



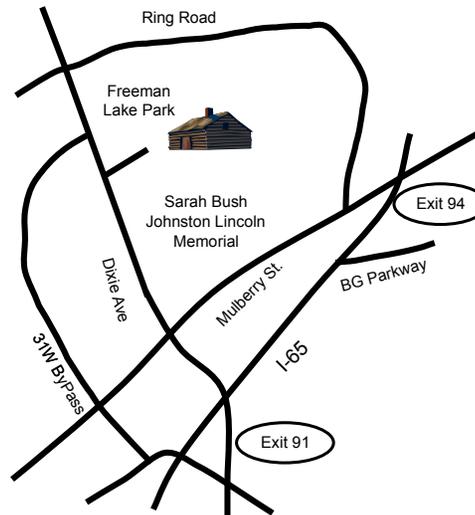
The Cabin

The Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln Memorial has been established to keep alive these memories of our PAST, to help teach this part of our history in the PRESENT and to preserved these facts for the FUTURE.

The Memorial Cabin was built in 1992, Kentucky's Bicentennial year, from hand-hewn logs that were 122 years old. It is a close replica of the one Sarah Bush Johnston was living in, here in Elizabethtown, at the time she married Thomas Lincoln on December 2, 1819. This size and type of cabin was common in the early 1800's

The furnishings, house wares, tools, etc. are similar to ones used on the frontier during the Bush-Lincoln era.

Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln Memorial, Inc.



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Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln Memorial



Elizabethtown Kentucky

The Lincolns

Thomas Lincoln was acquainted with young Sarah Bush and her family, but the year Sarah married Daniel Johnston, Tom Lincoln returned to Springfield, Kentucky where he married Nancy Hanks. Tom and Nancy came back to live in the Elizabethtown area, and their first baby, little Sarah Lincoln was born there the following year.

Two years later the Lincolns moved to the Sinking Spring Farm on Nolin Creek near Hodgenville, Kentucky where within a few weeks Nancy gave birth to a baby boy on February 12, 1809. That baby was named Abraham Lincoln.

In 1811 the Lincolns moved to the Knob Creek Farm, some ten miles away and there they remained for five years. In 1816, the year Sarah Bush Johnston lost her husband Daniel, the Lincolns left Kentucky and settled near a place now known as Lincoln City, Indiana. Within two years, Nancy Hanks Lincoln would be dead of the "milk sick" Abraham Lincoln was nine years old, and his sister Sarah was 11, when their mother died. Life was hard and lonely.



Thomas Lincoln



Nancy Hanks Lincoln



Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln

The most famous stepmother in American history.

Sarah Bush was born in Hardin County, Kentucky on December 13, 1788. She was the third daughter of Christopher and Hanna Bush, in their family of nine children. By the time Sarah was two, the family had moved to the Elizabethtown area and Sarah grew up here.

Sarah Bush met young Thomas Lincoln in Elizabethtown, but when she was 18, she married a local boy named Daniel Johnston on March 13, 1806. Little is known about Daniel Johnston other than the fact that he

was always in debt. In 1814 he was appointed Hardin County Jailer. Living quarters for the jailer and his family were provided in one corner of the stone jail. Sarah cared for her children (two daughters and a son), while she cooked for the inmates and kept the jail clean.

In 1816 Daniel Johnston died of cholera leaving Sarah with no money. Sarah moved into a 14' x 14' log cabin owned by Samuel Haycraft. Later she purchased the cabin and was living there with her three children in 1819.

Thomas and Sarah Lincoln

In the fall of 1819, Thomas Lincoln left his two children in the care of a cousin who was then living with them and rode back to Kentucky where he had spent so many years. Upon arriving here he learned that Sarah Bush Johnston was widowed with three children to raise. Thomas called on Sarah, courted her and asked her to become his wife and return with him to Indiana where they could raise all the children together.

Thomas and Sarah were married in Elizabethtown on December 2, 1819, in an old log house, which stood at the present address of 117 North Main Street. A copy of the marriage bond may be found at the local library.

Sarah and her three children left Kentucky. They traveled with Thomas by

team and wagon, carrying all of her household goods. They headed for Thomas' home in Indiana. Upon their arrival, Abraham and Sarah Lincoln met their new mother.

The Lincoln family remained in Indiana until 1830, when they moved on to Illinois, finally settling in present day Coles County. Sarah never returned to Kentucky again. When Thomas died in 1851, Abraham retained a 40-acre plot of land in his own name "for mother while she lives." Sarah always spoke fondly of Abraham and he spoke fondly of her. He described her as "a good and kind mother," and referred to her as "mother" in his letters. She died in 1869 at the age of 80, four years after the death of her beloved stepson Abraham Lincoln. Sarah was

buried next to her husband Thomas Lincoln in the Shiloh Cemetery in Coles County, Illinois.



Marker recognizing site of Thomas and Sarah Lincoln's marriage.