THE LINCOLNS OF FAYETTE COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA.

BY JOHN S. RITENOUR

I

THE LINCOLN GENEALOGY

Mordecai Lincoln, who settled in North Union township, Fayette county, Pa., about four miles from Uniontown, in the year 1792, and who died and is buried there, was a brother of John Lincoln, the greatgrandfather of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States.

The researches of historical writers since the Civil War have revealed with reasonable fullness and unquestionable accuracy the Lincoln family history, from the departure of Samuel Lincoln, a weaver, aged 18 years, from the town of Hingham, England, about 1637, down to the time of President Lincoln. The president himself knew practically nothing of the history of his own family, and, great a figure as he was in the eye of the world after 1860, he had the moral courage to admit this in the following extract from a letter written to a friend, J. W. Fell:

"My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Rockingham county, Va., to Kentucky, about 1781-2, where a year or two later he was killed by Indians. 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. My father at the death of his father, was but six years of age, and he grew up literally without education."

Since the death of the president, the pedigree of the main branch of the Lincoln family has been so clearly established that no one who wishes to learn about it need remain ignorant. But there has been little or no inquiry into the collateral branches; for the sufficient reason, of course, that all the interest has been naturally centered in the direct line from which the president sprung.

The Lincolns of Fayette county had always believed
themselves to be of the same tribe as the president, the belief being based on the knowledge that their progenitor, Mordecai Lincoln, came from Berks county, Pa., from whence migrated also the Lincolns of Virginia and Kentucky. Investigation has shown the belief to be entirely sound and to justify the statement in the introductory paragraph of this paper.

II

SAMUEL LINCOLN

Now, to begin at the beginning. The root of the Lincoln family tree in this country—the particular tree that flowered in the presidency of the United States—was Samuel Lincoln, of Hingham, England, who emigrated to and settled in Salem, Mass., in 1637, when he was 18 years of age. The Lincoln name is of Norman origin. Samuel had been preceded four years to this country by his brother Thomas. The maiden name of Samuel Lincoln's wife was Martha, but her family name has never been ascertained.

Samuel and Martha Lincoln had ten children, the fourth being Mordecai I., born June 14, 1657. This son became a blacksmith, learning his trade of Abraham Jones, of Hull, Mass., whose daughter, Sarah, he married. He died in 1727. His grave is in the cemetery at North Scituate, Mass.

Mordecai I and Sarah Jones Lincoln had four children, the first of whom was Mordecai II, born April 24, 1686. Two more children, Elizabeth and Jacob, were born to Mordecai Lincoln I by a second wife whose name is unknown.

III

MORDECAI LINCOLN II

Mordecai Lincoln II, born in 1686, emigrated from Massachusetts to Freehold, Monmouth county, New Jersey, where he bought land in 1720, and where he married Hannah Salter before 1714. Later he settled in Berks county, Pa., (then Philadelphia county.) He made his will Feb. 22, 1735, and of course died between that date and June 7, 1736, when the will was proved. The name Lincoln is spelled in the will both "Lincon" and "Linkon." It is signed "Mordecai Lincoln." The posthumous son of which the testator writes as
expected was born in due time and received the name of Abraham.

Following is a copy of the will:

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. I, Mordecai Lincon, of Amity, in the county of Philadelphia in the Province of Pennsylvania, being sick and weak in body, but of sound mind and memory, do make this, my last will and testament, in manner and form following, revoking and hereby disannulling and making void all other and former wills and testaments by me made, whether in word or writing; allowing this to be my last will and testament, and no other.

Imprimis.—It is my mind that in the first place my just debts be honestly paid.

Item.—I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas Linkon the half of my land situate in Amity and to his heirs and assigns forever.

Item.—I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas Linkon, his heirs and assigns forever, the one-half of my land in Amity aforesaid, with this proviso—that if my present wife Mary should prove with child at my decease, and bring forth a son, I order that the said land be divided into three equal parts, and that Mordecai shall have the lowermost or southeast part, and Thomas the middle most, and the posthumous the upper most.

Item.—I give and bequeath unto my daughters Hannah and Mary a certain piece of land at Matjaponia, all ready settled on them by a deed of gift.

