

英汉对照读物



The Unknown Lincoln

林肯的青少年时代

外语教学与研究出版社

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本书为英汉对照读物。对原文中一些词句和背景，加了汉语注释，书后并附有词汇表。

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I

Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, was brought up by her aunt and uncle, and probably had no schooling¹ at all. We know she could not write, for she made her mark when signing a deed.

She lived deep in the somber woods and made few friends, and, when she was twenty-two, she married one of the most illiterate and lowly men in all Kentucky—a dull, ignorant day-laborer and deer hunter. His name was Thomas Lincoln, but the people in the backwoods² and canebrake settlements where he lived called him "Linkhorn."

Thomas Lincoln was a rover, a drifter, a ne'er do-well³, floating about from one place to another, taking any kind of job he could get when hunger drove him to it. He worked on roads, cut brush, trapped bear, cleared land, plowed corn, built log cabins; and the old records⁴ show that on three different occasions he was employed to guard prisoners, with a shot-gun. In 1805 Hardin County, Kentucky, paid him six cents an hour for catching and whipping recalcitrant slaves.

He had no money sense whatever⁵: he lived for fourteen years on one farm in Indiana, and during that period he was unable to save and pay as much as

林肯的母亲南希·汉克斯是由她的舅父舅母抚养大的，也许根本没有受过什么教育。据我们所知，她不会写字，因为她在证书上签名时只是划了个符号。

她深居在幽暗的树林中，没有什么要好的女伴。二十二岁那年，她嫁给一个在整个肯塔基州要算是最无文化、最为卑贱的人——一个愚钝的、以打短工和猎鹿为生的人。此人名叫托马斯·林肯，然而在他居住的丛林开拓地的人们都管他叫“林克昂”。

托马斯·林肯是一个流浪汉，一个游荡者，一个窝囊废。他到处流离迁徙，为饥饿所驱，无活不干：筑路、砍林、捕熊、开荒、种玉米、盖木房。古老的记载上还说，他曾有三次受雇持着猎枪看守罪犯。一八〇五年，肯塔基州哈定县曾以每小时六分钱的报酬雇用他追捕和鞭答反抗的奴隶。

他毫无钱财观念：在印第安纳州的一个农场生活了十四年，却未能在这段时间里有所积蓄，甚至无力交付每年不过

1. schooling 学校教育

do-well ['neədu, wel] 无用的人

2. backwoods 边远的森林地带

3. ne'er-

4. old records 古老的记载

5. whatever = at all

tendollars a year on his land¹ At a time when he was so poor that his wife had to pin her dresses together with wild thorns, he went to a store in Elizabethtown², Kentucky, and bought a pair of silk suspenders for himself—and bought them on credit³. Shortly after that at an auction sale, he paid three dollars for a sword. Probably he wore his silk suspenders and carried his sword even when going barefoot⁴.

Shortly after his marriage he moved to town and tried to make a living as a carpenter. He got a job building a mill, but he did not square⁵ his timbers or cut them the right length. So his employer sharply refused to pay him for his bungling efforts, and three lawsuits followed.

Tom Lincoln had come from the woods, and, dull as he was, he soon realized now that he belonged to the woods. He took his wife back to a poor, stony farm on the edge of the forest, and never again did he have the temerity to forsake the soil for the village.

Not far from Elizabethtown there was a vast stretch of treeless land known as "the barrens." For generations the Indians had started fires there and burned away the forests and brush and undergrowth⁶, so that the coarse prairie-grass⁷ could grow in the sun, and the buffaloes would come there to wallow and graze.

In December, 1808, Tom Lincoln purchased a farm on "the barrens" for sixty-six and two thirds cents

十美元的土地税。有一度，他贫困不堪，妻子的衣服破了，只得用野荆棘刺别住，而他却跑到肯塔基州伊丽莎白镇上的一家商店，为自己买了一付丝吊裤带——而且还是赊帐的。此后不久，他又在拍卖商店不惜花三美元钱买了一把剑。很可能甚至当他光着脚板走路的时候也吊着他那副丝裤带，佩着他那把剑哩！

