

¶ In 1860 when the demand first came from the public to know more of the life and family of Abraham Lincoln, all that he was able to tell them of his paternal ancestry was embodied in the following paragraph: "My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, migrated from Rockingham County, Va., to Kentucky about 1781 or 1782, where a year or two later he was killed by the Indians, not in battle, but by stealth, when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest. His ancestors, who were Quakers, went to Virginia from Berks County, Pa. An effort to identify them with the New England family of the same name ended in nothing more definite than a similarity of Christian names in both families, such as Enoch, Levi, Mordecai, Solomon, Abraham and the like." ¶ In the years since this paragraph was written genealogists have completed a chain of evidence which does identify Abraham Lincoln with the "New England family of the same name." The links of this chain of ~~evidence~~ show that the first of his family to come into this country was

1) Samuel Lincoln, who, in 1637, then a boy of about seventeen came from Hingham in Old England to join two older brothers who had preceded him to the Massachusetts colony. These brothers were already established at New Hingham on Hingham Bay, and here they were joined by Samuel. ~~The boy~~ settled in the town, acquired land ^{his wife} there and married. Eleven children were born to Samuel and Martha ~~Lincoln~~, eight of whom lived to be seventy or more years of age. From these children came a distinguished line of ~~New England~~ Lincolns, including an attorney-general of the United States, two governors of Massachusetts and one of Maine, as well as many other able citizens in a variety of

walks. The son of Samuel and Martha Lincoln with whom we are

concerned here was the ~~third~~ ^{fourth child,} born to them in 1657, 2 named

2) Mordecai. This boy, reared in Hingham, became a blacksmith at Hull, where he married Sarah, a daughter of Abraham Jones, a family that had come to Hull about the time that the Lincolns came into Hingham. Mordecai Lincoln prospered and later moved to Cohasset and then to the neighboring town of Scituate. Here he built up a business - large for its time - a grist-mill, a saw-mill, a smelter where he made iron and a forge where he turned out a variety of articles needed by his neighbors. Mordecai and Sarah Lincoln had four children, the oldest of whom was his namesake, Mordecai. About 1700 Sarah Lincoln died and Mordecai remarried, taking a widow of the neighboring town of Braintree, Mary Chapin. The home in which Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln lived is still standing, a fine type of the early New England architecture. In 1727 Mordecai died, leaving behind him an estate of over £3,000. Some years before his death his oldest son, Mordecai, and Abraham, his second son, had left Massachusetts for the new colony of New Jersey. This Mordecai, 2nd was the great-great-great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln.

3) Mordecai, 2nd settled, with his brother, in Monmouth County, New Jersey, where he married Hannah Salter, daughter of Richard Salter, a rich and important citizen in that county. The records show that Mordecai acquired considerable land in New Jersey,

and the tradition is that he ran a forge there, probably on Richard Salter's land. In 1722, however, we find him on the Schuylkill river, not far from Philadelphia, a partner with two of the best known iron masters of the day, in a large iron works. Two years later he sold his interest in this undertaking and acquired land in Berks County, not far from Reading, Pa. Here he built a house, which stands today but little changed. Hannah Salter, Mordecai Lincoln's first wife, died probably before this house was built. She left five children, the oldest of whom was a son John.

4) John Lincoln - great-great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln, was a weaver by trade. The records show he also was a buyer and seller of land. His father Mordecai had left him in his will 300 acres of land in the Jerseys. This land he sold in 1748 and the deed conveying it is still to be seen in the archives at Trenton, N.J. Although John Lincoln seems to have prospered in Berks County he was not satisfied there. He had been caught by the fever of the migration to the Shenandoah Valley and in 1768 acquired 600 acres of land in Rockingham County, a few miles north of Harrisonberg, Va., and to this place moved his family. In this neighborhood where John Lincoln lived until his death in 1788, his sons settled and his daughters married. One of these sons, Jacob, who remained in the family homestead became a rich man for his time, building a handsome house in 1800, a house which until a few years ago remained in the Lincoln family. It was the oldest of John's sons that was to become the grandfather of President Lincoln. This man was

