

Photographed from the original poll-book, now on file in the County Clerk's office, Springfield, Illinois. Lincoln's first vote was cast at New Salem, "in the Clary's Grove precinct, August 1, 1837. At this election he aided Mr. Graham, who was one of the clerks. In the early days in Illinois, elections were conducted by the *viva voce* method. The people did try voting by ballot, but the experiment was unpopular. It required too much "book larnin," and in 1820 the *viva voce* method of voting was restored. The judges and clerks sat at a table with the poll-book before them. The voter walked up, and announced the candidate of his choice, and it was recorded in his presence. There was no ticket peddling, and ballot-box stuffing was impossible. To this simple system we are indebted for the record of Lincoln's first vote. Lincoln's first vote for President was not cast until the next year (November 5, 1832), when he voted for Henry Clay.

David Woolridge
vs.
Hawthorne

Wesleys return
Damas \$500.00

The Clerk of the
Sangamon Circuit Court will
issue a summons returnable
to the next Term of the
Sangamon Circuit Court

Oct 8th 1836

A. Lincoln

A DOCUMENT FROM LINCOLN'S FIRST LAW CASE—NOW FIRST PUBLISHED.

From the original, owned by William H. Lambert of Philadelphia. Lincoln's first case was that of James P. Hawthorne vs. David Woolridge. Hawthorne, according to his own story, broke the "eighteen and one-half acres of prairie sod" belonging to Woolridge, under an agreement that he should have the use of the ground for the raising of one crop; but, he averred, after the prairie sod was broken Woolridge denied him the use of the land. This led to a suit in assumpsit for one hundred dollars. Woolridge was also to furnish "a good yoke of work cattle," but he seems not to have done so. Accordingly a replevin suit was brought by Hawthorne against "David Woolridge and Hugh Armstrong" for the recovery of "one black and white spotted yoke of steers, one black cow and calf, and one prairie plow," all valued at eighty dollars. The two suits were filed in the Circuit Court of Sangamon County July 1, 1836. Lincoln did not get into the case until the following October. On October 5, 1836, he made his first appearance in the Circuit Court, filing for the defendant "his plea herein of the general issue, and also his plea of set-off, which is ordered to be filed," as the record runs. Stephen T. Logan (afterwards Lincoln's partner) was then the presiding judge. On October 8 a jury was empaneled and the assumpsit suit seems to have gone to trial, but for some reason the case was "continued until the next term by consent of the parties." No further steps were taken until March 14, 1837, after Lincoln's return from his triumphs in the Legislature at Vandalia. A compromise appears to have been effected in the meantime, for on that day "came the parties, by their attorneys, and by their mutual consent and agreement," it was ordered that the assumpsit suit be dismissed at defendant's cost, and that the replevin suit be dismissed at the cost of the plaintiff. This was a happy termination of the trouble, as it gave each side a decisive victory.

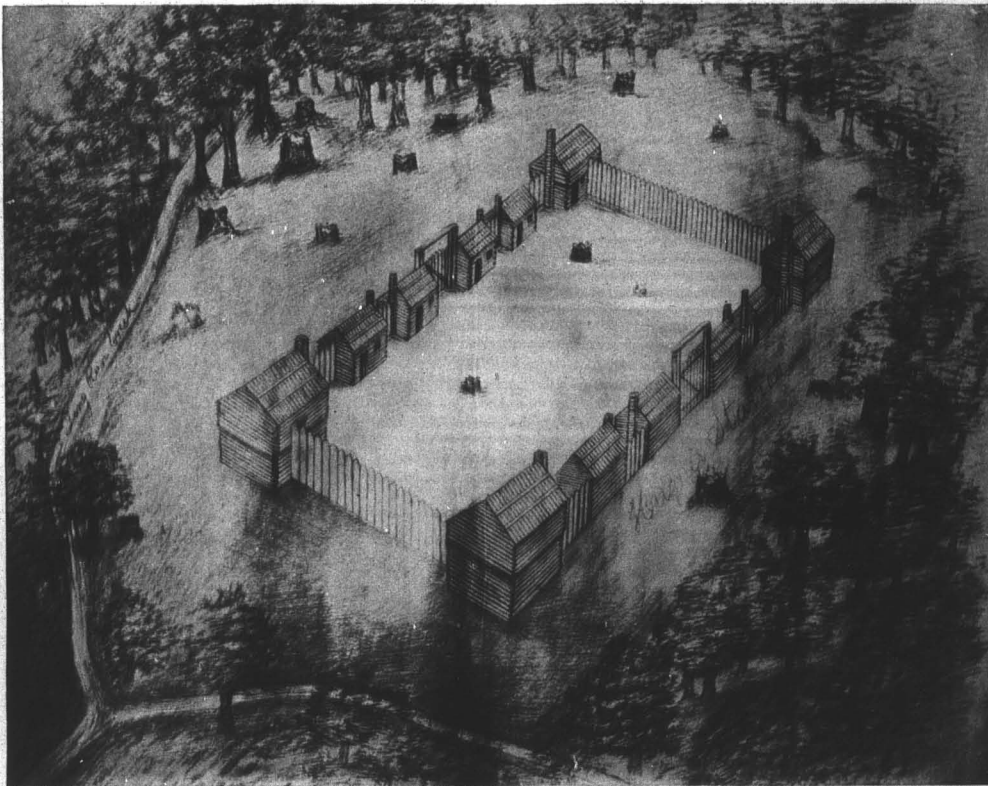
Monday 18th May 1816.

