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Cane Ridge, Ky.,

July 17, 1896.

Dr. Pendleton:

Twenty years ago I heard George M. Bedford of this Co., now dead, give an apparently circumstantial account of the darkness enveloping the character of Nancy Hanks. The lapse of time, together with want of interest in the theme has removed from memory the particulars. This fact remains however, of the incident, that Mr. Bedford believed that Lincoln was the illegitimate son of Nancy Hanks. The site or structure which was the home of Nancy is still pointed out, which I think was on the farm of the late Matt. Hume of this Co. Matt. Bedford, a grand son, owns the old homestead and can give you the facts as given him by grand father, I learn. I believe his P. O. is Escandida, Bourbon Co. Mr. Bedford has Bro. and sis. living, very old and bright from whom you may get a version. Their P. O. Paris. Will McMillin, Paris, prominent lawyer told me yesterday that in 1865 or '66 he had a talk with a Dr. Hall of Ind. who was a man of sprightliness and character, a school fellow of Lincoln, and that his school mates knew of his illegitimacy. Mc Millen was sworn to secrecy in the revelation and was so impressed that he made a note of the particulars in his diary, thinks he has it yet and will look it up. Nancy Hanks' name does not appear on old church book and have no means of ascertaining if she ever attended church at Cane Ridge. The original structure is intact to-day save some modern embellishments, services monthly. Built in 1791 by Robt. W. Fenly and associates, Presbyterians, he the pastor till '96 when he was succeeded by Barton W. Stone. The scene of the great meeting in 1801 where 20,000 people camped for weeks. Within its walls, June 28, 1804, the present christians church was founded by Stone and Purvyance in their secession from the Presbyterians with the entire congregation, repudiating all creeds and adopting the bible alone for guidance in all spiritual affairs. The first baptism was in 1807, the date of full organization of the church. My grand father William Rogers became its first clerk and I now fill that station. Have accumulated something of historical data, sketches etc., which can only be seen and read here. I have an experience.

I am, etc.,

J. R. Rogers.