

THE MISSES CURRY
GENEALOGISTS AND RESEARCHERS
1020 MONROE STREET N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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My dear Miss Tarbell:

Before beginning upon the Lincoln family history I wish to make it clear, that we have not gone into it systematically, nor have we given it consecutive attention, but have gathered some testimony in the case for our own satisfaction from records readily available to us. We have not listed the authorities of those who have made the subject a study, so do not know whether certain County records have been examined; but we do know that available records have not been exhausted, although our investigations have been made in "spare moments."

We consider Court records, Deeds, etc. as near positive proof as can well be obtained, and the Deed of Abraham and Bathsheba Lincoln gives us the name of his wife. It does not settle the question of a previous marriage. We value family traditions highly, but we always verify them, if possible. The Shipley marriages are not convincing to me; and I wonder that no Bedford Co. records are quoted to support the claim. One thing I seem to recall is that Abraham Lincoln's death was avenged by his 12 year old son. Am I right? If so, the child was born after the 1770 marriage in Augusta County. The Shipleys do not appear in Augusta county, but the Herrings do; and the two families were friendly. We have a census record, which we wish to verify, in which Mordecai and Josiah are stated to be under 45 in 1810; to be exact, they were "between 26 and 45". The 1830 census gives the ages by decades, so would be illuminating.

Leonard Herring was married in Augusta Co. in August, 1760. If Bathsheba was Leonard's child, she could not have been married in 1770. We do not know Leonard's age, but Bethuel, who was a brother, according

to published statements, was born about 1754, and the marriage to Margaret Erwin in 1800 was not his first marriage.

You spoke of examining the Shelby Co., Ky. records; have you ever examined the Washington Co., records? Mordecai and Josiah Lincoln and Richard Berry were all living there in 1810. Have you examined the Bedford Co., Va. records? I would like to see what they say of the Shipleys, and what grounds exist for the tradition of the Lincoln marriage. Not that I have any objections to the marriage, but merely seek information.

We find that one misses a great deal by following the male lines only, as the daughters of a family are more apt to preserve family records and traditions.

We obtained a number of facts from a case in Court in which John Rymel and Rebekah, his wife were the plaintiffs. Rebekah was the daughter of John and Rebekah Lincoln.

We had not determined the name of Abraham Lincoln's bride of 1770, and were viewing with suspicion a family named Warren. There seems to have been some bond between Abraham Lincoln, Reuben Harrison, and Jacob Warren, but we have not had time to follow it very far.

After the holidays, I will try to steal a little time from my work, and look up some Rev. War pensioners who may throw a little light on family relationships. You have, no doubt, found whether there are any Lincoln of Va. pensioners; may I ask whether you examined the records personally, through a researcher, or through report from the Pension Office? My reason for asking is, that the official report is (of necessity) brief, and does not include many points which are of importance in genealogical research; in the latter case a re-examination may be profitable.

Pardon this disjointed epistle, which is due to the season.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, I am

Sincerely yours,

Kate S. Curry

There is perhaps nothing new to you in the accompanying notes, but again there may be one little point worth while. I am sorry that I am not able to give the matter its due attention, at this moment.

From Court Records in Augusta Co., Va. these facts are obtained;

The Will of John Lincoln, recorded in Rockingham county, mentions wife Rebekah; sons Thomas, Abraham, Isaa, Jacob, and John; daughters Hannah, Lydia, Sarah and Rebekah; grand daughter Hannah Bryan.

John Lincoln died November, 1788. About two years after John's death his widow was 70 years old and that she lived with her daughter Hannah Harrison; Thomas moved to Ky. Rebekah died 21 July, 1806. Hannah died probably 1803. ("shortly before Hannah's death John and his wife took her (i.e. Hannah) 3 Aug. 1803.")

Thomas Lincoln and wife Elizabeth of Rockingham Co., gave a deed to Jacob, for the land on Linvil's Creek which had been devised by their father. This bore date 20 Sept. 1791.

In 1810 John Lincoln was living in Shelby Co., Ky.. William Shipman had called upon him supposing him to be the Father-in-law of William Henton, who lived about five miles from said Lincoln. Wm. Shipman was a brother of Jonathan. During this year David Lincoln received a letter from his uncle John. Rebekah Lincoln married John Rynel. (date not shown, but prior to 1813)

William Herring, John Harrison, Jonathan Shipman, Thomas Harrison were friends of the Lincolns. Reuben Harrison, son of Thomas appears, and at an earlier date is Reuben, son of John Harrison. The latter's wife was named Lydia. The Moores seem to be very close to some of the families.

No Shipley family is shown with them, nor is the Hanks name associated. Harrison and Tallman intermarriages are shown.

Leonard Herring was married August, 1760. In 1786 his son William was married. Bethuel Herring, widower, was married Oct. 11, 1800 to Margaret Erwin, daughter of John and Mary Erwin

William Herring died in 1806 leaving a family; his daughter Abigail (deceased) had married Wm. Chipley and lived in N.C.; she left two children.

The name Chipley was encountered in Ky. once, as a neighbor of these other families.

Mordecai and Josiah Lincoln lived in Washington Co., Ky. in 1810. Both were between 26 & 45; Josiah had 4 children, and all were under 10 years of age. In Mordecai's household was a female between 16 & 26, and a male between 10 & 16, and 4 children under 10. The wives of the two men were given "between 26 & 45".