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FAMILY OF PIONEER JOSEPH HANKS

At intervals during the past few weeks there have appeared in Lincoln Lore several discussions on the maternal ancestry of Abraham Lincoln. The last contribution on this subject was published in the bulletin of March 24. It dwelt upon different forms used in spelling the Hanks name.

This confusion in spelling found its way into early campaign biographies of Lincoln, published in the summer of 1860. Howell says Lincoln assisted George Close in splitting rails for a James "Hawks" in the year 1830, but Howard calls this employer of Lincoln James "Hanks." Bartlett, in the first edition of his biography, says that Lincoln's associate in some of these rail splitting contracts was John "Hawkes," but in a later edition changes the spelling to "Hanks."

According to Lincoln, this last named John Hanks was a first cousin to Abraham's mother. This should make it of interest to learn if possible who were some of the other cousins of the president's mother. John Hanks' father was William Hanks, a son of Joseph Hanks a Kentucky pioneer. It is the family of this Joseph Hanks and his descendants that is of primary importance in studying the Hanks ancestry. Here are to be found the uncles, aunts, and cousins of Nancy Hanks, if the president was correctly informed about the relationship of his mother to John Hanks.

The will of Joseph Hanks entered for probate on May 14, 1793, names his wife Nanny, and eight children. A bequest in the will makes it quite certain that all of his living children were therein mentioned.

Family of Joseph and Nanny Hanks

Thomas, married?
Joshua, married?
William, married, Elizabeth Hall
Charles, married?
Joseph, married, Polly Young
Elizabeth, married Thos. Sparrow
Mary, married, Jesse Friend
Nancy, married, Levi Hall

That Nancy Hanks was not a child of any of the above named sons of Joseph Hanks is quite certain as there is good evidence that she was orphaned before the year 1790 when her mother married Henry Sparrow. If the cousinship relation with John Hanks is to be maintained and the integrity of the will conserved,

Nancy's father must have been a son of Joseph Hanks, who died at least four years before Joseph made his will. According to one of the descendants of Joseph, this son's name was James.

There is no positive information about the families of Thomas, Joshua, and Charles Hanks. The name of Joshua appears in Nelson County lists for 1786 and 1787 while on a fragment of paper, evidently about the same time the name of Charles Hanks appears. There was a Thomas and a Joshua Hanks living in Hopkins County, Kentucky, at the very beginning of the century. Although no direct contact can be made between them and the Thomas and Joshua of the Joseph Hanks will, it seems wise to present brief sketches of them.

Thomas Hanks

The name of Thomas appears on the tax list of Christian County, Kentucky, as early as 1806. He served as a justice of the peace in Hopkins County for several years.

On August 5, 1812, Thomas Hanks married Catherine Beck. Thomas was dead by the year 1826 as his estate was sold at public auction on September 16 of that year. The personal property was appraised at \$679.75. Joshua Hanks purchased several items at this sale. The children of Thomas and Catherine Hanks were Harriet, William, Elizabeth, Thomas, Stephen, Ann, David, and Samuel.

Joshua Hanks

The Joshua Hanks who was associated with Thomas Hanks in Hopkins County, was born February 17, 1787, according to the family records. There is very good evidence, however, that his father's name was John. Joshua married Esther Gatlin, a cousin, November 23, 1817. The names of their children were Mary, Williamson, Mahala, Nancy, Stuart, Elizabeth, Caroline, Mansfield, and Martha.

Family of William and Elizabeth Hanks

James, married, Rebecca Atherton
Elizabeth, married, Jubal Meadow
Nancy, married, Jacob Robbins
Charles, married, Hannah Martin
William, married?
Celia, married?
Joseph, married?
John, married, Susan Wilson
Lucinda, married, Thos. Douglas
Sarah, married, Mr. Brown
Andrew, married?

William Hanks married Elizabeth Hall September 12, 1793, a short time after the will of his father was probated. He bought his younger brother's interest in the homestead and evidently kept the family together for some time. About the year 1800 he purchased land in Hardin County and finally migrated into Indiana and later into Illinois.

The oldest son, James, was born in 1794 and married Rebecca Atherton in 1817. He moved to Sangamon

County in 1826 and two years later located four miles northwest of Decatur in Macon County. It was here in 1830 that Abraham Lincoln split rails for him.

John Hanks was born in 1802. For a short time he lived not far from the Lincolns in Spencer County, Indiana. In 1828 he moved to Macon County, Illinois, where his brother James, had settled. It was this John Hanks who supplied the rails for the Republican convention of 1860.

Charles Hanks

Tradition says Charles married and had four children; Jane, John, Conrad, and Nancy, but evidence to support this statement is lacking.

Family of Joseph and Polly Hanks

Jacob, married, Elizabeth Adams
Elizabeth, married
..... James Kirkpatrick
Susanna, married?
Nancy, married, William Hoosier
John, married, Ann Mattison
Joseph, married,

..... Martha Bartholomew
Mary, married, William Hall
Amaltha, married, Henry Loper
Caroline, married, James Hall
Joseph married Polly Young on November 10, 1810, more than four years after Lincoln's parents were married. The story that Nancy Hanks was visiting in the home of this Joseph, the Elizabethtown carpenter, at the time Thomas Lincoln met her in 1806 cannot be maintained.

Family of Elizabeth and Thomas Sparrow

They were married in 1796. As they had no children of their own they took their nephew Dennis Hanks, into their home. At their death in 1818 Dennis inherited their property. The story that Lincoln's mother lived with them as a small child or at any period in her life lacks confirmation. The Nancy Hanks who made her home with them for some time was Elizabeth's own sister Nancy, the mother of Dennis.

Family of Mary and Jesse Friend
Jesse Friend and Mary Hanks were married in Elizabethtown, Kentucky in 1795. Although they had several children the names of their offspring have not been learned.

Family of Nancy and Levi Hall
Dennis (Hanks), married,
..... Elizabeth Johnston
Squire, married
..... Matilda Johnston
William, married, Mary Hanks
James, married, Caroline Hanks

Levi Hall was a brother of Elizabeth Hall who married Nancy's brother William. Levi's stepson, Dennis, and son, Squire, married the two stepdaughters of Thomas Lincoln, while his two other sons married two daughters of his wife's brother, Joseph.

John Hall, one of the eight children born to Squire and Matilda Hall lived on the old Thomas Lincoln place in Coles County, Illinois, after the death of Abraham Lincoln's father.