4

2) Abraham Lincoln, born in Berks County in 1744. He was about twenty-four years old when he went with his father into the Shenandoah Valley. Here three years later he married one Basheba, believed to be of a distinguished Virginia family, the Herrings. Abraham received from his father soon after his marriage 210 acres of the family homestead, and to this he later added a tract of 52 acres. He was not only a man of property but had a recognized position in the community. He was a captain of militia and, by election, for several years during the Revolutionary War, a judge advocate of the court. But, in the same way that his father, John Lincoln, had been carried from Pennsylvania by the tide of migration to the Shenandoah Valley, so, about 1780, Abraham Lincoln was caught by the flood of people passing through the Shenandoah Valley into Kentucky. Early in that year, 1780, he sold his Virginia farm and leaving his family behind went to Kentucky where he entered two or three thousand acres of land, 400 of them in Jefferson County, about twelve miles east of the present city of Louisville. Returning to Virginia, he finished the settlement of his affairs and in 1782 moved with his wife and family of four children - Mordecai, Josiah, Mary and Thomas, over the Wilderness Road into the new land. About three years later he took his family to a stockade called Hughes Station, close to the tract of 400 acres of land which, as we have seen, he had entered in 1780. The country was still beset by Indians, and as Abraham Lincoln was working one day on the

cabin into which he expected to move his family as soon as things had quieted down, he was shot from ambush. His youngest son, Thomas, who was with him was seized by the murderer but was saved by a lucky bullet from the gun of his elder brother, Mordecai. This little boy thus miraculously saved was to become the father of President Lincoln.

6) Thomas Lincoln. After the death of the head of the family, Basheba Lincoln took her children into Washington County, where Thomas, then about eight years old, probably lived until his mother's death in 1793 or thereabouts. After this he spent some time with his uncle Isaac Lincoln who had migrated in 1780 from the Shenandoah Valley to the Wautagua Valley of Tennessee, but he did not remain there long. Returning to Kentucky, he went into the carpenter shop of one Joseph Hanks, living in Elizabethtown. Here he learned his trade, and in 1803, when he was twenty-three years old, was sufficiently well to do to buy 230 acres of land, paying for it at its transfer. On the 10th of June, 1806, Thomas Lincoln married, at the home of Richard Berry in Washington County, Ky., his ward, Nancy Hanks. The marriage bond, marriage license and marriage returns which the law at that time in Kentucky required are still preserved in the courthouse in Springfield, the county seat of Washington County. After their marriage, Thomas and Nancy Lincoln settled in Elizabethtown where, the following February, their first child, a girl, called Sarah, was born. From Elizabethtown the family moved onto a farm near

Hodgenville, where, on February 12, 1809, a second child, a boy, was born to them. He was named after his grandfather, Abraham. This boy of the seventh generation from Samuel Lincoln who first settled in this country in 1637 was to become the sixteenth President of the United States.

When the demand first came from the public to know more of the life and family of Abraham Lincoln, all that he was able to tell them of his paternal ancestry was embodied in the following paragraph: "My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, migrated from Rockingham County, Va., to Kentucky about 1761 or 1762, where a year or two later he was killed by the Indians, not in battle, but by stealth, when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest. His ancestors, who were Quakers, went to Virginia from Berks County, Pa. An effort to identify them with the New England family of the same name ended in nothing more definite than a similarity of Christian names in both families, such as Enoch, Levi, Mordecai, Solomon, Abraham and the like."

In the years since this paragraph was written genealogists have completed a chain of evidence which does identify Abraham Lincoln with the "New England family of the same name." The links of this chain of evidence show that the first of his family to come into this country was

- 1) Samuel Lincoln, who, in 1637, then a boy of about seventeen came from Hingham in Old England to join two older brothers who had preceded him to the Massachusetts colony. These brothers were already established at New Hingham on Hingham Bay, and here they were joined by Samuel. The boy settled in the town, acquired land there and married. Eleven children were born to Samuel and Martha Lincoln, eight of whom lived to be seventy or more years of age. From these children came a distinguished line of New England Lincolns, including an attorney-general of the United States, two governors of Massachusetts and one of Maine, as well as many other able citizens in a variety of

19,
walks. The son of Samuel and Martha Lincoln with whom we are
concerned here was the ~~third~~ ^{first child,} born to them ^{in 1459. 2 named}

2) Mordecai. This boy, reared in Hingham, became a blacksmith at Hull, where he married Sarah, a daughter of Abraham Jones, a family that had come to ~~Hull~~ ^{the Massachusetts Colony} about the time that the Lincolns came into Hingham. Mordecai Lincoln prospered and later moved to Cohasset and then to the neighboring town of Scituate. Here he built up a business - large for its time - a grist-mill, a saw-mill, a smelter where he made iron and a forge where he turned out a variety of articles needed by his neighbors. Mordecai and Sarah Lincoln had four children, the oldest of whom was his namesake, Mordecai. About 1700 Sarah Lincoln died and Mordecai remarried, taking a widow of the neighboring town of Braintree, Mary Chapin. The home in which Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln lived is still standing, a fine type of the early New England architecture. In 1727 Mordecai died, leaving behind him an estate of over \$3,000. Some years before his death his oldest son, Mordecai, and Abraham, his second son, had left Massachusetts for the new colony of New Jersey. This Mordecai, 2nd was the great-great-great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln.

