



LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE NOW NATIONAL PARK

The nation recently accepted from an association of patriotic citizens the martyred president's early home in Kentucky. Beautiful memorial hall houses log cabin in which he first saw light of day



THE farm where Abraham Lincoln was born is in Larue county, Kentucky, near Hodgenville. Just a month ago—September 4—the place became a national park, when President Wilson accepted it, on behalf of the nation, from the Lincoln Farm association.

The occasion was marked with elaborate ceremony, of course, and thousands of visitors were present from all parts of the country—many of them persons of real importance. This was the third time the people of Larue county have seen a president of the United States among them in seven years.

The first exercises held in connection with the Lincoln farm, after it was proposed to give it to the United States, were held February 12, 1909, when President Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the Lincoln Memorial hall.

On November 9, 1911, President Taft presided at ceremonies incidental to the dedication of Memorial hall. And then President Wilson went there for the finishing touch. It is unlikely that another president will go to Larue county for a long, long time to come.

The Stars and Stripes flew bravely and defiantly from the Lincoln statue in Hodgenville's public square at the latest celebration. Just opposite, the courthouse was draped lavishly in red, white and blue. And yet, only ten years ago in August the courthouse bore a decoration of another kind. It was a plain hand bill which advertised the fact that the Lincoln farm was to be sold to settle unpaid taxes.

The Memorial hall, built at a cost of \$250,000, is the center of this new national park. The hall houses the cabin in which Lincoln was born. This is the original structure rescued from a warehouse in New York after it had been carried around the country for exhibition purposes.

Over the entrance doors to Memorial hall are inscribed these words:

Here over the log cabin where Abraham was born, destined to preserve the union and to free the slave, a grateful people have dedicated this memorial to unity, peace and brotherhood among these states.

Within the hall, the cabin occupies the principal place. It is surrounded by a heavy bronze chain, for no one is permitted to enter or touch the cabin.

The first owner of the farm which has passed into possession of the nation, was, so far as records tell, a man named Duckworth. Court records do not show how he came to own it, but it is supposed he secured it in a distribution of public lands by the state or federal government. No land grant or deed has ever been found to prove his legal ownership.

Local historians agree in the statement based on the declarations of old citizens of Larue county that when Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln moved to take up their residence shortly after their marriage they were "squatters" and moved into the log

cabin which they found vacant. The couple never held a deed to a foot of ground in Larue county.

The huge crowd at the farm took great interest in that which probably caused Thomas Lincoln to select this spot for his home—the Lincoln spring. This never failing stream of water comes from the ground today as it did in Lincoln's time.

The Lincolns lived on the farm where Abe was born for several years. Their eldest daughter, Sallie, was born there. When Abe was about four years old the family moved to a home on Knob creek. There occurred the incident which Lincoln remembered vividly all his life, where he was saved from drowning in a creek by Austin Gollaher. From this farm the Lincoln family moved to Indiana.

The farm fell into the possession of Micajah Middleton who sold to Richard A. Creal, the Lincoln farm as it stands today. Creal built a new log home and for many years used the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born as a corn crib. At the death of Creal the farm passed into the hands of his heirs. Many years after the death of Lincoln the farm began to grow in fame as "Lincoln's birthplace." Many people came to see it and among them was Alfred W. Denett, a wealthy restaurant owner of New York city. Denett bought the farm, paying the Creal heirs \$3,000 and the deed to the property was made February 12, 1895, just 86 years after the birth of Lincoln.

Denett had plans for the purchase of the farm by congress and conversion into a national park and spent considerable money in an attempt to get a successful hearing of his proposition at Washington, but failed. He was the first to attempt any real improvement of the property. He built a fence around it, cleared away the underbrush and made a driveway from the entrance to the famous spring. He was planning to build a house over the cabin to protect it from the elements when business reverses forced him to make an assignment.

Just before this he had complied with the request of the officials of the exposition in Nashville, Tenn., and had shipped the Lincoln cabin to be placed on exhibition there. From Nashville the cabin went to New York, where it was exhibited several months. Later it was stored in a warehouse.

A few days before making an assignment Denett deeded the farm and cabin to David R. Crear, treasurer of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of New York, as payment on a note he had given them in a contribution. His creditors brought suit in Larue county to have this transfer set aside. This was done at the May term of court 1906 and once more the Lincoln farm, with taxes in arrears, was on

the market for best prices obtainable.