Item.—I give and bequeath unto my son John Lincon a certain piece of land lying in the Jerseys, containing three hundred acres, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

Item.—I give and bequeath unto my two daughters Ann and Sarah and to their heirs and assigns forever one hundred acres of land lying in Matjaponia, which land I do order my executrix, hereinafter named, to sell, and divide the money between them.

And I do hereby further order and appoint that if any one or more of my children above named should happen to die before they arrive to their full age, then such share or shares shall be equally divided amongst the following children:
Item.—I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Mary all the residue or remainder of my estate, goods, chattels, quick and dead, to be at her disposal and liberty, to remain on my plantation at Amity until these, my children, are at their several ages; the better to enable my wife to bring up all my children without wasting or embezzling what I have left them.

And I do hereby nominate and appoint my wife Mary Lincon my whole and sole executrix of this my last will and testament, and my loving friends and neighbors, Jonathan Robison and George Boone, trustees to assist my executrix in seeing this will and testament well and truly performed according to the true intent and meaning thereof.

The within named Mordecai Lincon did sign, publish, pronounce and declare that this present writing was his last will and testament the 22nd day of February, A. D., 1735.

MORDECAI LINCON (seal)

In the presence of us,
   Israel Robeson,
   Solomon Cole,
   John Bell.

Letters testamentary were granted to the widow, "Mary Lincon," by P. T. Evans, register general, Philadelphia, June 7, 1736. The appraisers who subsequently made an inventory of the effects styled the deceased, "Mordecai Lincoln, Gentleman."

IV

CHILDREN OF MORDECAI II

So, according to the will, the children of Mordecai Lincoln II, were Mordecai III, who came to Fayette County, Thomas, Hannah, Mary, John, Ann, Sarah and Abraham, eight in number, all of whom clearly appear to have been minors when the will was written.

It is known that Abraham was the youngest child, John was probably the eldest, since he was born in New Jersey and came to Berks County with his parents. The others may have been born in the order named in the will, but this
is merely an inference, and may be entirely inaccurate, since John, the eldest, is the fifth named in that instrument.

The words of the will, "my present wife Mary," imply that she was not Hannah Salter, first wife of the testator, and this was the fact. Mordecai Lincoln II married a second time, in Berks County, but the dates of this marriage and of the death of his first wife are unknown; nor is anything known, so far as the writer has information, of the family name of the second wife. John was the son of the first wife and Abraham of the second. That much is definite enough. The maternal parentage of the other six children is pretty much a matter of conjecture as between the two wives. Ann Lincoln married a man named Tallman.

Coffin's "Life of Lincoln" says Mordecai Lincoln II was married in Massachusetts before going to New Jersey; also that his son John was born in Massachusetts, and accompanied him to New Jersey. The accuracy of these statements is doubtful. If, however, they are to be accepted as facts, then Mordecai Lincoln was married three times, twice before he was 28 years old. But under present knowledge it is wise to discard altogether the ideas of a Massachusetts marriage. There is no record of it to be found; indeed, no record even of the christian or family name of the alleged Massachusetts wife. Lincoln had married Hannah Salter at Freehold, N. J., not later than 1714, as shown by a will, of date that year, made by Capt. John Bowne, bequeathing to his niece, Hannah Salter Lincoln, 250 pounds. But the will of Mordecai Lincoln, made in 1735, when he was 49 years old, positively indicates, as already shown, that at that time all of his children were minors. The date of this will, 1735, is 21 years after his marriage to Hannah Salter, as fixed by the will of Major Bowne. This would carry the birth of John Lincoln back to about 1714. It is probable he was approximating his twenty first year when his father died.

Mr. Coffin further states that Ann and Sarah Lincoln were the children of Hannah Salter, which there is no occasion to doubt.

Hannah Salter was the daughter of Richard Bowne Salter. Her father was a lawyer, judge and member of the provincial assembly.
The Berks County land that Mordecai Lincoln purchased became vested in him in 1730, and from this fact one would naturally argue that 1730 fixes the time of his removal from New Jersey; but it is not conclusive.

V

THE ESTATE

The property that Mordecai II divided among his three sons, Mordecai III, Thomas, and his posthumous son, Abraham, consisted of 1,000 acres of land on the east bank of the Schuylkill River, in Exeter Township, near Reading. This was a Quaker community, known as the Oley settlement. The Boones lived here, and the George Boone appointed as one of the trustees by the will of Mordecai II, was an uncle of the celebrated Daniel Boone.

