

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN'S EUROPEAN ANCESTRY

The coronation of King George has raised the question of Abraham Lincoln's European ancestry and the origin of the paternal line of the family. The first American progenitor of the President was named Samuel Lincoln and his identity has been positively established.

It can now be affirmed that Samuel Lincoln came to America as a youth from Norfolk County, England. Although at the time of the removal he was apparently living at Norwich, he was born at Hingham, also in Norfolk County.

There is still some confusion about the exact date of Samuel Lincoln's birth and his age at the time he migrated to America. There is little doubt but what he is the same Samuel Lincoln who is entered on the records of Hingham, England as having been baptized on August 24, 1622. His death record is preserved at Hingham, Massachusetts as of May 26, 1690. Whether or not his baptismal rites were delayed a few months after his birth and whether or not he was seventy-one at the time of his death is not positively known. Probably he was born in 1619.

Samuel Lincoln was the sixth son and the seventh child of Edward Lincoln, gentleman, of Hingham County, Norfolk, England. Two older brothers, Thomas, the weaver and Daniel, the husbandman, preceded Samuel to America, where they settled at a town named after their old English community, Hingham.

Samuel Lincoln's father, Edward, was the oldest son of Richard Lincoln, which under the old English law of primogeniture made him the heir to his father's estate. His mother was Elizabeth Remching, oldest daughter of Richard Remching and Elizabeth, his wife. She died, however, when Samuel was a small child. His father married again and a son Richard was born to this second union. The wife soon passed away and a third marriage contract was consummated with a widow by the name of Margery Dunham. If there were children by this third marriage it is not known.

After the death of his wife, Margery, still another companion was sought and wedded. The new wife's name was Anne Small, whose maiden name was Bird. The first child of the fourth marriage was a daughter, Ann, baptised in 1599, a daughter named Elizabeth and a son named Henry were also born in 1602 and 1605, respectively. This last wife, who was many years younger than her husband, began to plan how she might acquire for herself and her own children the property which legally be-

lived for several generations. He married Margaret Albery, but died before his oldest son Richard became of age. His will drawn on January 14, 1556, and proven on the 29th of the same month gives us the names of two sons, Richard and John, two daughters, Katherine and Agnes, and also a posthumous child about whom no information has been gathered. The widow later married Roger Wright and survived her second husband.

We are able to go back one more generation as the will of Robert's father, for whom he was named, is also extant. The senior Robert Lincoln of Hingham, made his will on April 18, 1540, and the inheritance he left his son Robert, junior, is referred to by Edward Lincoln, father of Samuel as "the inheritance of Robert Lincoln, father of the said Richard."

The earliest English ancestor of Abraham Lincoln, the President, who has been definitely identified with the family is the Robert Lincoln of Hingham, who made his will in 1540. The last member of the American family bearing the name of Lincoln was also Robert who died in Vermont in 1926.

Samuel Lincoln was baptized in the Hingham Parish church as noted in record. There also, his grandfather, Richard Lincoln was buried in "the middle isle" of the church. The prominence of his burial place puts him in the class known as "the gentry" or gentlemen.

The church of St. Andrew at Hingham, Norfolk county, England has become a European Lincoln shrine. In a niche in the wall of the church there was unveiled on October 15, 1919, a bust of Abraham Lincoln by Volk. Under the bust, engraved in stone one may read this inscription:

"In this parish for many generations lived the Lincolns, ancestors of Abraham Lincoln, to whom, greatest of that lineage, many citizens of the United States have erected this memorial, in the hope that for all ages between that land and this land and for all lands, there shall be malice toward none with charity for all."

FIVE GENERATIONS OF ENGLISH LINCOLNS

- I Robert Lincoln—d. 1543
- II Robert Lincoln—d. 1556
- III Richard Lincoln—d. 1620
- IV Edward Lincoln—d. 1640
- V Samuel Lincoln—d. 1690

longed to Edward, the first born son and legal heir.

When Richard Lincoln made his will, the oldest son, Edward was not mentioned and his wife Ann, with her three children became the only beneficiaries. Edward Lincoln says in the litigation over the will, "His father was much laboured by his latter wife to make a will for the advancement of her children," while he was "disinherited by her meanness and procurement."

It is assured from the records relating to the property of Samuel Lincoln's grandfather, Richard that he died possessed of a very respectable estate. If the property had descended to the oldest son, Edward as was customary, Samuel's father would have been very well-to-do and possibly there would not have been the incentive for Samuel to seek his own fortunes in America.

Richard Lincoln's father, Robert, and the great grandfather of Samuel was also a resident of Hingham, England where the family apparently had