婚后不久他迁到镇上，想当木匠谋生。他找到一个建造磨坊的工作，可是他锯的木材不是不够方正，就是长度不对。由于他干活粗制滥造，雇主坚决拒绝付给他工钱。为此打了三场官司。

汤姆·林肯来自林区。别看他愚钝，他很快意识到树林才是他的家。他把妻子带回到地处森林边缘的一个贫瘠多石的农场，以后再也没有冒冒失失地遗弃土地，搬到镇上去住过。

离伊丽莎白镇不远处，有一片光秃无树的开阔地，人们叫它“荒原”。在过去几个世代里，印第安人曾在这里放火烧毁了森林、灌丛和矮树丛。这样，草原的杂草得以沐浴着阳光生长，野牛也会跑来打滚吃草。

一八〇八年十二月，汤姆·林肯在这块“荒原”上以每英亩六十六又三分之二分的价钱买下了一个农场。农场里有

1 on his land 对他的土地 2. Elizabethtown 伊丽莎白镇，位于肯塔基州中部。3. on credit 赊帐 4. go barefoot 赤着脚走路 5. square 将…锯方 6. undergrowth 下层丛林 7. prairie-grass 草原上的野草

per acre. There was a hunter's hut on it, a crude sort of cabin surrounded with wild crab apple trees¹, and half a mile away flowed the South Fork of Nolin Creek², where the dogwood blossomed in the spring. In the summertime, hawks circled lazily in the blue³ over head, and the tall grasses surged in the wind like an illimitable sea of green. Few people had had the poor judgment to settle there. So in the wintertime it was one of the most lonely and desolate regions in all Kentucky.

And it was in a hunter's hut on the edge of these lonely barrens, deep⁴ in the winter of 1809, that Abraham Lincoln came into the world⁵. He was born on a Sunday morning—born on a bed of poles covered with corn husks. It was storming outside, and the February wind blew the snow through the cracks between the logs and drifted it across the bearskin that covered Nancy Hanks and her baby. She was destined to die nine years later, at the age of thirty-five, worn out by the strain and hardships of pioneer life. She never knew much of happiness. Wherever she lived, she was hounded by gossip about her illegitimate birth⁶. What a pity she could not have looked into the future that morning, and seen the marble temple that a grateful people have now erected on the spot which she then consecrated with her suffering!⁷

The paper money in circulation⁸ at that time, in

一间简陋的猎人小屋，四周环抱着野生酸苹果树。诺林河的南支在半英里外流过。春天，那里的山茱萸花遍地开放。夏天，雄鹰在蓝色的上空懒洋洋地翱翔。高高的野草随风起伏，像一片一望无际的绿色海洋。很少有人判断力差到会在这里定居，所以一到冬天，这里就成了整个肯塔基州最寂寥、最荒凉的地区之一。

一八〇九年暮冬，亚伯拉罕·林肯就出生在这人烟稀少的荒原边上的一所猎人小屋里。他是在一个星期天的早晨出生的，落生在一张铺着玉米皮的木棍床上。当时室外风雪交加。二月的风把雪从木头隙缝里吹了进来，飘落到盖在南希·汉克斯与婴儿身上的熊皮上。她注定九年之后，在她三十五岁那年，被拓荒者的那种劳累艰辛的生活耗尽了她的精力而命归黄泉。她从来没有过过好日子。不管她住到哪里，总是被人们风言风语地议论，说她是个私生子。多么遗憾，那天早上她没有想到未来，没有能够预见到在她当时以分娩痛苦使之神圣的这块地方，感激的人民现在竖起了一座大理石殿堂！

当时流通的纸币，在荒僻地区，价值往往是很不可靠

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1. crab-apple tree (野生) 酸苹果树 2. the South Fork of Nolin Creek 诺林河的一条南支 3. the blue 蓝空 4. deep 深，此处指已是晚冬时节 5. come into the world 出世 6. illegitimate birth 私生，南希的母亲年轻时在一家当女佣时，与那家主人相好，怀孕后被遗弃，生下了南希。 7. her suffering 指分娩时的痛苦 8. money in circulation 流通货币

the wilderness, was often of very doubtful value. Much of it was worthless. So hogs, venison hams, whisky, coon-skins¹, bearhides, and farm produce² were much used as mediums of exchange. Even preachers sometimes took whisky as part pay for their services. In the autumn of 1816, when Abraham was seven years old, old Tom Lincoln bartered his Kentucky farm for about four hundred gallons of corn whisky, and moved his family into the gloom and solitude of the wild and desolate forests of Indiana. Their nearest neighbor was a bear-hunter, and all about them the trees and brush and grape-vines and undergrowth were so thick that a man had to cut and hack his way³ through it. This was the spot, "Rite in the Brush," as Dennis Hanks⁴ described it, where Abraham Lincoln was to spend the next fourteen years of his life.