Among the 76 taxables in Exeter Township in 1741, says "Rupp's History of Berks and Lebanon Counties," were Mordecai Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln, William Boone, Benjamin Boone, Joseph Boone and John Boone. George Boone, a native of England, took out a warrant in 1718 for 400 acres of land in Oley township, then in Philadelphia County. Exeter township was erected December 7, 1841. It was originally the south part of Oley township. The township line enclosed about 13,500 acres. The survey was made by George Boone.

The London Company consisting of Tobias Collett, Daniel Quair and Henry Goldney, took up a tract of 1,000 acres on the east side of the Schuylkill River. The warrant was signed October 18, 1716. William Penn in 1699 had granted to this company 60,000 acres in Pennsylvania. The 1,000 acres referred to were taken in part thereof, and on November 9, 1717, the patent was issued. In February, 1718, the company granted their right to Andrew Robeson, then of Roxbury township, Philadelphia County. This tract became vested in Mordecai Lincoln II in May, 1730, and he devised it to his sons, Mordecai and Thomas, and his posthumous son, Abraham.
VI

THE LINCOLNS AND BOONES

I trust the reader will pardon a brief digression here for the purpose of showing the intimate relationship between the Boone and Lincoln families. There were frequent inter marriages between them. The first of the Boones was George Boone, from Bradwinch, near Exeter, Devonshire, England, who appears to have come over about 1717. He probably gave the name Exeter to the place where he located. He was a member of the Society of Friends, dying in 1740, aged 78 years.

William Boone, grandson of the first George Boone, married Sarah Lincoln in 1748. This Sarah was likely the daughter of Mordecai II. Squire Boone, also a son of the elder Boone, was the father of Daniel Boone, who was his fourth son and sixth child. Daniel was born in this township of Exeter, October 22, 1734. He died at Charette, Mo., September 26, 1820, having lived nearly four score and ten years.

Squire Boone was one of the trustees of the Oley meeting in 1736, proving his status in the Quaker church at that time. But in 1748 he was disowned for countenancing the marriage of his son to a woman who was not a Quaker. Not long after this he went to North Carolina, where he settled at Holoman Ford, on the Yadkin River. It was from this place that Daniel Boone went over into Kentucky and entered upon the career which made him famous.

John Lincoln and Squire Boone are supposed to have left Berks county together, with their families, about the year 1750, going south. At that time there was an extensive migration to the south from eastern Pennsylvania. John Lincoln settled in Rockingham County, Virginia, where many of his descendants still reside. His son Abraham, as stated in the letter of the president to Mr. Fell, emigrated from there to Kentucky. Abraham's son Thomas was the father of the president, who was born in Hardin County, Kentucky in 1809, three years before the death of Mordecai Lincoln III, in Fayette County in 1812.

The Boones seem to have been all Quakers. While some of the Lincolns were also Quakers, it appears that some of
them were not. This is shown by the fact that Ann Boone, who married Abraham Lincoln, was dealt with by the Exeter monthly meeting in 1761 for marrying out of the church, which she acknowledged. This Ann Boone was the daughter of James Boone and a woman named Foulke. She was the cousin of Daniel Boone.

Her husband, Abraham Lincoln, was the posthumous son of Mordecai II, and brother of Mordecai III. He died in 1806, aged 70 years; the year of his birth, 1736, was also the year of his father Mordecai's death. He became quite prominent in the politics of Berks County. For six years, from 1773 to 1779, he held the office of County Commissioner. In 1783 he was elected to the General Assembly. He had also been a Justice of the Peace.

The Lincolns who now reside in Berks County are the descendants of Thomas and Abraham Lincoln, the sons of Mordecai II, who remained there.

Another prominent family in Berks County, neighbors of the Lincolns, was the Hanks family, some of whom if not all left there at the same time, about 1750, that the migratory spirit was awakened in the bosoms of the Boones, Lincolns and others. Nancy Hanks, mother of the president, was a descendant of this Berks County family, but all attempts to obtain anything like an accurate genealogical record of her ancestors have thus far been fruitless.

