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The Nation's Shrine To Abraham Lincoln

Picturesque Kentucky Farm, Where He Was Born, to Be Turned Into a National Park

Scenes Where Martyred President Spent His Early Days Are Not Without Natural Beauties—Humble Features of His Father's One Room Log Cabin. How the Dream of a Distillery Firm's Representatives Was Shattered and the Farm Saved as a Mecca For All Sons of Freedom

£T=

A"BI^AHAM LINCOLN.' the most complete incarnation of the spirit of democracy seeu in our times, is to have one more memorial. It in to be nothing lean .than the fnrm on which he was born converted Anto a national park. This has been made possible by the action of Robert J. Collier, publisher of Collier's Weekly, who has purchased the farm and organized the Lincoln Farm association, to which body the property will be turned over, (iovemor Joseph W. Folk of Missouri is prenldeut of this society, and on its board of trustees are such distinguished names as Mark Twain, William II. Taft, Joseph H. t'hoate, Henry Watterson, Cardinal (ilhbon*. Ida M. Tarbell. Horace Porter, Will lam Trnvcrs Jerome and Ac- trust us St. Oaudens. the sculptor. The treasurer of Jlie body is Clarence H. M.'ickny, 74 Broadway, New York. To rival e n perinnneiif endowmeut for the purpose of turning the farm into a f/nk iiml maintaining it as such everybody is re(]ues*cd to contribute from 25 cents to $2i> and become a member of the association. Such contributions should be sent to the treasurer direct. It is designed to make this a people's offering, as Lincoln was a people's mau. Sltunted as the fnrm Is, In the heart of Kentucky, the park that is to grow out of it will be nearer the center of population than any other In the couutry. It will be easily accessible to all, and the hope is that in time It will "become the great Mecca of the sons of freedom of all lands.

oe erected. President Koosevert nns suggested that this be called "A Temple of Patriotic Righteousness." Others have proposed that it be named "A Temple of Pence." Whatever the designation finally adopted, some sort of an edillce is certain to be constructed.

Good Story Tellers and Ever Popular.

It has been 100 years since Thomas Lincoln obtained title to the Kentucky farm on which the future president was born. He laid claim to the property in March and went to live on it June 10. 1800. Prior 4o that time the family had lived in a small shanty in Elizabethtown, where Tom Lincoln had worked at his trade of a carpenter. Later Investigations are showing that there has been much injustice done to the father of the war president. He was not entirely the shiftless character he has been painted, but a man well up to the average of those about him. He wns a good story teller, .was always popular, had strong religious leanings, could write his name, held the not unimportant station of county supervisor of roads and was as well off in this world's goodvS as the average of his neighbors. Moreover, though a very peaceable man, he could take his own part, having whipped the bully of a county when that overbearing individual went too far even for Tom Lincoln's amiable disposition. There is one other record of his having been in a tight, and it is worth noting thnl he again came out abend.

SCENES ON THE LINCOLN FARM AND ITS PURCHASER.

Scenes of Lincoln's Birthplace.

The cabin in which Lincoln was born is yet lu existence, though It has been taken north for show purposes and Is now stored lu a Connecticut basement. It has been purchased and will be returned to the spot on the farm where It originally stood. The entire place will bo made to look as much as possible as It did when the boy Liucolu was tliere. The famous Rock spring, from which the farm obtained Its early name, will lx» rescued from the hog wallow Into which neglect has permitted it to descend. The land Itself is sterile enough, but is not without natural beauties. A stream called Nolln creek flows through It, on the banks of which little Abe played. The hills are,there as they were when he trudged over them, aud all about the region is eloquent of his early associations.

The centenary of Lincoln's birth occurs on Feb. 12, 1909, less than three years hence, and before that date It Is hoped to have "this little model farm that raised a man," as Mark Twain so T^ll puts it. ready for the visit of the thousands who will go to that and other points connected with the life of the martyr presldeut. From the farm to Lincoln's h>mb *At* Springfield, 111., Is only a comparatively short journey of a few hundred miles. Both will become increasingly sacred with the passage of the years as the great soul of this man is more and more clearly seen. Both spots, are eloquent of his rise from the most lowly surroundings to a position among the world's immortals. Ample provisions have al« ready been made for the public care of the monument and home at Springfield. It remains for the American people to make like provisions for the care of the birthplace.

In addition to replacing * the cabin aud caring for the spring, the farm will be sowed In blue grass, at least on* monument will be erected, and a building far a historical museum will

The truth is that'Abraham Lincoln's early poverty was due to his environ ment rather than to any especial dereliction on the part of his father, as so many historians have claimed. It should be noted that there are many points lu common between the father and sou. Both were inveterate story tellers, both were popular, both were inclined to rove and did not like physical labor too well, both were poor all their lives, both hod a deep religious substratum, both were men of peace, but could defend themselves If occasion required, both were democratic In their attitudes toward other people, and both were sturdy types of American manhood. ,..