3) Mordecai, 2nd settled, with his brother, in Monmouth County, New Jersey, where he married Hannah Salter, daughter of Richard Salter, a rich and important citizen in that ^{province} ~~county~~. The records show that Mordecai acquired considerable land in New Jersey,

and the tradition is that he ran a forge there, probably on Richard Salter's land. In 1722, however, we find him on the Schuylkill river, not far from Philadelphia, a partner with two of the best known iron masters of the day, in a large iron works. Two years later he sold his interest in this undertaking and acquired land in Berks County, not far from Reading, Pa. Here he built a house, which stands today but little changed. Hannah Salter, Mordecai Lincoln's first wife, died probably before this house was built. She left five children, the oldest of whom was a son John.

4) John Lincoln - great-great-grandfather of Abraham Lincoln, was a weaver by trade. The records show he also was a buyer and seller of land. ~~His father Mordecai had left him in his will 200 acres of land in the Jerseys. ^{but} His land he sold in 1748 and the deed con-
veying it is still to be seen in the archives at Trenton, N.J.~~ Although John Lincoln seems to have prospered in Berks County he was not satisfied there. He had been caught by the fever of the migration to the Shenandoah Valley and in 1768 acquired 600 acres of land in Rockingham County, a few miles north of Harrisonburg, Va., and to this place moved his family. In this neighborhood where John Lincoln lived until his death in 1788, his sons settled and his daughters married. One of these sons, Jacob, who remained on the family homestead ^{and} became a rich man for his time, building a handsome house in 1800, a house which until a few years ago remained in the Lincoln family. ~~It~~ It was the oldest of John's sons that was to become the grandfather of President Lincoln. This man was

5) Abraham Lincoln, born in Berks County in 1744. He was about twenty-four years old when he went with his father into the Shenandoah Valley. Here three years later he married one ^{JK} Bashaba, believed to be of a distinguished Virginia family, the Herrings. Abraham received from his father soon after his marriage 210 acres of the family homestead, and to this he later added a tract of 52 acres. He was not only a man of property but had a recognized position in the community. He was a captain of militia and, by election, for several years during the Revolutionary War, a judge advocate of the court. But, in the same way that his father, John Lincoln, had been carried from Pennsylvania by the tide of migration to the Shenandoah Valley, so, about 1780, Abraham Lincoln was caught by the flood of people passing through the Shenandoah Valley into Kentucky. Early in that year, 1780, he sold his Virginia farm and leaving his family behind went to Kentucky where he entered two or three thousand acres of land, 400 of them in Jefferson County, about twelve miles east of the present city of Louisville. Returning to Virginia, he finished the settlement of his affairs and in 1782 moved with his wife and family of four children - Mordecai, Josiah, Mary and Thomas, over the Wilderness Road into the new land. About three years later he took his family to a stockade called Hughes Station, close to the tract of 400 acres of land which, as we have seen, he had entered in 1780. The country was still beset by Indians, and as Abraham Lincoln was working one day on the

cabin into which he expected to move his family as soon as things had quieted down, he was shot from ambush. His youngest son, Thomas, who was with him was seized by the murderer but was saved by a lucky bullet from the gun of his elder brother, Mordecai. This little boy thus miraculously saved was to become the father of President Lincoln.

6) Thomas Lincoln. After the death of the head of the family, ^{the} Basheba Lincoln took her children into Washington County, where Thomas, then about eight years old, probably lived until his mother's death in 1793 or thereabouts. After this he spent some time with his uncle Isaac Lincoln, ^{a mason's planter} who had migrated in 1780 from the Shenandoah Valley to the Watauga Valley of Tennessee, but he did not remain there long. Returning to Kentucky, he went into the carpenter shop of one Joseph Hanks, living in Elizabethtown. Here he learned his trade, and in 1803, when he was twenty-three years old, was sufficiently well to do to buy 230 acres of land, paying for it at its transfer. On the 10th of June, 1806, Thomas Lincoln married, at the home of Richard Berry in Washington County, Ky., ^{the latter's} his ward, Nancy Hanks. The marriage bond, marriage license and marriage returns which the law at that time in Kentucky required are still preserved in the courthouse in Springfield, the county seat of Washington County. After their marriage, Thomas and Nancy Lincoln settled in Elizabethtown where, the following February, their first child, a girl, called Sarah, was born. From Elizabethtown the family moved onto a farm near

Hodgenville, where, on February 12, 1809, a second child, a boy, was born to them. He was named after his grandfather, Abraham. This boy of the seventh generation from Samuel Lincoln who first settled in this country in 1637 was to become the sixteenth President of the United States.