The Family of Abraham Lincoln.

The elder Dumas once said to an enquiring genealogist "you seem to be the last of your family and I seem to be the first of mine." Lincolns are old like the hills and Lincoln-shire and cathedral are of the history of England that blends with tradition. Lincoln county, Kentucky, is one of the three sub-divisions of territory when from the Alleghany mountains described to the Mississippi, all of the land was stated in explorations, (as of Thomas Walker in 1750, and the McAfee and Hancock Taylor surveys of 1793 and 1794,) as West Fincastle co., Virginia. General Benjamin Lincoln was a well known figure of the progressing revolution when the pioneers of the line of the Martyr President entered Kentucky. The county had been named in 1780, when Thomas Jefferson was Governor of Virginia and the town of Louis-ville was chartered on the confiscated Connolly lands, at the Falls-of-Ohio. The two families about which historic confusion has arisen, both entered Kentucky at nearly the same time, the Linkhorns with a Squire Boone party, making actual settlements at what is now Shelbyville, Ky, and the Lincolns, with the party of Benjamin Logan, at St. Asaph's, or Stanford, Lincoln co. Kentucky. The two families were distinct in 1775 and they are so to day or in 1895, and Dr. Henry Whitney = Cleveland

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Keeper of the Louisville city Archives, has traced both of the lines in Jefferson county, (one of the three original territorial and judiciary divisions,) for one hundred years, by official papers. An attempt to build the President a pedigree, "from the stump", as settlers said of their cabins, never had even so much foundation as has the royal line of Nape-o-leon, or Neck-of-the-Lion. In the field-book of Daniel Boone, placed by the late Lyman C. Draper in the State Library of Wisconsin, is the entry ———

" Abraham Lincoln Enters 500 acres of land on Treasury Warrant No. 5994 beginning opposite Charles Yancey's upper Line on the South Side of the River Running South 200 poles then up the river for quantity; ———

11. December 1782. ——— Daniel Boone. ———

The number of persons unable to read and write is very small among the pioneers, and "his mark" X appears less often in records of 1780 than of 1880, in the like territory, or section. In England they have been traced as small property-owners who followed the fortunes of Oliver Cromwell, and the American branch, converted under the preaching of George Fox, or Quakers, came to Pennsylvania in a second party of William Penn, and from Berks county, Pennsylvania, came through Virginia to her then territory, Kentucky Parish and county. A "Minor Lincoln, of the Staunton stock of Lincolns," and a confederate sympathizer, was in correspondence with

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President A. Lincoln in March, 1861. There was a Samuel Lincoln of Norwich, England, from the same parish as Moses Cleveland, the Massachusetts pioneer of 1635, and this branch of the old Lincolnshire stock, was a very good Yangeese or "Yankee", or Anglican, and he surely settled at Hingham, Mass, in 1638. He had a son Mordecai, a Puritan named out of the book of Esther, who removed to Monmouth, New-Jersey, and thence to Amity town-ships, now part of Berks county, Pennsylvania, where he died at the age of fifty, about 1735. His will, examined by Dr. Henry Whitney Cleveland for the writing of Alex. H. Stephens' War between the states, gives him the tittle of gentility as "Mordecai Lincoln — Gentleman," and conveys what was then a good property. By this will his son John, received — "a certain piece of land lying in the Jersys consisting of three hundred acres", and other sons and daughters provided for, indicate both substance in Pennsylvania and healthy procreation. John Lincoln, none of whose family before or since were either entirely untitled or stupid, established a farm in Rockingham county, Virginia, before the Revolution. His sons bore the Scriptural and English names that have been a sort of tribal possession, I doubt not for a thousand years, Isaac, Abraham, Jacob, Thomas and John, and there is little question that Benjamin Lincoln was of the same good breed. Like the line of Grover Cleveland or of Benj.n Harrison, traceable in those States for two hundred years from parent to child,

