



A Fine Fella

Chapter 7 - by Kay Hively

While their father was gone, Abe and Sarah and their cousin Dennis Hanks kept the household going. All were good workers. Abe and Dennis took care of the animals and kept the fireplace going. Sarah did the chores in the house and cooked.

At night, the three played simple games or read. Every day or so, neighbors would come by to see about them.

Then one evening, just as Abe had finished milking the family cow, he saw his father's buckboard coming down the little road. Abe was so happy he threw up his hands and shouted. Unfortunately, one of his hands held the milk pail. As it flew into the air, the milk dumped out on Abe's unruly black hair and ran down his face.

Pulling up the tail of his shirt, Abe was wiping milk off his

face when the buckboard rolled into the cabin yard.

To Abe's surprise, his father was not alone. Riding with him were a woman and three children—two girls and one boy.

Thomas Lincoln jumped down off his horse and put his arms around Abe.

He told his son that he had gotten married. Then he introduced Abe to his new mother and her children.



The new Mrs. Lincoln was named Sarah. Now, Abe thought to himself, there would be two Sarahs in the cabin. And he would have a brother to wrestle with.

Thomas Lincoln took his new wife into the house and introduced her to Abe's sister, Sarah. Right away, the two Sarahs became good friends.

Abe and his father helped the new family members

get their belongings into the cabin. Most of the boxes contained clothing, bedding and kitchen supplies.

As Abe helped unload the buckboard, he picked up the largest box. He was surprised because it was not heavy at all. When he took it inside, his new mother told Abe that she had brought him a gift, and it was in that big box.

Mrs. Lincoln opened the box, pulled out a big feather tick mattress and gave it to her new son. Abe held it up to the side of his face. It was soft and smelled sweet. It wasn't silk, but it was fluffy and it didn't make a crackle! Immediately Abe liked his new mother and, like the boys in the neighborhood,

she thought Abe was "a fine fella."

For 10 more years, the Lincoln family lived in Indiana. Abe grew bigger and taller. He also grew wiser, more thoughtful and more compassionate. He began to work on his own and save his money. He could see more people coming to the frontier, and he saw many problems that needed to be solved. He saw a need for transportation, and he worried about the cruelty of slavery.

In 1830, when Abe was 21 years old, the family moved to Illinois. Abe went with his family, but in this new state, he set out to make a life of his own. He was beginning to have big ideas and big dreams.

Next Week: Chapter 8 - From Pioneer to President

Things to Think About and Do

1. The Lincoln family moved from Kentucky to Indiana and then to Illinois. On a map, find the Ohio River and follow it as it runs between Kentucky and Illinois. Name the major towns on the river between Kentucky and Illinois and name all the counties in Illinois that touch the Ohio River.
2. Abe loved his new mattress stuffed with feathers. Do you know what is stuffed inside your mattress or your pillow? Draw a picture of what you think Abe's bed looked like in the log cabin. Does your bed look anything like that?
3. As Abe grew older, he became more aware of problems "that needed to be solved." Read your newspaper and identify problems your community is trying to solve. Write a Letter to the Editor giving your opinion on how to solve the issues.

GLEs: R1G, R1I, SS5A, SS5B

Learn more about Abraham Lincoln by visiting the following Web sites:

- <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/126libo/>
- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/abrahamlincoln/>
- <http://home.att.net/~rjnorton/Lincoln77.html>
- http://www.conservapedia.com/Abraham_Lincoln

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