

# LINCOLN LORE

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## LINCOLNS AND BOONES

The bicentennial anniversary of Daniel Boone's birth was celebrated throughout the nation on November 2, 1934. Possibly the interest aroused in the history of the Boone family on this occasion may encourage a more detailed study than has yet been made relating to the contacts and inter-marriages of the Lincolns and Boones.

There has been much speculation about the name of Abraham Lincoln's paternal grandmother and there is some evidence that she was a Boone. The fact that there has been, as yet, no conclusive proof introduced, which would identify without question the family from which Abraham Lincoln's grandmother Lincoln came, should spur the Boone family on to further efforts with respect to this traditional relationship.

### First Generation

When Mordecai Lincoln and his wife, Hannah Saltar Lincoln, settled in Berks County, Pennsylvania, about 1827, they found, living close by their newly-acquired property, the family of George and Deborah Howell Boone. There were also other Boone families in the community, including Squire Boone and James Boone, brothers of George.

Mordecai Lincoln made his will in 1735, and, after naming his second wife, Mary Robeson Lincoln, as the executor of the estate, he concluded, "and my loving friends and neighbors Jonathan Robeson and George Boone, trustees to assist my wife." When the Lincoln estate was appraised, Squire Boone, father of Daniel Boone, the Kentucky pioneer, served as one of the appraisers. There is much evidence that Mordecai Lincoln, first Pennsylvania ancestor of President Lincoln, and Squire Boone, father of Daniel Boone, were close friends.

### Second Generation

There were nine children in Mordecai Lincoln's family—four boys: John, Mordecai, Thomas, and Abraham; and five girls: Deborah, Hannah, Mary, Anne, and Sarah. In the George Boone family there were ten children—five boys: George, William, Joseph, Jeremiah, and Hezekiah; also five girls: Mary, Hannah, Deborah, Dinah, and Abigail. Squire Boone's family consisted of eleven children—seven sons: Israel, Samuel, Jonathan, Daniel, George, Edward, and Squire; also four daughters: Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary, and Hannah. In the family of James Boone there were twelve children—six boys: James, John, Judah, Joshua, Moses, and Nathaniel; also six girls: Anne, Mary, Martha, Dinah, Rachel, and Hannah.

It is not surprising, with such a large number of young people in these two families being thrown together, to find in the second generation of Lincolns and Boones much inter-marrying. On May 26, 1748, William Boone, son of George Boone, married Sarah Lincoln, daughter of Mordecai Lincoln; and on July 10, 1760, Abraham Lincoln, son of Mordecai Lincoln, married Anne Boone, daughter of James Boone. It is this last wedding which has greatly confused Lincoln students, and Abraham and Anne Boone Lincoln have often been referred to as the grandparents of the President.

For the purpose of this study there are three other young people among this large group who are of more importance than those just mentioned. The first, Daniel Boone, was sixteen years of age in 1750 when his father, Squire Boone, moved his family to a point near Winchester, Virginia, about one hundred and fifty miles southwest of the Berks County location. Three years later, just before Daniel became of age, the family migrated to North Carolina. The two others, Mordecai Lincoln's son, John, and George Boone's son, Josiah, were brought together in what might be called the first Lincoln-Boone migration.

John Lincoln married Rebecca (Flowers) Morris on July 5, 1744; and six years later Josiah Boone married,

according to our best information, Hannah Hite or Holman. Possibly there was an earlier marriage than this as the history of Josiah Boone is largely based on tradition. Of this fact we are certain, that both John Lincoln and Josiah Boone migrated to Virginia about 1767 and established themselves on Linville Creek in what is now Rockingham County. Here they remained as neighbors for about ten years before the Kentucky migrations began. Josiah's land was sold to Michael Shanks on March 14, 1777, and three years later part of the property which John Lincoln had entered was sold to the same Michael Shanks. It is through the contacts of the children of these two neighbors that we hope there may be found some evidence of an inter-marriage which will identify the grandmother of President Lincoln.

In an autobiographical sketch prepared by President Lincoln in 1860 he stated that his ancestors had come from Berks County, Pennsylvania; but he could trace them back no further than his Grandfather Abraham Lincoln for whom he was named. He also stated in this sketch that "The family were originally Quakers though in later times they have fallen away from the peculiar habits of that people." Historians have been unable to discover that any of Lincoln's male ancestors in the Lincoln line were Quakers, so the supposition is that Abraham Lincoln, the pioneer, married into a Quaker family.

### Third Generation

John Lincoln, the oldest son of Mordecai Lincoln, had nine children—five boys: Abraham Isaac, Jacob, John, and Thomas; also four girls: Hannah, Lydia, Sarah, and Rebecca. It is Abraham Lincoln, the oldest son, born in 1744, with whom we are chiefly concerned because he was the grandfather of the President. He migrated with his father to Linville Creek, Virginia, in 1768; and two years later on June 9, 1770, his marriage is recorded on the records of Augusta County, Virginia, but the name of the bride is not given. It is known that at the time of his death, in 1786, he was married to a woman whose first name was Bathsheba and whose maiden name is said to have been Herring. There is also a tradition that she was the second wife of the pioneer and not the woman he married in 1770 nor the mother of the first four children of Abraham.

In the autobiographical sketch mentioned above, the President named the children of his Grandfather Abraham as follows: Mordecai, Josiah, Thomas, Mary, and Ann. The name Josiah is not found among the ancestors of the Lincolns; but, inasmuch as Josiah Boone had lived close to Abraham Lincoln's father in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and was also a close neighbor on Linville Creek in Virginia at the time Abraham Lincoln was married, the supposition has been that Abraham Lincoln may have married one of Josiah Boone's daughters, hence the introduction of the name Josiah into the Lincoln family. Very little is known about the family of Josiah Boone, and no complete list of his children is available.

There is one tradition in the Boone family, that Lincoln married Hannah Winters, daughter of Ann Boone Winters, the sister of Daniel Boone. This story was published in *Galaxy Magazine* for January, 1877.

Another Boone tradition found in Wadde's "Annals of Augusta County" claims that Elizabeth, daughter of Ann Boone Winters, rather than Hannah Winters, married Lincoln. The identity of the Ann Boone as a sister of Daniel Boone lacks confirmation, and one authority comes to the rescue by claiming that Ann was an aunt instead of a sister of Daniel Boone.

Of this fact we are certain, that a William Winters was living on Linville Creek in Virginia, close by the family of Josiah Boone and John Lincoln, so that it may be possible that John Lincoln's son, Abraham, married a Winters, whose mother was a Boone, which would give the desired Quaker background.