David L. Lincoln of Birdsboro, Berks County, in a letter written in 1883 stated that John Hanks had accompanied the Lincolns who went to Fayette County, and that from there he went on southward. This is the extent of our information as to the presence of any of the Hanks family in Fayette County, and it may be entirely inaccurate, probably is. Mordecai Lincoln did not leave Berks County until more than thirty years after the migration of his brother John, about 1750, and it was more than forty years later before he finally settled in Fayette County.

VII
OLEY, AMITY AND EXETER

The townships of Oley, Amity and Exeter, with which the name of Lincoln is so closely linked, all lie contiguous,
and were mainly settled by Quakers and Swedes. In the early records of all three of these the name of Lincoln appears. These townships antedate the erection of Berks County, which was created out of Philadelphia, Lancaster and Chester counties in 1752. As already stated, Mordecai II, died in May, 1736, and it is likely was buried in the Quaker settlement in Oley, the meeting house and burial grounds of which are within the present limits of Exeter Township, but the inscriptions on many of the tombstones are wholly obliterated, and the grave of Mordecai Lincoln, if there at all, is indistinguishable from any of the others.

The old meeting-house still stands, and it is one of the landmarks of Berks County. It is one mile from the present village of Stonerville, and about ten miles from Reading. It is a plain brown stone building, still in serviceable condition, and still in service, despite it has weathered the storms of more than 150 years. It was built on an acre of ground bought by George Boone from Thomas Penn, and the same day transferred by Boone to trustees for purposes of a Quaker house of worship.

Among the books in the Berks County court house are some which contain the names of the taxpayers of each township during and after the period of the Revolutionary war, showing that the assessments to raise money to meet the expenses of the war were heavy. In 1781 Mordecai, John, Benjamin and Thomas Lincoln are named among the taxpayers of Exeter Township. These were Mordecai III., his brother Thomas, and his sons John and Benjamin.

A writer in the Philadelphia Public Ledger of July 8, 1891, says at that date there was an Abraham Lincoln living in Caernarvon township, Lancaster county, about 14 miles from Reading. He was over 80 years of age, and had spent his entire life on the farm on which he was living. In general appearance he was not unlike the martyred president, having the same large, erect, gaunt form, and retaining to a remarkable degree many of the notable physical characteristics of the Lincoln tribe as disclosed in the personality of the president.
There is no data now at hand to show precisely the date when Mordecai III left Berks county, but it is known that he was for a time, how long is not known, a resident of Dauphin county, Pa., before finally settling in Fayette county. The Dauphin county records disclose that on April 23, 1791, John Harris, gentleman, of Harrisburg, sold for 33 pounds to Mordecai Lincoln, inn-keeper, of Hummels-town, lot No. 11, on Chestnut street, Harrisburg, containing about one quarter of an acre. A deed of same date as above conveys the same property from Mordecai and Mary Lincoln to George Reddick for 306 pounds, gold and silver, "together with the houses, kitchens, barns, stables and buildings." The property must have been an inn. Mordecai Lincoln signs his own name to the deed, but his wife Mary was unable to write, since her name is accompanied with the sign of "her X mark."

That Mordecai Lincoln had lived for several years in Dauphin county before removing to Fayette county is clear from the figures of a deed by which, after he had settled in Fayette county, he disposed of his Dauphin county property. This deed, dated May 17, 1794, "between Mordecai Lincoln, of Union township, in the county of Fayette, and State of Pennsylvania, yeoman, and Mary, his wife, of the one part, and Valentine Hummel, of Derry township, in the county of Dauphin, State aforesaid, inn keeper," witnesseth, &c., that for 500 pounds, have sold to said Hummel a lot of ground in Derry township, in a town called Frederickstown, being lot No. 13, and bought by Mordecai Lincoln from Peter Friedly and wife Jan. 4, 1787. "Signed, sealed and delivered," says the deed, "in the presence of Benjamin Lincoln and John Jones, the day and year above mentioned." The acknowledgment is May 5, 1795, "before James Finley, one of the judges of the court of common pleas of Fayette county."

The last record we have of the presence of Mordecai III in Berks county is in the statement that he was a taxpayer in 1781. We have seen that he had bought property in Dauphin county in 1787, so his emigration from Berks county must have been between 1781 and 1787.
The Fredericktown referred to in the deed to Valentine Hummel is now known as Hummelstown, a post-borough of about 1,000 population, nine miles east of Harrisburg. It was laid out by Frederick Hummel in 1762.