P. 316.

Ordered that Thomas Lincoln be and he is hereby
2 appointed Surveyor of that part of the road leading from
copy Adam to Birdtown which lies between the Big Hill and
the rolling fork in place of George Padman and that said
the hands that assisted said Padman do assist said
Lincoln in keeping said road in repair

APPOINTMENT OF THOMAS LINCOLN AS ROAD SURVEYOR—FIRST PUBLISHED IN MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

From a tracing made by Henry Whitney Cleveland. The original of this document is in the records of Hardin County, at Elizabethtown, Kentucky. It has hitherto been entirely overlooked by the biographers of Lincoln, and was discovered in the course of a search for documents instituted by MCCLURE'S MAGAZINE. The appointment was made on May 13, 1816, only a few months before the Lincolns moved to Indiana. It shows that Thomas Lincoln had a standing in the community, which his biographers have always ignored. The appointment, if modest, would not have been made, we have a right to believe, if Lincoln had been the "easy-going" and idle fellow he has been asserted to be.



HUGHES STATION, ON FLOYD'S CREEK, JEFFERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WHERE ABRAHAM LINCOLN, GRANDFATHER OF THE PRESIDENT, LIVED—FIRST PUBLISHED IN MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

From the original, owned by R. T. Durrett, LL.D., of Louisville, Kentucky. "The first inhabitants of Kentucky," says Dr. Durrett, "on account of the hostility of the Indians, lived in what were called forts. They were simple rows of the conventional log cabins of the day, built on four sides of a square or parallelogram, which remained as a court, or open space, between them. This open space served as a playground, a muster field, a corral for domestic animals, and a store-house for implements. The cabins which formed the fort's walls were dwelling-houses for the people." At Hughes Station, on Floyd's Creek, lived Abraham Lincoln and his family. One morning in 1788—the date of the death of Abraham Lincoln is placed in 1784, 1786, and 1788 by different authorities; but the inventory of his estate is dated 1788; for this reason we adopt 1788—the pioneer Lincoln and his three sons, Mordecai, Josiah, and Thomas, were in their clearing, when a shot from an Indian killed the father. The two elder sons ran for help, the youngest remaining by the dead body. The Indian ran to the side of his victim, and was just seizing the son Thomas, when Mordecai, who had reached the cabin and secured a rifle, shot through a loophole in the logs and killed the Indian. It was this tragedy, it is said, that made Mordecai Lincoln one of the most relentless Indian haters in Kentucky.

Ordered that William F. Berry in the name of Berry
 and Lincoln have license to keep a tavern in New Salem
 to continue 12 months from this date and that they pay one
 dollar in addition to six dollars hereafter paid as per Treasury
 receipt. And that they be allowed the following rates (43)
 French Brandy per quart 25 Breakfast dinner & supper 25
 Peach " " 18 1/2 Lodging per night 12 1/2
 Apple " " 12 Horse per night 25
 Holland Gin 18 1/2 Single bed 12 1/2
 Cornish " 12 1/2 Breakfast dinner & supper 25
 Wine " 25 Supper for stage passengers 5 1/2
 Rum " 18 1/2
 Whiskey " 12 1/2
 Who gave bond as required by law

FACSIMILE OF A TAVERN LICENSE ISSUED TO BERRY AND LINCOLN MARCH 6, 1833, BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'
 COURT OF SANGAMON COUNTY.

