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The Lincoln Legend

I'll give you material on the following subject: "The Western North Carolina Legend of Abraham Lincoln," and I quote from The Saturday Review of Literature, February 16, 1957, as follows: "He refused to visit his father as Thomas Lincoln lay dying. Yet, he became the father to a nation, kind and forgiving symbol to a people.

Then, on Feb. 12, 1957, I have a memorandum here. It has just been announced on the radio by Lowell Thomas that while many people today take note of Lincoln's birthday and are celebrating it, it is an interesting fact so far as the historians have been able to find out that Abraham Lincoln himself never was known to take any notice of his birthday whatever.

There is one letter extant dated this date in which he is suing the railroad, the Illinois Central, for \$5,000, as the fee for defending them in a suit, but other letters are even? or comment as to this event as mentioned by himself or ? Other people took notice and do take notice of his birthdays, and other people in his hometown celebrated their birthdays, but there is no record that he ever celebrated or ever took the slightest notice of it, which to me is very significant.

I recall that, when Lincoln was running for President, the newspapers asked him to give some facts regarding his parentage and birth. He indicated that he knew little or nothing regarding these, that he could not remember that far back, or words to that effect. But he indicated that, since he was being pressed for facts, he must give them something since he was urged to have a political biography written to help in the campaign for the Presidency. And so he wrote out a short biography, which I have always felt was merely to fill a vacuum and to satisfy the publicity man. He said, in effect, you can say that I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hodgenville, Kentucky. And then he proceeds to outline what

we generally know of Lincoln's birth, his parentage, his early life, education, etc. including offices and honors he attained.

The fact that a record or a copy of the marriage license of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks is to be seen on file or in a museum means very little in the light of what some people have found out about this great man. They perhaps do not know or would admit at this late date that Abraham Lincoln had already been born four or five years or perhaps in 1803 or 4 when this couple were married. Thomas Lincoln was not the father of the President.

There's a story that has been told in Western North Carolina and it has been told also by writers outside the mountains, such as William Barton and his many styled Lincolns, that probably the North Carolina story has more foundation than any of the others. Simply, there are those who are critical, and some of them are highly now who hold that Thomas Lincoln was not the father of Abraham, and it is noteworthy that Lincoln never liked to research his family's background. He must have known from his early information and the traditions told to him that another man was his father and that perhaps his mother was also illegitimate. These things he must have brooded over and rationalized about.

We know on one occasion, which I shall treat later, while riding the circuit and discussing a case with his companion, his law partner of nearly twenty-five years, William H. Herndon, in which they were to appear for an illegitimate child. Lincoln got off on the subject of heredity, and he made the statement that he believed that usually illegitimate children were brighter and stronger than those on average that were born in wedlock. That he believed their lives were generally far less happy. Afterwards, as they rode along, he was silent and meditative and seemed to have a melancholy air about him for quite awhile. Herndon was impressed with the occasion and recalled it many years later when he wrote his definitive biography of Lincoln. So, when Lincoln wrote his notes for the political biography, he probably did not know definitely when his birthday was, or he may have known and never chose to celebrate it. It is not, however, the one

that others considered and do consider to be according to the records, according to the traditions, which we will point out a little later.

I have gleaned from several sources the notes that I will give at this time, and I thought that I might prepare articles or perhaps a book sometime or, rather, a new book that would be a condensation of all the material that has accumulated. It might be called Abraham Lincoln: A Native of the Great Smoky Mountains in Western North Carolina. And for the material that I will now give you I am indebted to Judge Felix A. Harris of Silva and Plainsville, North Carolina.

For the material in this part of the legend of Abraham Lincoln I have followed rather closely an article which appeared in the Asheville Citizen Times, December 15, 1940, and written by George W. McCoy, one of the editors of that paper at the time. A summary is as follows: "For more than a hundred years, a tradition has been handed down and gained wide speculation in Western North Carolina that Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the United States, was the son of Abraham Enloe and was born in the Great Smoky Mountains in the western part of this state.

So intent? have scholars and researchers been in the persistence of this position, that at least three books and many articles have been written in an effort to ferret out this legend and prove the truth of the tradition one way or the other. All the books and articles so far have set forth the thesis that the tradition is true, and the authors have marshaled an abundance of evidence for the stand they have taken. The last book on this subject to come from the press is the one entitled The Eugenics of Abraham Lincoln by James C. Coggins formerly of [?], Buncombe County, North Carolina, and was published by Goodwill Press of Elizabethtown, Tennessee, where Mr. Coggins was located for the ministry.

