Appendix. Lincoln Literature.

II. - L.P. cap

~~Recollection~~ Dr. Christopher Columbus Graham's Recollections of Abraham Lincoln's Parents. / c6

Ben Hall

(written ab- at Dr. Graham's dictation by Mr. Henry Whitney Cleveland of Louisville, Ky, and signed by Dr. Graham's own hand.

~~Old times in Kentucky~~

I, Christopher Columbus Graham, now in my hundreth year, and visiting the Southern Exposition in Louisville, where I live, tell this to please my young friend Henry Cleveland, who is nearly half my age. He was often at the Springs Hotel in Harrodsburg, Ky, then owned and Kept by me for invalids and pleasure-seekers. I am one of the two living men who can prove that Abraham Lincoln, or Linkhorn, as the family was + miscalled, was born in lawful wedlock, for I saw Thomas Lincoln marry Nancy Hanks on the 12th day of June, 1806. He was born at what was then known as the Rock Spring Farm. It is now called the Creal Place; three miles south of Hodgenville in Larue County, Ky. Kentucky was first a county of Virginia after its settlement, and then was divided into three counties, and these again divided, are pretty much the present state. The first historian was Filson, who made and published the first map of the separate territory with the names of streams and stations as given by Daniel Boone and Squire Boone, James Harrod and others. I knew all of these, as well as President Lincoln's parents. I think they lived on the farm four years after he was born. Another boy was born in Hodgenville, or I should say buried there. The sister Sally was older than Abe, I think. I think the paper now owned by Henry Cleveland is the "marriage lines" written by Rev. Jesse Head, a well known Methodist Preacher. I do not think the old Bible it was found in, was that of Tom. Lincoln. It would cost too much for him.

+ some say.

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All of the records in it were those of the father's family, — the Jn°. M. Hewetts. of the wife of Dr. Theodore S. Bell. Dr. Bell was only about twenty years younger than I am and probably got the certificate in 1858 or 1860, when assertions were made that Tom. Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were not married when Abe was born. He was reputed to have been born 12: February 1809, and I see no good reason to dispute it. Sally, I am sure, was the first child, and Nancy was a fresh and good looking girl; I should say past twenty. Nancy lived with the Sparrow family a good bit. It was likely Tom. had the family bible from Virginia, through his father, called Abraham Linkhorn. His brothers however were older; if they were brothers, and not uncles, as some say. I was hunting roots for my medicines, and just went to the wedding to get a good supper, and got it. Bibles cost as much as the spinning wheel or loom or rifle, and were imported in the main. A favorite with the Methodists, was Fletcher's or one he wrote a preface for. Preachers used it and had no commentaries. A book dedicated to King James or any other King, did not take well in Revolutionary times. The Bibles I used to see had no printed Records or blanks, but a lot of fine linen hand-made paper would be bound in, front or back. On this, family history and land matters were written out fully like a book. Some had fifty pages. The court houses even, were made of logs, and the meeting houses too, if they had any. No registers were kept as in English parish churches, and are not yet. Before a license could be had, a bond and security was taken of the bridegroom, and the preacher had to return to the court all marriages of the year. This was often a long list, and at times papers were lost or forgotten, but not often.

* ~~some say~~

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The "Marriage Lines" given by the preacher to the parties were very important in case the records were burned up by accident. Such is the paper that Henry Cleveland has shown to me. The ring was not often used as so few had one to use. The Methodist Church discipline forbid "the putting on of gold or costly apparel," and I think a preacher with a gold watch, - if not an inherited one, would have been dismissed. A preacher that married was "located" and that ended his itinerancy in the Methodist Church. The Presbyterians were educated and married, Baptists not. Tom. Lincoln was a carpenter and a good one for those days when a cabin was built mainly with the axe, and not a nail or bolt or hinge in it, only leathers and pins to the door, and no glass, except in watches and spectacles and bottles. Tom. had the best set of tools in what was then and now Washington County. Lame county where the farm was settled, was then Hardin. Jesse Head the good Methodist preacher that married them, was also a carpenter or cabinet-maker by trade, and as he was then a neighbor, they were good friends. He had a quarrel with the Bishops and was not an itinerant for several years, but an Editor and County judge afterwards, in Harrodsburg. Mr. Henry Cleveland has his commission from Governor Isaac Shelby. Many great men of the South and North were then opposed to slavery, mainly because the new negroes were as wild as the Indians and might prove as dangerous. Few of the whites could read, and yet Pope and Dryden and Shakespeare were as well known as Bunyan's Pilgrims and Baxter's Saints rest. Some were educated in Virginia and South Carolina before they came,