It was sold at the courthouse door in August and was bought by Richard Lloyd Jones, representing Robert J. Collier. He organized the Lincoln Farm Association which raised \$300,000 by popular subscription, erected the Memorial hall, made the necessary improvements in the property and turned it over to the government as a national park.

In receiving the gift on behalf of the nation, President Wilson made a noteworthy address. He said in part: "No more significant memorial could have been presented to the nation than this. It expresses so much of what is singular and noteworthy in the history of the country; it suggests so many of the things that we prize most highly in our life and in our system of government. How eloquent this little house within this shrine is of the vigor of democracy!"

"There is nowhere in the land any home so remote, so humble, that it may not contain the power of mind and heart and conscience to which nations yield and history submits its processes. Nature pays no tribute to aristocracy, subscribes to no creed of caste, renders fealty to no monarch or master of any name or kind. Genius is no snob. It does not run after titles or seek by preference the high circles of society."

"It affects humble company as well as great. It pays no special tribute to universities or learned societies or conventional standards of greatness, but serenely chooses its own comrades, its own haunts, its own cradle even, and its own life of adventure and of training. Here is proof of it."

"This little hut was the cradle of one of the great sons of men, a man of singular, delightful, vital genius who presently emerged upon the great stage of the nation's history, gaunt, shy, ungainly, but dominant and majestic, a natural ruler of men, himself inevitably the central figure of the great plot."

"Here, no less, hides the mystery of democracy. Who shall guess this secret of nature and providence and free polity? Whatever the vigor and vitality of the stock from which he sprang, its mere vigor and soundness do not explain where this man got his great heart that seemed to comprehend all mankind in its catholic and benignant sympathy; the mind that sat enthroned behind those brooding, melancholy eyes, whose vision swept many a horizon which those about him dreamed not of—that mind that comprehended what it had never seen, and understood the language of affairs with the ready ease of one to the manner born—or that nature which seemed in its varied richness to be the familiar of men of every way of life."

TENNESSEE FAIR ASSURED SUCCESS

BIG FAIR AT KNOXVILLE OPENS WITH LARGE CROWDS AND FAIR WEATHER.

EAST STATE RIVALS WEST

Appropriation From Last Legislature Puts Tennessee In State By Itself—Holds Two State Fairs.

—Nashville.
Monday was an ideal day for the opening of the East Tennessee division fair at Knoxville, and the opening was indeed auspicious, a large crowd of people, men, women and children, from all parts of the eastern division, filling the grounds and having an enjoyable time "seeing the sights."
The grounds and buildings had been gone over by workmen and put in first-class condition and everything was in readiness for the opening. A large number of people were at the gates early and waited patiently for admittance.

With such ideal weather conditions, the success of the fair was assured. The exhibits are numerous and of splendid quality. All departments are well filled, and the large crowds have enjoyed the various departments and displays, as well as individual exhibits, greatly.

The East Tennessee division fair was made possible by the subscribing of \$20,000 by the business interests at Knoxville, which amount was augmented by an appropriation of \$10,000 from the state legislature.

An advertising campaign that has been seldom equaled by a fair association in the south was inaugurated and the result was a greater fair and larger crowds than even the most optimistic of the fair directors and enthusiasts had expected.

Agriculture is king. Just as an example of what agriculture has to offer, there is the exhibit of Monroe county, prepared on two days' notice, yet measuring 12 feet of alfalfa as the season's crop at one end of a collection of exhibits and 12 feet of sugar cane at the other end. Harry Heiskell, head of the Sweetwater community club, did not think of that twelve-footer until after he had it placed. Then it loomed up as the biggest feature exhibit in the land building. Four cuttings of alfalfa for the season, measuring all told 12 feet in height, which is believed to be the record height for any East Tennessee hay crop. The 12-foot sugar cane merely served to counterbalance the "alfalfa smile," for there is taller sugar cane than that at the fair.

Of variety there is no end, taking it as it is exhibited, this is the showing: Potatoes, 12 varieties; beans, 6 varieties; oats, 4 varieties; wheat, 4 varieties; rye, 3; apples, 12; corn, 8; pears, 1; alfalfa, 4; hay grass, 4; cotton, 1; pumpkins, 3; hay, 3; clover, 4; tobacco, 3; peppers, 4; peanuts, pomegranates, molasses, vinegar, tomatoes, egg plants, onions and a number of other vegetables.