The information set forth in the three books is of a startling nature to those who read the story or hear the tradition for the first time, but it is old stuff to many of the native residents of the mountains. Even the oldtimers, however, have been surprised at some of

the information brought out by some of the authors of the more recent articles. These dealing with the tradition in the mountains are in direct contrast with the views generally held about the humble origin of Lincoln.

The great majority of historians told that the Great Emancipator was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, February 12, 1809, the son of Thomas Lincoln and his wife Nancy Hanks Lincoln. A dissenting opinion is expressed by those who hold to the truth of the Western North Carolina tradition, which is now set forth by several authors in articles and books. Two of the more recent books by one author, Mr. Coggins, as I pointed out, just mentioned, but he was not the first to write on this subject.

The first of the books by the doubters and defenders of the standard version was a 307 page volume, which ran into two or more editions entitled, The Genesis of Lincoln or Truth is Stranger than Fiction, written by the late James H. Cathey of Silva, Jackson County, North Carolina, and first published in 1899. The second book of 100 pages was entitled Abraham Lincoln: A North Carolinian. It was written by Dr. Coggins and published about 1925. The third book on this subject, also by Mr. Coggins, is a 284 page book. It is much more elaborate and fair than his first volume and gives the results of the investigations he also made over a period of fifteen years, the time since his last book was published.

The information set forth in these books, which totaled 691 pages, may be summarized as follows: (1) Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, occupied the position of servant girl in the household of Abraham Enloe, in what was at that time Rutherford County, North Carolina, adjoining Buncombe County, and taking in part of the Great Smoky Mountains region. (2) Abraham Enloe was the father of Abraham Lincoln. (3) Lincoln was born probably on February 12, 1804, at the old Abraham Enloe place one mile north of Bostic in Rutherford County. The family later moved to Ocona Lufta in the Great Smokies. One version has it that Lincoln was born there, as I will point out later. (4) Nancy Hanks and her child were sent to Kentucky by Abraham Enloe, and there she married Thomas Lincoln, some three or perhaps four years after Lincoln was born. (5)

Abraham Enloe was the son of Gilbert Enloe, a native of York? District, South Carolina. The forebears came from Scotland about the middle of the Eighteenth Century, about 1716. Abraham Enloe married a Miss Egerton and they settled on a farm in Rutherford County. About 1805, the Enloes moved to the Great Smoky Mountains settling on Mingus? or Miller Creek along the Ocono Lufta River, about six miles from the Indian Village of Cherokee. They had nine sons and seven daughters. (6) Nancy Hanks was the daughter of migrant? parents of German descent, and her mother was Lucy Hanks.

The primary researcher into the facts of the Lincoln Enloe tradition, as I have pointed out, was James H. Cathey, who said, in his book published in 1899, that for ninety years there has subsisted a lively tradition that Abraham, the head of the Enloe family, was Lincoln's father by Nancy Hanks, who occupied the position of servant girl in the Enloe household. This young woman remained in the household staying as one of the family until it became apparent that she was in a state of increase and there appearing signs of the approach of domestic ? she was quietly removed at the insistence of Abraham Enloe to Kentucky.

Cathey took this tradition, and, through the testimony of old time residents of Western North Carolina, built up his case like the good lawyer he was, taking nothing for granted until he had mustered all the evidence available to him at the time. However, this story was not complete, and there was much evidence yet to be gathered and analyzed. But it is amazing the convictions that his book carries because he interviewed people who took the affidavit as to what they knew, and they were people whose word and judgment commanded the utmost respect and confidence.