The first snow of winter was already falling when the family arrived, and Tom Lincoln hastily built what was then known as "a three-faced camp." Today it would be called a shed. It had no floor, no door, no windows—nothing but three sides and a roof of poles and brush. The fourth side was entirely open to wind and snow and sleet and cold. Nowadays an up-to-date farmer in Indiana wouldn't winter⁵ his cattle or hogs in such a crude shelter, but Tom Lincoln felt it was good enough for himself and his family all during the long winter of 1816—17, one of

的，其中有许多纸币不值一文。因而人们经常用猪、鹿腿、威士忌酒、浣熊毛皮、熊皮以及农产品作为交换媒介。甚至牧师们有时也收下威士忌酒作为请他们办事的部分酬劳。一八一六年秋季，亚伯拉罕七岁时，老汤姆·林肯把肯塔基州的农场换取了约四百加仑的玉米威士忌酒，把全家迁到了印第安纳州的一个荒无人迹的森林里，那里阴郁无比，与世隔绝。他们的贴邻是个猎熊人。在他们周围长着茂密的树林、灌丛、葡萄藤和矮树丛，得用刀砍才能劈开一条通路。亚伯拉罕·林肯一生中以后的十四年就是在这块被丹尼斯·汉克斯称为“林中圣地”的地方度过的。

当林肯一家来到这里时，正下着冬天的第一场雪。汤姆·林肯仓促搭起了一间当时称为“三面屋”的小屋。要是在今天，就会把它叫作棚子。这种小屋没有地板，没有门窗——除了三面墙壁和用木棒、灌木枝叶搭设的屋顶外，什么也没有。小屋的第四面完全敞着，任凭风、雪、雨霰和寒气侵入。在今天，印第安纳州的新式农民是不会把他的牛或猪豢养在如此简陋的棚圈里越冬的。可是汤姆·林肯却感到这间小屋对他本人及全家度过一八一六——一八一七年漫长的

1. coon-skins 浣熊毛皮 2. farm produce 农产品 3. hack his way 辟出一条路
4. Dennis Hanks 丹尼斯·汉克斯，林肯母亲的表兄弟
5. winter v. 过冬

the severest and most violent winters in our history.

Nancy Hanks and her children slept there that winter like dogs, curled up¹ on a heap of leaves and bearskins dumped on the dirt floor in a corner of the shed.

As for food, they had no butter, no milk, no eggs, no fruit, no vegetables, not even potatoes. They lived chiefly on wild game² and nuts.

Tom Lincoln tried to raise hogs, but the bears were so hungry that they seized the hogs and ate them alive.

For years, there in Indiana, Abraham Lincoln endured more terrible poverty than did thousands of the slaves whom he would one day liberate.

Dentists were almost unknown in that region, and the nearest doctor was thirty-five miles away: so when Nancy Lincoln had a toothache, probably old Tom Lincoln did what the other pioneers did: he whittled out a hickory peg, set the end of it against the complaining molar³, and hit the peg a hard blow with a rock.

From the earliest times in the Middle West⁴ the pioneers suffered from a mysterious malady known as the "milk sick." It was fatal to cattle, sheep, and horses, and sometimes carried off⁵ entire communities of people. No one knew what caused it, and for a hundred years it baffled the medical profession⁶. It was not until the beginning of the present century that science showed that the poisoning was due to

