

Sarah Bush

Short summary of her life

Sarah Bush Lincoln became Abraham Lincoln's stepmother when he was nine - Sarah became a widow in 1816 left with three children while Thomas Lincoln became a widower in 1818 left with two children. He simply knocked on her door one day in Hardin County, Kentucky and proposed marriage. Quickly married, the second for both, Sarah age 31 and Thomas age 41, loaded up a wagon with Sara's things and headed for the Thomas' farm in Indiana. Abraham and his sister found out they had a new mother as well as three new playmates. While Thomas viewed his son's studious ways as a waste of time, his new stepmother although illiterate herself, encouraged him. This influence probably led to his lofty place in American history. They became close, while the distance between father and son widened. The Lincoln's moved to Illinois in 1830 at which point, Abraham parted and went his own way. Upon the death of his father in 1851, he did not attend the funeral but continued to visit his stepmother periodically. The president-elect made one last visit to Sarah before he left for Washington and then visited the grave of his father. It was the last time they would ever meet. Sarah continued to live at the Coles County farm until her death at age 80 leaving over twenty grandchildren to mourn her. She was interred beside her second husband, Thomas Lincoln.