In 1832, Abraham Lincoln joined Wm. F. Berry in buying the only three groceries in New Salem, Ill. The stores
 were consolidated into a store known as Berry and Lincoln's grocery. As a large quantity of liquors came with each
 store, the firm took out a tavern license to dispose of them. Berry and Lincoln never kept a tavern.

I CERTIFY, That *Abraham Lincoln* *presented and served*
as a private in the Company of Mounted Volunteers under my
 command, in the Regiment commanded by Col. SAMUEL M. THOMPSON, the Brigade under the com-
 mand of Generals S. WHITESIDE and H. ATKINSON, called into the service of the United States by
 the Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of the State, for the protection of the North Western Frontier
 against an Invasion of the British Band of Sac and other tribes of Indians, that he was enrolled on the
2nd 20th 1832 day of *June* 1832, and was HONORABLY DISCHARGED on the
29th 48 day of *September* thereafter, having served *48 days*
 Given under my hand, this *29th* day of *September* 1832.
A. Lincoln Capt.

A DISCHARGE FROM SERVICE IN BLACK HAWK WAR SIGNED BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN, AS CAPTAIN—FIRST PUBLISHED IN
 MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

At an election held at the house of John McNeil
 in the New Salem precinct in the County of Sangamon
 and State of Illinois on the 20th day of September
 in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
 thirtytwo the following named persons received the num-
 ber of votes annexed to their respective names for
 Constables—

John Glary	had	Forty one	Votes for Constable
John R. Wernsdon	had	Twentytwo	Votes for Constable
William McNeely	had	Thirteen	Votes for Constable
Baxter B. Berry	had	Nine	Votes for Constable
Edmund Greer	had	Four	Votes for Constable

James Rutledge
 Hugh Armstrong
 James White

Judges of the election

Attest
 A. Lincoln }
 William Cain } Clerks of the election

I certify that the above Judges and clerks
 were qualified according to law
 September 20-1832

Bowling Green T. D.

A FACSIMILE OF AN ELECTION RETURN WRITTEN BY LINCOLN AS CLERK IN 1832—FIRST
 PUBLISHED IN MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

From the original now on file in the County Clerk's office, Springfield, Illinois. The first
 civil office Lincoln ever held was that of election clerk, and the return made by him, of which
 a facsimile is here presented, was his first official document. In the following three or four
 years, very few elections were held at which Lincoln was not a clerk. It is a somewhat
 singular fact that Lincoln, though clerk of this election, is not recorded as voting.

New Salem Ill
 Nov 3 1835

Meprs

Your subscribers at this place
 John C. Tance, is dead; and no
 person takes the paper from the
 office

Respectfully,
 A. Lincoln Post

Blair & Davis }

2.50
 1.15
 75
 4.50
 with 11 from 18. 4.67 84 \$4.50

Mr. Speers

At your request I send you a
 receipt for the postage on your paper. I am
 some what surprised at your request. I will
 however comply with it. The law requires
 New paper postage to be paid in advance
 and now that I have written a free you
 you choose to wound my feelings by insist-
 ing that unless you get a receipt I will
 probably make you pay it again.