IX

IN FAYETTE COUNTY

Mordecai Lincoln was accompanied to Fayette county in 1791 or 1792 by his wife Mary, his two sons, Benjamin his first and John his second; his two daughters, Nancy (Ann) and Sarah, and their husbands, Jacob Giger and John Jones. Unfortunately nothing more is known about his wife than that her name was Mary, and that she was an invalid during the last 30 years of her life. They were married in Berks county, and buried two daughters, Hannah, and another whose name is unknown, before leaving that county. Hannah Lincoln was born in 1761. She and her sister both died young and unmarried.

Four miles from Uniontown, in what is now North Union Township, Lincoln bought a tract of land, called “Discord,” from Isaac Pearce, the patentee. It contained 320 acres and allowance, and the price paid was 500 pounds. In addition to this he procured a patent from the commonwealth for another tract of land called “Union Green,” containing probably 200 or 250 acres. The two combined comprised all or nearly all the land now owned and occupied by John and Elizabeth Canon, the late John Jones and John Hankins. Lincoln built the old part of the house in which Elizabeth Canon lived later.

Of the personality of Mordecai Lincoln, his mental and physical traits, we know only through tradition; and the information transmitted in this way is as scant as it is unsatisfying. No one living ever saw or talked to him. He was sixty years of age when he settled in Fayette County, a tall, strong, vigorous, large-boned, angular old man, having all the distinguishing facial and physical characteristics of the Lincoln blood—prominent nose and ears, suggestive of a dominating mentality and generous disposition; heavy, overhanging eyebrows and sturdy chin. He was prudent, industrious, law-abiding, and notably methodical in the busi-
ness affairs of every-day life. These are among the elements of good citizenship. His love of order and system is disclosed in the manner in which he kept his "Family Book," which is still in the possession of the Jones family. He carefully kept accounts with all of his children, and made everything even between them in his will. The following extract from his book enumerates the number and value of the articles with which he dowered his daughter Sarah when she married John Jones:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>lbs.</th>
<th>s.</th>
<th>d</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One case of Drawers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One dining table</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One tea table</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One bed and bed clothes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One cow</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One pot and one kettle</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One tea kettle</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A half dozen knives and forks</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One saddel</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One skimmer, ladel and flesh fork</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One tub</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To cash</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To pewter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 2 cows</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To 3 sheep</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The late John Jones related the following incident which he had heard his grandfather, Mordecai Lincoln, often tell. It is given to illustrate the natural feeling of resentment that follows imputation of one's veracity and to show that the Lincoln family entertained a praiseworthy pride in their reputation for truthfulness. Abraham Lincoln, the young brother of Mordecai, was the one most concerned in this incident, which occurred in Berks County. Abraham had been a witness in a case in court. During the course of the argument to the jury his veracity was attacked by the opposing counsel, which angered him deeply. After the trial he accosted the attorney, saying:
"How much would it cost to knock a lawyer down?"
"Twenty dollars," was the reply.
Lincoln laid him out on the floor with a single blow, and taking from his pocket a twenty dollar note spread it across his breast and left the court room.

IX
THE WILL OF MORDECAI LINCOLN

Mordecai Lincoln died in March, 1812, and was buried on his farm. His wife died just two years later, in March, 1814. The property on which the burial ground is located was later owned by his grandson, William Jones, and later owned and occupied by John and Elizabeth Canon, his great grandchildren. Following is a copy, verbatim et literatim, of the will of Mordecai Lincoln, as taken from the records of Fayette County.

Upon the twenty-second day of February in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and Eleven, I Mordecai Lincoln, Sr., of Union Township, Fayette County and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania being far advanced in years but of sound mind and memory do make and oratn tnis my last Will and Testament, revoking all other will or wills heretofore by me made.

1th. I Recommend my soul unto Almighty God who gave It and my body to dust its original, thare to be Interd in decent maner by my Representatives.

2dly of those Wordly Goods which it has pleased God to Endow me with I leave and Bequeath In the following manner Twt.

3dly I leave and unto my Son Benjamin Lincoln the sum of one dollar to be paid by my Daughter Sarah Jones in one year after my Deceace.