Among those who gave information for his book were the following: Phillip Dills of Dillsboro, Jackson County, who was born in Rutherford County in 1808; Walker Battle, of Swain County, who was born in Haywood County in 1809; William H. Connelly, who was born in Haywood County about 1812, and he lived the greater part of his life near Abraham Enloe's place on Ocona Lufta; Captain Ep. probably E. P. Everett, Ephesus, or some such name, Everett, who was born in Tennessee in 1830, and who lived within 12

miles of the Abraham Enloe homestead; Captain James W. Terrell, who was born in Rutherford County in 1829, and who removed to Haywood County at the age of sixteen; William H. Dills of Dillsboro, James A. Collins, of Clyde; H. J. Beck of Ocona Lufta; Captain William A. Enloe, a grandson of Abraham Enloe; Wesley M. Enloe, who was born in Haywood County in 1811, the ninth son of Abraham Enloe; and others. And, it is noteworthy that all these men were men of considerable intellect and ability and integrity and known to be men of honesty. They were upstanding, worthwhile citizens, men of importance in their community. They were considered as first rate citizens.

Here are excerpts from what some of these stated, Philip Dills, for instance: "I knew Abraham Enloe. He was a large man, tall of dark complexion, and with coarse black hair. He was a splendid looking man and a man of fine sense. His judgment was taken as a guide by his neighbors. I do not know when I first heard of his relation with Nancy Hanks, but it was while I was a very young man. I had no doubt that Abraham Enloe was the father of Abraham Lincoln."

Walker Battle says as follows, speaks as follows: "I distinctly remember hearing my own family tell of the trouble between Abraham Enloe and Nancy Hanks when I was a boy. I have no doubt as to Nancy Hanks having once lived in the family of Abe Enloe, and there is no doubt that she was a mother of a child by him.

William H. Connelly says, "Abraham Enloe was one of the first to settle on Ocono Lufta River. I knew Enloe myself well. There is no doubt that Nancy Hanks lived at Abraham Enloe's home. She became pregnant while there by Abraham Enloe. I have no doubt that Abe Enloe was the father of Abraham Lincoln."

Captain James W. Terrell, speaks as follows: "A young orphan girl was employed in the family of Abraham Enloe. Her name was undoubtedly Nancy Hanks. She became pregnant and was sent to Kentucky. She was accompanied by or through the instrumentality of Felix Walker, while he was a Member of Congress from the Buncombe County District."

Captain William A. Enloe speaks as follows: “There is a tradition that has come down through the family that Nancy Hanks, the mother of President Lincoln, once lived at my grandfather’s and, while there, became the mother of a child said to be my grandfather Abraham Enloe’s child.”

Wesley M. Enloe speaks as follows: “I have a vivid recollection of hearing the name Nancy Hanks frequently mentioned in my family while I was a boy. I never heard my father mention it. He was always silent on the subject so far as I know.”

Dr. James Coggins, whom I mentioned, accepting Coggins’ thesis that Abraham Enloe was Abraham Lincoln’s father, carried on and added to the story in his first book entitled Abraham Lincoln: A North Carolinian, saying that the original histories and biographies have been suppressed on account of the fact that they either told or hinted at the truth, though of unpleasant character; that Thomas Lincoln was not the real father of Abraham Lincoln but was the son of Abraham Enloe of North Carolina. In his first book, Dr. Coggins relates a Buncombe County tradition as told to him by his own greatuncle Barry H. Melton of Bee Tree Creek and of the town of Black Mountain. Mr. Melton was in the postal service for many years. I knew him. And he lived almost contemporaneously with the Nineteenth Century and is considered as a cousin of Abraham Lincoln, or he was, for he died only recently. Melton’s mother was Polly Ann Enroe, the sister of Abraham Enloe.

Dr. Coggins starts his account with this fact: “Mr. Melton said to me that he knew positively that Abraham Lincoln was an in-law. Melton also told him, “I knew Nancy Hanks when she was a little girl. My people came from the same community in Rutherford County where Nancy Hanks was born. Everybody spoke of her father as old Bill Hanks. He was a habitual drunkard and would spend every cent he could get for liquor. The children were taken from old Bill and bound out in different families. My Uncle Abraham Enloe took Nancy. She was about eight or ten years old when she became a member of the family. Nancy remained in my uncle’s home until she was

grown. I visited my uncle many times while Nancy was there. She was a very bright girl, attractive and good looking. She was rather tall, and her hair was black. Everybody loved her, and no difference was made between her and the other members of the family. So the families came across the mountains together. They followed an old Indian trail across the Blue Ridge, crossing at Hickory [?] Gap. Uncle Abraham moved on to a place called Ocono Lufta, now in Swain County. There he built a house of hewn logs and made his place a permanent home. He was a magistrate and knew a great deal about law. From an intellectual standpoint, he was easily a leader of the community. He was tall, being about 6 feet and 2 inches in height.