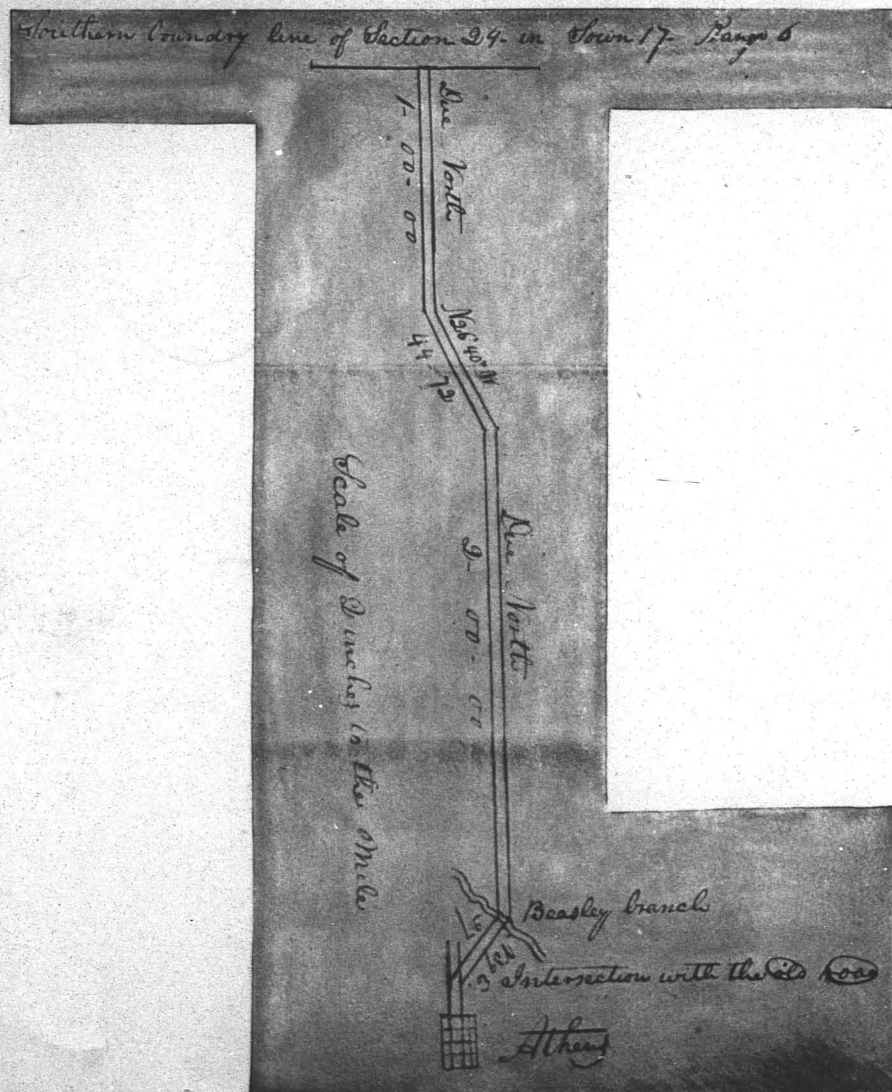
Respectfully
 A. Lincoln

Received of George Speers in full for
 postage on the Sangamon Journal up to
 the first of July 1834

A. Lincoln Post

LETTER WRITTEN BY LINCOLN IN 1834, WHEN POSTMASTER AT NEW SALEM—FIRST PUBLISHED IN MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,

LETTER WRITTEN BY LINCOLN IN 1835, WHEN POSTMASTER AT NEW SALEM—FIRST PUBLISHED IN MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,



A MAP MADE BY LINCOLN OF A PIECE OF ROAD IN MENARD COUNTY, ILLINOIS—FIRST PUBLISHED IN MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Photographed from the original for MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN. This map, which, as here reproduced, is about one-half the size of the original, accompanied Lincoln's report of the survey of a part of the road between Athens and Sangamon town. For making this map, Lincoln received fifty cents. The road evidently was located "on good ground," and was "necessary and proper," as the report says, for it is still the main travelled highway leading into the country south of Athens, Menard County.

To the county commissioners court for the county of Sangamon—

We the undersigned being appointed to view ~~and~~ relocate a part of the ~~road~~ between Sangamon town ~~and~~ the town of Athens, respectfully report that we have performed the duty of said appointment according to law, and that we have made the said relocation on good ground, and believe the same to be necessary and proper.

Athens Nov 4. 1834.

James Shawbridge
Levi Cornwell
A. Lincoln

Herewith is the map—The court may allow me the following charges if they think proper—

