

GROWING UP IN INDIANA

- Two years after the Lincolns moved to Indiana, Lincoln's beloved mother died of "milk sickness," a disease contracted by drinking milk or eating meat taken from a cow that has fed on white snakeroot. Abraham was seven years old. The following year, Lincoln's father married a widow, Sarah Bush Johnston, with whom he enjoyed a nurturing relationship.
- Though he attended school sporadically, he depended primarily on his sister and even more on reading whatever books he could find. He read voraciously, preferring non-fiction to fiction but becoming well versed in the words of the King James Bible and Shakespeare. He must also have enjoyed poetry since he would write some verse himself later in life. Lincoln taught himself history and literature as he would eventually teach himself law.
- He took his first paying job at the age of 16, serving as a ferryman on the Ohio River.
- In a life repeatedly shadowed by the death of family members, Lincoln also lost his sister Sarah who died in childbirth the month before he turned 19.

- 1816** The Lincoln family settles near Gentryville, Indiana, in Spencer County.
- October 5, 1818** Nancy Lincoln dies from milk sickness.
- December 2, 1819** Thomas Lincoln marries Sarah Bush Johnston, a widow with three children older than Abraham.
- 1818 (or 1819)** Lincoln is nearly killed when kicked by a horse.
- 1821** Lincoln begins to borrow classic works, initiating his self-education.
- 1822** For as little as four months, Lincoln attends school under the instruction of James Swaney.
- 1824** Lincoln briefly attends school under the instruction of Azel Dorsey.
- 1825** Lincoln borrows *The Life of Washington* by Mason Weems from Josiah Crawford and works off its cost after it is damaged by rain.
- August 2, 1826** Sarah Lincoln, Abraham's older sister, marries Aaron Grigsby.
- 1827** Lincoln takes his first paying job as a ferryman on the Ohio River.
- January, 1828** Sarah Lincoln Grigsby dies in childbirth.
- 1828** Lincoln transports a shipment of farm produce down the Mississippi to New Orleans where he witnesses a slave auction.
- March, 1830** The Lincoln family leaves Indiana for Illinois.