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and in England and Scotland and Ireland by tradition and long beyond the Christian era; (There was yet no reason to remember the long lines of soldiers and squires, all obscure, beyond the respectful homage of grave-stones and the inheritance of landed title-deeds. It so happens of the three lines named, they exist, and in Kentucky, The lines of Abraham Lincoln and many others surely unite. Abraham, settled in Kentucky, about 1780, and the survey of Boone of 11. December. 1782, is only one of his possessions, more land being entered for him by Genl. George Rogers Clark. He seems to have been a Lieutenant in the Revolution and at the seige of Yorktown. (see Lamon. p 8.) Isaac, settled land on the Holston river, Tennessee. Thomas followed his brother Abraham to Kentucky and lived and died there. His children emigrated to Missouri and he was the uncle of the Thomas Lincoln who bore his name, and of whom and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, was born the President. Jacob and John. Jr., remained in Virginia. Minor Lincoln of Va, the secessionist, and Robert Lincoln, of Hancock Co, Ills. a cousin of the President, are the only ones who came forward during the war of 1861–1865, so far as Known. President A. Lincoln inherited all of the States-rights ideas of his ancestry and the Puritan strain of the Cromwell-Fox adherents, and on the reception of Louis Kossuth of Hungary in 1850, he made the strongest plea for the right of separation and of revolution, of that revolutionary Congress. The pioneers of 1776–1780, all Knew and loved each other, and even inherited the same. for the will of Mordecai

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Lincoln, gives a tract, "to my loving friend and neighbor, George Boone." Squire Boone, Sr., father of the pioneer family of Kentucky, helped appraise the Mordecai Lincoln estate in Virginia. "Abraham" was a common Lincoln name in Pennsylvania and Virginia, and in 1760, of A. Lincoln and Miss. Anna Boone, began a line yet existing. A letter from David J. Lincoln of Birdsboro, Berks Co., Penn'a, to the Lincoln secretaries said — "My grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, was married to Anna Boone, a first cousin of Daniel Boone, July 10. 1760." Benjamin Harrison, Governor of Virginia and grandfather of Pres. Benj. Harrison, knew both Daniel Boone and Abraham Lincoln, the grandsire, and issued official papers to them both, spelling the names correctly.

As a reputable history, or a biography of the President, is has been misled by a too eager pedigree manufacturer, in this regard, I call attention to the fac-simile of the surveyor's certificate (Century magazine, November 1886, pp 10–11, dated in the original, in May 7. 1785. This is two years later than the Daniel Boone entry in his field-book, (correctly spelled,) and the fac simile document is to one "Abraham LinKhorn". The pretense that this is for Abraham Lincoln, as also Warrant 3334, Va, fourth March, 1780, entirely fails on a reading of the surveyor's paper. There is a subscribing "marker" Abraham LinKhorn, probably the grantee, but there are two subscribing "chain carriers", or "C.C." just above and in the same scroll, and these are (Cnaniah Lincoln* and Josiah Lincoln, both correctly spelled. (Century, p 11. Nov.-1886).

* Araniah Lincoln?

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The claim of clerkly ignorance and pioneer misspelling as a means of making a paper-record for President Lincoln and his ancestry, thus breaks down on the face of the very papers engraved to make it good! Dr. Cleveland, in looking up the papers of the Kentucky Constitutional Historian, Burnett H. Young, a descendant of Colo. Joseph Crockett of Ky; has discovered how it is that the family of President Lincoln seems missing from State records. In the Indian Wars of 1775 – 1779, the mortality was so great and so fast, that in once case, of five Judges commissioned by Patrick Henry of Va; three were dead when the commissions reached their homes, all Indian victims.

The commonwealth of Virginia issued to General Geo. Rogers Clark, all of the Land-Warrants due to his then command, and all of them in his name. There are in Lincoln county court a thousand or more of such Va. land-warrants in this, 1895. Abraham Lincoln was a soldier in the regiment of Colo. Joseph Crockett, W. Va. or Ky. county, and he rec'd his land, as intimated by Thomas Lincoln of whom and of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, was born Abraham Lincoln, 12, February 1809. It is of this marriage, certified by Reverend Jesse Head, D.E.M.C. by "marriage-Lines" owned by Rev. Dr. Cleveland of Ky. on June 12th 1806, and erroneously recorded as of September 23-1806 in former histories from the date being on a folded line and so not noticed by the clerk of entry, but rightly dated in the original return of Jesse Head, for 1806, from 28th April to 25. Sept. 1806; return made, 22. April 1807.

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— It is of this "Lincoln Wedding" that Dr. Christopher Columbus Graham, the centenarian and pioneer physician, wrote to Rev. Dr. Cleveland and by him, under the title of "Old Times in Kentucky", in his hundredth year. A fac simile of these Marriage Lines in the hand-writing of Rev.d Jesse Head, Elder, Methodist Epis. Church, and certified as true by E. Bascom Head, of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, is engraved herewith from the original paper. Another, of the date of error, Sept 23, 1806, is in the hands of Hon. Thomas H. Shelby of Louisville, probably taken from the clerk of courts' book of entry.

