

Bush-Johnston Family

Volume 1

Stepmother - Sarah Lincoln

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# Thomas Lincoln Family

## Bush-Johnston Family

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

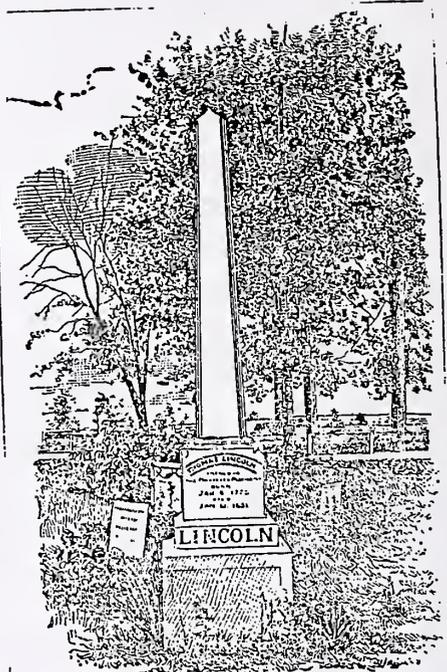
From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Sept. 1895

We found the editor's old-time friend, John Hall, at home on the old Lincoln farm, and had much pleasure in renewing his acquaintance. He came to Illinois with the Lincoln family in 1830, when he was but a year old and after the death of Thomas Lincoln bought the old farm place of John D. Johnston, and has owned it since. Grandmother Lincoln making her home with him until her death. Mr. Hall is a second-cousin of Abraham Lincoln on his father's side, and is also what might be termed a step-nephew by his mother's kin, so being doubly connected to the Lincoln family—his father, Squire Hall, was a son of Elizabeth Hanks, a sister of Nancy Hanks, President Lincoln's own mother; and his mother, Matilda Hall, had been a daughter of Thomas Lincoln's second wife by her first hus-



THE OLD LINCOLN LOG CABIN.



THOMAS LINCOLN'S GRAVE.

band, Daniel Johnston, thus Abraham Lincoln's step-mother being John Hall's grandmother. Mr. Hall had eight brothers and sisters who share this distinction, namely, Nancy A., wife of Miles Moore, now living at Toledo, Ill.; Elizabeth Berry, Jancsville, Ill.; Louisa, who married Morrill Fox, of Evansville, Ind., and is now a widow; Alfred Hall, Toledo, Ill.; Joseph Hall, deceased; Amanda, who married Robert Brown and lives in Missouri; Rachael and Harriet, twins, one living in California and one in Coles county.

Besides the sale of the cabin Mr. Hall sold for memorial purposes an acre of land surrounding the cabin and also the relics he had, thinking the sale to the association assured him of the safe keeping of them even after his death. In transferring these articles to the company he made the following interesting written statement:

In order that the history of the log cabin and its contents may be preserved I desire to say this:  
That my mother was a step sister of Abraham Lincoln and that Grandmother Lincoln, my mother and myself, I being a child, rode in the wagon which brought the Lincoln family from Spencer county, Indiana, to Illinois; that Abraham Lincoln drove the ox team which drew the wagon; that the ox yokes which I send you are the ones which were on the oxen and they are the ones used in hauling the logs of which this cabin is composed; that this cabin was built by

Abraham Lincoln and his father, Thomas Lincoln.

That the fence rails are the rails made by the Lincolns.

That the bureau is the one which Thomas Lincoln brought with him to Indiana (having belonged to Sarah Johnston before he married her) from Kentucky and from Indiana to Illinois, and that Abraham Lincoln used to keep his books in one of the drawers of this bureau. That this spinning wheel was the one used

## DEATH CAME LAST NIGHT TO S. H. BUSH.

Oldest Member of Elizabethtown Bar  
Passes at Advanced Age.

*2 Jan 1875*

Squire H. Bush, the oldest member of the Elizabethtown bar, died at 8:40 o'clock last night at his home in this city. He had been ill for several weeks of complications, due to the infirmities of age, and his death was expected. All the members of his family reached his bedside before the end came.

Mr. Bush was born September 30,



1837, at Claysville, near Elizabethtown, and was the youngest of twelve children of Christopher and Mrs. Polly Goodin Bush. No brothers or sisters survive him.

He served throughout the war in the Confederate Army, and was a member of the famous Orphan Brigade. He was severely wounded in the battle of Chickamauga. After the war he practiced law a few years at Hodgenville but returned to Elizabethtown in 1874, and has been engaged in the practice here continuously since that time.

He was a deacon in the Baptist church for forty years, and Sunday school superintendent for twenty-five years.

His widow, Mrs. Harriett Robertson Bush, to whom he was married March 5, 1873, died May 12 of the present year.

When Mr. Bush began the practice of law in Elizabethtown he was a partner of the late Col. James W. Hays. Later he was associated with his brother-in-law, Thomas A. Robertson, afterwards Congressman from this district.

He was also a director in the First National Bank for many years.

Mr. Bush's life justified the universal esteem and respect in which he was held by all who knew him. His career as a lawyer was marked by great fidelity to the interests of his clients and an unflagging zeal which followed him even through the last years of his practice. He was a man of quiet demeanor, but positive character. His devotion to the church, with which he had been actively associated more than a half century, and to his home, were outstanding traits.

His survivors are three children, W. C. Bush, of Clarksdale, Miss., Sam R. Bush, Chicago, and Mrs. Robert M. Mann, of Clio, Ala.

Funeral services will be held at three o'clock tomorrow afternoon at Mr. Bush's late residence by the Rev. B. F. Hagan, and burial will take place in the city cemetery.



Hodges

Bush

Tunnel Hill, Ky.  
Feb 28, 1927.

Louis A. Warren,  
Zionsville,  
Indiana

Dear Mr. Warren:-

Today has been the first day that has been sunny and the first chance I have had for reading the old stones in the Bush Cemetery on my father's farm. On one of the stones were deeply marked spots and the letters were blotted out. But this is what I could make out!

Christopher - Bu.

Bush,  
22, 1811

Departed this life April 1, 1842.

The other stone read:

William Bush.

Was born in New Jersey, July 1, 1763.  
Emigrated to Kentucky 1780

Departed this life December 18, 1840.

The initials and date on my home are:

W. B.  
E. B.  
1817.

I am only to glad to give you  
this information and hope it  
will be beneficial to you.

Thank you so much for send-  
ing the gloves.

If I can give you other in-  
formation concerning the old  
Bush family would be glad to  
do so.

Sincerely,

Edith Hodges.

March 7, 1857

Miss Edith Hodges  
Tunnel Hill, Ky.

Dear Miss Hodges:

I want to thank you  
for the information which you recently  
sent me about the Bush Family. If  
you happen to learn anything further  
about them I should like very much to  
know about it. I think William Bush  
was the oldest son of the old Pioneer  
Christopher Bush and an own brother to  
the mother of Sarah Bush Lincoln step-  
mother of President Lincoln.

Please accept my thanks for your  
trouble.

Sincerely,

# LINCOLN VISITS RECALLED

## Grandson of President's Stepmother Lives Here; Trips to Old Farm Remembered

There is a tiny cottage just off Whittier Boulevard wherein lives a Civil War veteran, 83 years of age, who will take a keener interest in the observation of Lincoln's Birthday today than any other citizen—it is a personal interest rich with memories, for the old man is the grandson of Sarah Bush Lincoln, and was reared practically by her in the old log cabin where Lincoln spent many years.

Dennis Franklin Johnston's father was John D. Johnston, eldest son of the woman whose love and sym-



DENNIS F. JOHNSTON

pathy helped and encouraged Abraham Lincoln through the struggle with poverty and deprivation in reaching a better and higher life.

Mr. Johnston's father was the childhood playmate and boyhood friend of Lincoln. He married years before Lincoln, and at the

death of his wife, the baby Dennis, 3 years of age, was sent to his Grandmother Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln at that time was a practicing lawyer at Springfield, Ill.

Mr. Johnston of Los Angeles is

a broad shouldered man with keen blue eyes and was quite active until a year ago when he fell and fractured his hip. This has confined him to his chair.

He is a quiet, reticent man, but his memory is clear about his childhood and later life and his replies are positive and frank.

"He was always Uncle Abe to me," Mr. Johnston said. "I never knew that he was not a blood relation until I was grown. We kids used to fight about who would open the gate when we heard his 'halloo' as he entered the lane. He would laugh at the scramble he caused among us to get to the gate."

### INTEREST SHOWN

"How did Mr. Lincoln pass the time during his visits?"

"He would ask about the happenings—the doings of the neighborhood. He always took a lively interest in the folks. He would hang his coat and hat on the pegs—he

(Continued on Page 3, Column 6)

was quite dressy in those days. When dinner time came he went out to the well and washed in the family wash basin, and would comb his hair with the family comb before the little cracked looking glass, just as he always had done and as the rest of us did. I can see him now as plain as I could then.

"Sometimes he would write, he called it work for a long time. If there was a camp meeting near we would all go to that. He always liked camp meetings. He would meet lots of his old friends and he would be asked to speak to them—not preach, you understand, but tell them the things that were going on at Springfield. They were just crazy to hear him speak.

### DEATH RECALLED

"Do you remember your Grandfather Lincoln's death?"

"Just as clear as if it was yesterday," he said. "He had one of his bad heart spells and grandmother sent for Uncle Abe. He came right down and grandfather seemed to get some better. Then Uncle Abe went back to Springfield but grandfather died right after. He could not come for the funeral for he had some important business, but he came a few days later. It was then that he gave father the farm with the understanding that he was to stay and take care of grandmother."

"Did you stay on there then?"

"Yes, for several years, but my father finally married again and he sold the farm to my first cousin, John Hall. Father then took us to Arkansas, that was the last time I was at the old farm."

"How old were you then, Mr. Johnston?"

"I was about 15."

### SERVED IN WAR

"My father was better looking than Uncle Abe when they were young fellows," he continued with a twinkle in his eyes, "and he used to cut Uncle Abe out of his girls, but he didn't care, he didn't take much truck with the girls, father said, he was too busy studying at that time."

Mr. Johnston answered President Lincoln's call for troops, enlisted and served all through the war.

