

THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

President:

Dr. Addams S. McAllister.

First Vice-President:

Miss Lillian A. Norton.

Second Vice-President:

Mr. Alfred Barbour Dent.

Third Vice-President:

Miss Maud Burr Morris.

Recording Secretary:

Miss Malina A. Gilkey.

Corresponding Secretary:

Capt. Harry A. Davis.

Registrar:

Dr. Louise McDaniel Browne.



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

Office of Editor

905 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.

Washington, D. C.

Editor:

Dr. Gales M. Brumbaugh.

Librarian:

Miss Core C. Curry.

Harald:

Mrs. Jessie Porter Wood.

Treasurer:

Mr. Herbert P. Gerald.

Connectors:

Mr. Frank S. Parks.

Mrs. Gales M. Brumbaugh.

Mrs. Oliver Baskow Howe.

Mr. Frank S. Parks.

Mr. Nelson Osgood Rhodes.

Mr. Charles Shepard, II.

Herbert P. Gerald
U. S. Patent Office
WASHINGTON, D. C.
May 18, 1926.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell, LL.D.
120 East 19th St.
New York City.

Dear Madam:

In studying for an address on the early life and ancestry of President Lincoln of course I read your "Early Life" (both now before me) and your recent delightful "Footsteps"; and now take the liberty of writing you to ask a few questions and favors.

I noted your friendly challenge to Dr. Barton (in your "Footsteps", page 88) regarding the parentage of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. Don't you think that in his chapter on the "Hankses and Sparrows" in Vol. 1 of his recent big "Life of Lincoln" (pages 37 to 69) he has made his chain "faultless" and settled the matter? How do you like his "Life"?

How in the world did Mrs. Hitchcock come to get her book on "Nancy Hanks" so full of misstatements — or worse?

Of course in preparing your "Footsteps" you visited the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, at Lincoln City, Ind. Do you have a copy of the exact present epitaph over her grave? and over the graves of the other four buried in the same small lot with her? If so, will you be so good as to give me a copy, or tell me how I may get it, of all these epitaphs -- if more than one?

Did you ever visit in Mercer Co., Ky., where Lucy Hanks Sparrow lived? If so, how about her epitaph and that of her husband, Henry

Sparrow? and where are they buried? (Dr. Barton doesn't tell.)

On page 110 of your "Footsteps" you say that the baby Thomas came in 1815. Seems to me he was born in 1811 (never heard exact date) and died when three days old (Nicolay and Sandburg both say this last). Am I wrong?

On page 127 you state that Thomas and Elizabeth Sparrow died after Nancy Lincoln. Others say it was before her death. (— Barton's "Life", pages 56, 115, etc.) What is the fact? And when did Levi Hall and his wife Nancy die -- 1818 or about 1824? Dennis Hanks said this last Nancy was his mother, you know (— Barton, pages 55, 56, 484).

At page 96 you give a picture of the Birthplace Memorial near Hodgeⁿville, very like on a small scale the big Memorial here in Washington. But wasn't it "dedicated" by Pres. Taft on Nov. 9, 1911?

On page 17 you say "other three sons". There were only two theseⁿ living -- Mordecai (1657-1727) and Thomas (born 1664).

Abraham Lincoln's widow Bathsheba died in 1836 (—Barton, page 35 — see your "Footsteps", page 70).

What do you suppose were the church memberships or religious faiths of these three of the President's ancestors — Mordecai (1686-1736), John (1716-1788), and Abraham (1744-1786)?

I could ask further, but I have written enough. Your replies, as full as convenient and agreeable, will greatly favor me.

With highest regards and all best wishes,

Sincerely,

Herbert P. Gerald
(member of S.A.R. & Colonial Wars, and graduate
of Wesleyan University 1882)

Herbert P. Gerald
U. S. Patent Office
WASHINGTON, D. C.