

2813 Florida Ave.,
Tampa, Fla.,
Nov 8, 1926

Miss ~~Ida~~ M. Tarbell,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Madam:-

After reading in the "Footsteps of the Lincolns" that there never had been a complete and thorough genealogy of the Hanks family, I felt that I should enclose to you a copy of an old record I have of this family that has been in our possession for many years - So that if you are still interested in clearing up the ancestry of Nancy Hanks, mother of Lincoln, this information might assist in establishing the true family line.

I have always been interested in this old family history because my great grandmother was Nancy Hanks, born at or near Leesburg, Va., in 1770. Her father was William Hanks. When about twenty-three she married Nicholas Schooley.

William Hanks had two brothers, John and Joseph who migrated with their families to Kentucky in or near the year of 1793. One of these brothers also had a daughter named Nancy (likely Joseph). I have read there were many by that name but I believe it can be shown, that my great grandmother and her cousin were the first two by that name in the Hanks family.

When a child living in southern Pennsylvania., where I was born in 1860 (I am now 66) I remember my mother telling us many times, that we children on my father's side were related through our great grandmother to Nancy Hanks who married Thomas Lincoln.

If Nancy Hanks Lincoln was born in 1784 as her biographers claim, she was 14 years younger than my great grandmother and a good sized girl when she went with her parents to Kentucky in 1793.

I have the complete genealogy of the William Hanks family but have not given it all in my notes as its rather lengthy as there were nine children, one of which was my great grandmother and her twin sister Rosanna.

I have not an equal amount of information of the families of John and Joseph Hanks, brothers of William but I believe this could be traced up from old records where they lived in Virginia, particularly from old church records of the Friends.

I believe that this is the branch of the Hanks family to which Lincoln's mother belonged and I believe it can be proven that she came from good stock, above the average of their day in education and refinement.

Miss Tarbell, if you will kindly look over the enclosed and let me hear if you think this information might be of value in helping to solve the question, "who was Nancy Hanks, mother of Lincoln, I will thank you very much. Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jennie Schooley Hofmann.

Luke Hanks, first known Hanks in America, settled in Maine (no date) Members of his family moved to New Jersey and later some of these settled in Berks Co., Pa.

Peter Hanks was born at White Marsh, Berks Co., Pa., in 1683. He was married to Mary Bees, Aug 20, 1704 in St Anne's Church, Annapolis, Md. There were four children:-

Lydia born Sept 25, 1705
(1) William " July 25, 1707
Elinor " July 10, 1709
Peter " Sept 20, 1713

These were all baptised in St Anne's Church Sept 20, 1713. Which seems hardly possible although the register of that date so states. A Thomas Hanks who is believed to have been a younger son was married in St George's and St John's Parrish, to Sarah Hewett May 9, 1748

(1) William Hanks was admitted to the West River (Quaker) Meeting in 1756. Whom he married and when, not stated but at least three children were born on the Patapsco in Anne Arundel Co., Md. These were:-

(1) John, *born 1735*
Joseph " " 1737
(2) William, born April 27, 1739

This William Hanks family settled in Loudon Co., Va., near or where Leesburg now stands. His wife was Sarah Ralph, born in 1734. Died in May 25, 1804. William Hanks died July 24, 1814.

They had nine children, all born in Virginia. Three sons : John, Fleetwood and Benjamin.

(2) Six daughters : Rachel, Leah, *Born Oct 7, 1770* Nancy, Rosanna, Mary, Sarah. *twins*

died 1835 Nancy, (~~was~~ cousin to Nancy Hanks Lincoln's mother) married Nicholas Schooley. (*2 children born, Isaac + Sarah, twins*)
Rosanna, Her twin sister, married Jacob Lodge

Benjamin, born June 14, 1779 - died Oct 12, 1822, with his Father, sisters and their families, one and all moved to Brush Creek Valley, Bedford Co., Penn., about the year 1795 where they purchased lands and where their decendants still reside.

(2) John With his family moved from Loudon Co., Va., to the James River section in Va.

Fleetwood emigrated with his family to Kentucky to join his uncle (either John (1) or Joseph) who with the Sparrow's and Lincolns had preceeded him some years previous and where in 1806 his cousin, Nancy Hanks, married Thomas Lincoln and subsequently become the mother of the illustrious Abraham.

x New York Co.

In 1793 The three brothers, (1) John, Joseph and (2) William Hanks who at that time were living in Loudon Co., Va., purchased the Brush Creek Valley property in Bedford Co., now Fulton Co., Pa., William, subsequently bought out the others and then moved as before stated with his children and their families to Brush Creek -

The two brothers, John and Joseph, it appears either remained for the time being in Virginia or at that time emigrated with their families to Kentucky as they never settled in the Valley of Brush Creek. These are the ancestors that Fleetwood Hanks joined in Kentucky as before stated

(2) William Hanks (born 1739) who raised the large family in Loudon Co., Va., and later moved to Brush Creek, Pa., was a man of quiet habits, pure life and strong convictions. He was raised a Quaker and he and his entire family with their families worshipped with the Friends until they moved to Brush Creek Valley, Pa., where they joined the Methodist society as it was then called in that section and become their first class leader.

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3 brothers: John, Joseph and Williams Hanks -b 1739 and earlier -

In searching through the old records I note where a reference is made to a brother of William Hanks ~~had~~ settled in Kentucky (the uncle that his son, Fleetwood joined) but no name was given.

From another family record which I copied, I find the name of John, was mentioned as emigrating to Kentucky. Likely both John and Joseph, brothers of William settled in Kentucky as they in in 1793 or two years later sold their property in Brush Creek Valley, Pa., to their brother William and may have at that time emigrated to Ky. If so, I hold that Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the daughter of either John or Joseph (born as her biographers state in Va., in 1784) was not more than nine or ten years old when her father's family moved or emigrated to Kentucky - 13 years younger than her cousin, Nancy Hanks (daughter of William, my great grandmother, who was born Oct 4, 1770, named likely for my great grandmother (who married Nicholas Schooley.)

The Will found in 1899, drawn by Joseph Hanks in 1793 - corresponds with the above date in our family record when Joseph and John as stated above sold their property to their brother William previous to going to Kentucky.

In early records of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia, can be traced side by side the names of Hanks, Lincolns, Schooleys. All were Quakers and neighbors always joining in the migration from one state to another

We have a complete record of the William Hanks family. A more complete one of the families of John and Joseph which would prove up the close ancestry of Nancy Hanks Lincoln might be obtained by searching through the early records at Leesburg, Va., and also through the early Friends church records kept at the Friends Meeting House, Park Ave & Laurens St., Baltimore, Md, in a fireproof vault. The church has never published these records. There is only the original books and not accessible excepting through a paid genealogist.

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