1 day's labour as surveyor—	\$3.00
Making maps—	50
	<u>\$3.50.</u>

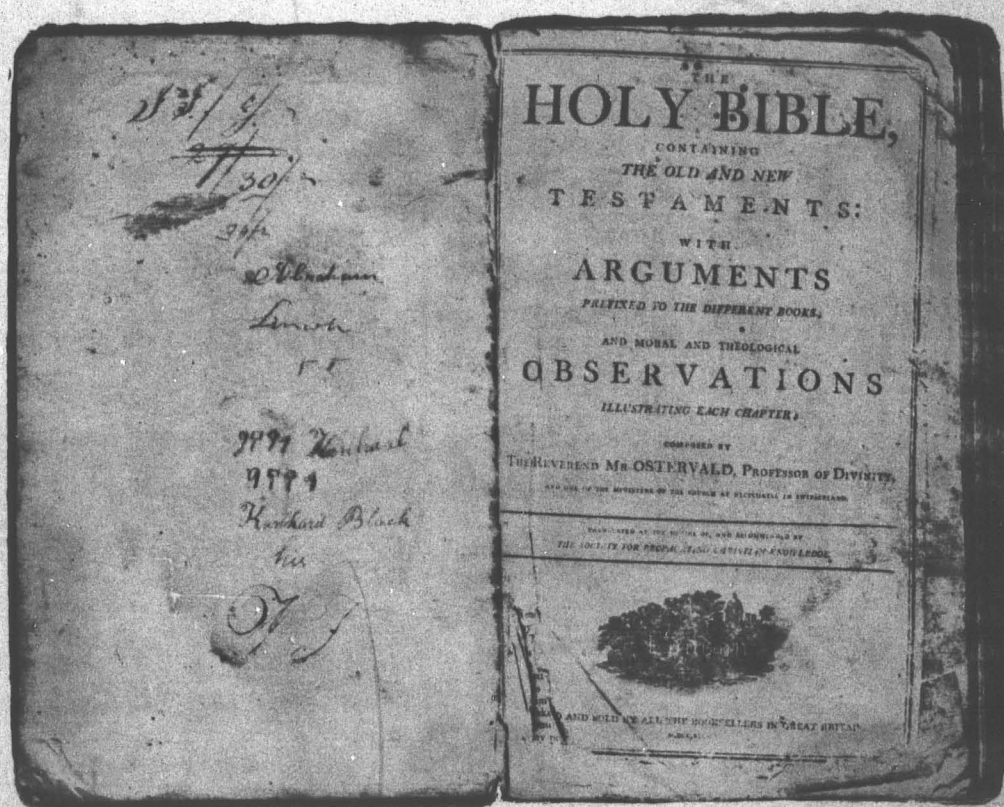
A. Lincoln

REPORT OF A ROAD SURVEY BY LINCOLN—FIRST PUBLISHED IN MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Photographed from the original, now on file in the County Clerk's office, Springfield, Illinois. The survey here reported was made in pursuance of an order of the County Commissioners' Court, September 1, 1834, in which Lincoln was designated as the surveyor.

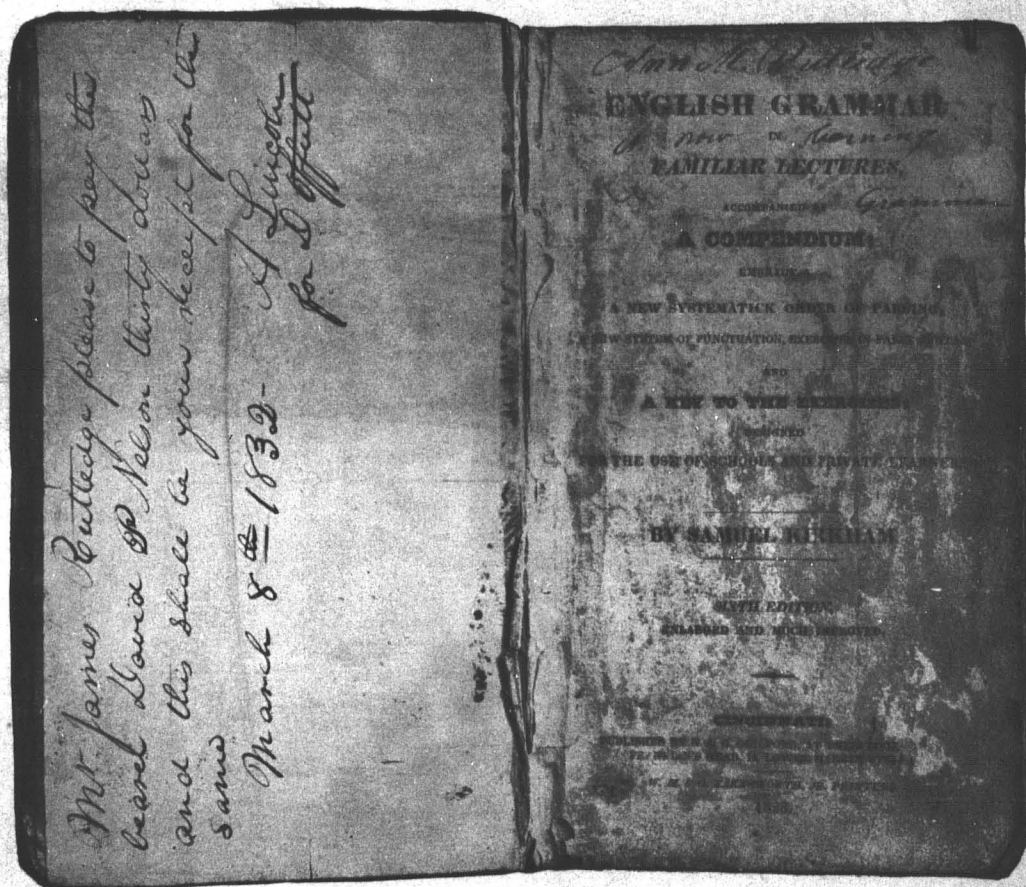
State of Kentucky: Mendon County Ket (Det)
to my authority of Minister of the Gospel in author-
ized Magistrate there are licenses permit You to join
together in the Honorable State of matrimony according
to the rules & customs of the church of which you are
report to a member of Thomas Lincoln
and Miss Sarah Johnston - he the said
Thomas Lincoln having given bond & security in
my office according to law - Given under my hand as clerk of the
County Court for the County of said the 2nd day of December
1819 and in the 28th Year of the common
wealth.
Saml Hayscraft Jr Clerk

