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# The Boyhood of Lincoln.

## Incidents Related By His Only Surviving Playmate, Austin Gollaher.

By D. J. Thomas.

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### Abraham Lincoln Born In Poverty

Mr. Gollaher says the Lincolns knew nothing of luxuries and were very meagerly supplied with the actual necessaries of life at the time of Abraham's birth. "Lincoln's father," says Mr. Gollaher, "was not a hard-working man. He was not a farmer but a carpenter. He would work energetically when a job was brought to him but he would never

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seek a job." 'Tom' Lincoln, as the president's father was called in the familiar custom of those days, loved his dram almighty well and often drank to excess." He never owned but one horse while I knew him and he didn't own that one long." George Price, who lived near him, had an old horse which looked well but which was of very little value." 'Tom' Lincoln owned a whipsaw and Price wanted to trade the old horse for it." Finally the exchange was effected." When Lincoln found how generally worthless the horse was, he led it to the woods and shot it with his rifle, saying, "You have fooled one man; now you will never fool another."

P" At the time of Abraham's birth, his father was away from ~~home~~ home." Some of her neighbors who were with

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Mrs. Lincoln at the event learned that she was destitute of anything in the nature of food. Some of the ladies called upon Judge William Wilson, one of the most prominent men of that time in this section, in Mrs. Lincoln's behalf and he donated her flour and other ~~articles~~ articles of food.

## Lincoln A Bright Scholar.

"Abraham Lincoln was an unusually bright boy at school and made splendid progress in his studies. Indeed, he learned faster than any of his schoolmates. Though so young, he studied very hard. He would get spice-wood bushes, back them up on a log and burn them, two or three together, for the purpose of giving light by which he might pursue his studies. It was not a

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good light, but the best he could obtain.

## Gollaher Saved Lincoln's Life.

P "Yes, the story that I once saved Abraham Lincoln's life is true, but it is not correct as generally related.

P "Abraham and I had been going to school together for a year or more and had become greatly attached to each other. Their school disbanded on account of there being so few scholars and we did not see each other much for a long while. One Sunday my mother visited the Lincolns and I was taken along. Abe and I played around all day. Finally we concluded to cross the creek to hunt for some partridges young Lincoln had seen the day before. The creek was swollen by a recent rain and in crossing

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on the narrow footlog, Abe fell in. Neither of us could swim. I got a long pole and held it out to Abe, who grabbed it. Then I pulled him ashore. He was almost dead and I was badly scared. I rolled and pounded him in good earnest. Then I got him by the arms and shook him, meanwhile the water pouring out of his mouth. By this means I succeeded in bringing him to and he was soon all right.

P. Then a new difficulty confronted us. If our mothers discovered our wet clothes, they would whip us. This we dreaded from experience and determined to avoid. It was June, the sun was very warm and we soon dried our clothing by spreading it on the rocks about us. The

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promised never to tell the story and I never mentioned the incident to anyone until after Lincoln's tragic end.

## Romance Connected With Lincoln's Sister.

P "Abraham Lincoln had a sister. Her name was Sallie and she was a very pretty girl. She went to school when she could, which was not often.

P "Yes, if you must know, Sallie Lincoln was my 'sweetheart'. She was about my age, & loved her and claimed her, as boys do. & suppose that was one reason for my warm regard for Abe. When the Lincoln family moved to Indiana I was prevented by circumstances from

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bidding good bye to either of the children." And I never saw them again."

## Lincoln Never Forgot His Early Friends."

"When Abraham Lincoln was elected president he had not forgotten me." Every time anyone from this section called upon him he made many inquiries concerning me." I have always believed he would have given me a good office but I never applied for any." I have regretted ever since that I did not go to Washington and visit Lincoln while he was president."

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