoln City to the continuing memory of Abraham Lincoln, his mother and the promise youth gives the future. From poor boy and rail splitter to President; Abraham Lincoln is the American Dream, the proof of marvelous potential. Like Abe himself, his boyhood memorial stands in the legacy of Nancy Hanks, but celebrates youth, learning and possibility.