Abe's mother was a bright, high minded girl, something of a dreamer perhaps, but on$ of those sweet natured women with an indefinable spiritual quality that inspired respect even among the rough frontiersmen. Little Abe's sister, Nancy, was several years his senior and had been born in the hovel at Elizabethtown.

The Lincoln farm, to which the Lincolns, with their baby girl, moved a century ago. is situated about twd miles from Hodgensville, then in Hardin, but now lu Larue county. Rock spring was famous throughout the region, and near Its clear waters Thomas Lincoln built his owe room log cabin. It had but one window and one door. The window was covered with glazed paper, and the door was hung on leather hinges. A great chimney was built at oue end of the cabin, and the open wood fire which glowed in the mouth of this was utilized for beat, cooking and light. The natural clay served for a floor. A frame set Into the walls aud held up by a fork answered for a bed, with dried leaves as a mattress and skins for a covering. Puncheon stools and table completed"the furniture.

When young Abraham was about four years of age the Lincolns left the Rock spring farm aud moved fifteen miles distUiit to a ulace QA Kuob creek* where they remained till be was nine, when they-migrated again, this time to Indiana. It was in Knob creek that the boy almost lost his life, but not in Nolln creek, as Is sometimes erroneously stated. It is probable also that when In later life rresident Lincoln spoke affectionately of bis Kentucky ! ^ S J ^ K ^ t i I rather than to his birthplace, though he may have bad both in mind.

A National Shrine.

One of the most exciting things abjut a country boy's life in those days was going to mm. That to which Thomas Lincoln sent his grists was situated about five miles from the Rock spring farm, and he patronized it even after moving to Kdob creek. The milling ivas usually attended to by Abe, who would throw a sack of corn or wheat aoross the old horse, climb *on* behind and trudge off in the morning to remain all day waiting for the grist to be ground. It Is probable that at such times and when on hunting trips he often revisited the farm on which he was born. However that may be, it is the birthplace In which the American people are Interested, and it Is here that they are *to* establish a national shrine.

Thomas Lincoln sold this little stony farm of 110 acres to a man by the name of Creal. The reason for the sale was that Lincoln could not pay for It. He was not a very thrifty man, spent much of his time in hunting and telling "yarns," and with the little corn and wheat he could raise on the place and the few odd Jobs of carpentering he got to do it was hard to make both ends meet. It was so hard, in fact, that Tom Lincoln never succeeded in getting a clear title to any of the mauy farms on which be lived.

The Rock spring place remained in the hands of the Creal family for seventy years, after which It was bought by A. W. Dennett, a wealthy restaurant man, who designed making a park of it. but was prevented from doing so by financial reverses. It was next bought by Rev. J. W. Bingham, a Methodist minister, who took the old Lincoln cabin *to* the Nashville exposition and afterward sold It to a show company that displayed it in various northern cities.

It is evident that Mr: Bingham did not keep the place up, for recently it was advertised to be sold for taxes. This announcement was noted in the country papers, but beyond this created little comment. In some way it reached the attention of Robert J. Collier, however, and he realized its significance. It also caused, an enterprising firm of distillers in Louisville to sit up and take notice.. They decided that a brand of firewater known as "Lincoln Birthplace Whisky" ought to be a good seller, and they decided to gather ip that little* farm for advertising purposes. So confident were they of being able to do so that they bad their labels printed in advance.

A Dream That Never Came True.

At the time of the sale Richard Lloyd Jones of Collier's hied himself to Elizabethtown, Ky.. In the village hotel be found a couple of representatives of the Louisville distillers who were sampling other brands of their wares and as a result unfolded to Mr. Jones their plans. They celebrated their prospective coup not wisely, but too well, for they indulged so long that they overslept. Mr. Jones arose early and stole a march. Going to Hodgensville, he induced the man who had the sale in charge to get busy before 2 o'clock. The representatives of the distillery had not yet appeared on the scene, and Mr. Jones watched anxiously for the cloud of dust that would herald their coming. When the property was put up at auctlou there were present as bidders a Wisconsin Grand Army veterau, who lost interest after the price of $2,500 had been reached; a northern newspaper man, who dropped out at $3,000; a New York lawyer, who struck his limit at $3,200, and a Louisville attorney, who was overcome by weariness when the bidding reached $3,500. Mr. Jones got the property. With the papers safe lu his inside pocket he started back to Elizabethtown. On the way be met the two Louisville men, who were lugging the remainder of their load; also their dream of "Lincoln Birthplace Whisky,'* a dream fortunately that was never to come true.

That Abraham Lincoln, born in a one room log cabin on a sterile Kentucky farm, should have risen to be the savior of his nation and an Inspiration to all mankind is one of the strange romances in the history of the race. There is nothing that quite equals it since the birth In a manger of the original "Man of Sorrows."

A Mao That Does Things.

