

Chapter 5 - by Kay Hively

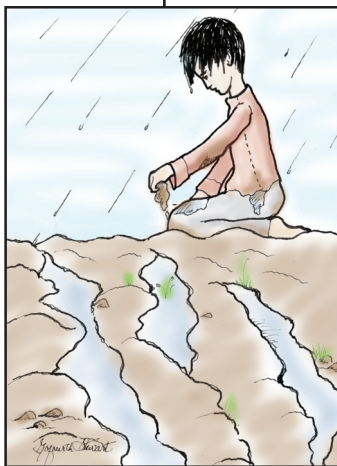
It was still raining when Abe awoke the next morning. Immediately he thought about the garden he and Sarah had planted yesterday. This rain was just perfect, he thought.

Quickly he pulled on his britches and hurried to the cabin door. But the view was not a pleasant one. The beautiful garden that he and Sarah had planted just the day before was nothing but a big muddy mess. It looked like the mud hole the pigs made in their pens. Not only had the garden turned to mud, the mud was so thin that it turned into a small river, running down into the creek.

As he watched the garden flowing away, Abe knew that his pumpkin seeds were buried in that mud. The last

of his precious pumpkin seeds were being lost.

Without saying a word to his father or sister, Abe raced barefooted out into the yard



and began digging into the mud that had once been the garden.

Right away, he found corn and pumpkin seeds which he stuffed into his pockets.

Even his father calling to him from the cabin did not stop Abe as he slipped and fell in the muddy garden searching for seeds.

Abe was so busy sloshing through the mud to find his seeds that he did not see Mr. Lincoln running from the cabin. But suddenly Abe saw his father drop down in the mud beside him. With rain pouring down on their heads, the father and son clawed through the mud.

In only a short time the two had their pockets full of pumpkin and corn seeds.

Stopping to look at his father, Abe saw Mr. Lincoln beginning to laugh.

Thomas Lincoln laughed so hard that he fell over on his back in the muddiest part of the garden.

Abe looked at himself and realized what a mess he was. His long gangly legs were plastered with mud, and big chunks of it were splattered all over his long thin face. He knew he was quite possibly the dirtiest kid in the world at that moment.

But then Abe saw that his father was just as dirty and just as funny looking.

With a shout of excitement Abe leaped onto his father's stomach and the two

wrestled in the mud. Abe and his father loved to wrestle. It was one of the favorite sports of frontier people, and both Abe and his father were very good at it.

Finally, totally exhausted, the two Lincoln men got up out of the mud hole of a garden and made their way back to the cabin. Sarah would not let them inside until they removed their clothes and washed off the mud with clean water from the rain barrel.

Emptying their pockets, the father and son put their precious seeds into a bowl that Sarah brought them.

Abe could not remember when he and his father had laughed so much. And, not only did they have fun, they saved enough seeds to replant the garden on a sunny day.

Next Week: Chapter 6 - Abe: The Comedian

Things to Think About and Do

1. Why did Abe get wet and dirty to save the pumpkin and corn seeds? Why didn't he just get more to plant later?
2. Sarah told her father and Abe to clean up using water from the rain barrel. What is a rain barrel? Why did pioneers use a rain barrel? Why don't we use rain barrels today?
3. Today we have meteorologists who use science to predict the weather. This helps us schedule our activities, like planting a garden. If your newspaper publishes weather, compare the predictions to the daily outcomes for a week. How accurate is the science today?

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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