



One day, Abe decided to tease his stepmother. He had some children put their feet in the mud. Then he held them upside down. They walked on the ceiling, leaving their footprints.

Mrs. Lincoln laughed at the joke. Abe laughed. But then he cleaned the ceiling.

As he grew, he was very strong. Though he did not enjoy the farm work, he worked hard. When Abe's father did not need him, he worked for other families. Folks said that he could split logs better than any other.

### To Illinois

When Abraham was twenty-one, his father decided to move to Illinois. Several families traveled in February of 1830. With wagons loaded, men walking alongside their wagons, they again moved west. At



the Indiana-Illinois border, they crossed the Wabash River. The water was very cold.

There is a story told about Lincoln. When they reached the Illinois side of the river, Lincoln looked back to the Indiana side. There on the river bank was a dog. He was whining and running back and forth, but would not jump into the river and swim across. Lincoln waded across the icy water, and carried the dog over.

Lincoln helped his father build a log cabin and a fence. He then set out on his own. He wrapped all of his things in a bag, and left to make his own living.

To earn money for brown jeans, Lincoln split four hundred rails for each yard of cloth. Perhaps he wished he was not so tall and needed so much cloth.

Lincoln soon became a clerk in a country store. There were not many customers. Abe could spend much time reading. He was learning the many things he had not learned in school.

Abe Lincoln was always known for his honesty. Once, he gave a customer in the store the wrong change. He walked several miles that night to return



the money. Soon people were calling him “Honest Abe.”

Lincoln became the postmaster in New Salem. The post office was in a grocery store. People picked up their mail from Lincoln. Often when Abe had a letter for someone, he would put the letter in his hat. When he saw the person, he would give them their mail.

For the rest of his life, Lincoln carried many things in his hat. He would carry his handkerchief, letters, important papers, or notes for a speech he was writing.

Lincoln, like Washington, learned to be a surveyor. He taught himself surveying. People liked Lincoln. They enjoyed his speeches, stories, and witty sayings. They liked his honesty and good nature.