# Maitlands of New Market Are Grandchildren of Lincoln's Half-Sister

Josiah T. Maitland, Father of Joseph and Mellie Maitland, Was Son of Anna Lincoln; Family Has Souvenirs of Lincoln Handed Down by Father

That the distinguished name of Abraham Lincoln appears three generations removed from the present on the genealogical tree of the Maitland family of New Market was discovered by chance in an old flaky newspaper in the Home News files. Yesterday afternoon Joseph Maitland at his home on Lakeside avenue, New Market, verified that miniature paragraph of genealogy.

"Yes, it's true," he said as the reporter detailed the family tree for his confirmation. Josiah T. Maitland, father of Joseph and Mellie Maitland, who died on Memorial Day, 1924 at the venerable age of eighty-two, was the son of Lincoln's half-sister, Anna, child of Thomas Lincoln's second marriage.

Mr. Maitland forsook a painting job that was occupying his attention on the second floor of his home to answer the reporter's knock. His

sister, Miss Mellic Maitland, was spending the afternoon with friends in Plainfield. The Maitland home faces the New Market Lake and is nearly opposite the firehouse.

## To Lincoln Stories

"My father could have talked to you all afternoon about Lincoln," Joseph Maitland declared. "I heard him voicing his regrets many times because the Bible used by Lincoln's step-mother was destroyed by fire while under his care.

"Souvenirs of Lincoln? Well, we've a couple of silver spoons that Lincoln used. They're thin as paper. I'd be glad to show them to you if they weren't upstairs in the attic; the genealogical books are up there too. It would be like looking for a needle in a haystack to find any of them, and besides, you see, I've

(Continued on page nine)

got this painting job on my hands this afternoon."

Strange to say, few other people in the township seemed to be acquainted with the facts of this lineal descent. Two or three persons in the tax collector's office and in a grocery store had a vague idea of it. "There's some sorta connection," they said. The undertaker's records on the death of Josiah T. Maitland simply stated that his mother's name was Anna, though her maiden name was the illustrious one of the martyred president.

The richest anecdotes ever told in the New Market community about Abraham Lincoln ceased when Josiah Maitland was laid away six years ago. No longer could anyone reach back and touch Lincoln. His last surviving contemporary in this village was the octogenarian.

Some of the oldest residents of New Market recall the stories Josiah T. Maitland used to tell of Lincoln. In the most impression-

able years of his life they were told to him by Lincoln's half-sister, his own mother. Maitland himself was twenty-three at the time of the President's assassination. At his post as sexton of the First Baptist Church in New Market or as judge of elections of Piscatawaytown, Josiah Maitland would regale the leisure hours with Lincoln anecdotes: How Dennis Hanks, and Nancy and Abraham Lincoln were like young savages, half starved and half frozen when Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston Lincoln of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, arrived with her new husband, Thomas Lincoln, at the Indiana frontier in 1819; how her first words were, "I'll make 'em look a little more human;" how she brought knives and forks, warm clothing, furniture, all kinds of 'luxuries'; how much she loved Abraham, and how he joyfully returned this affection; how he called her mother and remembered her gratefully all his life. This woman was the great-grandmother of Joseph and Mellie Maitland. Josiah Maitland also had a son, Theodore, and five step-children who reside in Philadelphia.

Since the Maitlands can trace their lineage on the paternal side to Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy. Theirs is one of the most unique geneological situations in the state.

# New Lincoln History

*Jenna Weir, Editor 11-7-30*

The following paper was read September 18, 1930, by Clarence E. Bell, Mattoon, before the special commission appointed by Gov. Emerson.

Gentlemen, and the Honorable committee of the Lincoln National Memorial Highway:

I wish to reveal some of the most important things in Lincoln's life.

The Missing Link—Some of which has never been published for all the Histories just trace the Lincolns to Buck Grove then stop and leave out from three to five years of the very most important of the Lincoln History.

History tells us that the Sawyers were relatives and say no more. Those five years of Lincoln's life are the most important all. Who is to blame for this blank in our history?

This day that part left out is crying from the soil. We, of the Lincoln family, have our true God relationship, and can prove to the world this most important part and place of Abraham Lincoln and his relatives. There are forty-six of us to-day.

And we are now before the Honorable Commission appointed by the Governor to locate the route where this highway should be placed. The routing to be on or as near as practical trails passing by the most important shrines of the steps of Abraham Lincoln and his folks,—which Wabash Point (Paradise) of 1828 to 1855 is the most important place of all. Let us prove it to you. There are a body of men working on a new and revised history of Abraham Lincoln to-day and this missing link will be in that history.

I have given all my life to the study of the Lincoln family for I am a part of that blood. What I have heard from my closest relatives, who are nearer connected to the Lincoln family than I am, has impressed my memory with a more complete history of Lincoln's than Herndon and Gridley.

Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln was my mother's great aunt. One of Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln's daughters married Dennis Hanks, a cousin to Abraham Lincoln. Then again one of Dennis Hanks's daughters married Dennis Dowling, a cousin to my grandfather.

Again Ursha Linder, an own cousin to Elisha Linder, my grandfather, rode the circuit with Abe Lincoln; he always claimed that the Linder's were distant relatives of Thomas Lincoln's mother. Ursha Linder was the first attorney-general of the State of Illinois. So you see I see into the Lincoln family as they were when at home at the breakfast table.

Here very briefly I will give you a sketch of the

## Unwritten Lincoln History

The year 1813 when Abe was four years of age, Thomas Lincoln and family moved to a new cabin, near Knob Creek, about four miles distant. Across Knob Creek about a mile lived one John Sawyer and wife, Hannah Radley Sawyer, who then had a daughter, Rebecca and a son, James.

John Sawyer's wife's mother was a sister to Sarah Bush who married Johnson, who died, and she then married her old sweetheart, Thomas Lincoln. A half mile further lived one Isaac Linder, who had four children, Elisha, Daniel, Polly and Isletta. This Isaac Linder had a brother, Daniel Linder, who was the father of Ursha Linder, who rode the circuit with Abraham Lincoln—both at that time were Illinois' great men.

### Killed by an Indian

One day while clearing timber in Kentucky, a hostile Indian shot and killed Isaac Linder, leaving Elisha, only twelve years of age to support his mother and

three younger brothers and sisters. Charles Sawyer, the champion brick layer, a brother of John Sawyer, took Elisha Linder in as a partner in the brick laying business. They built a great part of Elizabethtown, Ky., in that day. They also built the White Mills in Kentucky.

About two years later Nancy Linder, the mother of Elisha Linder, died and left the three orphan children. John Sawyer took the three children, Daniel, Isletta and Polly Linder into his home and kept them until they married. Elisha

Linder the other child lived with Charles Sawyer. Elisha Linder was a great friend to the Lincolns in Kentucky and John Sawyer was the best friend that Thos. Lincoln ever had, both in Kentucky and in Illinois.

There were but few schools in those days for the country youth. One log school about eight miles distant from that neighborhood in Kentucky, Elisha Linder and Abe Lincoln for six weeks attended that school, both using the same spelling book, Abe learning it by memory where there were stories in it. They used their fingers as an arithmetic.

When Abe was nine years old or about 1817 Thomas Lincoln sold out in Kentucky and moved to Indiana, finally landing in Spencer county. We all know of the hard times they encountered, and of the drouthy summer, when the cows ate the snake weed and the milk sick fever broke out. The Sparrow family, cousins of Abes, died from it, and Nancy taking it caused her death. Of Tom Lincoln making the coffin and digging her grave and burying her without funeral or ceremony. Of Abe sending word to Preacher Elkins and he coming up from Kentucky a year later and holding a funeral over her grave. And now as history relates Thomas Lincoln went back to Kentucky, leaving his family in Indiana, staying about six months and on his return he brought back with him his new wife, one he had courted in his boyhood days, Sarah Bush Johnson, and her three children, John Johnson, Matilda Johnson and Elizabeth Johnson. Aunt Sarah, the new mother and Abe Lincoln became friends at once. She had books for him to read. We have the History of John Hanks and John Radley and Dennis Hanks coming up from Kentucky to Spencer county and uniting with the Thomas Lincoln family. We also have the history of the Halls.

Now we step into the greatest History of the Lincolns. John Hanks, John Radley, and Dennis Hanks tiring of Indiana hardships stepped over into Illinois looking for a promised land. They came to Wabash Point where John Sawyer and his family had moved to in 1826. He, John Sawyer, was the first man to locate at Wabash point, October 6, 1826, and built the first cabin in Wabash Point.

In the year 1827, June 26, came Charles Sawyer and family and Elisha Linder. Then came the Trembles, Knabs, Slovers, Richmonds and Hansons, all from the old Lincoln-Linder and Sawyer neighborhood in Kentucky. John Radley, a brother of John Sawyer's wife, Dennis Hanks, a cousin of Abe Lincoln, and John Hanks a cousin of Dennis

Hanks came to the Sawyer place in old Wabash Point in the wilds of Illinois. After a short rest they then went by where old Nelson was and up into Macon county about eight miles southwest of Decatur, Illinois, where John Radley and John Hanks agreed to stay and cut the logs and Dennis to return and bring the Lincolns there. Dennis Hanks went back to Indiana and brought back here into Illinois with him the whole of the Lincoln family consisting of thirteen members.

### The Reunion at Old Paradise

They drove a four-ox team. Abe walked and drove all the way. They came across Illinois crossing at McCann's Ford on the Embarras river and came direct to Wabash Point and visited at the home of John Sawyer.

I can see my great-grandmother Sawyer throw her arms around Aunt

Sally Bush Johnson Lincoln, her aunt and kiss her, and I can see those tears run down their faces, and that poor tired worn out Abe Lincoln who was just 21 years of age as he and his old Kentucky playmate and schoolmate, Elisha Linder, as they clasped hands. No one but a Kentuckian can understand that feeling. I have felt that touch of joy that brings the tears to the eyes when I have met again my long absent friends. All this happened at Wabash Point, later named Paradise and old Richmond. After a brief stay the Lincoln family went on up into Macon County where John Radley and John Hanks awaited them. It didn't take very long then to erect Thomas Lincoln's first log cabin in Illinois.

