

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

The Indiana Frontier



In the years following the War of 1812, emigration to the Old Northwest, which included Indiana, increased dramatically. With the defeat and relocation of the Indians, who sided with the British, vast new acreage was opened to settlement. Large numbers of people from other parts of the country, especially the South, began to move in and set about clearing the land. Many of these emigrants came from Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky. One such pioneer was Thomas Lincoln, along with his family, settled in present-day Spencer County. Thomas Lincoln was attracted to Indiana by the rich land and the security of a title from the systematic federal land survey as stipulated in the Land Ordinance of 1785, and by the prohibition of slavery.