One other strange thing is that Lincoln's career should have made such an appeal to Robert J. Collier. It shows just how universal and all inclusive was the great souled liberator. For an environment more radically different than that which surrounded these two men it would be bard to Imagine. Collier's father is a New York millionaire publisher. The son was educated at Georgetown university, at Oxford, England, and at Harvard. He married the daughter of James J. Van Alen, another millionaire. Collier moves in the highest society of New York and Newport, Is a crack pplo player, rides to hounds and affects the other sports indulged In by the Four Hundred. But that he does things is shown by the manner In which he Is handling the publication of which he is now the ac tive'manager". It7sVlM~eyfdc*ced by the fact that he was the moving spirit behind the fight made in his paper on Judge Deuel and Colonel Mann of Town Topics, which recently culminated In one of the most sensational suits ever tried before the New York courts.

J. A. EDGERTON.

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FAST PACE SET BY JAPS

Colony In Nebraska Is Saving Money to Buy Desert Land.

AMTIOIATED IBBGATIOK MOM

Clever Sons of Nippon Succeed In Securln* 8,000 Acres Which Will Be Watered by Government Ditch. How They Compete With Americans In Farming: and Take Great Care of Vegetables.

Farmers In Nebraska are now convinced that the Japanese are the real "yellow peril,'* since a colony of 600 sons of Nippon has settled along the government Irrigation ditch between North riatte and Guernsey, secured control of 3,000 acres of land soon to be watered by the great ditch and is showing American farmers bow to make fabulous sums from land supposed to l)e arid by produciug large crops of beets and potatoes, says a North Platte special to the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

The Japanese were brought to the North Platte territory last summer to work lu the sugar beet and potato fields. They had with them a number of "business agents," who looked after all the business of the company. Being educated men, these business agents at once sav the advantage of owning lands under the big government ditch, which Is *to* make fertile 100,000 acr*s of land In Nebraska.

These clever Japanese organized cooperative companies last year and secured control of large tracts of land, now holding more than 3,000 acres.

The men will work In the beet and potato fields next summer. They are bright and clean, doing their work Intelligently and working every hour of the day. They live cheaply and save much. The money the American beet farmers pay the Japanese will go Into the general treasury and will be handled by the "business agents," who will proceed to procure more of the land along the government ditch.

Last year several of the Japanese entered into competition with the American farmers and planted fields of potatoes and beets. They employed their countrymen and produced big crops. Half a section of Nebraska land near North Platte was planted by one Jap In sugar beets, and he took off $200 worth of beets to every acre. Others planted potatoes. One Japanese laborer who came to North Platte a year ago planted forty acres of potatoes, and he has realized $1,385 on the crop, selling them to a firm in Toronto a few days ago for 53 cents a bushel. Records iu the North Platte freight oftlce of the Union Pacific Railroad company snow that the Japanese farmers who only started last year shipped ninety carloads of potatoes and four carloads of celery.

Especially at raising celery do the Japanese surpass the American farmers. They are very particular about their framing, and celery requires great care. They aim to have every stalk of the plant not only of even color, but about the same size.

"A Japanese laborer is a perfect gardener," said A. K. Beemis, a ranchman near North Platte, who is a great admirer of the Japanese farmers. "They take such care of everything. They care individually for almost everything they grow, weed out the extra plants carefully If the beets are planted too thick, cover the seed with n even amount of soil, so the plants all sprout together and grow better, tht re being no little ones for those further advanced to overshadow."

More Japanese are arriving in the North Platte country daily, and the work in the beet fields in that seetion and parts of Colorado will be done almost entirely by the Japanese laborers this season.

Novel Electric L.l«rbt Experiment!.

The Danish Biological society Is at present experimenting with electric lighting of the deep strait known as the Little. Belt, says the New York tribune. The lights are far beneath the surface of the waters, so as to light the sea bottom. The Intention is not, as might be supposed, to make impossible the clandestine passage of submarines, but purely and simply to frighten the eels and to prevent them from passing into the outer seas and thus being lost to the Danish fisheries. T^** experiments are based upon the *ac t that these fish are well known to be afraid of light and never, for example, migrate during the time of a full moon. By the expedient of arranging a whole row of artificial full moons across the mouth of the strait the wily Dane hopes to prevent them from migrating at all.

Cfelna's IleTreat Study.

"It augurs well for the future of China that so many students in the schools of Tientsin are so enthusiastically Interested in football/' says the Tientsin Young Man. "We are fortunate In having so excellent a field for this purpose, and we are glad to be able to extend the privileges of using it to a number of the schools of Tientsin. A little later we hope to get football matters better organized, and then we may have some regular matched games between the different schools."

Antl-Oacalattoa Society.

The society girls of Urbana, O., have organized what they call a "Society to *»*«* Osculation." says a special dispatch from Springfield. O., to the Cincinnati Enquirer. The formal agreement entered Into forbids them to hug or to be bugged or to kiss or to bo kissed. They have sent out notices to their male friends to the effect that the lid is on to stay.

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