Item—4thly, I Also leave and bequeath unto my son John Lincoln six pounds annually of Interest Drawn from a bond I have on my son Benjamin Lincoln Until said Bond becomes Due from and after my Deceace.

Item—5th I leave and bequeath unto Mary Lincoln wife of my son John the Residue Interest on said Bond until it becomes Due after such monies is taken out of said Bond as shall appear a legal Compensation for the services of my Executors During their Executorship and the Interest of the Residue to be aplyed for the use and support of her five youngest children twt John, Nancy, Iaferty, paterson & abby, and the afore said bond I require to be put into the hands of my Executors and when it becomes Due I devise the One third part of said
bond unto my son John Lincoln to be paid him in the space of one year after said Bond becomes due. Also I devise the third part of said Bond unto Mary Lincoln wife of my son John to be paid in manner and form aforesaid. I also devise and bequeath the Residue or other third part of said bond unto the five youngest Children of my son John Lincoln whose names are heretofore recited or the surviving part of them when they arrive to age and in case of the death of any of them to be Equally divided amongst the Survivors to be paid in manner and form as aforesaid.

Item 6th—I leave and bequeath unto my daughter Nancy Giger one dollar to be paid by my daughter Sarah Jones in addition to what I have heretofore paid to my daughter Nancy to be paid to her after my decease.

Item 7th—I also devise and bequeath unto my daughter Sarah Jones all the uses and profits of the tract of land she now lives upon, to be held and enjoyed by her for eight years from and after this date, but if myself and my wife Mary should live until after the expiration of eight years in such case my daughter Sarah Jones is to enjoy all the profits and benefits of said tract until our decease, and at my and my wife’s decease my daughter Sarah is to be at the expense of our interment and all other expenses to carry this will into execution and at my decease I also leave to my daughter Sarah all the movable property I may be possessed at my death.

Item 8th—I also leave and bequeath unto my grandson William Jones all the above tract of land to take into possession at the expiration of the term granted to my daughter Sarah Jones, or after my decease to be held and enjoyed by him, his heirs and assigns forever, his paying out thereof unto my grandson John Jones the sum of one hundred pounds when the said John arrives at the age of twenty-two years.

I now hereby constitute William Swearingen my executor of all this my will and testament revoking all will or wills heretofore by me made, in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Twenty-second day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eleven.

MORDECAI LINCOLN (Seal)

Signed, sealed in the presence of us.

SAMUEL McCLEAN,  
SAMUEL SMITH

X

THE FAMILY OF BENJAMIN LINCOLN

Benjamin Lincoln was born in Berks County, October 29, 1756. He died October 6, 1821. His wife was Elizabeth Orvis. She died December 29, 1846, aged 80 years. Both
The Lincolns of Fayette County

lie in the family graveyard in North Union township. Their children in the order of birth were: Thomas, Nancy, Abraham, Sarah, Mary, Hannah, Mordecai, Elizabeth and Phoebe.

Thomas Lincoln married Mary Henshaw and died in Carmichaels, Greene County, where their son, Thomas L. Lincoln, lived later.

Nancy married Daniel Woodmancy, and their daughter Rhoda married first Gabriel Lennon and second Henry Zearing.

Abraham Lincoln married Patti Cole. Their children were all daughters. There is no trace of them now. Abraham died in Uniontown; when, not known.

Sarah Lincoln married James Russell, and they settled in Ohio, leaving, so far as I have been able to learn, no trace behind them.

Mary Lincoln married James Hagan, and they too went to Ohio, disappearing as completely as the Russells.

Hannah Lincoln, who was born February 19, 1795 and died in Uniontown, February 10, 1889, married Isaac L. Hunt on June 5, 1819. Their children were Jacob, Benjamin Lincoln, Daniel, Isaac L., Mordecai Lincoln, Sarah, Thomas Lincoln and William.

Elizabeth Lincoln married James Junk.

Phoebe Lincoln married Henry Yeagley. The Hunts, Junks and Yeagleys, were all well known in and about Uniontown.

Mordecai Lincoln married Jane Hewitt. He died October 2, 1851, aged 50 years, and his wife died August 3, 1873, in her 68th year. Their daughter Nancy died June 15th, 1865, aged 29 years. Another daughter, Phoebe A., died February 5, 1852, aged three days.

