

**NANCY HANKS (Thomas Lincoln)
Daughter of Lucy Hanks and unknown father**

According to Abraham Lincoln, his mother Nancy Hanks Lincoln was born 5 February 1784. Dennis Hanks, the illegitimate son of Nancy Hanks and Charles Friend, lived with the Lincolns and gave testimony that Lucy Hanks was a sister of both his mother and his adoptive mother Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow.

There is no documented evidence of Nancy Hanks Lincoln's life prior to her marriage to Thomas Lincoln. Speculation has her living with her Aunt Elizabeth Hanks Sparrow, Dennis Hanks adoptive mother and Lucy Hanks Sparrow's sister. Shipley descendants would have you believe she lived with Richard and Rachel Shipley Berry in Washington Co. Ky.

The recent Nancy Hanks mtDNA study as noted on geneticlincoln.com and the Hanks Family YDNA group page at FTDNA proves Lucy Hanks Sparrow's descendants match the descendants of children of Joseph and Ann Lee Hanks of Nelson Co. Ky. and descendants of Lucy Hank's Sparrow children, but do not match descendants of Robert and Sarah Shipley. The Nancy Hanks mtDNA study proves the family stories of Dennis Hanks and other descendants of Joseph and Ann Lee Hanks to be reliable regarding Nancy Hanks Lincoln, her sister Sarah Hanks and her mother Lucy Hanks Sparrow.

As Lucy Hanks oldest child, I find it doubtful Lucy would have sent her off to live with another family when Lucy already had Sarah age about 2 yrs. old and another child, Mary Sparrow, due in 1790 when she had married Henry Sparrow. Nancy at age 6 would have been helpful with an infant and a 2 yrs. old in the house.

Thomas and Elizabeth Sparrow are of record in Hardin Co. Ky. in 1802 and 1806-1810. Thomas Lincoln is of record in Hardin Co. Ky. 1803-1810, making it likely this is where Thomas met Nancy. The Henry Sparrow family was in Mercer Co. KY. 1790 through 1820. Lincoln's family lived in Washington Co. KY.

Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln

Washington County, Kentucky Tax Lists, familysearch.org

1792 – Mordecai Lincoln	1wm 21 up, 1wm 16-21
1795 – Thomas Lincoln	10000
1796 – Thomas Lincoln	10000
1799 – Thomas Lincoln	10000
1800 – none	
1801 – difficult to read	
1802 – Thomas Lincoln	10001

Hardin County, Kentucky Tax Lists, familysearch.org

1802 – Thomas Sparrow	10002
1803 – Thomas Lincoln	10000, 200 ac. Hardin Co., Wm. May

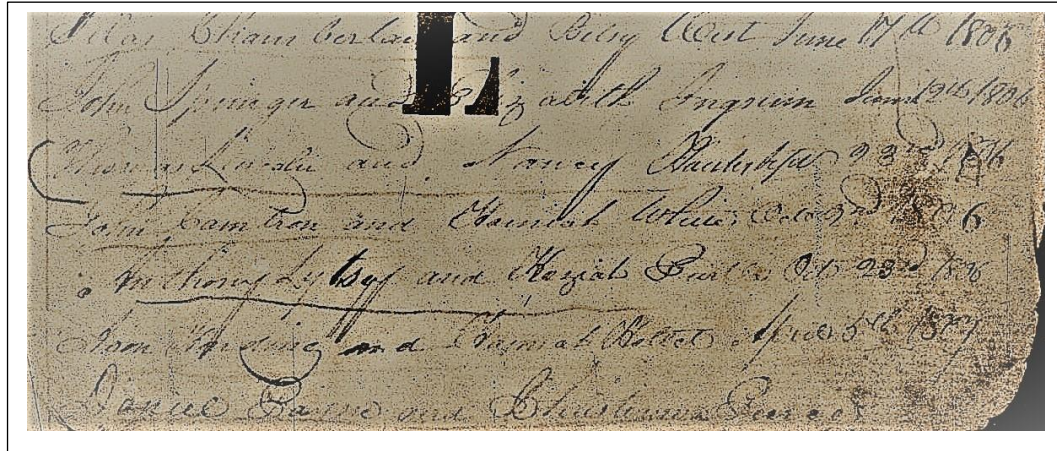
Indenture 2 September 1803 (Hardin Co. Ky. Deed Book B, page 253) Dr. John F. Slator of Green Co. Ky sells to Thomas Lincoln of Hardin Co. KY. 238 ac. part of a survey for Wm. May and bought by Slator of Joseph Berwick adj. Robert Huston, Shepherd's line and Thomas Williams and recorded 26 Nov. 1802.

