Winnetka July 24, 1896

L. E. Chittenden Esq.

Dear Sir. I have read with much pleasure your excellent article, on the Genealogy of Abraham Lincoln, published in Harpers Weekly, in the issue of the 22 inst,

On the 15th of Jan. 1893, I published in the Chicago Tribune, an article; as follows

Editor of the Tribune. The Life of Abraham Lincoln recently published by Mr. Charles Carlton Coffin, contains many quotations, for which, due credit is given at the ending of each chapter. On page 5, is found the following for which, no authority is cited.

"We do not know in what year the Blacksmith Lincoln was married (Mordecai Jr.); neither do the maiden name of his wife to be found, in any record, the only known that after the birth of a son, the husband became a widower, and that Mordecai, and his son Isaac, made their way to Freehold, Monmouth, County New Jersey, and there, Hannah Salter, gave him her hand in marriage."

The above statement requires reliable proof to substantiate it, as there is strong circumstantial evidence

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to the contrary.

Mordecai Lincoln Jr. became of age April 24. 1707. It was not customary, in colonial times, for mechanics sons, and apprentices, to take unto themselves wives during their minority, and there is no record, that this blacksmiths son, was an exception to the rule.

I have documentary proof that Mordecai Lincoln & Hannah Salkeld, were married previous to Sept. 24, 1714, & reliable evidence to show that they had three children born to them prior to Feby. 1718 (one of whom died in infancy) Reckoning back, it gives the date of their marriage about 1710, three years, after young Mordecai, had attained to the legal years of manhood. If, during these three years, he married ~~he married~~ in Leicester, had a son born to him, became a widower, removed to New Jersey, became acquainted with, courted, & married, Hannah Salkeld. He must have been, an unusually enterprising young man.

The precise date of Mordecais removal from New Jersey to Pennsylvania, is not known, but it doubtless occurred some time in the year 1721. The following deed, shows, that he in Penn. must have established himself in the foundry business previous to the date of the deed:-

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"

Dec. 14. 1725. I Mordecai Lincoln, of county, Chester Co, Penn. forever quit claim, to Wm Branson, one undivided third part in certain mines, lands, houses, etc"

Ten years later, he died, at Amity, Philadelphia Co, Penn. His will dated Feby. 1735.6, and admitted to Probate June following, in which, ~~his then~~ his then wife, Mary, is appointed sole executrix, and friends Jonathan Robeson, and George Boon trustees. Eight children. Four sons, and four daughters are named.

To his daughters Hannah, and Mary, he gave land in the Jerseys already settled upon them by deed of gift: — who evidently had attained their majority. —

To Son John Lincoln, 200 acres of land in the Jerseys (If the children are named in their order of birth, John, would be the fourth child)

To daughters Ann, & Sarah, 100 acres of Land in the Jerseys, which I order my executrix to sell, & divide, equally, between them (& them were evidently, children by wife Hannah.)

To his children Mordecai, Thomas & Abraham (by his 1st wife) he gave his plantation in amity, one third to each,

The last item in the will is, I give, & bequeath, to my beloved wife, Mary, all ye remainder of my estate, quick, & dead, goods & chattels, to be at her disposal and liberty to

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remain on my plantation, at Amity, until those of my children are at their severed ages. my hope to bring up all my children without wasting or embezzling what I have left them.

The father, Mordecai, was 50 years old at his decease and, Mary, his wife considerably younger. Her first son, Mordecai was born in 1730: then came Thomas: then Abraham, a posthumous child, in 1736, and there were probably, two only children by her husband Mordecai. The daughter, Anne, was born March 1725. eight months previous to the sale of the county iron works, and it is a reasonable conjecture, that the wife, Hannah, died, and the marriage to wife Mary occurred, between 1725, and 1730.

It is impossible to fix the exact date of the son Johns birth, and that of his sister Sarah, but from the birth of a daughter in 1719, who died in infancy, until the birth of Anne in 1725 is eight years, and these two children were, no doubt, born during that interval, and were among the minor children referred to in their fathers will. Had John been of full age in 1735, and a resident of as Mr Coffin states
of New Jersey, a reasonable conclusion, is, that his father

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would have conveyed his portion to him, by deed of gift, as he did to his two eldest daughters, instead of encumbering it in the hands of the executrix and trustees.

A deed on file at Trenton, N.J. dated Nov. 8, 1748, conveys to Wm. Dye, 200 Acres of land, in which the grantee describes himself as John Lincoln, of Carnarvon, Lancaster County - Penn, the son and heir of Mordecai Lincoln. This is evidence that he was then of age, and it is doubtful if he attained his majority many years previous to that date.

The Lincolns have always been partial to their family names - and 2 names of our Johns among them, up to the time of Mordecai Jr. leaving Mays for N.J. Hannah Salter, very naturally, christened her son John, as a compliment to her uncle John Bowne, who bequeathed her £250 - a big sum of money in those days. Her grandfather Bowne's name was also John.

After a careful study of this subject, I am convinced, that John Lincoln, Son of Mordecai and Hannah - Salter - Lincoln was born between the years 1721, and 1724, either at Freehold N.J. or at Coventry Penn. And little did Hannah Lincoln imagine when her baby son was born, that through him, a descendant of hers, would become one of the famous men of the world, whom all men of his would delight to honor, by erecting a portion of his own Country

A copy of the Tribune, containing this article, I sent to Mr. J. Ward Dean, of the N. E. Gen. Hist Society, who handed the paper to Mr Coffin, who wrote to me, informing me, that the quotation, on page first of this letter was taken from an Ohio newspaper. The article of mine, published in the Register, on Lincoln Ancestry, I was twenty years in collecting, and I have documentary evidence for every statement therein contained, and have personally. I think that those who write history, had better be a little careful, in substantiating their statements.

My mother was Elizabeth Lincoln of Hingham, her father was Otis Lincoln, an uncle of Hon Solomon Lincoln, who, was in Congress, with Abraham Lincoln afterward our President.

I have copied this letter for you, thinking, that it may prove of interest to you,

Samuel Shackford
Kirkwood, Cook County, Illinois

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