Executed the within by joining in
matrimony the persons therein named
December 2nd 1819 Geo L Rogers.



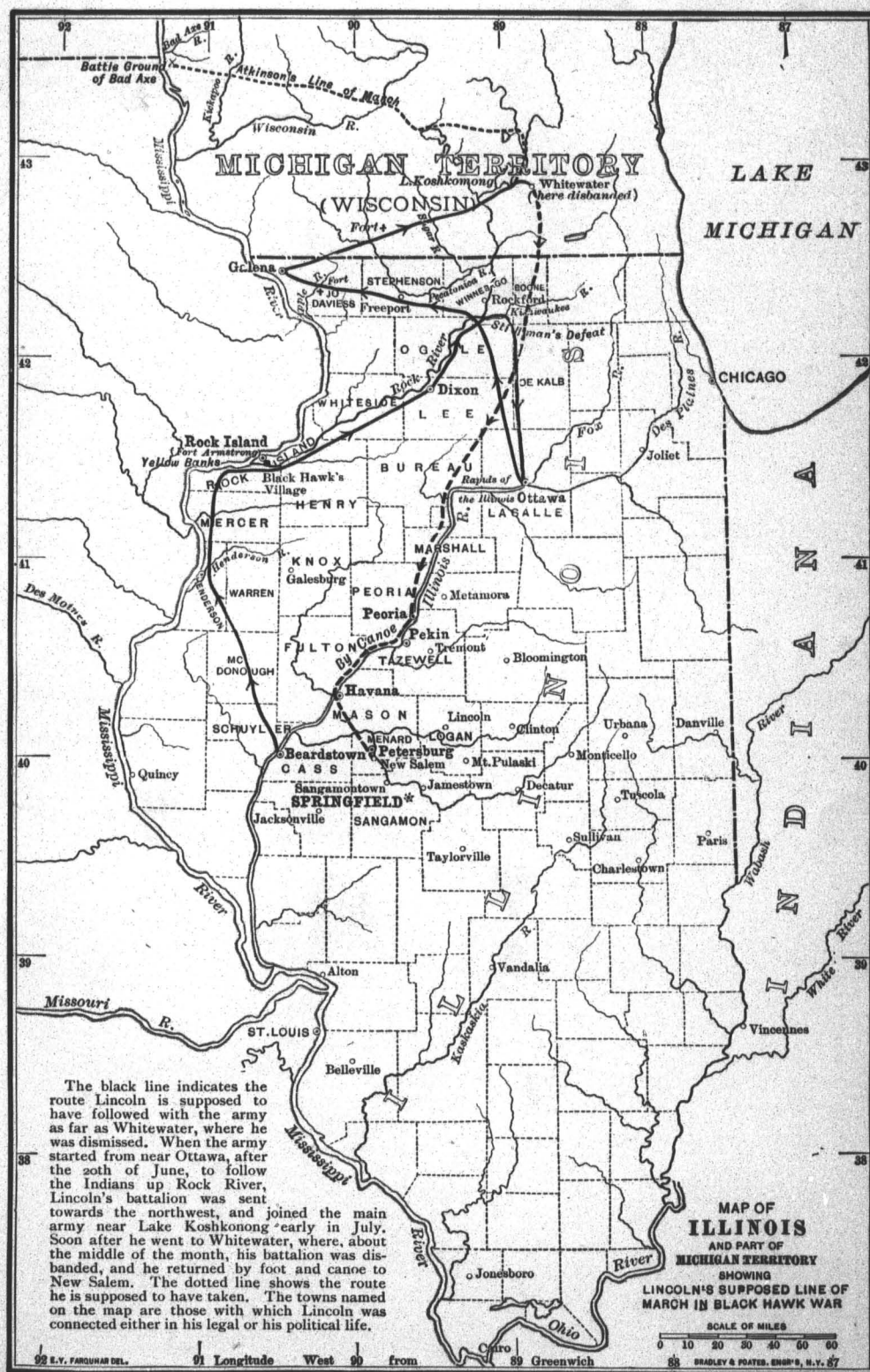
THOMAS LINCOLN'S BIBLE—FIRST PUBLISHED IN MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

