

PROTECTION TO HOME INDUSTRY.

THE AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL ASSOCIATION,

No. 261 SOUTH FOURTH STREET,

B. F. JONES, PRESIDENT.

JAMES M. SWANK, GENERAL MANAGER.

ANDREW WHEELER, TREASURER.

Philadelphia, November 13, 1895.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,

C/o S. S. McClure, Limited,

30 Lafayette Place, New York City.

I have received your favor of November 12th, and take great pleasure in sending you a copy of the Washington and Lincoln chapter in my History of the Manufacture of Iron in All Ages. I also send you inclosed a clipping from our Bulletin containing references to Mr. Lincoln's ancestry. Only yesterday I came across an item of interest to all students of Lincoln genealogy which I will add to this letter. I am glad to be of service to you in your patriotic work. I have not yet received the copy of the Magazine for November which you sent me, but when the Magazine for November first appeared I was so much pleased with your introductory Lincoln chapter that I bought three copies for young friends of mine.

Very Truly Yours,

James M. Swank

—There died the other day at Braddock, Allegheny county, Pa., a most excellent gentleman, William L. Akers, who was born in Bedford county in the same State on December 23, 1814. His mother's maiden name was Nancy Hanks, and she was a relative of President Lincoln's mother, who bore the same name. Bedford county lies on the Virginia border.

*Address
C. C. Teeter
at Braddock*

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THE BULLETIN.

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Abraham Lincoln's Ancestry.

OUR readers will recall our efforts to preserve from oblivion the proofs which we have ourselves unearthed that the father and brother of George Washington and also the remote New England ancestor of Abraham Lincoln were manufacturers of iron. A correspondent of the New York Tribune adds to what we have said some details concerning a namesake of Mr. Lincoln who is still living in Pennsylvania and who is by this correspondent erroneously styled a first cousin of the President, but who is unquestionably of the same blood. He says:

"Abraham Lincoln, who lives in Caernarvon township, Lancaster county, Pa., is another first cousin of President Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln is about eighty-six years of age, and in general appearance is not unlike his distinguished relative, having the same large, erect, gaunt form and high cheek bones. Mr. Lincoln is a farmer by occupation and owns an estate named White Hall, which is located in Caernarvon township, about two miles from the Berks county line. White Hall is a highly-improved limestone farm of over one hundred acres. It is about two and one-half miles north of Churchtown Road, which is a station on the Downingtown and Lancaster Railroad, fifty-two miles from Philadelphia. White Hall is about one-third of a mile from Churchtown, an attractive village of two hundred inhabitants, and is surrounded by some of the finest farms to be found in the United States. Churchtown is twenty miles from Lancaster and fourteen miles from Reading, Berks county, Pa.

"Mr. Lincoln has never held any public office, but has always followed the vocation of a farmer, tilling the soil with his own hands. He is a gentleman who is much respected in the community, and is a fair specimen of the industrious, prosperous, intelligent Lancaster county farmer. His family consists of a wife and one child—a daughter. He is a Republican in politics and in religion an Episcopalian."

This Abraham Lincoln is the descendant of the New England progenitor of the President, but his father was not the brother of Thomas Lincoln, the President's father.

A dispatch from Reading, Pa., dated April 16th, says: "Mrs. John Lincoln, aged 85 years, a well-known and respected resident of Exeter township, Berks county, died last evening. She was the mother of 11 children, 9 of whom survive. These Lincolns are part of the family to which President Lincoln belonged."

THE BULLETIN.

Washington's Father and Mother.

GEORGE WASHINGTON was born in Westmoreland county, Virginia, on February 22, 1732, according to the generally accepted style of reckoning time which has prevailed since 1752, or, according to the old style, on February 11, 1731-2. His mother, Mary Ball, was the second wife of his father, Augustine Washington, concerning both of whom a great deal of false history has been written, while much that might have been truthfully said of Augustine Washington has been left unsaid by Marshall, Sparks, Irving, and other biographers of George Washington.

Augustine Washington has been represented as a man of almost royal blood—as the aristocratic descendant of a titled English family. Be this as it may, Augustine Washington at the time he married Mary Ball was engaged in making pig iron at Accokeek Furnace, in Stafford county, Virginia, about fifteen miles from Fredericksburg, and he was so engaged when his son George was born, although he was then residing at Wakefield, in Westmoreland county. Accokeek Furnace had been built by the Principio Company, composed of English capitalists, as early as 1726, on land owned by Augustine Washington, covering about 1,600 acres and containing iron ore, Augustine Washington, who was known as Captain Washington, becoming the owner of one-sixth of the furnace property in consideration of the transfer of his land to the company. The Principio Company had other iron enterprises in Maryland.

Captain Washington visited England in 1729 and 1730, chiefly in relation to the management of Accokeek Furnace. Returning to Virginia in May, 1730, he wrote to his English partners on the 10th of July that on his arrival he found to his great grief that his wife was dead. There is an autograph letter in the custody of the Maryland Historical Society, written at London on October 2, 1730, by John Wightwick, one of the English stockholders in the Principio Company, and addressed to John England, the company's general agent in Maryland and Virginia, which preserves the above facts, and which also severely criticises Captain Washington for neglecting in his letter of July 10th to inform his English associates whether or not he would stick to a certain "bargain" he had made with them concerning the management of the furnace.

We have been unable to discover whether Captain Washington kept his "bargain" to manage Accokeek Furnace or not, but in Colonel William Byrd's *Progress to the Mines*, written in 1732, he mentions "England's iron mines, called so from the chief manager of them, tho' the land belongs to Mr. Washington." Two miles distant from the mines was the furnace. Colonel Byrd says: "Mr. Washington raises the ore and carts it thither for twenty shillings the ton of iron that it yields. Besides Mr. Washington and Mr. England there are several other persons in England concerned in these works." Augustine Washington retained his interest in the Principio Company to the time of his death in 1743, and this interest he bequeathed to his son Lawrence.

In 1731 Augustine Washington married for his second wife Mary Ball, a daughter of Joseph Ball, who resided in Lancaster county, Virginia, where Mary Ball was born. Captain Washington did not marry Mary Ball in England, as Benson J. Lossing and numerous other inaccurate writers have stated, but after his visit to that country, during which, as has been shown, his first wife died.