We have correct now all about Abe Lincoln's life at Old Salem and his study there, Anna Rutledge, and we now introduce Abe Lincoln as a lawyer at Springfield, Illinois, his practice of law, and him riding the circuit with Ursher Linder and their statesmanship and Ursher Linder's great name in statesmanship, and the first attorney general of Illinois.

We now return to Abe's father and the family. Thomas Lincoln lived about one year in Macon county. He here withstood one of the worst winters that Illinois had had in thirty years. He made up his mind to go back to Indiana, packed up his things and started back. When he reached the Sawyer home in Wabash point, now named Paradise by one George M. Hanson and established a post office in the old Hiram Tremble house in 1829, he being a cousin of Hiram Tremble. There were about eight houses there then. Tom Lincoln and family on arriving at Wabash Point stayed two weeks with John Sawyer's daughter, Rebecca, and built the Linder home, Isaac Radley, father of Mrs. John Sawyer, who married Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln's sister had come up on a visit from Kentucky.

### Squatters at Buck Grove

They, John and Charles Sawyer, Elisha Linder and Ike Radley persuaded the Lincoln's to remain in Illinois and Thomas Lincoln built his second Illinois cabin at Buck Grove in 1831. John Sawyer, Elisha Linder and Charles Sawyer assisted in building the cabin. There was never any thought then of the city of Mattoon. Old Paradise post office established by the Government in 1829 had one store. There was another store and relay station, called old Richmond, a half mile north west layed out four years later. Here Thomas Lincoln got his mail and groceries.

This place of Thomas Lincoln at Buck Grove was a squatter's claim. Tom Lincoln later bought a place a half mile south of Lerna. He also lived a while on the Plummer place and finally built his last cabin, the old Lincoln home southeast of Farmington, where Thomas Lincoln died in 1851.

After the death of Thomas Lincoln, his wife, Aunt Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln, went to the home of John Sawyer at Wabash point. Aunt Hannah Sawyer John Sawyer's wife being dead, and there Aunt Sally Lincoln lived and stayed with John Sawyer for a little over two years, and helped Uncle John Sawyer care for his two youngest daughters, Lydia and Anna, and while there Aunt Sally Lincoln took Anna and Lydia Sawyer to a store and got a breast pin

and set of earrings. The price was two girls and paid for them out of the ten dollars per month Abraham Lincoln sent her each month to help keep her. We have in our possession the pin she gave Lydia Sawyer at that time. The pin today is a priceless article. Money cannot buy it.

### The Wrestling Match

And again as you read Lincoln History you read of the wrestling match of Abe Lincoln and Dan Needham. This took place near the post office and store at Old Paradise in June 1831. This store was on the Hiram Tremble farm. There was another store in Paradise owned by the Slogers. John Sawyer had a brick Kiln, Elisha Linder was justice of peace, Charles Sawyer was a civil engineer and brick mason. Langston had the Relay Station and kept and fed the stage horses, later it was moved to Richmond. Charles Sawyer bought 160 acres of land of which we have the deed, on the Wabash river, two miles south west of this Paradise and called it New Paradise; got a Mr. Townley to saw off a little square of timber and sold it for a big price. This place never got a post office till after Mattoon sprang up in 1855.

This Paradise holds in history the greatest of the Lincoln history and the committee has prepared a map running through that section which will soon be recognized as Lincoln history. The old Linder home, the schoolmate of Abe's, his friend and a friend of the Lincolns not only here but in Kentucky where they were born. Mrs. Elisha Linder, a daughter of John Sawyer, and a first cousin of Abe Lincoln's step-mother, Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln, in this house Aunt Sally as we all called her had been more than a hundred times. The house where Abe Lincoln came and stayed all night and took the plans for his Springfield home—an exact duplicate of it. In this house Ursha Linder and Abe Lincoln ate many meals together and stayed all night.

Now we pass by the Wabash School where an old log cabin stood in which the younger Sawyers got their education and where camp meetings were held Joe Hall when the preacher took a pint of whisky away from him Abe took the case and made the preacher pay 14 cents for the whisky and one cent for the bottle.

Then we go to old Richmond, a relay station, established in 1836. It had a general store and the Paradise post office, and here Thomas Lincoln received mail and bought groceries. Then we go east a quarter of a mile and turn south into Paradise the only town between Charleston and Shelbyville. Here we stop at the home of John Sawyer, one of the most famous of all the Lincoln Shrines. His wife was a niece of Tom Lincoln's best friend here and in Kentucky, Aunt Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln, a mother-in-law to Dennis Hanks, and here at this place brought the Lincolns, Hanks and all from Indiana and here her relatives persuaded them to remain in Illinois, and if there had not been a John Sawyer and this home in Illinois in all probability Abraham Lincoln would never have seen the State of Illinois. And just north is the Tremble home the site of the first Paradise post office which was located in the old Hiram Tremble house by George H. Hanson who named it Paradise post office. It was then the only town anywhere around.

We also today present the cane Thomas Lincoln always carried, presented by Aunt Sarah Lincoln to Charles Sawyer after the death of Thomas Lincoln as a token of remembrance.

Charleston, Ill., Feb. 23, 1904. 2

I was born in Spencer County, Indiana, June 14th, A. D. 1832. I am a daughter of Dennis Hanks and grand-daughter and namesake of Sarah Bush Lincoln—my mother's maiden name being Elizabeth Johnson, step-daughter of Thomas Lincoln. I came from Indiana to Decatur, Illinois, with my parents and with the Lincoln and Hall families. I was then a little girl eight years of age.

At your request I have compared your photos No. 1 and No. 2 with the one now in possession of my sister, Mrs. Harriet Chapman, presented to her in 1858, by Uncle Abe, and after careful examination I have concluded to give the preference to your Photo No. 1, as being the best and truest likeness of our Uncle Abe.

SARAH JANE DOWLING. 53

Not in Standard Works. *Wm. A. ...*



4  
Washington DC  
Dr Lewis C Warren Nov 9 - 1933.  
J. H. Wayne Esq;

Dear Sir:

I wrote to Mr  
W. H. Towns and a few days  
past, in reference my relation  
to the Bush Family as well  
as the Hamke family and  
he directed me to you stating  
that he was satisfied you were  
more acquainted with records  
in question than any one  
else. I am a doctor, the reason  
I am trying to find out just  
what relations I am in  
because my father Dr Joseph  
Leslie Bush (a Veterinary Doctor)  
born in <sup>1849</sup> Lawrenceburg Ky  
Anderson Co) and ~~that~~ died  
Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 1930 in Tampa Fla) told

me that we were related to the  
 Hawks and the Lincoln Families  
 I have an Aunt Living in Louisville  
 Ky her address is #04 north  
 25th St Julia A. Barns. I have  
 been working for the Southern  
 and Southeastern as Messenger  
 agt and different positions  
 for a good many years but I  
 am on the extra board now,  
 and I have been told that if I  
 can prove that I am related  
 Abraham Lincoln I can  
 get a regular job here in  
 the District of Columbia Wash-  
 ington D.C. I will highly appreciate  
 your efforts to help. I was born in  
 Elizabethtown N.Y. Hardin Co. Sept<sup>r</sup>  
 1860. Hoping to hear from you  
 and this find you well  
 Yours Respect  
 John Allen Bush  
 345 Pennsylvania Ave NE  
 Washington D.C.

Bush Family

November 13, 1933

Mr. John Allen Bush  
345 Tennessee Avenue, N. E.  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Bush:

I take pleasure in enclosing a bulletin which gives you some little history of Abraham Lincoln's step-mother whose name was, before her marriage to Thomas Lincoln, Sarah Bush.

You will note she was born in Elizabethtown, Kentucky and it seems very likely that you are related to this family although I do not have a history of the Bush family.

With respect to your relation to the Hankses, they also lived in Lawrenceburg, or in the county adjacent, so there is a possibility you might be related to them although I do not know which branch of this family would be connected with yours. If you can give me any further history as to who your grandfather was or the name of some of the Hankses with whom you are connected, possibly we can help you.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:LH  
ENC.

Director

# LINCOLN VISITS RECALLED

## Grandson of President's Stepmother Lives Here; Trips to Old Farm Remembered

Los Angeles

There is a tiny cottage just off Whittier Boulevard wherein lives a Civil War veteran, 83 years of age, who will take a keener interest in the observation of Lincoln's Birthday today than any other citizen—it is a personal interest rich with memories, for the old man is the grandson of Sarah Bush Lincoln, and was reared practically by her in the old log cabin where Lincoln spent many years.

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DENNIS F. JOHNSTON

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"He would ask about the happenings—the doings of the neighborhood. He always took a lively interest in the folks. He would hang his coat and hat on the pegs—he

was quite dressy in those days. When dinner time came he went out to the well and washed in the family wash basin, and would comb his hair with the family comb before the little cracked looking glass, just as he always had done and as the rest of us did. I can see him now as plain as I could then.

"Sometimes he would write, he called it work for a long time. If there was a camp meeting near we would all go to that. He always liked camp meetings. He would meet lots of his old friends and he would be asked to speak to them—not preach, you understand, but tell them the things that were going on at Springfield. They were just crazy to hear him speak.

### DEATH RECALLED

"Do you remember your Grandfather Lincoln's death?"

"Just as clear as if it was yesterday," he said. "He had one of his bad heart spells and grandmother sent for Uncle Abe. He came right down and grandfather seemed to get some better. Then Uncle Abe went back to Springfield but grandfather died right after. He could not come for the funeral for he had some important business, but he came a few days later. It was then that he gave father the farm with the understanding that he was to stay and take care of grandmother."

"Did you stay on there then?"

"Yes, for several years, but my father finally married again and he sold the farm to my first cousin, John Hall. Father then took us to Arkansas, that was the last time I was at the old farm."

"How old were you then, Mr. Johnston?"

"I was about 15."

### SERVED IN WAR

"My father was better looking than Uncle Abe when they were

young fellows," he continued with a twinkle in his eyes, "and he used to cut Uncle Abe out of his girls, but he didn't care, he didn't take much truck with the girls, father said, he was too busy studying at that time."

Mr. Johnston answered President Lincoln's call for troops, enlisted and served all through the war.

M. W. D'ERRICO  
STATISTICAL RESEARCH  
4255 Rocky River Drive  
15910 KINSMAN ROAD  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
December 28, 1934

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

Mr. Louis Austin Warren,  
Zionsville,  
Indiana.