Nancy Royce, nroyce49@gmail.com, December 2019

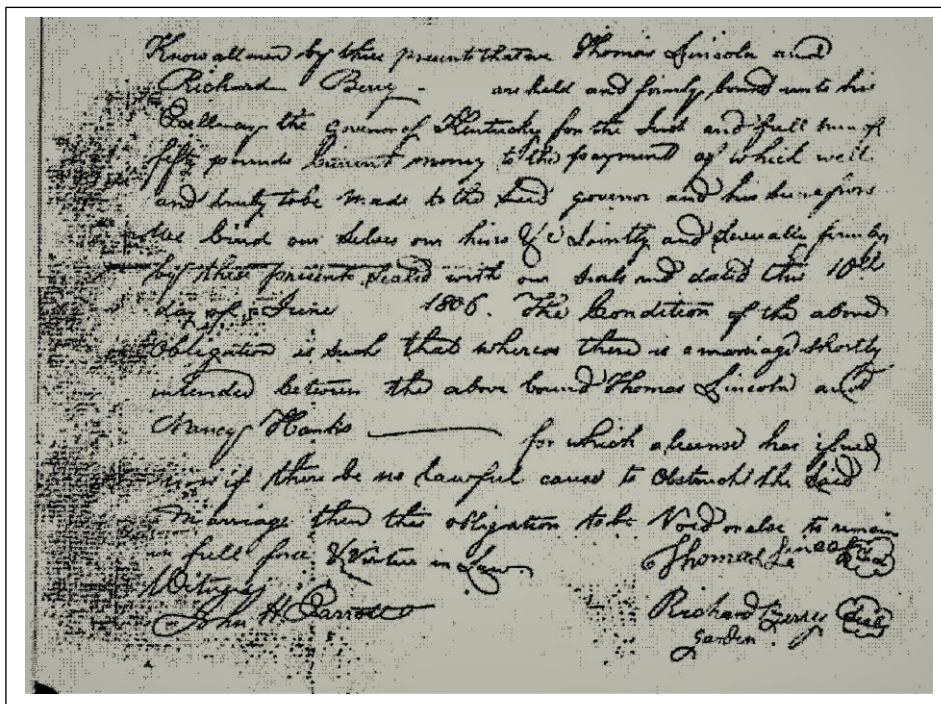
Hardin County, Kentucky Tax Lists, familysearch.org

1804 – Thomas Lincoln	10001
1805 – Thomas Lincoln	10001
1806 – Thomas Linkhorn	10000
Thomas Sparrow	10002

Nancy Hanks married Thomas Lincoln 12 June 1806.



Thomas Lincoln took out a bond to marry on 10 June 1806.



