

John Hawks - 1

Henderson

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John Hawks

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(I can say that this testimony can be implicitly relied on - Mr. Lincoln loved this man - thought him truthful - honest and noble. Lincoln has stated this to me over and over again - Henderson.)

I was born in Ky. on the 9th day of Feb'y 1802 in Nelson Co. in 4 miles of Beardstown. My father moved to Hardin Co. in 1806 - I knew Abraham Lincoln in Ky. Abraham was known among the boys as a bashful - somewhat dull, but peaceable boy; he was not a brilliant boy - but worsted his way by toil; to learn was hard for him, but he worsted slowly, but surely. He went to school to a man by the name of Hazel; the School was but a short distance. Lincoln lived on the Bank of Knob Creek - about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the Rolling fork, which empties into Salt River which empties into Ohio River. Abraham's Lincoln's mother and I were cousins. Ab^u and I are 2^d Cousins. I knew Mrs. Nancy Lincoln - or Nancy Sparrow before Marriage - She was a tall, slender woman. Dark skinned - black hair and eyes - her face was sharp and angular -

forehead high - She was beyond all doubt an intellectual woman rather extraordinary if any thing. She was born in Mercer Co. Ky. about 1780 - her nature was kindness - mildness - tenderness - obedience to her husband. Abe was like his mother very much. She was a Baptist by profession.

My recollection, in fact Abin's father told me so, that his great grandfather was an Englishman - came from England and settled in Virginia. This is the family reputation. When I was in Ky. in 1864 I was shown a house in Mercer Co. which was said to be the house that Abin's Grand father had built. I doubt the house, but don't the farm - about 10 miles from the mouth of Kentucky river - about 10 or 12 miles from Harrisburg - South East from Harrodsburg.

I knew Thomas Lincoln in Ky., knew him well - He was Cabinet and House Carpenter - farmed after he got married - still working at his trade. He was a man about 5 feet 10 inches high - weigh about 180 - Eyes dark gray - hair black - a little stoop shouldered - good humored man - a strong brave man - a very stout man - loved fun - jokes and equalled Abe in telling stories. Happiness was the end of life with him. He, Thos., was older than his wife - say about 5 years - being

born about 1775- . Thomas was born in Virginia so was his wife - Thos. was 6 years of age when he came to Ky. His father was killed by the Indians as Dennis Hawks has said. The Indian story of Dennis Hawks is generally correct as told you by Dennis - so is Chapman's story generally correct. Thomas told me so. My father and Lincoln were born in old Virginia in what is called the Rappahannock River. We knew each other in Virginia that is the families I did. Abni's mother was my first cousin. Abni's grand mother was my father's sister. Abni's grand father and mother on his mother's side lived in Mercer Co. Ky. about 20 ^{miles} south of Abni's grand father on his father's side - the one killed by the Indians. Dennis Hawks and I are cousins. Mr. Sparrow and Mrs. Sparrow never came to Ills. they lived in Ky. in Mercer Co. Sparrow married my father's sister - Henry Sparrow was his name - lived and died in Mercer Co. never came to Indiana. They came from Old Virginia. All these families came from about the same County - can't say what Co.

Thomas Lincoln moved to Indiana in 1818 - probably 1816 and settled in Spencer Co. near what is now called Centerville Indiana. I staid in Ky. did not come out when Dennis Hawks did - Dennis Hawks came

John Hawks &
Lucy Sparrow

out in about 1818 - Mrs. Lincoln died say in 1818, I think, and lies buried south east of the Lincoln farm about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, on a rise - knoll or knob.

She was buried by the side of Mr. Hall and his wife, as I understand it. I came out to Indiana in 1822 after Thos. Lincoln had married his 2^d wife, and stayed in Indiana near to and with Thomas Lincoln for 4 years. I remember Abm. well, in Indiana. He was then 14 years of age then and 14 years when I left Indiana and went back to Ky. I was in 1822, 20 years.