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and these when they became teachers, wrote out their school books entirely by hand. Thomas Lincoln, like his son after him, had a notion that fortunes could be made by trips to New Orleans by flat-boat. This was dangerous powr snags and whirl-pools in the rivers, powr Indians and powr even worse pirates of the French, Canadians and half-breeds. Steam was unknown, and the flats had to be sold in New Orleans as they could not be rowed back against the currents. The neighbors jolked Tom. for building his boat too high and narrow powr an idea he had about speed, that has since been adopted by Ocean steam ships. But he lacked in ballast. He loaded her up with deer and bear hams and buffalo, which last was then not so plenty for meat or hides as when the Boone brothers come in. Besides he had wax, for bees seemed to follow the white people, and he had wolf and coon and mink and beaver skins, gentian root, that folks then called gensang or 'sang, nuts, honey, peach-brandy and whiskey, and jeans woven by his wife and Sally Bush, that he married after Nancy died. Some said she died of heart trouble powr slanders about her and old Abe Enloe, called Inloe, while her Abe, named for the pioneer Abraham Linkhorn, ⊗ was still little. But I am ahead of my story, for Nancy had just got married where I was telling it, and the flat-boat and Sally Bush Lincoln come in before he goes over to what people called Indiana. I will finish that and then go back. He started down Knob creek when it was flush with rains; but the leaves held water like a sponge, and the ground was shaded with big trees and papaw and sassafras thickets and "cane", as Bible read folks

⊗ some say

McCabe

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spelt the cane, and streams did'nt dry up in summer like they do now. When he got to the Ohio, it was flush too and full of whirlpools and snags. He had his tool-chest along intending to stop and work in Indiana and take down another boat. But he never got to the Mississippi with that, for it upset, and he only saved his chest and part of his load because he was near to the Indiana shore. He stored what he saved under bank, and came home a-foot, and in debt to neighbors who had helped him. But people never pressed a man that lost by Indians or water.

Now I go back for a spell. Thomas and Nancy both could read and write, and little Abe went to school about a year. He was eight years old at the time of the accident to Tom. Lincoln's down-the-river venture. Thomas and Nancy were good common people, not above nor below their neighbors, and I did not take much notice of them, because there was no likelyhood that their wedding would mean more than other people's did. The preacher, Jesse Head, often talked to me on religion and politics, for I always liked the Methodists. I have thought it might have been as much from his free spoken opinions as from Henry Clay's American-African colonization scheme in 1817, that I lost a likely negro man, who was leader of my musicians.

It is said that Tom. Corwin met him in Ohio on his way to Canada, and asked if I was along. The boy said no, he was going for his freedom. Governor Corwin said he was a fool. He had never been whipped or abused, but dressed like a white man, with the best to eat, and that hundreds of white people would be glad of such a good place with no care, but cared for.

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The boy drew himself up and said — "Marse Tom, that situation with all its advantages is open to you if you want ter go an' fill it."

But Judge Head never encouraged any runaway, nor had any "underground railroad." He only talked freely and boldly, and had plenty of true Southern men with him, such as Clay. The Eli Whitney cotton gin had not made slavery so valuable that preachers looked in Hebrew and Greek Testaments for scripture for it. Tom. Lincoln and Nancy and Sally Bush, were just steeped full of Jesse Head's notions about the wrong of slavery and the rights of man as explained by Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine. Abe. Lincoln the Liberator, was made in his mother's womb and father's brain and in the prayers of Sally Bush, by the talks and sermons of Jesse Head, the Methodist circuit rider, Assistant County Judge, printer-Editor and cabinet maker. Little Abe grew up to serve as a cabinet maker himself two Presidential terms.

It was in my trip to Canada after my negro, that I met the younger brother of the great chief, Tecumseh. A mob wanted to kill me because I was after my property that had legs and a level head. The Indian was one of the finest looking men I ever saw, and in the full uniform of a British officer. He protected me and we had a talk after the danger was over. He said that history was right about the death of his great brother, Tecumseh, at the battle of the Thames in 1813. But the story of his skin being taken off by soldiers to make razor straps was all a lie, as they never had the chance. He was not even slain at the point in the battle indicated by Col. Richard M. Johnson, whose accession to the Vice-

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Presidency in 1836. was largely due to the credit which he gained for this supposed exploit. My Indian protector said he was a lad at the time, but there, and that the red men never abandoned their chiefs, dead nor alive. ¶ I come back again to the Lincoln-Hanks wedding of 1806. Rev^d or Judge Jesse Head was one of the most prominent men there, as he was able to own slaves but did not on principle. Next I reckon, came Mordecai Lincoln, at one time member of the Kentucky Legislature. He was a good Indian fighter, and although some say he was the elder brother of Tom. Lincoln, I understood he was his uncle, or father's brother. The story of his Killing the Indian who Killed old Abraham Linkhorn, is all "my eye and Betty Martin." ¶ My acceptance of this whole pedigree is on hearsay and none of it from the locality of Tom. Lincoln's home. There is a Virginia Land Warrant, N^o 3334, of March 4^th 1780, for four hundred acres of land, cost-one hundred and sixty pounds; located in Jefferson County, Kentucky, on Long-Run, and signed by William Shannon, D.S.J.C. and William May, S.J.C. witnessed by Araniah Lincoln and Josiah Lincoln, C.C. (chain-carriers) and Abraham Linkhorn, Marker, (Ex^d), dated May 7^th 1785, five years yet later. "Mordecai Lincoln, Gentleman", is the title given one who died in Berks County, Pennsylvania in 1735, and his will is recorded in the Register's office in Philadelphia. New Jersey, Virginia and Tennessee, also have the name correctly, in the last century. The fame of General Benjamin Lincoln of the Revolution was on every tongue at that time. In the field-book of Daniel Boone, owned by Lyman C. Draper, five hundred acres of land was entered for Abraham Lincoln on treasury warrant N^o 5994, December 11: 1782. The officers of the