From the original, in the collection of O. H. Oldroyd, Washington, D. C. It is not known when or how Thomas Lincoln obtained this Bible. After his death it passed to his stepchildren, the Johnstons, and was sold by them to the "Lincoln Log Cabin Company," to be exhibited at the World's Fair. It was purchased from this company for the Oldroyd collection.



THE KIRKHAM'S GRAMMAR USED BY LINCOLN AT NEW SALEM—FIRST PUBLISHED IN MCCLURE'S
 EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

In 1831, while clerking in a grocery store in New Salem, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln determined to study grammar, in order to fit himself better for public speaking and writing. There was at that day but one copy of a grammar in the neighborhood. The village schoolmaster told Lincoln where it was, and he at once secured it. The copy of Kirkham's Grammar studied by Lincoln belonged to a man named Vaner. Some of the biographers say Lincoln borrowed it; but it appears that he became the owner of the book, either by purchase or through the generosity of Vaner, for it was never returned to the latter. It is said that Lincoln learned this grammar practically by heart. "Sometimes," says Herndon, "he would stretch out at full length on the counter, his head propped up on a stack of calico prints, studying it; or he would steal away to the shade of some inviting tree, and there spend hours at a time in a determined effort to fix in his mind the arbitrary rule that 'adverbs qualify verbs, adjectives and other adverbs.'" He presented the book to Ann Rutledge, and it has since been one of the treasures of the Rutledge family. After the death of Ann it was studied by her brother, Robert, and is now owned by his widow, who resides at Casselton, North Dakota. The title page of the book appears above. The words, "Ann M. Rutledge is now learning grammar," were written by Lincoln. The order on James Rutledge to pay David P. Nelson thirty dollars and signed "A. Lincoln, for D. Offutt," which is shown above, was pasted upon the front cover of the book by Robert Rutledge.



In witness whereof the said
 Thomas Lincoln and Nancy his wife hath
 hererents set their hands (and affixed their seals
 the day and date before written Entered. lined
 before signed. - Thomas Lincoln Seal
 Nancy ^{her} Lincoln Seal

DEED OF SALE SIGNED BY THOMAS LINCOLN AND WIFE—FIRST PUBLISHED IN MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The Book of Deeds in Hardin County, Kentucky, shows that in 1803, three years before his marriage, Thomas Lincoln bought a farm in Hardin County. The same records contain a deed of the sale in 1814 of this same farm, it is supposed, signed by Thomas Lincoln. The deed is evidently written and signed by one person. Nancy Lincoln affixes her mark. This is not proof that she could not write; it not infrequently happens that people in remote country districts make a mark rather than labor with a pen, to which they are unaccustomed. All accounts of Nancy Lincoln agree that she was well educated for her day.

I do hereby certify that by authority of License
 I had from the Clerks Office of Washington Co I
 have solemnized the Rites of Matrimony between
 Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, June
 12th 1806 A.D. agreeable to the Rites and ceremonies
 of the Methodist Episcopal Church witness
 my hand
 Jesse Head D. E. M. C.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE OF THOMAS LINCOLN AND NANCY HANKS—FIRST PUBLISHED IN MCCLURE'S EARLY LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

From the original owned by Henry Whitney Cleveland of Louisville, Kentucky. This document completes the list of legal proofs of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks.