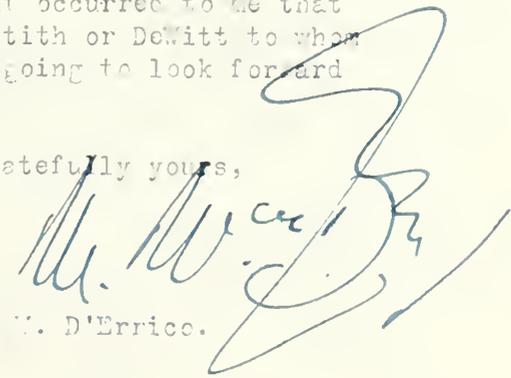
Dear Mr. Warren:

With consuming interest I have just finished reading your volume: "Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood." Your painstaking and meticulous research is no less commendable than the wise manner in which you assembled your findings to shed new light and dispel old clouds. It is ever so refreshing to discover an author with so rare a combination of wit and judgment.

And now I am placing myself even deeper in your debt by bringing to you the problem which led me to your work in the first place.

I have been working on a family tree that is heavy with the names you encountered in your research -- Hardin, Haycraft, LaRue, Bush, etc. Coming down to the period of about 1850, I come across two branches that have me stopped for the moment: Stith, and DeWitt. These Stith's and DeWitt's are from old Hardin County and LaRue County. It occurred to me that perhaps you may know some particular Stith or DeWitt to whom I may write. With deep pleasure I am going to look forward to hearing from you.

Gratefully yours,

  
M. W. D'Errico.

WED:CR

Bush Family

January 2, 1935

Mr. M. W. D'Errico  
4255 Rocky River Drive  
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Sir:

Your very complimentary letter is received and appreciated.

We are pleased to learn that you are doing special work on the Hardin, Haycraft, LaRue, and Bush families and you no doubt have had access to the history of the LaRue and Families published by Odin Mather, and also the history of Elizabethtown published by Samuel Haycraft.

Outside of these two sources I imagine that we have here at Fort Wayne one of the best compilations of Hardin County records, the old personal papers of Samuel Haycraft.

I really feel that it would be worth while for you to come to Fort Wayne some time and go over these old manuscripts as I am sure you would find much which would be helpful to you.

Also it happens that one of my assistants here who is Librarian of the Foundation lived in Elizabethtown and is quite familiar with the families there.

He tells me that he does not know of any DeWitt family in Hardin County, but there are a great many of the members of the Stith families still living there.

If you write to Mr. Bart Stith of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, I am quite sure he could give you further information about this branch of the family.

We have a very fine place to work here at Fort Wayne and I am sure we would be able to make your visit here profitable if you care to do further work on these families.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation

4  
Yogan Place  
Springfield Ills  
May 8, 1937

My dear Mr. Warren.

The enclosed  
containing folder will explain my  
renewed interest in the Bush  
family. I remember that you were  
here in Springfield some years  
ago a very detailed story of Sarah  
Bush Johnston who married Thomas  
Lincoln. I noticed at the time  
the name Christopher appeared  
more than once. Since that  
time I have kept several notes  
which have come to me on the  
Bush family, but not until this  
year have I really tried to  
fit them to gether.

According to one record our line  
apparently comes through

1. John Bush, supposed to be the grandson  
of the John Bush who settled  
at Kiccoughton in 1618.
- 2 Philip (married Mary -)
- 3 Wm Captain Billy who was with  
Brone & Clarke. Married Frances  
Tandy Burris
- 4 Wm T. married Sally Tandy
- 5 America T. married S. T. Togan.

Another item refers to a  
John Bush of Spottsylvania Co. Va.  
who married 1. Margaret Brum  
2 Bridget - This John Bush  
is thought to be the son of a  
Nicholas Bush who came from  
England in 1639 & settled in  
James City - County Va & had a son  
John. I understand the records  
of this county have been destroyed  
by fire.

A note from Joseph Benjamin  
Calkins to Mrs Logan Hay, in 1928 says  
his records show Sarah Bush is thought  
to be the granddaughter of Captain Billy  
Bush born in Orange Co. Va. in 1740 and  
the son of Philip Bush & Mary Brian.  
Captain Billy Bush married Frances Fandy  
Burris. Mr Calkins was writing Mrs  
Hay to secure information for Mrs  
Carmita Bush Worrall of Nebraska,  
concerning the Bush family.

Mrs Hay replied, in part, -  
"It may be that Sarah Bush Imboden  
was connected with this Bush  
family. However, I think that in  
order to get the connection, it  
will probably be necessary to go  
further back than Captain Billy  
Bush." Then he quotes Mrs Worrall

giving Mrs Samuel, Isaac, Elijah,  
Christopher Jr., John, Sarah, Hannah  
& Rachel as children of Christopher  
Bush.

This quotation from you  
is the only mention I have found  
of "Christopher". This name is used  
both in my generation (Christopher  
Bush whom you know) &  
in the preceding generation.

The name Tandy belongs in my  
line to Anne my grandmother Bush  
had, besides her daughter Annica,  
two sons, Elzammah & Andy.

Since our Bush line has in it  
both Wm & Christopher, I am wondering  
if I can find a connecting link  
between these apparently different lines.

I do not want to trouble you but  
if you should have at hand any information

that might be helpful in sustaining  
this connection. I would appreciate  
having it.

With kindly remembrance  
of your visit to Springfield  
and hoping that if you come  
this way again we may all see  
you.

Yours Sincerely  
(Mrs. H. T.) Mary L. Morrison



Centennial  
LOGAN PLACE

*Founded by*

*S. J. Logan*

1837—1937



*"One generation passes away and another generation  
cometh but the world goes on forever."*

Springfield, Illinois

Friday, January 1, 1937

# Program



## Afternoon

Dr. Christopher Bush Coleman, presiding.

Invocation.....Dr. Herbert Lockwood Willett

The Story of Logan Place .....Dr. Hugh Tucker Morrison

Memorabilia .....Volunteer



## Supper



## Evening

Mr. Logan Hay, presiding.

An Interpretation.....Dr. Edgar DeWitt Jones

Prayer of Thanksgiving .....Dr. Charles Clayton Morrison

Music

# Family Heir Looms

## First Floor

### 1. FRONT ROOM.

Family Historical sketches.  
Book of S. T. Logan papers.  
Book of Logan family letters.  
Book of children's efforts.  
A group of curios.

### 2. EAST LIVING ROOM.

Book of L. H. Coleman papers.  
Book of L. H. and Jenny B. Coleman letters.

### 3. MIDDLE LIVING ROOM.

Personal effects of Stephen T. Logan and family.  
Daguerreotypes.

### 4. FAMILY PICTURE ROOM.

Pictures.  
Book of letters from old family friends.  
Book of letters from guests and friends.  
Book of wedding invitations.

## Second Floor

### 1. STORE ROOM.

Period clothes.

### 2. LIBRARY.

Folders of newspapers and Land Grants.  
Book of bills related to home changes.  
Logan and Chris trip California 1886.  
Book of bills, church programs, etc.  
Book of programs, etc.

### 3. REAR HALL.

College souvenirs.  
Old atlas.

### 4. TWIN BED ROOM.

Family tree.  
Maps.

# Living Descendants

of STEPHEN TRIGG and AMERICA BUSH LOGAN

*Second Generation*—None.

(Christopher Logan)

*Third Generation*—Logan Hay, Logan Coleman, Christopher  
Bush Coleman, Mary Coleman Morrison, Louis Garfield  
Coleman.

*Fourth Generation*—Christine Brown Penniman, Jane Logan  
Brown, Mary (Polly) Logan Coleman, Mary Douglass  
Hay Funk, Alice Hay Schlipf, Constance Coleman  
Richardson, Martha Julian Coleman, Nancy Coleman  
Phillips, Jenny Coleman Ide, John Louis Coleman,  
Margaret (Peggy) Coleman.

*Fifth Generation* — Stuart Brown, Katherine Logan Brown,  
Milton Hay Brown, Logan Hay Schlipf, Margaret  
Schlipf, Jenny Elizabeth Ide, Claire Ann Ide.

10  
May 14, 1937

Mrs. Mary T. Morrison  
Logan Place  
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Madam:

Your letter arrived shortly after Mr. Coleman's visit to our museum and I had the pleasure of spending the day with him, and also hearing him at the evening meeting which he addressed.

This letter is merely to acknowledge your inquiry as I will want to give some time in going through the records before sending you what I have with reference to the Christopher Bush family of Hardin County, Kentucky.

I remember talking with Mr. Coleman many years ago about the possible relationship between the Kentucky family and the name Bush, but it did not appear to us then that they were related, although they may be.

It would be a pleasure indeed for me to gather such information as I have about the family and when it is ready I will be pleased to forward it.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

December 12, 1938

Mr. Harry R. Bush, President  
Dixie Fire Insurance Company  
Greensboro, North Carolina

My dear Mr. Bush:

Our Lincoln Foundation is preparing in the current issue of its publication *The Lincoln Kinsman* a story of the Bush family from which Abraham Lincoln's stepmother was descended.

We have been advised that you are in possession of some notes with reference to the early history of the family and we are very anxious indeed that our ancestral line may be correct. Would you be willing to submit such information as you have for use in a publication similar to the one which we send under separate cover?

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Bush Family

December 12, 1938

Mrs. Mary T. Morrison  
Logan Place  
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Mrs. Morrison:

Your letter written to me more than a year ago with reference to the Bush family has been properly preserved in case I felt I could contribute anything to such family history as you had collected.

I am now preparing to publish a brief story of the Bush family in the current issue of The Lincoln Kinsman, a monthly magazine which we issue here.

If you have found anything further about the Bush family in the meantime, we should like very much to incorporate it in our article if you care to have it made public.

I am in contact with members of the Bush family with reference to further information about the family history and I hope we may be able to give a fairly good account of the family with which Lincoln's stepmother was connected.

You will observe this will be quite timely, inasmuch as we have just published a story of the painting done for us by Mr. Mixen of Chicago.

A copy of Lincoln Lore containing a likeness of the painting is enclosed, or you may see better copies in the Saturday Evening Post last week.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB  
Enc.