“I can well remember the trouble in the Enloe home. Nancy was very attractive, and my Aunt Mrs. Enloe was a woman of culture and high ideals. She was an Egerton. She told Uncle that she knew some things that she did not like. Being a staunch Presbyterian, Uncle Abe said whatever was to be would be and could not be helped. She concluded by saying, I want you to get another home for Nancy. Uncle Abraham hired Felix Walker, the first Congressman from this District, that is, from Buncombe County, to take her and the child, which was named Abraham, across the mountains on horseback to Kentucky. And he was gone on this trip two or three weeks. Uncle’s daughter Nancy Enloe had run away and married a man in Kentucky by the name of Thompson. They lived just across the state line, and that was where Nancy and little Abe were taken. Here, the girl and her child stayed until she married Tom Lincoln.

“It was known that Uncle sent money over there for Nancy’s support, as much as fifty dollars at a time, and he made an occasional trip to see the folks; that is, to see his daughter and son-in-law, and their children, and probably to visit and to see how Nancy was, and the child, was doing. In the meantime, he built a mill over there; that is in Kentucky. But his home was still in the mountains of North Carolina.

“He made an agreement with Tom Lincoln, a part-time farm helper and a distiller, that, if he would marry the girl and take care of her and the boy, he would give him \$500 and a wagon and a team. Tom Lincoln married her but failed to comply with the agreement

with Enloe in properly providing for the couple. There was no floor in the house, and it was reported that she had to sleep on a straw bed built in a corner of the cabin. Moreover, he was brutal in his treatment of both Nancy and the child. He was jealous, too, and would get drunk and take his spite out on beating little Abe, and, when Nancy interfered, he beat her, too.

“Uncle refused to pay her the full amount and they had trouble. Lincoln got drunk and threatened to kill Enloe, and they got into a fight. Enloe was a large, tall man, and Tom Lincoln was a short, heavy, muscular man. They fought just like bulldogs. Old Tom Lincoln got Uncle down, that is, Enloe, got him down and bit off the end of his nose. They afterwards, however, made friends, and the matter was compromised by my Uncle paying Tom Lincoln fifteen dollars in money and giving him a mare and a mule.”

After publishing his first book, Dr. Coggins continued his active interest and research on the Lincoln tradition and whenever opportunity ? he continued his investigations for a period of several years. The results of these studies he made known as mentioned before in his rather large book on The Eugenics of Abraham Lincoln. He said in his introduction that Cathey deserved great credit for doing the important pioneer work. He states that, had Cathey gone to Rutherford County in search of materials at the time of writing the book, he would have located the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Coggins quotes Blackston Smart of Rutherford County, the great grandson of
[end of tape one]

[beginning of tape two] that would be pleasing and understood? to your clientele. So he puts material into this Bible with the aid of his mother-in-law, with his step-mother, rather, that he thought would be appropriate and acceptable since he could not be certain of what he was putting there unless he checked with her and from his own recollection of traditions.

The ? English Bible ? that he was born February 12, 1809, and he made oral statements to the same effect to several of his biographers namely to Mr. Hicks in 1860, and similar statements to a compiler of The Dictionary of Congress, to an artist who was painting his portrait, and to a biographer in 1859. These facts are read out in Cathey's Genesis of Lincoln, page 228, and Herndon's Lincoln, Vol. 1, pages 4 and 5, where a picture of the Bible entry appears, a reproduction. It was not until after Lincoln's death that any record evidence of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks was found. Herndon and Ward H. Layman? in their biography of Lincoln had each asserted that after the most diligent search no such records could be found.

However, in 1870, W. F. Nichols?, Clerk of the Courts in Washington County, Kentucky, found what purported to be a certificate of Jesse Head, a Methodist Deacon and Minister, setting forth that he did perform a marriage ceremony for Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks on the 22nd of September 1806. This was the date ? certified by Mr. Booker, thus, it appears that the corrected date according to the Jesse Head Certificate, is June 12, 1806, instead of the 22nd of September 1806. At the same time that this alleged marriage certificate was found, there was also found in Mr. Booker's office what purported to be the marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln with Richard Barry? as suretor thereon. The marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln with Richard Barry as suretor thereon. No marriage license or record of this was found, but Jesse Head, in the certificate above referred to, says that he performed this marriage ceremony by authority of a license issued by the Clerk Office of Washington County, Kentucky. See William Barton's The Paternity of Abraham Lincoln, pages 325 to 327.