XI

THE FAMILY OF JOHN LINCOLN

John Lincoln was born in Berks County, March 28, 1758. The date of his death is not known. His body lies in the family burial ground. His wife was Mary Lafferty, of Philadelphia. Their children, not in the order of birth, were Mordecai, William, Jesse, Abigail, Hannah, Jemima, Mary (Polly,) Sarah, John, Nancy, Lafferty, Patterson, and Abigail
again, the latter born after the death of her elder sister. Of some of these children we know little, and of others much.

Mordecai Lincoln went to Ohio where he died. He never married.

Jesse Lincoln, who died in Uniontown December 18, 1869, aged 82 years, married Hannah Jones, who died in Uniontown June 17, 1877, aged 83 years. The 11 children of Jesse and Hannah Lincoln were Lafferty, Mary, David, Margaret, John, Benjamin, Phoebe, Richard S., Martha, Amanda and Samuel. Phoebe Lincoln married Philip Bogardus.

Abigail Lincoln the elder was never married. She was killed by the falling limb of a tree April 5, 1807, aged 17 years.

Hannah Lincoln married John P. Sturgis, and one of their children is Hon. Geo. C. Sturgiss of Morgantown, W. Va.

Jemima Lincoln married John Oldshue, and one of their children was the late Lincoln Oldshue, an eminent physician of Pittsburgh.

Mary (Polly) Lincoln married Jacob Springer. They had no issue.

Sarah Lincoln married David Downey Shaw, and they had nine children.

Of John Lincoln we have no record. He married, but had no family.

Nancy (Ann) Lincoln, who was born October 18, 1802, married James Ralston on December 25, 1828. She was his second wife. They took up their abode near Ashland, Ohio, where John Ralston was born on December 8th, 1829. Their children are scattered throughout Ohio, West Virginia, Texas, Indiana, Colorado and other states.

Lafferty Lincoln married Margaret Hedden, of Upper Middletown, Pa. One of their sons is named Daniel Boone, thus commemorating the early ties of relationship between the Boone and Lincoln families.

John Lincoln married Tillie Aldridge, and they settled in Kentucky, where he died without issue.

William Lincoln, who was the ninth child of John Lincoln, was born October 11th, 1790, in North Union Township, near the present dwelling of the late John Jones. He left Fayette County to serve his country during the war of 1812. After this war he lived for a while in Kentucky, removing
later to New York, where he finally settled at West Constable, Franklin County. There he raised his family and there he died. His wife, Amy Briggs, died in 1867, aged 77 years.

XII

THE JONES FAMILY

Sarah Lincoln, who married John Jones, both coming from Berks county with Mordecai Lincoln, was born in Berks county, February 25, 1767, and died Jan. 25, 1838. Her husband died in May 1802, aged 40 years. Their children were Mary, William, Eleanor, Nancy and John.

XIII

THE GIGER FAMILY

The descendants of Nancy (Ann) Giger—some spell the name Kiger—appear to be pretty well scattered and lost. Mrs. Giger was born November 22, 1769. Her body was interred on her father's farm. Her husband's name was Jacob. Both came to Fayette County with Mordecai Lincoln. They had eight children, viz: John, Henry, William, Lewis, Charles, Thomas, Polly and Sarah. The latter married Samuel Shull in Uniontown about 1810, and one of their children was Henry Giger Shull, who died in April, 1889, at Galion, O. A son of the latter, M. L. Shull, was later a Justice of the Peace and police magistrate at Longmont, Colorado. These are all the particulars of the Gigers I have been able to glean.

Both Benjamin and John Lincoln lie with their father in the old grave yard on the North Union Township farm.

So far as I know there are but few lineal male descendants of Mordecai Lincoln living now in Fayette County. One of these is Sherman Lincoln of Uniontown. Of indirect descendants there are enough to fill all the pages of this journal.

For much of the information incorporated in these papers I am indebted to Charles Carleton Coffins, "History of Abraham Lincoln;" the memory of the late Miss Mary Jane Shaw of Uniontown; to the assistance of William Hunt and H. L. Robinson of Uniontown; and to the valuable investigations of Howard M. Jenkins, of Philadelphia, into the early history of Berks County.