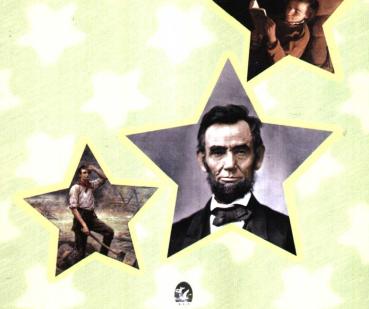
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亚伯拉罕·林肯 ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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美国总统青少年时代 Childhoods of the Presidents



亚伯拉罕•林肯

Abraham Lincoln

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★ Introduction ★

Alexis de Tocqueville began his great work *Democracy in America* with a discourse on childhood. If we are to understand the prejudices, the habits and the passions that will rule a man's life, Tocqueville said, we must watch the baby in his mother's arms; we must see the first images that the world casts upon the mirror of his mind; we must hear the first words that awaken his sleeping powers of thought. "The entire man," he wrote, "is, so to speak, to be seen in the cradle of the child."

That is why these books on the childhoods of the American presidents are so much to the point. And, as our history shows, a great variety of childhoods can lead to the White House. The record confirms the ancient adage that every American boy, no matter how unpromising his beginnings, can aspire to the presidency. Soon, one hopes, the adage will be extended to include every American girl.

All our presidents thus far have been white males who, within the limits of their gender, reflect the diversity of American life. They were born in nineteen of our states; eight of the last thirteen presidents were born west of the Mississippi. Of all our presidents, Abraham Lincoln had the

least promising childhood, yet he became our greatest president. Oddly enough, presidents who are children of privilege sometimes feel an obligation to reform society in order to give children of poverty a better break. And, with Lincoln the great exception, presidents who are children of poverty sometimes feel that there is no need to reform a society that has enabled them to rise from privation to the summit.

Does schooling make a difference? Harry S. Truman, the only twentieth-century president never to attend college, is generally accounted a near-great president. Actually nine— more than one fifth—of our presidents never went to college at all, including such luminaries as George Washington, Andrew Jackson and Grover Cleveland. But, Truman aside, all the non-college men held the highest office before the twentieth century, and, given the increasing complexity of life, a college education will unquestionably be a necessity in the twenty-first century.

Every reader of this book, girls included, has a right to aspire to the presidency. As you survey the childhoods of those who made it, try to figure out the qualities that brought them to the White House. I would suggest that among those qualities are ambition, determination, discipline, education— and luck.

-ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, JR.



序

亚历克西斯·德·托克维尔以讲述人的童年作为他的巨著《美国的民主》的开始。托克维尔说,如果我们想理解支配一个人生活的偏见、习惯和爱好,我们必须观察他还是襁褓中的婴孩这一时期的情况;我们必须审视世界投射到他心灵上的第一个印记;我们必须聆听唤醒他那沉睡中的思想力量的第一句话。他写道:"可以说,从婴孩时期的摇篮中将可以了解整个人。"

这就是为什么这套关于美国总统童年的书如此重要。 另外,正如历史所展示的,尽管童年时代的经历多种多样,却都能引导一个人走上通往白宫的道路。历史的记录 验证了一句古话: 每个美国男孩,不管早期看起来前途 多么无望,都能够立志成为总统。人们还希望,这句古话 所涵盖的范围不久将扩展,把每个美国女孩也包括在内。

适今为止,所有的美国总统都是白人男性,他们在有限的性别范围之内,反映了美国生活的多样性。他们出生于合众国的19个州;最后13位当中有8位出生在密西比河西部。在所有的总统当中,亚伯拉罕·林肯的童年最显得前途无望,然而他却成为美国历史上最伟大的总统。非常奇怪的是,童年生活优裕的总统有时却有一种责任感,进行社会改革,给家庭贫苦的孩子创造更好的机会。而另一方面,除林肯是一个特例之外,出身贫苦的总统有时却感到,对于使他们从穷困的底层发展到事业颠峰的社会,没有进行改革的必要。

学校教育重要吗?哈里·S·杜鲁门是仅有的一位从未上过大学的20世纪的美国总统,然而却被普遍认为接近最伟大的总统。实际上,我们的总统当中有9位——占全部的五分之一还多——从未上过大学,包括乔治·华盛顿、安德鲁·杰克逊以及格罗弗·克利夫兰这些杰出的人物。但是,除杜鲁门以外,所有这些没上过大学却担任了总统这一最显要职务的人都生活在20世纪以前。由于社会生活变得越来越复杂,大学教育毫无疑问将成为21世纪美国总统的必备条件。