The authenticity of these records has been questioned by several authors, but, "For all the purposes of my argument," says Judge Allen, "I concede that the records are genuine, and I also concede that the marriage bond and the ministry certificate raises inference or presumption that a license was issued by the proper authorities and that the marriage was regular and legal. However," Judge Allen continued, "I question very seriously the assertion that Lincoln was born February 12, 1809." This statement, though, and the records give rise to the position that he was born in lawful wedlock and by reason of this

presumption the burden of proof rests upon Allen, that is, Judge Allen, to satisfy his readers, the jury, by the greater weight of the evidence that his contention is true.

The burden of proof, that is, the burden of the issue, means the burden of establishing the case, and it rests on that party alone who has the affirmative of the issue, though the burden of the evidence may during the trial shift and does shift the opposing party each time the case is made against him. Prima facie evidence means that which is received or continued until the contrary is shown. In such evidence the judgment of the law is sufficient to establish the affirmative of a disputed position and, if not rebutted or disproved, remains sufficient for that purpose.

In order to show that Lincoln was born in the Western North Carolina mountains, it is necessary to appeal both to history and tradition, to appeal to written law, substantive evidence, and to general reputation. [name?] in his World History gives the following definition of history and tradition, pages 135 and following. “We must remember constantly the difference between history and tradition. The first rests, however remotely the subject matter may be, on testimony of witnesses contemporary with the facts encountered. The latter reposes on the testimony of those who were removed in time or place or both from the circumstances or events constituting the subject matter of the story. This book? transcribes directly from the eyewitnesses of the event or from manuscripts and statements? made by them. Tradition repeats a narrative which has been transferred? from time to time. Transformed through all the uncertainties of memory or speech and delivered to the fixedness of literary form after only after the last of the generations.”

But the same author on page 51 of the same volume has this further to say with respect to the value of tradition. “If a great amount of time has elapsed between one and the other, that is, between the date of the subject matter of this story and the date of reducing it to writing, if the traditions have been subjected to modification, exaggeration, or reflection, to which all stories are subject so long as they dwell on the tongues of men, then indeed is tradition of small importance considered as material for history; but, if on the other

hand, only a single generation or fraction of a generation has intervened between the date of the event and the record which preserved the story, then we may allow to tradition a weight almost equal to that of the true historical narrative.”

And I have read the opinion of other historians and scholars that if a tradition persists in a rather pure form over a period of several generations or for a long period of time, the conclusion is that it was originally based upon a fact because otherwise it would not have the stamina and the energy to subsist and project itself over so many generations without a good substantial basis to start with.

Lincoln has had scores of biographers. A greater number of books and pamphlets have been written about him than about any other man. It is not my purpose here to even approach writing a life of Lincoln in the material which I have assembled here from Judge Allen and others.

All right, it tempts? me to sift? from the confused mass of contradictory statements of some of his leading biographers enough of the truth, when combined with certain facts, records, and well founded traditions, to make possible the formation of a judgment and conclusion as to who Abraham Lincoln’s parents were as well as to ascertain the place of his nativity.

First, then, who were the parents of Abraham Lincoln? Eight or nine different men are said to have been the father of Lincoln. See Barton’s The Many-Sired Lincoln. I’ll give a reference to this a little later. I think this story, the book publishing, and there are at least five different women by the name of Nancy Hanks who are said to have been his mother mentioned in this book by Mr. Burton who lived in Kentucky and other states.

The difficulty of finding the real father and mother of Lincoln is not mentioned when it is also learned by the statements of good authorities that about the same time Lincoln was born there were three other boys born near the same place in Kentucky, each having the

name Abraham Lincoln, and that the fathers of two of them were named Thomas Lincoln. See Judge Allen, page 374, for this information.

Caroline Hanks Hitchcock has not helped the situation very much when she shows in her book entitled Nancy Hanks that there were in Virginia and Kentucky ten different women in the Hanks' family whose first name was Nancy and [Amelia Hitchcock?] in that list does not include our Western North Carolina Nancy, or the Nancy of South Carolina, whose name and place in this story we'll soon hear.