Director

# Hotel Strand

In the Heart of Everything

226 N. E. SECOND STREET  
HALF BLOCK FROM BAYFRONT PARK



Miami • Florida

December 18, 1938

My dear Mr Warren,

I want to thank you for your letter and the envelope. I had not yet discerned the picture in the Saturday Evening Post but shall be interested in looking it up.

Our old home "Logan Place"

was just torn down to make place for a Hospital and Dr Morrison & I are in Florida for the winter. Our mail address until we are settled again, will be 714 First National Bank Building, Springfield Illinois and I should appreciate very much a copy of the Lincoln Kinsman containing the story of the Bush family.

There is nothing new I know to contribute - except that I was interested in the enclosed which appeared recently in a Springfield Illinois paper - where Mr Cheney lives. His father kept the hotel from which Lincoln went to Washington.

With appreciation and best wishes for the Holiday Season. Sincerely,  
(Mrs H.T.) Mary L. Morrison



# The Lincoln Kinsman

Number 6

Fort Wayne, Indiana

December 1938

## BUSH FAMILY DOCUMENTS

### SOURCES WHICH REVEAL THE EARLY ENVIRONMENT OF LINCOLN'S STEPMOTHER

SARAH BUSH LINCOLN, stepmother of Abraham Lincoln, was born in what is now Hardin County, Kentucky, on December 13, 1788, just one hundred and fifty years ago this month. This would seem to be an appropriate time to publish in "The Lincoln Kinsman" some information about the Bush family and the environment in which Sarah was reared.

This can best be achieved by submitting copies of public records which speak with authority about the family, and also by publishing some of the folklore which has been preserved. There will be no attempt to weave this data into a biographical sketch of Sarah Bush Lincoln.

#### *Dutch Immigrants*

Every Lincoln biographer who has mentioned the Bush family has given them a German origin. One of the members of the family, writing in 1934, makes this comment about a

story of Sarah Bush in which her German ancestry is mentioned:

"Sarah Bush, as you may know, was my great-aunt. Her Father, Christopher Bush, was my great great-grandfather, and as stated in the booklet, one of the earliest settlers of Hardin County; his brother having been scalped by the Indians within a few weeks after arriving in Kentucky and before the first fort at Elizabethtown was completed. There is only one thing I have fault to find with the Historian who prepared that very interesting booklet, and that is that he says Christopher Bush was of German descent which was not a fact. His grandfather first settled in New York with the early Dutch settlers in this City, and came from Rotterdam and not from Germany. My Father was always very careful to say this as he always referred to his parental ancestors as Dutchmen and that was often confused in olden times as being of German descent."

*Early Land Grants*

Christopher Bush was entering land in Kentucky as early as August 9, 1781, as the Possessioners Report Book for Nelson County under that date contains the following memorandum:

**"Christopher Bush enters 200 acres of land on a treasurers warrant No. 5166 on Hardin's Creek, including a mill seat."**

John Helm, pioneer surveyor of western Kentucky, whose old records are now in possession of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, makes this entry in his memorandum book which indicates that Bush was having his land properly identified:

*Christopher Bush Survey*

**"Surveyed for Christopher Bush 293 acres of land in Jefferson County on the head of Hardin Creek, a branch of Rough Creek adjoining Bladen Ashby's 500 acre survey."**

**"John Helm**

**"June the 17, 1784"**

There is also a record of interest in Land Book B, Jefferson County. The following notice is on page 49:

**"June 7, 1785, Christopher Bush received from the office a Treasurer Warrant No. 14809 for 998 acres. 209 acres is surveyed and 206 stands entered."**

The area, now known as Hardin County, in which the Bush family resided was once a part of Nelson which was formerly included in the boundaries of Jefferson.

*Commissioner's Reports*

The commissioner's tax books for Hardin County reveal interesting facts about the economic conditions

of the Bush family in their early experience in Kentucky. When Sarah Bush was five years old in 1793, her father listed for taxation 495 acres of land, three horses, and seven cattle. Ten years later when Sarah was fifteen, Christopher Bush was in possession of 1020 acres of land in Hardin County and 1000 acres in Breckinridge County.

The following year, on October 14, 1794, Christopher purchased the following lots in Elizabethtown, Hardin County: numbers 28, 31, 33. His son, Samuel, purchased lots 35 and 37, and Isaac Bush, another son, bought lot number 38.

*An Industrious Pioneer*

In the archives of the Lincoln National Life Foundation may be seen two old documents bearing the name of Christopher Bush and dated as early as 1782. A certain Richard James had passed away, and in the settlement of his estate two papers were submitted which throw some light on the industry of Bush. It appears as if Bush must have raised a crop of corn in the summer of 1781, as he sold eleven bushels to James previous to July 7, 1782. Bush also did hauling for James. When James' effects were put up for sale after his death, some old cards were acquired by Bush which were used for combing cotton, wool, flax, and so on.

*Richmond James Estate  
Bush Account*

**The estate of Richard James Dr; to Christopher Bush**

**To eleven bushels of corn 3 shillings per bushel 1L. 13s**

**For bringing up sundry articles from Hardin Settlement to Severns Valley 5 shillings.**

This day came Christopher Bush before me one of the justices of the "County of Jefferson" and made oath that the above account is just and true sworn this 7th day of July 1782

(Note—the justice failed to sign his name.)

*Inventory*

Memorandum of the sale of Rich'd James effects.

|                                      | L. | S.  | D |
|--------------------------------------|----|-----|---|
| Thomas Tobin a saddle.....           | 0. | 7.  | 6 |
| John Vertreese rasp.....             | 0. | 5.  | 0 |
| Christopher Bush cards.....          | 0. | 4.  | 6 |
| Thomas Tobin yarn and thread .....   | 0. | 6.  | 0 |
| Stephen Rawlings spelling book ..... | 0. | 14. | 0 |
| Jacob Funk a gun.....                | 1. | 10. | 0 |
| John Handley spinning wheel .....    | 0. | 8.  | 0 |
| John Dorrett pot.....                | 2. | 8.  | 0 |
| Do. axe .....                        | 0. | 13. | 0 |
| William Scott old iron.....          | 0. | 10. | 0 |
|                                      | 7. | 6.  | 0 |

(No date)

*Early Bush and Lincoln Family Contacts*

Hananiah Lincoln, cousin of Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the President, was living near Elizabethtown in 1794, and an entry from the Hardin County Order Book of that year reveals his association with Christopher Bush.

July 28, 1795

"Ordered that Christopher Bush, Daniel Linder, Stephen Rawlins, and Hananiah Lincoln after being duly sworn do view the most convenient way for a road from Jacob Van Meter's mill to the Court

House and report at the next court."

This may have been the beginning of a long and intimate acquaintance of the Bush and Lincoln families which was finally consummated by Thomas Lincoln's marrying one of Christopher Bush's daughters.

It is known that Thomas Lincoln went to live with his father's cousin, Hananiah Lincoln, as early as July, 1796 at Elizabethtown where he was steadily employed by Mr. Haycraft on a mill site. He was then twenty years of age and was undoubtedly thrown much in company with Christopher Bush and his family.

Thomas Lincoln became intimately acquainted with Christopher Bush in 1805. Between the year 1797 and 1802 Thomas was with his uncle Isaac in Tennessee and then back with his mother in Washington County, Kentucky, but by 1803 he had taken up his residence permanently in Elizabethtown. About this time Christopher Bush began to take an interest in politics, and he received an appointment as captain of a patrol in which Thomas Lincoln was one of his patrolers.

"Ordered that Christopher Bush, Robert C. Slaughter, Thomas Lincoln, Gregory Glasscock, be and they are hereby appointed patrolers in the northwardly district of this County and the said Christopher Bush be and he is hereby appointed Captain of said Patrolers." Order Book B, 17, Hardin County Court.

*Christopher Bush Family*

The wife of Christopher Bush was named Hannah, but we do not know her maiden name. There were six

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EDITOR

DR. LOUIS A. WARREN,

Director, Lincoln National Life Foundation

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sons and three daughters in the family. The boys' names were William, Samuel, Isaac, Elijah, Christopher, Jr., and John. The girls were Hannah, Rachel, and Sarah.

Christopher Bush made his will on February 24, 1812, and it was probated on February 8, 1813. In this will the pioneer states, "I have already given to all my children except Christopher and John their full share of my estate both real and personal and being desirous that my two sons namely Christopher and John shall be secured in my estate equal to what I have given the rest of my children who have left me namely my sons William, Samuel, Isaac and Elijah and my daughters Hannah Radley, Rachel Smallwood and Sally Johnston—" Christopher then sees to it by certain bequests that his two sons shall receive their share of the estate and that his wife will not be forgotten.

From another document we learn the name of his daughters' husbands. On July 1, 1818, the heirs of Christopher Bush sold to Richard A. Taylor lot number 28 in Elizabethtown, and the names of all the above mentioned children appear in the deed.

The names of the three daughters' husbands also appear along with their wives as follows: "Ichabod Radley and Hannah his wife, Samuel Smallwood and Rachel his wife, Sally Johnston." Sally Johnston at this time was the widow of Daniel Johnston.

It is this Sarah Johnston who later married Thomas Lincoln and who is responsible for our study of the Bush family. A few notes about her brothers are of interest.

*Brothers of Sarah Bush*

It is evident that William Bush was the oldest son of Christopher, and it is from certain inscriptions referring to him that we learn of the apparent early residence of the family before coming to Kentucky.

William Bush appears as a chain carrier in a survey made for Thomas Dorsey as early as 1785. He acquired 100 acres of land from Christopher and Hannah Bush on July 2, 1794, and lists for taxation that year five horses and thirteen cattle.

In 1817 he built an attractive brick home which may still be standing, as it was in a good state of preservation in 1920. The editor of "The Lincoln Kinsman" copied down these initials which were in the gable of the structure: "WB/EB/1817". The EB initials stood for Elizabeth Bush, wife of William.

In the family cemetery close by the house is a tombstone with this inscription: "William Bush was born in New Jersey July, 1763. Emigrated to Kentucky 1780. Departed this life December 18, 1840". In the same cemetery is another stone, some what mutilated, which gives the name of a Christopher Bush, probably a

son of William, who was born in 1811 and died in 1842.

