

ELIZABETH HANKS (Thomas Sparrow)
daughter of Joseph Hanks and Ann Lee

The NFP Registers of Richmond County, Virginia list Betty Hanks daughter of Joseph and Ann Hanks born 4 Mar 1771.¹ Elizabeth “Betty” Hanks is the only child of Joseph and Ann Lee Hanks to be named on the NFP Registers. On 17 Oct 1796 Mercer Co. Ky. Elizabeth Hanks married Thomas Sparrow.² In 1798 Thomas Sparrow and brother in law Jesse Friend joined in renting a tract of land in what was then Hardin Co. Ky. (undocumented)

Letter from Dennis Hanks to Herndon April 1866 states....”we moved to Mercer Co. and stayed there about three years and moved back to Hardin Co. and there remained until we moved to Spencer Co. Ind. in 1816.” The woman that raised me was Elizabeth Sparrow, the sister of Lucy and my mother Nancy. The other sister was Polly Friend. William Hall in Frankford, Mo. is my half-brother. My birthday is 15 May 1799.”³

Nancy Hanks born about 1775, had a son Dennis Friend Hanks born 15 May 1799. His biological father was Charles Friend of Hardin Co. Dennis was raised by his aunt Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow until her death in 1818 and then lived with Thomas Lincoln’s family until his marriage. His mother Nancy Hanks Hall, his Aunt Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow and his Aunt Lucy Hanks Sparrow were sisters, daughters of Joseph and Nancy Lee Hanks. Aunt Lucy Hanks Sparrow was the mother of Nancy Hanks who married Thomas Lincoln and had Abraham Lincoln, President.

1810 Hardin Co. Ky. (Heritage Quest)
William Riney
Zadock Hill
Thomas Sparrow 10010 – 00010

9 October 1818 recorded Spencer Co. Ind. “This twenty first day of September in the year eighteen hundred and eighteen Thomas Sparrow in his perfect senses on this date above mentioned that all the goods and chattels that the above mentioned Thomas Sparrow has is to belong to his wife Elizabeth Sparrow so that she can do as she pleases with it until her death and after her death the whole of the property above mentioned is to fall to Dennis Hanks when he comes of age and that the above T. Sparrow had made choice of Thomas Carter to be his executor for his effects above written this from under my

¹ The Registers of North Farnham Parish 1663-1814 and Lunenburg Parish 1783-1800 Richmond County, Virginia compiled and published by George Harrison Sanford King, Fellow, American Society of Genealogists, Fredericksburg, Virginia 1966 Southern Historical Press Inc. In the preface King states “The original parish registers of North Farnham and Lunenburg are not known to be in existence. Instead we have two alphabetical arrangements which are of Eighteenth-Century origin and these have been referred to at times as the “original registers,” but they obviously are not.” “It is obvious that in transcribing the presently preserved alphabetized volumes, various errors were made and some of these will be apparent in the present arrangement. However, with certain reservations, I feel we can trust these transcripts for the most part.” King also notes the issue with the calendar change which took place in 1751. Previous to the 1751 change adoption, the new year began on March 25 and ended on March 24. The change gave us January 1, 1752 as the new year with December 31 as the end of the old. King notes the clerks did not always use the “proper double date” prior to 1752 and suggests we take into consideration the double date issue for those born in January, February and March of 1752. Also, at issue between the original registers and the copies is the month of the record. Prior to the 1752 change March was the first month, April the second month and so on. The copy may have used the present calendar system of January as the first month, etc., writing out the incorrect month. Personal judgment along with additional records from wills, courts and land records might help to clarify discrepancies.

¹ FHLC Film #32637 North Farnham Parish (Richmond Co., Virginia: Episcopal) Manuscript on Film Salt Lake City, filmed by Genealogy Society of Utah 1947, original at Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.

² Familysearch.org, Mercer County, Kentucky Marriage Bonds

³ From The Lincoln Kinsman: Dennis Friend Hanks interviewed by Herndon in Chicago in June 1865.... letter from Hanks to Herndon 2 April 1866

hand and seal. Signed Thomas Sparrow and witnessed by David Casebier and Nancy Lincoln.⁴ Elizabeth Sparrow died between 21 Sept and 5 Oct 1818.

⁴ Early Will Book 1818-1831 and Will Book 1853-1880 Spencer County, Indiana, compiled by J. Oscar Phillips and Opal B. Phillips, Cook-McDowell Publications, Inc. Owensboro, Kentucky.