Nancy Royce, nroyce49@gmail.com, December 2019

The Hanks/Lincoln marriage bond....when Richard Berry agreed to be bondsman for Thomas Lincoln for his marriage to Nancy Hanks, he signed the Bond as a bondsman. Many researchers have noted the term "garden" on the note near his name. As Lincoln's bondsman, Berry had no need to name any relationship with Nancy Hanks, so his being her guardian has no bearing for this document. Nancy Hanks was not underage at the time of her marriage if her date of birth according to Lincoln is correct and so would have no need of a guardian to give permission for her to marry. Berry's position as her guardian would have been noted on the document giving his permission for her to marry had she been under 21yrs. of age. This bond document, regardless of the term "garden" under the signature of Richard Berry proves nothing of the relationship between Richard Berry and Nancy Hanks. It does however, prove that Richard Berry thought enough of Thomas Lincoln to be his bondsman and could vouch for him under the terms of the bond which included that he was of age to marry, was who he said he was and had no other wife.

The following article appeared in "The Daily Inter Ocean, (Chicago, IL) April 12, 1882; pg. 10, Issue 14, col. C: ABRAHM LINCOLN'S PARENTS' MARRIAGE

Captain J. W. Wartman was able to secure yesterday what Ward Lamon and other biographers were unable to secure, a reliable record of the wedding of Abraham Lincoln's father and mother. The following affidavit on the subject will explain itself: "I, Christopher C. Graham, now of Louisville, Ky., aged 98 years, on my oath, say...That I was present at the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks in Washington County, near the town of Springfield, Ky; that one Jesse Head, a Methodist preacher of Springfield, Ky., performed the ceremony. I knew the said Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks well, and knew the said Nancy Hanks to have been virtuous and respectable and of good parentage. I do not remember the exact date of the marriage, but was present at the marriage aforesaid; and I make this affidavit freely, and at the request of Captain J. W. Wartman, to whom, for the first time, I have this day incidentally stated the fact of my presence at the said wedding of President Lincoln's father and mother. I make this affidavit to vindicate the character of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, and to put to rest forever the legitimacy of Abraham Lincoln's birth. I was formerly proprietor of Harrodsburg Springs. I am a retired physician, and am now a resident of Louisville, Ky. I think Felix Grundy was also present at the marriage of said Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, the father and mother of Abraham Lincoln. The said Jesse Head, the officiating minister at the marriage aforesaid, afterwards moved to Harrodsburg, Ky., and edited a paper there, and died at that place. Signed: CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS GRAHAM
"Subscribed and sworn to before me, this March 20, A.D. 1882 N.C. BUTLER, Clerk United States Circuit Court, First District, Indiana. "By J. W. WARTMAN, Deputy Clerk." - Evansville Journal

The following tax and census records show the location of Thomas Lincoln/Linkhorn in the years after he and Nancy married.

Hardin County, Kentucky Tax Lists familysearch.org

1807 – Thomas Sparrow	10002
Thomas Linkhorn	10001
1808 – Thomas Sparrow	10004
Thomas Linkhorn	10001, 200ac. Mill Cr., 2 lots Hardin Co., Elizabethtown
1809 – Thomas Sparrow	10005
Thomas Linkhorn	10001 200ac. Hardin Co., Mill Creek, Slator
1810 – Thomas Sparrow	10004
Thomas Lincoln	10002 200 ac. Hardin Co., Mill Creek

1810 Hardin Co. Ky. (Heritage Quest)
p. 310 Thomas Lincoln 10010 - 10010
p. 312 Thomas Sparrow 10010 – 00010

Indenture 27 October 1814 Thomas Lincoln and Nancy his wife of Hardin Co. Ky. sell to Charles Milton of same 200 ac. patented by Wm. May and conveyed by John Tom Slator to Lincoln by deed dated 2 Sept 1803 in Hardin Co. on Mill Cr. Adj. Richard Huston's survey and part of 1600ac. survey, recorded 31 May 1817 (Hardin Co. Ky. Deed Book E, page 197).

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 hand and seal. Signed Thomas Sparrow and witnessed by David Casebier and **Nancy Lincoln**.¹

Elizabeth Sparrow died between 21 Sept and 5 Oct 1818. Nancy Lincoln died 5 October 1818 in Spencer Co., Ind.

¹ 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.