Inasmuch as the tombstone of William Bush indicates that he was born in New Jersey, it is possible that it was from this state that the Bush family migrated to Kentucky.

In 1809 Thomas Lincoln and William Bush were on the same jury. Later on, in 1828, William Bush acquired the Knob Creek farm on which Thomas Lincoln was living in 1816 when he left Kentucky.

In 1804 Samuel Bush, second son of Christopher, served on a jury with Thomas Lincoln and also became associated with him in a road petition. There are other instances where the two young men were brought together. Samuel's wife's name was Peggy, and on one occasion he purchased at the local store in Elizabethtown a camel's hair shawl for her.

Thomas Lincoln seems to have been more often in the company of Isaac Bush than any other members of the family. It was with Isaac that he made a flatboat trip to New Orleans in 1806. On March fourth both of them received some advance money in anticipation of the trip. On May sixth they were both back in Elizabethtown again and both purchased on the same day half of a calf skin for some new boots. Some other interesting purchases were made by Isaac. He bought a dictionary for six shillings, a copy of Scott's Lessons for seven shillings and six pence, and the same day purchased several items, noted as sundries, for his sister, Sarah Johnston. One wonders if his copy of Scott's Lessons is the one that finally

found its way into Abraham Lincoln's hands.

On May 20, 1806, Thomas Lincoln loaned Isaac Bush fifteen pounds in gold, and two days later Isaac ordered a new suit of clothes. There are numerous entries of Isaac Bush in the Bleakley and Montgomery store book. Thomas Lincoln's major transaction with Isaac, however, was the purchase from him on December 12, 1808 of the farm in Larue County where Abraham Lincoln was born the following February. This farm later was in litigation and both Lincoln and Bush had some difficulties in trying to clear their titles. It is doubtful if either one of them came out of the deal without suffering some loss in the venture.

Not very much is known about Elijah Bush, but like other members of the Bush family he was a well dressed pioneer, buying at one time a "furr hat" for which he paid one pound and sixteen shillings and at another time two pairs of men's gloves and one pair of ladies' gloves.

We will hear more about Christopher Bush, Junior, later. He was married to Polly Goodin by Alexander M. Dougal on April 2, 1815. The wife of Sarah Bush's youngest brother, John, was Margaret or "Peggy" as she was called.

#### *Sisters of Sarah Bush*

Hannah Bush, the oldest of the three sisters, married Ichabod Radley, and as early as 1802 Christopher Bush sold to this Ichabod and Hannah seventy acres of land. Radley was a well educated easterner employed as a school teacher, and he also served as a deputy sheriff. A son

of Ichabod and Hannah served as deputy sheriff of Hardin County for several years.

Little is known about Samuel Smallwood who married Rachel Bush other than his coming from an Elizabethtown family which had furnished brick for most of the early brick dwellings in the town. The Smallwoods moved west very early, and there is a tradition that they were largely responsible for Sarah Bush Lincoln and her husband remaining in Illinois in 1831 instead of returning to Indiana as they had planned.

On March 12, 1803 the Severn Valley Baptist church published a list of members, and the names of Elizabeth, Samuel, Margaret, Hannah, and Rachel Bush appear. The first three named were received into the church by baptism on January 9, 1802 and Hannah came in by baptism on February 12 the same year. Later on Rachel Bush joined the congregation. Evidently Elizabeth was the wife of William Bush and Margaret or "Peggy" was the wife of Samuel. Sarah was too young at this time to affiliate, but she was a member of the Baptist church in Indiana later on.

#### *The Traditional Lincoln-Bush Romance*

There is a tradition that Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush were sweethearts until Sarah chose Daniel Johnston in preference to her father's and brothers' close friend. Thomas Lincoln was well acquainted with Sally Bush we may assume by the many associations of Thomas with her father as well as her brothers.

When Thomas was serving in the same patrol with Christopher Bush in 1805, Sally was then but sixteen years old while Thomas was twenty-nine, thirteen years her senior.

Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush's brother, Isaac, had been contemplating a trip to New Orleans, and probably started in their flatboat March fourth. One week later, on March eleventh, Sarah married Daniel Johnston. Upon the return of Thomas and Isaac two months later, both of them bought gifts for Mrs. Johnston. About one month from the time Thomas Lincoln arrived from New Orleans he married Nancy Hanks. It would appear from these facts that Thomas Lincoln, who had known Nancy Hanks for many years, was rather quick to carry on a courtship, propose marriage, and have the ceremony performed all within a month.

#### *The Johnston-Bush Family*

If Sarah Bush chose Daniel Johnston in preference to Thomas Lincoln she made a very poor choice, if the public records may be used as evidence, for Johnston was most certainly a failure. He was usually without money, and two of his brothers-in-law, Samuel and Christopher, Jr., indorsed his notes which he was unable to pay, the former for eighty dollars and the latter for twenty-five dollars. Court proceedings which followed showed Johnston to be without funds. He ran up a bill at the local store which another brother-in-law, Isaac, paid in part, the rest being taken care of by a promisory note in payment for the value. Under his account someone,

possibly the proprietor of the store, wrote this brief notation: "An empty vessel makes the most noise".

Johnston was certainly an "empty vessel", and when he received the opportunity of becoming jailer in 1814 and found it necessary to secure bondsmen before he could qualify for the office not a single member of the Bush family came forward to sign the papers. It is evident that the life of Sarah Bush Johnston was not a happy one and the court records give a sad picture of the closing of this first matrimonial venture of Sarah Bush. A court order of April 14, 1817 reads as follows: "On motion of Matthew M. Culley, who took the oath required by law and together with William Parcees, his security, entered into and acknowledged bond in the penalty of one hundred dollars, the administration of the estate of Daniel Johnston, deceased, is granted him, the widow of Daniel Johnston, deceased, having in open court declared that she refused to take upon herself the burden of said administration."

In the meantime, in order to provide for her little family consisting of two girls, Elizabeth and Matilda, and her little boy, John D. Johnston, she acquired a cabin and a piece of ground just outside the limits of Elizabethtown. A copy of the deed of conveyance is herewith presented:

*Sarah Johnston Deed from Haycraft*

"This indenture made this seventeenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, between Samuel Hay-

craft and Peggy his wife, of the County of Hardin and the State of Kentucky, of the one part, and Sarah Johnston of the same county and state aforesaid of the other part witnesseth; that the same Samuel Haycraft and Peggy his wife for and in consideration of the sum of twenty-five dollars to them in hand paid, before the signing and sealing and delivering of these presents the acceptance whereof is hereby acknowledged, have this day granted bargained and sold and by these presents grant bargain and sell to the said Sarah Johnston her heirs and assignees forever one undivided moiety or half part of a certain lot or piece of ground containing one acre and one quarter lying near Elizabethtown adjoining Benjamin Helm's lots or the lot on which the said Helm now lives, which lot is bounded as follows; to wit beginning about four feet north east of the south east corner of said Helm lot, being near the house formerly occupied as an office; running thence south 70 degrees east, 20 poles to a stake; thence north 31 degrees west 22 poles to a stake in a line of said Helm's lot; thence with the same to the beginning; it being the same lot for which the said Sarah Johnston holds a bond on the said Samuel Haycraft dated the 12th day of February 1817. The moiety hereby conveyed to be taken of the end adjoining Ben Helm's, and to include the house the said Sarah Johnston now lives in. To have and to hold the said undivided moiety, or half part of the aforesaid lot together with all and singular appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining to the said Sarah Johnston her heirs and assignee forever, and the said



Washington, Ind.,  
Nov. 17, 1942.

The Lincoln Kineman  
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Gentlemen:

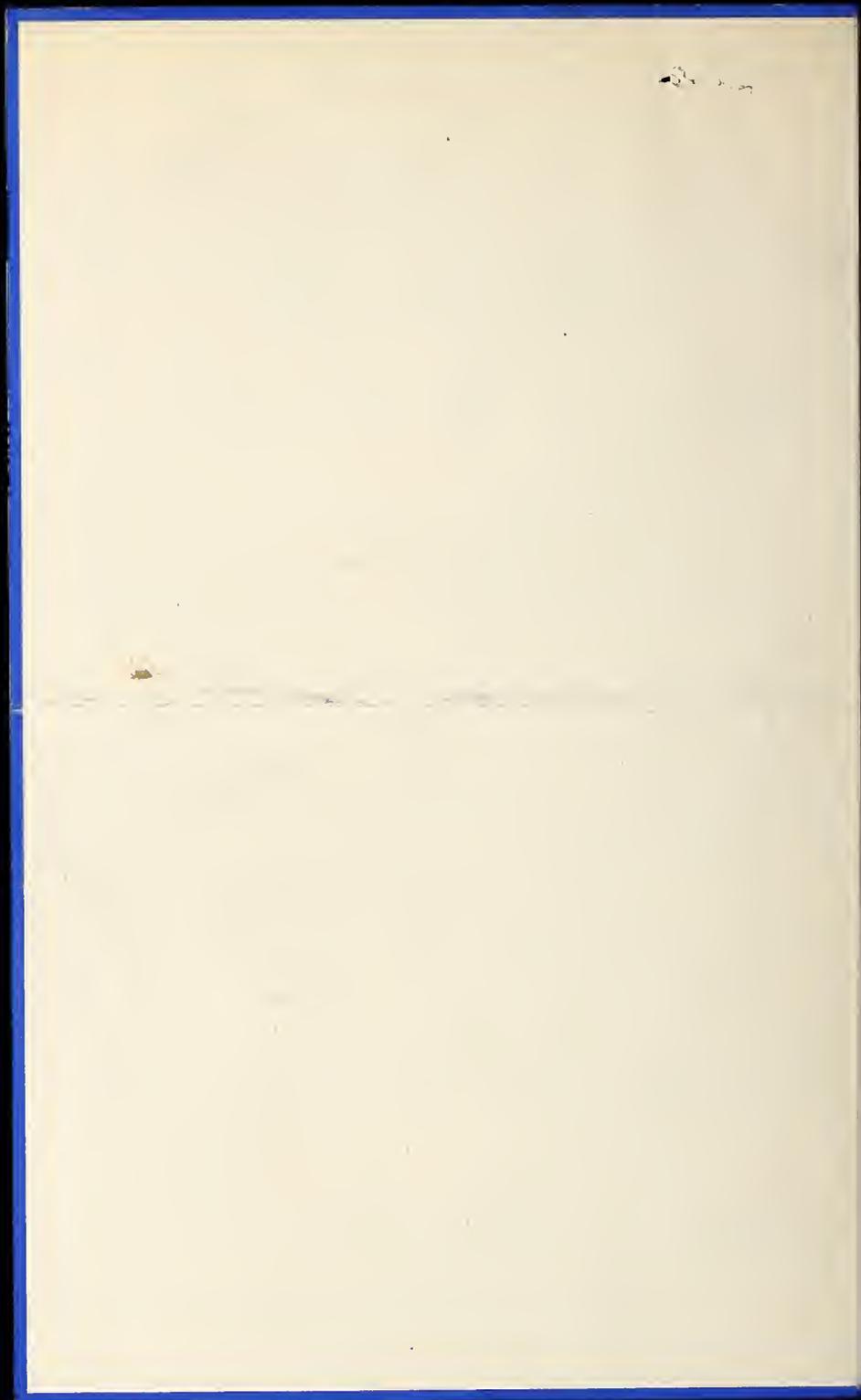
Would it be asking you  
too much to supply me a  
little information, if possible.  
I was given your address  
by Mrs. Bernadine Bailey  
author of "Abe Lincoln's Other  
Mother - Sarah Bush Lincoln."  
I would like very much to  
know whether the late R. F.  
Bush of Hawesville, Ky.  
was a relative of Sarah