Abm. was farming when I got there and when I left and went to Ky. He went to school but little; he went to school to Coney or Swaney, I can't now say which. Old Swaney's house there was a rough-rough log one - not a hewed one - his 2^d one was better hewed, but is gone - never standing in 1860. The 3^d one was hewed logs; that one was never occupied by Lincoln; it was up but not inhabited; the house stood east and west and faced the south - chimney in east end, it was - is about 4 miles to Gentryville from the Lincoln farm - N. of east a little - The house stood on a round hill - knoll or knob - Lincoln's farm was on the forks of big pigeon and little pigeon. The big Pigeon is north and the little Pigeon is south -

When Lincoln, Abe and I returned to the house from work, he would go to the cupboard - snatch a piece of Corn-bread - take down a book - sit down on a chair - cross his legs up as high as his head and read - He and I worked bare-footed - grubbed it - plowed - mowed and cradled together - plowed corn - gathered it and shucked corn - Abe read constantly when he had an opportunity - no newspapers then - had monthly meetings at church - sometimes at private houses - Abe went to church generally not always - I know he read Weems' Washington when I was there - got it wet - it was on a kind of book shelf close to the window - the book shelf was made by 2 pins in the wall and a clap board on them - books on that - Lincoln got it of Crawford - told Crawford and paid it in pulling fodder by 2 or 3 days work. He frequently read the Bible. He read Robinson Crusoe - Bunyans Pilgrims progress - Lincoln devoured all the books he could get or lay his hands on; he was a constant and voracious reader. I never could get him in company with woman; he was not a timid man in this particular, but did not seek such company. He was always full of his stories - as much so in Indiana as Ills. He would go out in the woods and gather

hickory bark - bring it home and keep a light by it and read by it - when no lamp was to be had - grease lamp - handle to it which stuck in the crack of the wall - Gallow was scarce. Abner was a good hearty eater - loved good eating. His own mother and step mother were good cooks for those days and times. In the summer he wore tow linen pants and flap shirt, and in the winter he wore linsey wolsey - that is during the time I was there. I have seen Lincoln - Abe - make speeches to his step-brothers - step-sisters - and youngsters that would come to see the family.

I moved from Ky. to Ill. in the fall of 1828, and settled where I now live - 4 miles north west of Decatur, and built the first house in Decatur. I wrote to Thos. Lincoln what kind of a country it was; he came to this State the 1st day of March 1830 - to my house. He then built 10 miles west of Decatur - and about 100 steps from the N. W. of Sangamon River and on the North side of it on a kind of bluff -

The house - the logs of it, I cut myself in 1829 and gave them to old man Lincoln. The house set east and west - fronted south - chimney at west end - the same house which was shown in Chicago. Lincoln broke up 15 acres of land alone and myself

split the rails; he owned 4 yoke of oxen - broke
prairie in the summer - broke 30 acres for
my brother - he broke prairie for others, 2
yoke belonged to Thomas Lincoln and 2
yoke to my brother. Dennis Hanks came
out at the same time. Mr. & Mrs. Hall - Den-
nis Hanks married Abes step-sister - so did
Hall - Abm. during the winter of 1830 or '1
walked 3 miles and made a 1000 rails for
Maj. Warnick.

I knew Abes own sister Sarah; she
was a short built woman - eyes dark gray - hair
dark brown; she was a good woman, kind,
tender and good natured and is said to have
been a smart woman. That is my opinion.

After Abe got to Decatur - rather to
Macon - Myles. a man by the name of
Posey came into our neighborhood and made
a speech; it was a bad one and I said Abe
could beat it. I turned down a box or key,
and Abe made his speech. The other
man was a candidate - Abe wasn't. Abe beat
him to death - his subject being the navigation
of the Sangamon River. The man after the
speech was through took Abe aside and
asked him where he had learned so much
and what he did so well. Abe explained,
stating his manner and method of read-
ing and what he had read; the man

John Hanks
to Sarah
Smith

encouraged Lincoln to persevere.

Offutt came to my house in Feb. 1831, and wanted to hire me to run a flat boat for him - saying that he had heard that I was quite a flat boatman in Ky. he wanted me to go badly. I went and saw Abe and Jno. Johnston - Abe's step brother - introduced Offutt to them. We made an engagement with Offutt at 50^{cts} per day and \$60 - to make the trip to St. Orleans.

Abe and I came down the Sangamon River in a canoe in March 1831, - landed at what is now called and known as Jamestown - 5 miles east of Springfield - once called Judge's ferry. We left our canoe in charge of Mr. Man - walked afoot to Springfield and found Offutt. He was at the tavern in old town - probably Elliotts; it was Elliotts. He

