

The homespun methods employed to define tracts of land in the days of Abraham Lincoln were in sharp contrast to the specific methods of today and often resulted in complicated litigations, according to Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director of The Lincoln National Life Foundation.

The boundary document for the Knob Creek farm where Lincoln lived from 1811 to 1819 is a good example of methods then in use:

Knob Creek, 228 Acre Tract

1. Beginning with two sugar trees North 19 degrees, East 141 poles to a dogwood tree and ash tree corner to a 100 acre tract.
2. North 48 degrees, West 74 poles to a beech tree.
3. North 29 degrees, West 65 poles to a poplar tree on the east side of a hill.
4. North 58 poles to an ash tree.
5. South 76 degrees, West 105 poles to a white ash tree.
6. South 117 poles to a stake.
7. South 31 degrees, East 168 poles to a sugar tree.
8. South 70 degrees, East 54 poles to the beginning.

This farm has been the subject of several litigations, but present ownership is now definitely established, says Dr. McMurtry.

The Knob Creek farm is the only tract of land on which Abraham Lincoln lived for any considerable time which has not become, in part at least, a national shrine. It was the playground of Lincoln and is by far the most picturesque of all the Lincoln homes.