Bush. I have been told  
he was a descendant of  
Christophe Bush, brother  
of Sarah Bush.

I would be so grateful  
if you ~~can~~ supply me  
with any information  
relative to this relation-  
ship, namely the R. J. Bush  
family (whose daughters are  
Miss Ethel Bush, Miss Roberta  
Bush, Mrs. Joe Beecham,  
Mrs. John D. Kelly (deceased),

Thanking you, I am  
respectfully,

Mrs. A. J. Dant  
309 E. Flora St.,  
Washington,  
Indiana.



7  
Washington, Ind.,  
Nov. 17, 1942.

Mr. Harry Pratt  
Springfield, Ill.,

Dear Sir:

Would it be asking you too much to supply me a little information, if possible. Can you tell me whether the late R. Y. Bush of Hawesville, Ky. was related (and, if, how) to the family of Sarah Bush Lincoln. I have been told he was a descendant of Christophe Bush, brother of Sarah Bush.

Thanking you very sincerely,  
I am, respectfully,

Mrs. A. J. Dant  
309 E. Flora St.,  
Washington, Indiana.

*Bush Family*

December 9, 1942

Mrs. A. J. Dant  
309 East Flora St.  
Washington, Indiana

My dear Madam:

Mr. Harry Pratt of Springfield, Illinois has asked me to send you such information as we may have on the Sarah Bush family.

You will please find enclosed a copy of the Lincoln Kinsman which I think gives more complete information about her than anything else I have.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM  
enc.

Director

San Francisco, California  
February, 22, 1944

Dr. Lewis A. Warren,  
Lincoln Life Foundation.  
Editor-

Would you be able to give me any information regarding John Johnston, the step brother of Abraham Lincoln. Do you have the information about all the family and their present location. My reason for this is, a friend of mine is a descendant of this Johnston and loaned letters from the Lincoln family and these were lost.

My family gave a letter from Abraham Lincoln to the Springfield, Illinois state exhibit.

I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

Hoping to receive some information, I am,

Sincerely Yours

*Elizabeth S Moore*

*Johnston Family*

February 28, 1944

Miss Elizabeth S. Moore  
700 Taylor, #604  
San Francisco, 2, Calif.

My dear Madam:

I regret we cannot be of much assistance to you in locating the descendants of Sarah Bush Johnston but you will find enclosed two little bulletins which give some attention to the matter and inasmuch as there was no blood relationship whatever between Abraham Lincoln and the Johnston children except as it may have been a distant contact to the Hanks family, we have never paid very much attention to this phase of the story.

We do occasionally see notices with respect to the Johnston descendants and in the future we will keep your request in mind.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director

9

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ORA CHESTER BARBER, Realtor

4342 East 17th Avenue Parkway

Denver, Colorado

---

March 8, 1945

Louis A. Warren, Litt.D., Director,  
Lincoln National Foundation,  
Fort Wayne 1, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren:

Aside from the enjoyment I had from your address to us at The Denver Real Estate Exchange yesterday, I feel that you came as a gift from Heaven to me, with your knowledge of the Bush family. Being the only member of the family in this part of the country who has much interest in it and the only one of the family who has certain letters and papers, I feel an obligation to those who follow me to co-ordinate this and other information which I can get, so that there will be a complete history of the clan.

Therefore, I eagerly avail myself of your offer to send me certain data which you have on the subject.

I have prepared the two attached amateurish charts to indicate to you what I have. There is considerable information on other descendants of the family which I have and, if it is of any interest to you, I shall be glad to reciprocate by sending you the detail of my file.

Your kind offer entitles you to a high place in my private "Hall of Gratitude".

Cordially yours,

  
(Mrs. Ora Chester Barber)

JOHN MARTIN FRANK m. Sivil (or Civil (b. Berne Switzerland, 16--  
; (Came to U.S.A. with Baron de Graf-  
: (ferried colony, 1710, settling at  
: (what is now New Bern, N.C.)  
:  
:  
:  
: \_\_\_\_\_

John (Cadet of Artillery, see North Carolina  
(Records Vol 16, pp.1196) m. Sarah Williams  
Susan m. William Herriage  
Mary m. John Worley  
Barbara (b.1719 d.1814) m. Capt Daniel Shine  
Sivil  
Elizabeth m. (1) Thomas Herold (2) John Stanley

CATHERINE m. HARDY BUSH

- o o o -

CATHERINE FRANK m. HARDY BUSH

:  
:  
James  
John  
Mary  
WILLIAM m. MOURNING SHEFFIELD

:  
:  
:  
:  
JAMES m. (1) GLASS (2) Caraway (3) Grantham (4) Mrs. Tennant

:  
:  
:  
:  
David m. Mary Eliza Cartledge  
William m. Polly Sheffield  
CALVIN m (?)

:  
:  
:  
:  
JAMES CALVIN m. (1) VICTORIA ADLE (2) ?  
(B. 1-13-1841) : (3) Eunice Sharpe  
(d. 1927)

Mary Elizabeth m. (1) West (2) Bob Sheffield  
Monterrey

CHARITY ELENOR m. JOHN LUMLY CHESTER  
(B. 8-27-1869)  
(d. 1/2/1929)

*was there in 1815-  
to the moved to Georgia*

*to West from  
Georgia to Barco,  
via sea. where he  
served in Capt's army  
& married my  
French grandmother*



*Bush Family*

March 14, 1945

Mrs. Ora Chester Barber  
4342 E. 17th Avenue Parkway  
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mrs. Barber:

You will please find enclosed a little pamphlet which I mentioned with respect to Bush Family history. I trust you may be able to connect the Christopher Bush family with the lineage which you have outlined in the letter which I have before me. I will be happy indeed to keep it on file for further reference.

Very truly yours,

LAW:JT  
L.A. Warren

Director

Decatur, Ill., Nov. 22, 1946

Dr. Louis A. Warren,  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir:

In looking up history of a Bush family I noticed your item concerning the father of Sarah (Bush) Lincoln, in Illinois State Historical Publications. So I thought you would be the person who probably might have more information on this family. Christopher Bush, father of Sarah.

It seems quite likely that Christopher Bush was a member of the family which I am tracing--only the early generations, however, as the later generations take other names. Bush is ancestral.

George Bush (I think it <sup>was</sup>) --wife probably a daughter of Chris. Strader, lived in Pendleton Co., Va., now West Va. Probably died before 1784. He must have been father of the three Bush Brothers-- John, who built a Fort on the Buchkannon River; Jacob, who was spy and soldier in Rev. and Adam; Jacob and Adam lived in Lewis Co., W. Va., also John, who was probably the John Bush who died in Ross County, Ohio, 1800.

None of this may interest you, but you see how likely it is that Christopher Bush of Ky. may have been a brother of these Bushes, German descent, of course.

Wish to learn all history of Christopher Bush's family. Sarah Bush's birth date; where born, or where her father came from; name of Christopher's wife --Sarah's mother, maiden name; Names of her brothers and sisters; who each married, so far as known. Possibly there may be some record of Sarah's grandparents, names, Bush side. If someone had interviewed Sarah (Bush) Lincoln he could have gotten this data, but I wonder if anyone thought of such a thing in her lifetime.

Any information you may be able to give concerning this family would be thankfully received.

Yours very truly,

*Jesse Bryan*  
Jesse Bryan

1033 South Maffit St.  
Decatur, Ill.

November 26, 1946

Mr. Jesse Bryan  
1033 South Maffit Street  
Decatur, Illinois

My dear Sir:

You will enclosed please find a little eight page booklet which contains about all the information we have on the early Bush family. We have never been able to trace back the ancestry of Sarah Bush Lincoln's people.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CRS  
L.A. Warren  
Enc.

# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 964

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

September 29, 1947

## A. LINCOLN AND J. D. JOHNSTON—STEP-BROTHERS

The letter in facsimile, which appears more often than any other to have been reproduced by the press in reporting the contents of the Lincoln Papers recently opened in Washington, is not in the President's hand but written by his step-brother, John D. Johnston. A verbatim copy of the letter appears in this issue of Lincoln Lore. Without a knowledge of the Lincoln-Johnston family background and the many tricks played by Johnston to extort money from Abraham, the letter might leave the impression that Lincoln had neglected his old father and step-mother.

When Thomas and Nancy Lincoln and their two children passed through Elizabethtown, Kentucky on their way to Indiana in 1816, Sarah Bush Johnston who resided in the town and with whom the Lincolns were well acquainted had recently lost her husband, Daniel Johnston. She had been left in humble circumstances with three children, Elizabeth, Matilda, and John D. Three years later, fifteen months after the death of his own wife, Thomas Lincoln returned to Kentucky and married the widow Johnston. The wedding increased the size of the Lincoln family to eight—the parents, two Lincoln children, three Johnston children, and a youth, Dennis Hanks who had been given a home.