冬天是够好的了。这年冬季又是我国历史上气温最低、风雪最大的冬季之一。

那年冬天，南希·汉克斯和她的孩子们像狗一样蜷缩着身子，睡在棚屋角落泥地上的一堆树叶和熊皮上面。

至于吃的方面，则没有黄油，没有牛奶，没有鸡蛋，没有水果，没有蔬菜，甚至连土豆也没有。他们主要靠野味、野果维持生活。

汤姆·林肯曾试图养猪，但是他养的猪被饥饿不堪的熊攫去，活活地吃掉了。

有好多个年头，就在印第安纳州的这个地方，亚伯拉罕·林肯忍受了极度的贫困，即使后来有朝一日被他解放的成千上万的黑奴当时所受的贫困，也是不能与之相比的。

在那个地区几乎没有牙科医生。住得最近的医生离他们也有三十五英里。因而当南希患牙痛时，可能老汤姆·林肯也仿照着其他拓荒者的办法处理：削一根山核桃木钉，把钉头对着作痛的臼齿，再用石头猛击木钉。

从最初的年代起，在中西部的拓荒者常患一种叫作“牛奶病”的奇怪疾病。这种疾病对牛、羊和马都是致命的；有时使整个村落死得不剩一人。谁都不知道它的起因，一百多年来，医生们对它一直束手无策。直到本世纪初，科学才证明

1. curl up 蜷缩起来 2. wild game 猎物 3. complaining molar 作痛的臼齿
4. the Middle West 美国中西部，指大湖附近和密西西比河上游一带 5. carry off 夺去……的生命 6. medical profession 医学界

animals eating a plant known as white snakeroot. The poison was transmitted to humans through the milk of cows. White snakeroot¹ thrives in wooded pastures and deeply shaded ravines, and to this day² it continues to take its toll of human life³. Every year the Department of Agriculture⁴ of the State of Illinois posts⁵ placards in the county courthouses, warning farmers that if they do not eradicate this plant, they may die.

In the autumn of 1818 this dreadful scourge came to the Buckhorn Valley of Indiana, wiping out many families. Nancy Lincoln helped nurse⁶ the wife of Peter Brooner, the bearhunter, whose cabin was only half a mile away. Mrs. Brooner died, and Nancy herself suddenly felt ill. Her head swam⁷, and sharp pains shot through her abdomen. Vomiting severely, she was carried home to her wretched pallet of leaves and skins. Her hands and feet were cold, but her vitals⁸ seemed to be on fire. She kept calling for water. Water. Water. More water.

Tom Lincoln had a profound faith in signs and omens: so, on the second night of her illness, when a dog howled long and piteously outside the cabin, he abandoned all hope and said she was going to die.

Finally Nancy was unable even to raise her head from the pillow, and she could not talk above a whisper. Beckoning Abraham and his sister to her, she tried to speak. They bent over to catch her words:

牲畜中毒是由于吃了一种叫白蛇根的草，病毒再通过牛奶传染给人。白蛇根草在林间草场和幽谷中茂盛生长，直到今天还在继续夺去人们的生命。伊利诺斯州农业局每年都要在法院贴出布告，警告农民们如果不根除这种草，他们就会有生命危险。

一八一八年秋天，这种可怕的瘟疫传到了印第安纳州的巴克霍恩河谷地带，有许多人家全家病死。南希·林肯去帮助护理住在仅半英里远的猎户彼得·布鲁纳的妻子。布鲁纳太太死了，南希自己也突然病倒了。她感到头晕目眩，腹部剧痛。她剧烈地呕吐着，被抬回了家，安放在树叶和熊皮铺成的肮脏破烂的地铺上。她四肢冰凉，而内脏却像火烧一样，嘴里不住地叫唤要喝水，喝水，还要喝水，……

汤姆·林肯一向对迹象和预兆是深信不疑的。他妻子病倒的第二天夜里，一条狗在屋外哀号了很久。他因此放弃了一切希望，说他的妻子危在旦夕。

到最后，南希甚至无力从枕头上抬起头来，说话的声音非常微弱。她把亚伯拉罕和他姊姊召到身边，想对他们说话。他们弯下腰倾听：她恳求他们要亲密友爱，要象她教育

1. snakeroot 一种能治蛇咬的植物 2. to this day 到今天 3. take its toll of human life 夺去人命 4. the Department of Agriculture 农业局
5. post 贴出 6. help nurse 帮助护理, help后跟动词原形 nurse
7. swim 眼花, 眩晕 8. vitals 内脏