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ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S KNOWLEDGE OF HIS ANCESTRY

President Lincoln died without knowing the full names of any of his ancestors except his paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln. This grandparent was massacred by the Indians in 1786 when the President's father was but a small boy and twenty-three years before "Abe" himself was born. The President's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln passed away when her son was but nine years of age so he would not have learned much about the genealogy of the Hanks family.

Naturally, the President had little information about his forebears and some of the meagre biographical data be prepared for the campaign biographers needs some slight correcting and considerable supplementing. Inasmuch as John L. Scripps devotes a paragraph to Lincoln's ancestry in his "Life of Abraham Lincoln" published in 1860 it is used as a basic exhibit of the President's knowledge about his progenitors and close kinfolk. The excerpts from Scripps' work follows in bold face type while the editorial comment appears in type of light face.

"It is not known at what period the ancestors of Abraham Lincoln came to America.

The President's first American progenitor bearing the name Lincoln came from old Hingham, England to Hingham, Massachusetts in 1637. His name was Samuel (great, great, great, great grandfather) born in 1619 and died in 1690.

"The first account that has been obtained of them dates back one hundred and fifty years.

By the year 1860 ancestors of the President had been in America 223 years instead of 150 years.

"At which time they were living in Berks County, Pennsylvania,

One hundred and fifty years before 1860, or in 1710, there were no Lincolns in Pennsylvania, but forbears of the President, Samuel and his son Mordecai, Sr. (great, great, great grandfather) were then living in Massachusetts and Mordecai, Jr. (great, great grandfather) was residing in Monmouth County, New Jersey.

"And were members of the Society of Friends.

The Massachusetts Lincolns were affiliated with the Church of England. Mordecai, Jr. married in New Jersey Hannah Saltar a Baptist, and granddaughter of the famous Obdiah Holmes. Their son John (great grandfather) was undoubtedly brought up in the Baptist faith. Mordecai Jr. married a second wife in Berks County, Penn. and he is buried in the Friends meeting house at Essex, but there is no evidence that he or any other of Lincoln's ancestors joined the Quaker church.

"Whence or when they came to that region is not known.

It is fairly well established that Mordecai Jr. and his family moved from Monmouth County, N. J. to Chester County, Penn. in the year 1720 and then to Berks County in the same state in 1727.

"About the middle of the last century, the great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln removed from Berks County, Pennsylvania, to Rockingham County, Virginia.

John Lincoln, the great grandfather of the President about 1765 migrated from Berks County, Penn. to that portion of Augusta County that in 1771 became Rockingham County, Va.

"There Abraham Lincoln, the grandfather, and Thomas Lincoln, the father of the subject of this sketch, were born.

While Thomas (father) was born in Rockingham County, the exact site of Abraham's (grandfather) birthplace is not known. It was likely near the present

city of Birdsboro, Penn. where John Lincoln was living with his family in 1744, about the time his first son was born.

"Abraham, the grandfather, had four brothers—Isaac, Jacob, John and Thomas—descendants of whom are now living in Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri.

Besides the four brothers named, grandfather Abraham Lincoln had four sisters: Hannah who married John Harrison, Lydia who is said to have married Brian, Sarah who married John Dean, and Rebecca who married John Rimel.

"Abraham removed to Kentucky about the year 1780,

Best evidence seems to imply that grandfather Abraham made two trips to the Kentucky country, first as a prospector in 1780 and with his family in 1782.

"And four years thereafter, while engaged in opening a farm, he was surprised and killed by Indians;

Many years ago the editor of *Lincoln Lore* discovered in the Nelson County, Ky. Circuit Court an affidavit in which the pioneer's oldest son stated, "Abraham Lincoln departed this life May 1786 without will." The date of the grandfather's death had previously been accepted as 1784.

"Leaving a widow, three sons, and two daughters.

There is still some speculation whether the widow Bersheba Lincoln was the only, or the second, wife of grandfather Lincoln. Tradition has it that all the children except the youngest daughter were by an earlier marriage.

"The eldest son, Mordecai, remained in Kentucky until late in life, when he removed to Hancock County, Illinois, where he shortly afterward died, and where his descendants still live.

Mordecai (uncle) moved from Washington County to Hardin County, later Grayson County, in 1811. It was not until 1828 that he migrated to Hancock, Illinois, and died the following year. The children of Mordecai and Mary Mudd Lincoln were: Abraham, James Bradford, Mordecai Jr., Elizabeth, Mary, Rowena and Martha. Some of them moved to Hancock County, Illinois as early as 1828.

"The second son, Josiah settled many years ago on Blue River, in Harrison County, Indiana.

Josiah (uncle) moved from Washington County, Ky. to Harrison County, Indiana in 1813, three years before his brother Thomas migrated to that state. There were two sons and four daughters born to Josiah and Catherine Barlow Lincoln: Barbara, Thomas, Elizabeth, Nancy, Jacob and Catherine.

"The eldest daughter, Mary, was married to Ralph Crume, and some of her descendants are now living in Breckenridge County, Kentucky.

Mary (aunt) and her husband Ralph Crume moved from Washington County to that part of Hardin County that later became Breckenridge almost immediately after their marriage as the Crume name appears on the tax list for 1802.

"The second daughter, Nancy, was married to William Brumfield, and her descendants are supposed to be living in Kentucky."

Nancy (aunt) and her husband William Boone were in Hardin County as early as 1802 and they had no sons but four daughters: Elizabeth who married William Hall, Lucretia who married John Allston, Mary who married Ralph L. Crume and Susan who married Abner Harrison.