该书的每位读者,包括女孩在内,都有权立志当总统。你们在探讨这些总统的童年时,要努力去领悟是什么品质使他们当上了白宫的主人。我在这里做一提示,在这些品质当中包括志向、决心、纪律、教育——当然还有机会。

--小阿瑟·M·史勒辛格

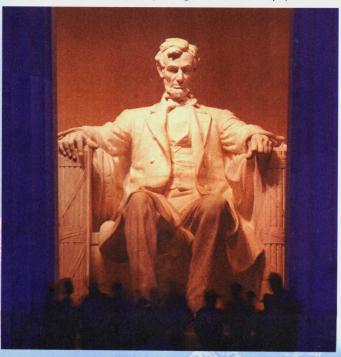


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Near-Death Experience

It was a warm Sunday afternoon in the early summer of 1814. Two young boys played together in the Kentucky wilderness. The younger of the boys, named



第一章

死里逃生

1814年初夏,一个温暖的周日下午,肯塔基州的旷野上有两个男孩子在一起玩。其中年纪小一点的那个男孩亚伯拉罕告诉同伴说,前一天他曾经在这一带看见过几只鹌

Visitors to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., frequently come away with a sense of awe. Abraham Lincoln emerged from a humble, even impoverished background to become one of the greatest figures America has ever produced.

到华盛顿瞻仰林肯纪念碑的游客们总是心存敬意。亚伯拉 罕·林肯出身于一个十分卑微甚至是贫寒的家庭, 但他最终成为 美国历史上最伟大的人物之一。 Abraham, told his friend that a day earlier he had seen some *partridges* in the area. He suggested to his friend, whose name was Austin Gollaher, that they cross a nearby creek to hunt for the birds.^①

The two boys would have to walk across a narrow log to reach the other side of the creek. Normally, the stream was not very deep, but heavy rains a few days earlier had swollen the waters. As they crossed the log, six-year-old Abraham lost his balance. With a cry, he fell into the rushing water.

Neither of the two boys could swim. Austin rushed to the bank, found a long branch, and held it out to his friend. The frightened boy grasped the end of the branch, and Austin pulled him to shore. "He was almost dead and I was badly scared," Austin later remembered.

The soaked boy had swallowed a lot of river water, and Austin did not think Abraham was breathing when he was pulled ashore. "I rolled and pounded him in good earnest," Austin recalled. "Then I got him by the arms and shook him, the water meanwhile pouring out of his mouth. By this means I succeeded in bringing him to and he was soon all right."

Safe from drowning, the boys had another problem

注: ① suggest (建议;提出计划等…)后接宾语从句时,该从句中的动词必须用 should + 原形,其中助动词 should 可省略。

② in good earnest 意为"一本正经地、非常认真地"。

鹑。他向同伴奥斯汀·戈拉赫提议, 俩人跨过附近的一条 小溪去抓那些小鸟。

两个男孩必须经过一座独木桥才能到达小溪的对岸。 平时,这条小溪并不算太深,但几天前的一场大雨使得溪水猛涨。他们过桥时,六岁的亚伯拉罕失去了平衡。他喊了一声,掉进了湍急的水流中。

两个男孩谁也不会游泳。奥斯汀迅速冲到岸上,找了一根长树枝伸给水里的同伴。那个吓坏了的男孩紧紧地抓住树梢,奥斯汀把他拖上了岸。"他差点就淹死了,我也被吓坏了。"奥斯汀后来回忆道。

那个浑身湿透的男孩吞下了很多水,奥斯汀觉得亚伯拉罕被拖上岸时已经没有呼吸了。"我把他翻过来,用力猛击,"奥斯汀回忆道。"然后又抓住他的胳膊使劲儿地摇,这时水从他嘴里涌出来。就这样我使他苏醒过来,很快他就完全好了。"

死里逃生之后,两个男孩又面临一个难题: 大人们会



on their hands: the anger of their parents. "If our mothers discovered our wet clothes, they would whip us," Austin said. "This we dreaded from experience and determined to avoid." The two youngsters came up with a solution. "It was June, the sun was very warm, and we soon dried our clothing by spreading it on the rocks about us," Austin said. "We promised never to tell the story."