Health of Inmates Good.

From a recent report made on the condition of state institutions we find that in the three insane asylums in Tennessee there are at present over 2,000 inmates. Only within the last few years, according to reports, has any special attention been given to the probable cure of the unfortunates. Meager arrangements had been made to separate the tubercular and other contagious infected patients from the others, and late reports show that efforts are being made now to separate and give special attention to all. Needed improvements, such as sanitation, filtration and food preparation, proper medical attention and care of the patients, is being installed. In the penitentiaries we are informed, there are 1,985 prisoners. The report says that the prisoners are well fed, that the buildings have been recently reconstructed until now ventilation and sanitary conditions are good.

The deaf and dumb school has been furnished with an outfit of printing equipment. Many of the inmates get practical training here for future independence and usefulness. A new domestic science department has been installed for the girls, and also a picture show for the purpose of instruction and entertainment. This school is receiving all the support and encouragement possible.

The financial condition of all the institutions of the state is shown as being in a very satisfactory condition, with the penal institutions being practically on a self-supporting basis.

TENNESSEE IN BRIEF

Memphis.—The Rev. J. W. Dickens, Baptist minister, who shot himself in an attempt at suicide last Saturday night, is improving.

Jackson.—Riley Anderson was hit by a Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis freight train near Wildersville Sunday, dying a few hours later.

Knoxville.—Building operations in the city of Knoxville during September more than doubled the August record, according to the records at the city hall.

Seimer.—With L. T. Bond of Madison county foreman, the construction of the proposed link in the Central West Tennessee Highway is well under way.

Paris.—At the close of the 11 o'clock preaching services at the First Baptist Church the pastor, Rev. W. H. Ryals, tendered his resignation, to become effective on Dec. 31, 1916.

Union City.—GUILTY of murder in the second degree was the verdict of the jury in the case of the state against Al Ferguson, who killed Policeman Will Robinson at Fulton.

Huntingdon.—The good roads interest received a decided boost in Carroll county, when the quarterly court voted to submit a \$200,000 bond issue to the voters of the county Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Rogersville.—The annual meeting of the Holston Valley association was held this year at Persia. Nearly every Baptist church in Hawkins county was represented by both delegates and visitors.

Knoxville.—Brooding over a loss of \$470, which is said to have brought on a fatal illness, Stephen Brice, 70, is dead at his home at Alum Wells, Hawkins county. He was widely known as a miser and leaves property valued at \$100,000.

Trezevant.—The Ladies' Aid Society of the Baptist Church made a canvass of their members last week and got up a case of eggs, and in addition, a lot of canned fruits, preserves, butter and other things to eat, for university students at Jackson.

Nashville.—The pathfinders for the Jackson highway who left Indianapolis Saturday passed through Nashville this week, going over the so-called "Mississippi route" to New Orleans, which runs through Williamson, Maury and Lawrence counties in Tennessee, to Florence, Ala.

Chattanooga.—H. L. Curry, a member of the Southern Appalachian Coal Operators' Association, says that a committee is going to Washington to appeal to the interstate commerce commission to force southern railroads to have their coal cars returned promptly for use in distributing the commodity from the state fields to the local markets.

Chattanooga.—When the Hamilton county court appropriated \$50,000 for the completion of the Suck Creek road the last barrier on the western division of the Dixie highway crumbled, as this short stretch was the only part of the highway between Chattanooga and Nashville, for which sufficient appropriation had been lacking.

Johnson City.—Will G. Long, one of the most prominent and progressive farmers in East Tennessee, owning a handsome river-bottom farm in the Austin Springs section, took his life Sunday morning in the wood shed at his home. Appearing morose while Mrs. Long was preparing breakfast, she asked if he was going to Sunday School. He replied that he did not know. He then went to the wood shed and with his razor cut his throat from ear to ear, death being almost instantaneous. The body was soon discovered and friends notified.

Memphis.—In the meeting of the tri-state body held here it was decided to ask all planters of Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee to mow the stalks at once in order to cut off the food of the boll weevil for a long time as possible before the insect goes into winter hibernation. Planters who burn the cotton stalks which remain after they have picked the crop of white fluff are acting the part of wasteful spendthrifts, according to agriculturists. If cut and either stacked or baled at once, the cotton plants are of considerable value as winter roughage for stock. If not needed for that purpose, the next best thing is to plow them under and so gain the benefit of their soil-enriching qualities, say the experts.