It has been ascertained that John Locke Scripps of The Chicago Tribune was said to have been Lincoln's first biographer. He obtained from Mr. Lincoln in person the information for a campaign biography in 1850, after he, Lincoln, was nominated for the Presidency. [This enabled?] Mr. Scripps the necessary information to enable him to prepare this book. After Mr. Lincoln's death, Mr. Scripps wrote to William H. Herndon, the law partner, you will recall, who had commenced a biography of Lincoln, as follows: "Lincoln seemed to be painfully impressed by the extreme poverty of his early surroundings and the utter absence of all romantic and heroic events. He communicated some facts to me, which he did not wish to have published, and which I have never spoken of or alluded to before." Mr. Herndon then made me this comment: "What the facts referred to by Mr. Scripps were we do not know for he died several years ago without so far as I know revealing them to anyone."

William H. Herndon was Lincoln's law partner from 1843 until the partnership was dissolved in 1865 by the assassin's bullet. Mr. Herndon says that he worked for twenty years in getting material and writing the book and was assisted during the last three years of his labor by Jesse W. Weik, the ? agent. The first edition was published in 1888, but, on account of certain information published in this edition respecting Lincoln's parentage and his illegitimate birth, the edition was suppressed. A revised edition was published in 1892 and republished again in 1924 in two volumes, and I had the pleasure of reading that many years ago when I was in high school. It is considered the best biography ever written about Lincoln because with Herndon it was a work of love. And all agree that

after being associated with Lincoln for 22 years he had the best opportunity to write a reliable and authoritative biography. He insisted that the entire truth concerning Lincoln should be known. The story of his life is therefore truthfully and courageously told by this author. Nothing cut? off the press as far as we know in this original edition. Nothing false either written or suggested. The reader will see and feel the presence of the living man, what gave Lincoln that peculiar melancholy that was eating at his heart.

Many of our great statesmen have been self-made rising gradually through struggle to the top most round of the ladder, but Lincoln rose from lower depths than any of them. "His origin was in that unknown and sunless bog in which history never made a footprint," says Herndon. Mr. Herndon also says on the subject of his ancestors and origin, "I only remember one time when Mr. Lincoln ever referred to it. It was about 1850, when he and I were driving in his one-horse buggy to the court in Menard County, Illinois. . . . During the ride he spoke, for the first time in my hearing, of his mother, dwelling on her characteristics, and mentioning, or enumerating, what qualities he inherited from her. He said, among other things, that she was the daughter of Lucy Hanks and a well-bred but obscure Virginia farmer or planter;" whose name he did not give, apparently, "and he argued that from this last source came his power of analysis, his logic, his mental activity, his ambition, and all the qualities that distinguished him from the other members and descendants of the Hanks family."

"In only two instances did Mr. Lincoln over his own hand leave any record of his history or family descent. One of these was the modest bit of autobiography furnished to Jesse W. Fell, in 1859, in which, after stating that his parents were both born in Virginia of 'undistinguished or second families,' he makes the brief mention of his mother, saying that she came 'of a family of the name of Hanks.' The other record was the register of marriages, births, and deaths which he made in his father's Bible," and he was past fifty, and when he visited the old home and his stepmother who assisted him in making out these data that he recorded.

All the writers on Lincoln regarding this point agree that these Bible histories are in Lincoln's own handwriting and found benefit that they were written at the request of his stepmother, Thomas Lincoln's second wife, and this is probably true, but the entries include the record of the death of Thomas Lincoln, and he nowhere records the fact of the marriage of his own mother with Thomas Lincoln, but, in particular, to write of Thomas Lincoln, after the death of Abraham's mother, on October 5, 1818, married a widow Sarah Bush Johnston, and Herndon says that this marriage occurred about the 2nd of December 1819.

An examination of these Bible entries will show that every place where discredit might be placed on the President's mother the dates have been defaced or destroyed, and the inevitable inference is that these mutilations were accomplished by friends or members of the family, for no other persons would be interested in concealing the facts. This inference is supported by the fact that when Herndon visited Lincoln's stepmother in September 1865, "She declined to say much in answer to my questions about Nancy Hanks, her predecessor in the Lincoln household, but spoke feelingly of the latter's daughter and son."

[pause on tape; end of Lincoln Legend; beginning of The Cherokees]