Rev. Dr. Cleveland of Kentucky, one of the charter members of the Kentucky Historical Society, is the annotator of the young Constitutions of Kentucky, 1792 to 1892, and the author of the "Life and Times of James Harrod," the first pioneer settler and town-builder of 1774, and he has for twelve years made a very careful study of the Lincoln history. Kentuckians are very proud of their holding the birth-places of Henry Clay, Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, and of the Simpson ancestry of General U.S. Grant and the grave of Zachary Taylor. Rev. Dr. Cleveland was the towns-boy, (not then being a man) of Rev. Jesse Head, and he has two family commissions from Gov.r Robert P. Letcher, of Kentucky, fixing very nearly the date of his death. One is an endorsed certificate of a magistrate qualifying by oath of office, on the 22.d day of January 1842. The signature is the same as to the original "marriage lines" of June 12. 1806, save that it is now signed as Justice of the Peace, and not as minister.

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The other is from Gov. Robert P. Letcher of Ky, a commission also, to one Isaac N. Thompson to fill a vacancy in Mercer county in the bench of magistrates, "caused by the death of Jesse Head Esqr." As Rev. Dr. Cleveland was born in the year 1836, and was six years old only when he played with the children of the pioneer preacher in Harrodsburg, he could not then verify the marriage certificate of 1806, which was found by Dr. Theodore S. Bell of Louisville, in the old bible of Sarah Bush Lincoln, the step-mother of President Abraham Lincoln. It was a large German-Bible, now destroyed we think by fire, and the certificate laid in it flat, as it came from the former wife, Nancy Hanks Lincoln. is in good preservation. The Bush family came to Kentucky also as pioneers and had some means.

Christopher Columbus Graham, a physician who kept his centinary in the same year as did Sir Moses Montefiore of England, wrote or dictated much of the early history of Kentucky for Richard Henry Collins, L.L.D. the State historian, and he was fond of saying - "yes sir, Abm Lincoln was born in lawful wedlock, for I was at the wedding of Tom. Lincoln, the carpenter, to Nancy Hanks, a nice and pretty country girl, and little Abe Lincoln came into the world in 1809, or about three years after the wedding of 1806. At the request of Richard Henry Collins and Isaac Shelby Esqr, Dr. Henry W. Cleveland wrote the "Old Times in Kentucky", at his dictation and he signed it in his trembling hand - "In my 100th year." J.S. McClure Esqr now has this MS and much more of genuine Lincoln matter.

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This may be the time and place to set at rest all question as to the legitimate birth of President Abraham Lincoln. The first ever heard of it was during the war of secession, when a half-witted preacher who shall fail of historic immortality so far as naming him [illegible] is concerned, preached in Mercer county, Kentucky from the book of Judges, XI chapter, first verse, "Now Jephthah the Giladite was a mighty man of valor and he was the son of a harlot, and Gilead begat Jephthah." Also, v 9. "And Jephthah said to the elders of Israel, If ye bring me home again to fight against the children of Ammon and the Lord deliver them before me, shall I be your head?" × × Then they made him judge of Israel.

It was a patriotic sermon, praising the sire by slandering the mother, and secessionists took it up. The real cause of the story of unlawful birth, says Rev. Dr. Cleveland of Kentucky, was not a campaign lie defaming the candidate, of which there were hundreds of copper-head origin in the second election of Mr. Lincoln. They began with persons having no relation to the President, save that they were born in the same county and had the name of "Abraham", in their families. The very fact that there were two such sets of claimants, the children of Abraham Irvin or Ervin and the children of Abraham Brownfield or an

old Abe B", is sufficient to have set the matter at rest. The only ground of such cranky-historians as like to cast mud on the monuments of the dead, (as has Henry Watterson and a French hardot-Reper of the continental scum of the Empire) is that Thomas Lincoln, the carpenter, never sat in the Kentucky legislature while the two men named, did so, and that he was not very tall and they and President Lincoln were so! It is only a wonder they did not claim George Washington? One of the Verbal historians, is a whisky dealer named W.L. Weller of Louisville, who has as a visitor a drunken "Pretender" to the Lincoln purple, good only for "the drinks", and the other, Richard Henry Collins, abandoned the idea as baseless and not a line of it appears in any of the three Collins histories. Kentucky, the home of seven-foot-tall Jim Porter of Shipingport, is a land of tall men, and Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks both were of large and generous stock.