Life on the American *frontier* was hard, and child-hood play could quickly turn dangerous. Yet Austin's playmate shrugged off the incident of his near drowning. He would go on to become a good woodsman, a respected attorney, and an honest politician. More than 45 years after being saved from drowning by Austin Gollaher, he would be elected the 16th president of the United States.

Today, he is remembered as one of the nation's most beloved leaders—Abraham Lincoln.



发火的。"如果我们的妈妈看见我们的衣服全都湿透了,她们肯定会拿鞭子抽我们的。"奥斯汀说,"过去就是这样,所以我们很害怕,就想要逃避。"两个孩子很快就有了应对的办法。"当时是六月份,太阳非常的温暖。我们把衣服摊开铺在周围的岩石上,很快就晒干了。"奥斯汀说,"我们发誓绝不泄露这桩事。"

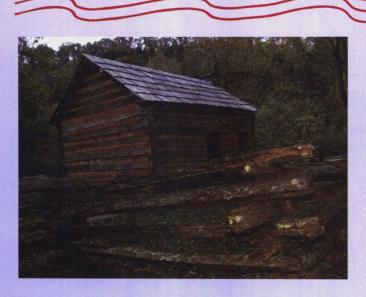
在美洲大陆新开发的领地边缘,生活非常艰苦,童年的游戏常常是险象环生。但是,奥斯汀的小伙伴却大难不死,后来,他成为一个熟练的木匠、受人尊敬的律师以及正直的政治家。在被奥斯汀·戈拉赫从河中救起 45 年多之后,他将当选为美国第 16 任总统。今天,他被视为这个国家最受爱戴的领袖之——他就是亚伯拉罕·林肯。

A sea of humanity surrounded the Lincoln Memorial for Martin Luther King's 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech. The location for this milestone in the civil rights movement was particularly fitting, given Lincoln's devotion to equality.

林肯纪念碑前人山人海,马丁·路德·金1963年的演讲 "我有一个梦想"正在这里进行。鉴于林肯对于公民平等权的 卓越贡献,这一公民权利运动里程碑式的事件在这里选址是 非常恰当的。



A Log Cabin in Kentucky



he boy who would become the 16th president of the United States never knew his grandfather, although he had been named for him. The elder Abraham Lincoln (who also spelled his name Linkhorn and Linkern) had been a captain in the Virginia militia during the American Revolution. He was also a good friend of the woodsman Daniel Boone, who had pioneered a trail, known as



第二章 肯塔基的小木屋

A replica of the Lincolns' home near Knob Creek, Kentucky. The log cabins in which Abraham grew up were small (measuring about 16 by 18 feet) and stark, with a single window and door.

图为肯塔基州诺布小溪附近林肯旧居的复制品。亚伯拉 罕就是在这间小木屋里长大的。它狭小而简陋(大约16乘18 英尺见方),仅有一扇窗户和门。

尽管是以祖父的名字来命名的,但这个将成为美国第16任总统的男孩从未见过祖父。老亚伯拉罕·林肯(他也把自己的名字拼写成Linkhorn或Linkern)在美国独立战争期间是弗吉尼亚民兵团的上尉。他与伐木工人丹尼尔·布恩是非常要好的朋友,布恩曾经开辟了一条通往西

注:① name for = name after,用(别人、别物的名字)命名。



the Wilderness Road, to the western frontier. At Boone's urging, Abraham had moved his wife and five children—including their four-year-old son Thomas—to Kentucky in 1782.

At the time, Kentucky was the wild edge of the American frontier. In fact, four years later, in May 1786, Native American warriors killed Abraham in a surprise attack. His sons, including eight-year-old Thomas, witnessed the slaying. Years later Thomas told this story to his own son Abraham, who would eventually write, "My *paternal* grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Rockingham County, Virginia, to Kentucky, about 1781 or 2, where, a year or two later, he was killed by Indians, not in battle, but by stealth, when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest."

When he grew older, Thomas Lincoln worked for his uncle Isaac as a hired hand in Tennessee. He moved back to Kentucky in 1802. The next year he purchased a large farm near Elizabethtown. Thomas found work as a carpenter and cabinetmaker. Around this time he met a woman named Nancy Hanks.

Like Thomas Lincoln, Nancy had been a child when her family traveled over the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky. Nancy was kind and deeply religious. As an adult she became a skilled *seamstress*. She and Thomas Lincoln were married on June 12, 1806.