Offutt expected to find his boat, according to contract, at the mouth of Spring Creek 5 miles north of Springfield - got disappointed. Abe Johnston and myself went down to the mouth of Spring Creek and there cut the timbers to make the boat - we were about 2 weeks cutting our timber - suppose it was on Congress land - Abe walked afoot to Springfield - thence to Judge's ferry - got the canoe and floated it down the mouth of Spring Creek, where the timber

was cut; we then rafted the logs down to Sangamon River to what is called Sangamon Town 7 miles N. W. of Springfield. We boarded when we were working at the mouth of Spring Creek - where I could eat 2 meals a day. When we got to Sangamon town we made a shanty-shed. Abe was elected cook. We sawed our lumber at Kirkpatrick's Mill on Prairie Creek about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile S. W. of Sangamon town. We sawed and scored the timber at the mouth of Spring Creek. We finished making and launching the boat in about 4 weeks - we loaded the boat with barrel pork - corn and live hogs - and left Sangamontown. I remember a jugglers show at Sangamon town. Abe went to it - Abe was full of jokes during all this time - kept us alive. Offutt was a whig - so was Lincoln, but he could not hear Jackson wrongfully abused - especially where a lie and malice did the abuse. I can say that Abe never was a Democrat; he was always a whig - so was his father before him.

We landed at the New Salem mill about the 19th April and got fast on Rutledge's Mill Dam - now called Bales Mill Dam. We unloaded the boat - that is we changed goods from one boat to a borrowed

one - rolled the barrels forward - bored a hole
in the end of the boat over the dam - water
ran out and thus we got over - on the dam
part of day and one night. We then went
on down to the Yellow Bank or Blue Bank on
the Sangamon River near Squire Godly's about
1 mile above the mouth of Salt Creek. We
purchased some hogs of, I think, Squire Godly -
am not sure - tried to drive them, couldn't -
ran them back in the pen - caught them -
Abe held the head of them - I the tail - and
Offutt sewed up their eyes - wouldn't drive -
couldn't - put them in a cart - carried them
to the boat about one mile to the river -
Abe rec'd the hogs - cut open their - Johnstone
and I hauled them - to Abe -

We then proceeded - Offutt - John John-
stone - Abe Lincoln and myself, down the
Sangamon River - thence into Ills. - We kept
our victuals and in fact slept down in the
boat - at one end - went down by a kind
of ladder through a scuttle hole. We used
plank as sails - and cloth - sometimes - rush-
ed through Beardstown in a hurry - people
came out and laughed at us - passed Alton -
Cairo - and stopped at Memphis - Vicksburg -
Natchez &c. There is nothing worthy of
being known going down the river. I can say we soon - say in May

we landed in N. O., There it was we saw Negroes
chained - maltreated - whipped and scourged -
Lincoln saw it - his heart bled - said nothing
much - was silent from feeling - was sad -
crossed bad - felt bad - was thoughtful and
abstracted - I can say knowing that it
was on this trip that he formed his opinions
of slavery; it ran its course in him then
and there - May 1831. I have heard him
say - often and often - Offutt - Johnston - Abe
and myself left N. O. in June 1831. We
came to St Louis on the Steam boat together - walked
to Edwardsville 25 miles N. E. of St Louis - Abe,
Johnston and myself - Abe and Johnston went to
Coles Co. and I to Springfield Sangamon Co.
Thomas Lincoln had moved to Coles Co. in 1831.
in May June -

I came near forgetting some facts.
I was in the Black Hawk War - was in
Stillman's defeat, which was on the 14th day
of May 1832. Lincoln was out in that war. I
went in March 1832 - Lincoln started as Cap-
tain of the New Salem company about the same
time - Lincoln was at Saxon's Ferry at the
time of Stillman's defeat - I did not go to
the battle of the Bad Axe. Lincoln I think was
there, though not in the action, as I understand
it. I was out about 4 or 6 months - so
was Lincoln - Lincoln went with Maj.

Henry, I know. I was discharged at Ottawa and Lincoln at Rock Island or near there - Met at Dixon's ferry - after the Stillman's defeat. Lincoln went on with Henry. We were ordered to build a fort at Ottawa to protect the People. The Stillman defeat affair grew out of the drunkenness - folly - cowardice. The fight with Black Hawk was about run down - 1 hour by Run at or near Sycamore Creek - about 700 Indians - and about 200 whites -

Saw Abm in Springfield in 1833 - summer; he was in town on business and so was I. I saw him frequently from this time - every year from this time till he was elected President. He practiced Law in Decatur. He came out to my house frequently, leaving court in the evening and after court was over - ended. I ate dinner with him after he was elected President. He wrote me a letter that he was going to see his mother - came by Decatur - I went with him - saw his father's grave. He stayed with his mother ^{one} ^{night}. We ate dinner at Farmington - pretty woman there that took Abe's Eyes - I assure you. We then went back to Charleston - and came to Springfield. I saw him in

Washington when he was inaugurated - was
in his rooms several times - Never saw him
again till I saw his dead form in the
City of Springfield -

I served in the Army of the U. S. in
1861 - and toiled there 3 years to preserve
and defend what he loved.

