

# A Fine Fella

Chapter 2 - by Kay Hively

**A**s the rider came near, Mr. Lincoln walked out to meet him.

Unsure what to do, Abe kept working until he heard Sarah calling from the cabin. It was dinner time.

Even though Abe was noted for butting in on a conversation, he knew not to interrupt his father now. Instead, he laid down his axe and ran to the cabin.

Mrs. Lincoln, Sarah, and Abe sat down to eat at the little table, which had been made by Mr. Lincoln. Abe asked his mother about the stranger. She said it was the sheriff.

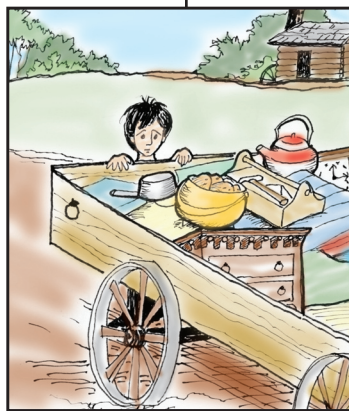
Abe wondered what a lawman was doing at Knob Creek. But before he could ask, his father came through the cabin door and sat down to eat.

Mr. Lincoln said the sheriff was looking for a runaway slave.

Abe had seen black men on a nearby trail. His father said the men were being sent to be slaves on southern farms. Even though he was just a boy, Abraham Lincoln did not like seeing men being taken from their homes and families and then turned into slaves. He knew they would be forced to work and get no pay or reward.

After a meager dinner, Abe and his father went back to work. When Thomas Lincoln chopped down a tree, Abe used his axe to remove the branches and turn the tree into a log. The two worked hard for a whole week.

Each night after supper, Abe and Sarah studied their lessons. Abe was learning to read. Earlier in the winter, Mr. Lincoln



had paid a fee for his children to attend school. But soon there was no money to pay the teacher, so Abe and Sarah stayed home.

Even though Nancy Lincoln could barely read, she urged her children to learn all they could. The Lincoln family often borrowed books and newspapers from neighbors. Abe had learned the alphabet in the local ABC school that winter.

Now he was working to put letter sounds together into words. Sarah, who was two years older, helped her brother. By working side by side, they were both becoming better readers.

Each morning, Abe got up early to help his father. It was a great day when Mr. Lincoln said it was time to put the logs together to build the new cabin.

But one morning just a few days later, as Abe went out to work, he knew something was wrong. His father was not working on the cabin. He was loading his tools in the old wagon.

When Abe asked why, Mr. Lincoln said the family was going away. He said they were leaving Kentucky and moving to Indiana where life would be better.

Abe could not believe it. As he looked at the unfinished cabin, he thought to himself that the new cabin was supposed to make life better in Kentucky.

Thinking about all the work he had done, Abe just wanted to cry.

All that work for no rewards, he thought ... just like the slaves he had seen trudging south.

## Next Week: Chapter 3 - An Unusual School

### Things to Think About and Do

1. The Lincoln farm was located near Knob Creek. Why did frontier settlers live near creeks, rivers or streams? Practice your art skills by drawing a little creek with a log cabin nearby.
2. The Lincoln family borrowed books and newspapers to read. If he could, Abe would read a newspaper every day. Be like Abe: read a newspaper every day for a week and then share some of the things you learned.
3. Reading the newspaper is a good way to improve your skills. Find five words in the newspaper that you don't know. Use the sentence clues to define them before checking a dictionary to see if you are right.

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](http://www.conservapedia.com/Abraham_Lincoln)

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