Austin Gollaher, who once saved the life of little Abe Lincoln, and who still lives, William Hardesty and his brothers who played and fished with him, Dr. Christo. Columbus Graham, their family doctor, all never heard of the story, so far as Dr. Cleveland could discover. "Thomas Lincoln was a good carpenter, not drinking so much as did not men men of his day and working rather more, and

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Nancy Hanks Lincoln was one of the prettest and prettiest and nicest girls in all that country and the best cloth-weaver;" was the testimony of General McAfee, as given to Governor Buriah Morgoffin of Kentucky.

As to the Lee Rhoan pretense, it was not set up by that family but by pedigree-factory folk only. It was settled, we think by no less a man than General B. F. Butler of Mass, on the basis of sound philology and etymology. He said that his own patronymic was certainly as old as the Pharaoh dreams and Joseph interpretation and "butler and baker" offices, and that Egyptologists had found proofs of the culture of the vine in that early land of Bible-story. Turning to N. Webster, unabridged, he showed that Lee is a "brook or torrent", and said he had seen papers as old as the time of John Milton, making a combination with count, abbriated con, a noble title of the German and Saxon and Norman governments, equal to the English Earl, whose lady is yet called countess. The counts-Palatine were the highest officers of the German Kings and judges of the county or count-subdivision of lands. On the other hand, Link, is "a torch of tow and of pich", and horn, scraped thin, was a lantern-slide before glass was so common as now. The link-horn or lantern, was used in all England, before the

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day of lighted streets, or rather nights, and it gave its name to professional bearers, as Rothschilds took the title of an ancient sign-sign. Thus the Lincolns, thought General Butler, might be nobles-of-the-water, a sort of wet Forestry, the "l", being retained in some saxon spellings, and the Linkhorns were link or horned-torch bearers. Certain it is that in Kentucky both names are a century old and yet exist also in Tennessee.

A picture of Rev. Jesse Head, copied by photo- from an original verified by the family, is now quite rare and Dr. Cleveland loaned his copy. Mr. E. Bascom Head, son of the clergyman, lived in Harrodsburg at the date of this fac simile of October 4, 1886, and he fully identified the marriage certificate, as by the copy of his letter to a nephew of Rev. Henry Whitney Cleveland. By the Kindness of the Venerable Benjamin Allin, clerk of the county-court of Mercer Co, Ky, we give a fac simile from an early return of that county in which he wrote the name of Abraham.

2nd Oct. 1819, Abraham Kirkland & Betsy McGee

Jesse Head D.E.M.E.

This however is not another newly found ancestor. This is one of the letters of a son of the Preacher.

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Copy.

Office of the Democrat.

Harrodsburg Kentucky, Oct'r 3. 1886.

Mr. Henry Cleveland Wood, Dear Henry

So far as I can remember (working) there is no question that my father married the parents of President A. Lincoln. but as father died in 1842 and Mr. Lincoln was not much heard of before his Douglas - Senate campaign in Illinois, nor generally known until the Presidential race of 1860, there was no reason to remember it more than a hundred other marriages.

The paper sent me by your uncle is certainly all in his writing and with Colo. Benj Allin, clerk of the county court, I have compared it with other certificates filed in Mercer county, and, allowing for a little change of hand by age, it is the same.

Old letters are exactly of the same hand. The picture is of his young-manhood, near the wedding date, but he was more broken when he died.

All of the stories of another name and of any other parents to Mr Abraham Lincoln, are found on investigation to begin at least twenty years too late, and to originate in the popularity of the Lincoln and not in any memory of fact. Why indeed should country-folks keep the biography of a little boy who moved clear out of the state before he regularly wore shoes and stockings? Truly yours, and very - Respectfully. E. B. Head

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Harrodsburg, Ky.,
Oct. 4th. 1886.

Mr. Cleveland— Be within life of my Father is correct, so far as I know, save the age of my sister that you speak of. She was six instead of six=teen and is still living.

Inclosed find likeness also of myself.

Anything that I can do will be cheerfully done.

Respectfully,

C. B. Head.

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