By Caroline Hawk Hitchcock

A FEW OF HIS "PROOFS"
ABOUT THE FAMILY OF THE
MOTHER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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HIS MOTHER'S FAMILY

Barton claims to have found one Thomas Hancks, who *might* have been the father of one William Hanks, who *might* have been the father of oneJohn Hanks, who *might* have been the father of one Joseph Hanks, who *might* have been the father of Lucy, who *probably* was the mother of Nancy, who was the mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Joseph had five sons and four daughters *probably* born in Richmond Co., Virginia. This was *probably* the same Joseph who later appeared in West Virginia in 1782 with a family of eleven. As this was the right *number* of people it *must* have been this Joseph. He mortgaged his farm in 1784. Why? Because his eldest daughter Lucy had a daughter Nancy born that year. This *must* have been the same Joseph who made a will in 1793 -- though the name Lucy does not occur in this will nor in connection with him at any time -- another of his daughters had a child named Dennis though this is not proved either by any record. The Sparrows told him.

THE SPARROWS

The Sparrows told him. "All the Sparrows know this". It was Henry, son of James Wright Sparrow who did the gallant act of marrying Lucy. From the New Standard Dictionary. "Sparrow..noted for its attachment to human domicils....its prolificness and its pugnacity..is destructive to grain, fruit and blossom"

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LUCY

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"Though Lucy had been married two years and was behaving like a perfect lady in 1793 when her father died". She was not mentioned in the will. Why? Because it would seem she was not his daughter. Yet Barton says "Whether her parents turned her out or she left against their will we do not know.... I am reluctant to tell about the behaviour of Lucy... We have no orchestra to strike the symbols or blow the bugles... But there enters quietly a hero.. Henry Sparrow.."

"All the Sparrows know this"

"I have fouhd the nest of the Sparrows who told me all this"

"It is not to be doubted for a moment that Henry and Lucy Sparrow were at the wedding of Nancy.... Abraham Lincoln did not suspect that Lucy sustained toward his mother any closer relation than did his aunts Polly and Nancy..Lucy looked at this lad of seven and commented on his growth...Her heart must have given a significant leap. ..."

DENNIS - LAMON - HERNDON

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"Dennis could lie a little"

Page 65

"Dennis lied like a gentleman to protect his cousin"

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"The letter containing important data of the Hanks family was written by Dennis for Herndon".

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Page 92

"It is necessary to remind the reader that all that Lamon has told us..about his farm is incorrect..Lamon utterly confused them..."

Page 219

"William Herndon was a diligent if not always a discriminating gatherer of facts. When he draws an inference he is often wrong."

Page 249

"Herndon had his cruel revenge of Mrs. Lincoln in what he told about her in his life of Lincoln and his lecture on Ann Rutlege"

Page 416

"Herndon shamed her widowhood by claiming that Lincoln loved Ann Rutledge and never loved his wife."

Page 150

"Herndon was never drunk enough to have lauded the democratic party"

From a Letter from Barton to Mrs. C. H. Hitchcock: "Herndon was a drunkard and he learned to use morphine from his second wife. Lamon was incapable of appreciating Lincoln's true greatness and Black whom he employed to assist him was no friend of Lincoln."

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From a letter of Judge Advocate Gen. Holt. to Barton -

".....The first man who attempted to blacken the reputation of Mr. Lincoln after his death was a low drunken infidel by the name of Wm. H. Herndon, a man of such dissipated character and sentiments that nobody about Springfield cared to give him the notoriety of even a passing kick.

The man soon after Mr. Lincoln's death collected what he considered sufficient materials with which to immortalize himself as the historian of Mr. Lincoln. But not having the means to publish it as it seems, he deposited the manuscript for safe keeping...in the bank in Springfield, where it remained in durance vile as a sort of collateral security..and where it most likely would have remained in its merited obscurity, but for the assistance of his distinguished friend and associate Col. Ward Hill Lamon who brought the precious document to light by purchasing it, paying $2000 for it as I am informed, and incorporating it in a book of his own...published in a large and expensive volume and circulated over the country, declaring it to be the only real, fair, and reliable history of Mr. Lincoln and his sentiments.

It does seem a pity that such notice should be taken of these gentlemen and their infamous publication..these two gentlemen like Joab of old come forward, take their friend by the beard with the right hand, kiss him, and then gallantly stab him under the fifth rib. ....

These two worthy friends of the president with the assistance of a third, whose name does not appear in the book but who

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is the son of Jeremiah S.Black of this state..By a singular combination of wits and meager talents form a triparite.. authorship, and then this mountain labours, and there comes forth this ridiculous muss, Lamon's Life of Lincoln..a volume that will disgrace its author as long as it will disgrace his character and do injustice to the memory of Abraham Lincoln's birth....

I wonder not that a distinguished gentleman writing me from Washington expresses his indignation by saying: 'I am amazed at Lamon's book. It is a compound fruit of a serpent and a jackal.'"

It is these gentlemen whom Barton constantly quotes as authority!

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