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Land-office of Virginia could spell and so could the surveyor and deputy surveyor (Record "B". p 60.) of Jefferson County in 1785. The two chain carriers spelled the name correctly. Why not also think that the third man spelled his correctly. A very illiterate man could pronounce what he could not spell, and Abraham Linkhorn, who had money £160. and could write, knew his own name. President Lincoln told James Speed,—"I don't know who my grandfather was, and am more concerned to know what his grandson will be". I am not sure that we know either, perfectly yet. While you pin me down to facts I will say that I saw Nancy Hanks Lincoln at her wedding, a fresh looking girl, I should say over twenty. Tom was a respectable mechanic and could choose, and she was treated with respect. She had no shirt-tail * boy hanging around her then that I saw, and there was no tattle about one. When there were children the girl was the older and a boy was dead, and that is as near as I can prove that Abe. Lincoln was born in lawful wedlock. There are mighty few common poor men who can prove as much, and fewer know their grandfathers.

* too little for pantaloons.

I was at the infare too, given by John H. Parrott, her guardian, and only girls with money had guardians appointed by the court. He had bear-meat that you can eat the grease of and it not rise like other fats. Venison, wild turkey and ducks, eggs wild and tame so common that you could buy them at two bits a bushel, maple sugar strung on a string to bite off for coffee or whiskey, syrup in big gourds, peach-and-honey, a sheep that the two families barbecued whole over coals of wood burned in a pit and covered with green boughs to keep the

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juices in, and a race for the whisky bottle. The sheep cost the most, and corn was early raised in what is now Boyle county at the Isaac Shelby place. I don't know who stamped in the first peach seed, but they grew before the apples. Our table was of the puncheons cut from solid logs, and on the next day they were the floor of the new cabin.

"It is all stuff about Tom Lincoln keeping his wife in an open shed in a winter when the wild animals left the woods and stood in the corners next the stick-and-clay chimneys, so as not to freeze to death; or, if climbers, got on the roof. The Lincolns had a cow and calf, milk and butter, a good feather bed, for I have slept in it while they took the buffalo robes on the floor, because I was a doctor. They had home-woven 'kiverlids,' big and little pots, a loom and wheel; and William Hardesty, who was there too, can say with me that Tom Lincoln was a man, and took care of his wife."

New York,

I have been in bark camps with Daniel and Squire Boone and James Harrod. We have had to wade in the "crick" as Daniel spelt it, to get our scent lost in the water and the Indians clears off our trail. When trailed and there was no water handy, I have seen Daniel cut a big grape vine loose at the bottom with his tomahawk from the ground. Then with a run and swing from the tree it hung to, swing and jump forty feet clear, to break the scent on the ground. I have done it too but not so far. He could beat any man on the run and jump but it took more than two Indians or one bear to make him do it. If no dog barked in the silent woods, we could run backward very fast and make the Indian think we had gone the way we came. They

1884.
Word for word,
H.W.C.

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They went that way and we the other for deer scalps and hair. Squirrels barking or chattering at Indians or dogs often told us of our danger. I wanted to have a Pioneer exhibit - at the great Louisville Southern Expositions of 1883 and 1884. I wanted the dense laurel and the papaw thickets planted in rich soil, the bear climbing the bee-tree and beaten by the swinging log hung by the hunter in his way, the creeping Indian with his tomahawk and the hunter with the old flint-and-steel rifle, just as I had seen them. Then I wanted to have women from the mountains and the counties that railroads and turnpikes have not opened, and have them in real life, to spin and weave, or bead and fringe the moccason and hunting shirt and leggins as they did when I was a boy. This, by the side of the Industries and Arts of the new era, and the wool and cotton machinery in its present perfection, would indeed tell to the eyes, of the changes seen by an old man who has lived an hundred years. As they did not listen to me, I have asked Henry Cleveland - who was a boy and played with my little children at the Harrodsburg Springs in the forties, to write it as I talked to him. I am very deaf but can see and talk and will now write my autograph to what he has written and copied off, and will take up James Harrod at another time.

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