(See p. 12) Who was this Nancy Hanks? Who were the Hanks of this part of Kentucky in the late 18th and early 19th century? Do we know anything of them and their antecedents as we do of Thomas Lincoln and his antecedents?

We know something, but it is much less. We know that in all probability the Hanks family into which Thomas Lincoln was marrying was one that had been associated with the Lincolns and the Boones from the time that they had all settled in the Schuylkill country early in the 18th century. I have not hand my hands on satisfactory documentary evidence but it seems to me that all the probabilities are that a neighbor of John Lincoln and Daniel Boone in Berks County, migrated south about the time they did and settled somewhere in western Va. or North Carolina.

The records of the births, marriages, the land holdings of Hanks are to be found in various places in New Jersey, and various counties of Pennsylvania. They set the family down as belonging to the general migration which the Lincoln were in, and they bring them very close to the Lincolns in more than one place.

There was a John Hanks living within a half mile of Modecai Lincoln, at the time that Jon Lincoln was growing up, and he certainly, if the histories are to be believed, moved to Virginia. Now, this John Hanks had several children, and among them was one Joseph, who was born in 1725. (?) All the probabilities are that he went to Virginia with his family. But whether it was this Joseph or a son of his who migrated into Kentucky along with Abraham Lincoln, we do not know. Certain it is, however, that a Joseph Hanks, in some way connected with these Lincolns of Berks County, did find his way with a big family into Kentucky. If you will go to the courthouse at Bardstown, and, when you ask to look

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Lea pass
John H. Bedford
189 Amelia Lunenburg Co.
Pradelin
1775 - Abraham.

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at the inventory of the estate of Abraham Lincoln of which I have already spoken, ask, too, to see the will of Joseph Hanks, you will find that a man of that name died there in 1793, leaving behind eight children, the youngest of these born in February, 1784, was named Nancy. So far as I know, this is the only Hanks family in Kentucky of that period of the members of which we have a full record. There were other Hanks in other counties, the records of which are most meagre; but here was a family, the head of which owned property, enough at least to give every child a "head of stock", to each of his sons a horse, to each of his daughters a "heifer yearling," and to his wife 150 acres of land.

It is believed by those who have most faithfully studied the records of the Hanks families, though I do not myself think that there is absolute proof of it, that this wife who received the 150 acres and the balance of Joseph Hanks' estate, was a Shipley, one of an excellent family of western Virginia.

Now, here is a Nancy Hanks, recognized in her father's will, ~~born in February 1784, making her a proper age to marry in 1806, when Thomas took out his license.~~ Was she the Nancy that Thomas married? So far, nobody has put their fingers on any documentary proof that there was a Nancy of this or any other age in the State of Kentucky. Nevertheless, long before this will was unearthed, in 19 ?, there had grown up a tradition that the Nancy that Thomas Lincoln married was what is called a "nameless child," thatshe had been married out of wedlock and was the daughter of one Lucy Hanks. The evidence on which this tradition of the illegitimacy of Nancy Hanks was based had always seemed to me to be shaky. When this will was found, the probabilities that the Nancy Hanks that Thomas married was the Nancy of the will seemdto me overwhelmingly in its favor. They seem so to me yet.

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To my mind the most direct and trustworthy evidence that is the fact that the Joseph Hanks ~~were~~ mentioned in this will - the son to whom the his father left the 150 acres on which he was living always recognized the Nancy Hanks whom Thomas Lincoln married as his sister that his sons & daughters and called her Aunt Nancy & his grand children called her great Aunt.

Joseph Hanks was a carpenter and a land owner with a home in Elizabeth town ~~Co~~ Ky. In his shop so ~~the~~ tradition says T. L. learned his trade. ~~Certainly since~~ Whether that is true or not ~~the~~ ~~tradition~~ backed up by the fact that the two men lived side by side for at least several years mutually together at their trade ~~now in 1826~~ in ~~[illegible]~~ at the same trade in the same district & doubtless on the same

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