

Copy

Charleston Ill. June 11. 1888

11 Samuel Shackford Esq.,

Dear Sir, Yours of the 5th inst. came to hand in due time, and contents carefully noted. In reply, I will try and give you some information in regard to the Lincoln family. The name of Ab^l. Lincoln's grandmother was Lucy Hanks before she married Henry Sparrow. Lucy Hanks and Henry Sparrow, as man and wife, were the father and mother of eight children. Nancy Hanks Sparrow was the second child of Henry and Lucy Sparrow, she, the above named Nancy Hanks Sparrow, was the mother of Ab^l. Lincoln. She looked so much like the Hanks family, that she always went by the name of Nancy Hanks. I have not got the history of the Lincoln family father back than to Ab^l. Lincoln's grandfather, who was killed by the Indians near where Fairview Ky. now stands. I am now in my ninetieth year and my memory is failing me.

Yours very Truly

Dennis J. Hanks,

If this statement of Dennis J. Hanks be true, the statement of Mr. Herndon, that the President's mother was an illegitimate child of Lucy Hanks is a lie. - Herndon, after Mr. Lincoln was elected President, applied to him for an office, but did not succeed, and became exceedingly wrathful. I have been told, that Herndon was often drunk than sober, and this fact, may account for his failure.

and for his ^{malicious} attempt, to slander the President, his mother, and grandmother.
After, the record of Thomas and Nancy Lincolns marriage was published
in 1878, those who attempted to prove Abraham Lincoln a bastard,
must have felt ashamed of themselves, for having attempted to credit a
falsehood, and failed in their attempt.

Abraham the grandfather of the President was evidently an
industrious man, he bought land in Kentucky, and was engaged in
cultivating his farm when shot down by the Indians; had the
father tried to bring up his sons, they probably would have become
different men. Murdock, the Presidents uncle, married a Roman
Catholic wife, and I have been told, by one who knew him, that his
slipshod habits were a great trial to her, and like Kantzger, she
would sometimes discipline him, and not to blame for it. I have had the
word of the bargain, I only intended this sheet for a copy of the Hawks letter
but have added to it, until I fear it will be tiresome for you to
read. Please excuse me,

S. S.