Elizabeth Johnston married Dennis Hanks, Matilda married a step-brother of Dennis, Squire Hall, and when the family migrated to Illinois the Thomas Lincoln colony had increased to thirteen people. John D. Johnston married on October 13, 1834 Mary Bar—and after her death he married on March 5, 1851 Nancy Jane Williams. Johnston and his large family is said to have lived on Thomas Lincoln during his lifetime and then imposed themselves upon the widow.

As early as 1840 Johnston began putting financial pressure on Abraham Lincoln by working through his father. It is likely that the \$50.00 for value received which Thomas Lincoln paid John D. Johnston on December 3, 1840 was made possible by the generosity of Abraham. The emotional crises through which Lincoln passed at this time is usually dated from, "The fatal first of January 1841." Possibly there were other contributing factors to Lincoln's disturbed mental condition besides his love affair with Mary Todd which was interrupted on the day following the culmination of the strange deal in the Coles County home of his father.

Returning from Kentucky where he had gone to recuperate, Lincoln had hardly reached home before conditions in his father's home made it

necessary for him to again straighten out some tangled affairs in Coles County. Even before he had purchased a home for himself in order to protect his aged parents from the voracious Johnston, Lincoln very wisely purchased from his parents a quarter section of land with a reservation of a Life Estate to them. The codicil to the deed in Lincoln's own hand follows:

WHEREAS, I have purchased of Thomas Lincoln and his wife the North East fourth of the Southeast

### Johnston's Letter To Lincoln

Friday morning Char May 25th 1849  
Dear Brother

I hast to inform you that father is yet a Live & that is all & he craves to See you all the time & he wents you to come if you as able to git hure, for your are his only Child that is of his own flush & blood & it is nothing more than Nateral for him to crave to see you, he says he has all most despared of seeing you, & he wents you to prepare to meet him in the unknown world, or in heven, for he thinks that own savour savour (sic) has a crown of glory, prepared for him I wright this with a bursting hart, I came to town for the Doctor, & I won you to make an effort come, if you as able to get hure, & he wents me to tell your wife that he Loves Hure & wents hure to prepare to meet him at ower "Savours feet, we are all well, your Brother in hast  
J. D. Johnston

quarter of Section twenty-one in Township Eleven North of Range Nine East for which I have paid them the sum of Two Hundred Dollars and have taken their deed of conveyance for the same with a reservation of a life Estate therein to them and the survivor of them.

Now I bind myself my heirs and assigns to convey said tract of land to John D. Johnston or his heirs at any time after the death of the survivor of the said Thomas Lincoln and wife provided he shall pay me my heirs or assigns the said sum of Two Hundred dollars at any time within one year after the death of the said Thomas Lincoln and wife and the said may be paid without interest except after the death of the survivor as aforesaid.

Witness my hand and seal this 25th day of October A. D. 1841.

A. Lincoln (Seal)

During the years 1846, 1847, and 1849 Lincoln was in Washington for a congressional term and unable to make frequent visits to his parents.

Upon his return to Springfield he was thrust into the most important patronage dispute which had confronted him. Just at the time he was in the midst of the "land office controversy" and should have returned to Washington at once, Johnston's letter of May 25th arrived with its strange implication that Lincoln's father was at the point of death. It is evident from a letter which A. G. Henry wrote Joseph Gillespie that Lincoln visited his father and would go to Washington "at the moment he gets back, he is now in Coles." His parents resided in Coles County.

Thomas Lincoln was not only "yet alive" as Johnston put it in May '49 but he was still alive up to January '51. In fact Abraham Lincoln and his wife lost one of their children, Edward, before Lincoln's father passed away.

The following February Johnston again wrote Abraham soliciting his help in securing a mail contract. Lincoln set about the task immediately and informed Johnston the following day: "I have made out a bid for you at \$120, guaranteed it myself, got our P. M. here to certify it and send it on."

In December 1850 and in January 1851 Johnston made another concerted drive on Abraham for funds which caused Lincoln to write to Johnston the famous letter of January 2, 1851 which begins, "Your request for eighty dollars I do not think best to comply with now." Two more letters were written to Lincoln within the next few days. The great press for money at this time was Johnston's contemplated second marriage which occurred on March 5. After the death of Thomas Lincoln on January 17, 1851 Johnston began to try and get the widow's property into his own hands so he could dispose of it and Lincoln had to step in and prevent it.

Johnston would have put his own mother on an allowance of \$16.00 per year but Lincoln wrote to him on November 25, 1851: "Now if you are satisfied in treating her that way, I am not. . . . I cannot to oblige any living person, consent that she shall be put on an allowance of sixteen dollars a year."

The letter Johnston wrote to Lincoln on May 25, 1849 which is featured in this bulletin makes one contribution to Lincoln's family genealogy which should be pointed out. Johnston in referring to Thomas Lincoln reminds Abraham, "you are his only Child that is of his own flesh & blood." This statement should contribute something positive to the continual controversy about Abraham Lincoln's paternity.

8-...  
April 5, 1949

Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne  
Indiana

Gentlemen:

We understand, from the Librarian of the Illinois State Historical Library..you have the most complete information on the ancestry of Sarah Bush Lincoln.

Since family records have been lost, and members of the family scattered, would it be possible to suggest how to trace the following which we very much need..We are authorized by the Library department, through the History department of Columbia University to collect material on the late Seymour Francis Norton ...Mr. Norton married a Florence Isabel Bynum..in 1897..(late in his life). Miss Bynum was a descendet of Sally Bush Lincoln..through her maternal lineage. As follows:-

Florence Bynum...born Chicago, Ill..Feb.1...about 1889.  
Her mother was Amanda Selina BUSH Bynum.  
Her mother, Amanda Selina Bush, was born either in  
Kentucky, Virginia or Indiana..we do not  
have the record..on or about January 19..  
1859.

Amanda was one of thirteen children. There was a "Sally"  
or "Sarah" a sister..named after a Great-  
Aunt..Sally Bush Lincoln. There was also a  
Christopher Bush and a James Bush...

Amanda married Guy Hamilton Bynum in Indianapolis about  
1885.

The mother of Amanda was a Maria Fontleroy Christy  
of a Virginia family..

The father of Amanda was either a James or a John Bush..  
we believe...We have verified the fact he was  
not the famed artist.. "James Bush of Kentucky"  
...and one of the brothers of Amanda..went to  
the State of Texas..where he was said to have  
become fantastically rich..and eventually  
killed by Mexicans..the family had a newspaper  
notice of the legend..about ten years ago..  
but could not trace it..in Texas.

Amanda had a sister Lydia..who had the family records  
but we cannot locate her..there was another  
member of the Bush family..in a very important  
position in Washington, D.C..a "Miss Bush" who  
also had the history..and had been in Washington  
many years..but we do not know how to trace her  
since she was said to have married..yet still  
held her Government position.

Page 2

We would so deeply appreciate any information or how WE CAN go about digging it out..What happens to ancient records?... We employed several well recommended geologists.. ut only paid out money..it meant nothing.It did not tally with other KNOWN facts. And since this work has been given us..b the library department at Columbia..we would like to be given some little spark of hope..in all these antique documents.

Sincerely,

Mrs.H.Manning  
214 Carnation  
Corona del Mar,California

Bush family

April 12, 1949

Mrs. E. Manning  
214 Carnation  
Corona del Mar, California

My dear Mrs. Manning:

I fear I am not going to be able to help you very much on your quest for Bush relatives.

I think I am going to refer you back to Springfield, Illinois again and see if the State Library there cannot find the ancestry of Christopher Bush Coleman who served here in Indiana as our Director of the Historical Bureau for some years. He has since passed away.

His mother was America Bush but of a different family from the Sally Bush family of Elizabethtown. I remember talking with him on occasions and he thought while the family might be related several generations back apparently here in America they were of a different branch. This, I think, is more likely to be the family you are seeking. Please find attached a little bulletin which will give you some brief references to the family of Abraham Lincoln's step-mother.

Very truly yours,

LAW/DPB  
L. A. Warren  
Enc.

Director

9  
REF 1  
Prairie du Sac, Wis.  
26 July 1956

R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor  
LINCOLN LORE  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.  
Fort Watne, Indiana

Dear Doctor McMurtry,

I want to express to you, and through you to Dr. Louis A. Warren, my sincere appreciation for receiving in the past year LINCOLN LORE of which I was previously unaware and which I now read "cover to cover". Your new format is excellent and will now, with pictures, carry on the fine editorial material which I have found in your previous issues.

My study of Lincolnia is an attempt to discover the parentage of that Daniel Johnson whose widow became second wife <sup>of Thomas Lincoln</sup> (and stepmother) of Abraham Lincoln), and whose son, John Davis Johnson, was such a "milker" of his mother's pittance and also of the funds which Abraham sent his father Thomas from Washington--etc. I do not know that there are others interested in this same problem of which you are aware, but if there be, I would like to contact them.

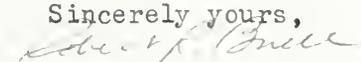
The locale is shown by the 1810 census (which shows for males and females under 10, 10-15, 16-25, 26-45, over 45 age groups--also slaves, of which this group had none) which I transcribed from the original in National Archives:

| Page | Line | Head of Family   | Enumeration |           |        |
|------|------|------------------|-------------|-----------|--------|
|      |      |                  | Males       | Females   | Slaves |
| 93   | 5    | Charles Houchens | 1-0-0-0-1   | 4-1-0-0-1 | 0      |
| 94   | 8    | Daniel Johnson   | 1-0-1-1-0   | 1-0-0-1-0 | 0      |
| 109  | 6    | Thomas Lincoln   | 1-0-0-1-0   | 1-0-0-1-0 | 0      |
| 114  | 3    | Christopher Bush | 0-0-2-0-1   | 0-0-0-0-1 | 1      |
|      | 4    | Samuel Haycraft  | 0-1-1-0-1   | 2-0-4-0-1 | 2      |

(Samuel is last entry in Hardin Co. 1810)

Charles Houchin (correct spelling) Rev. soldier from Virginia had among his younger daughters Hannah b. 1799 who m. 1818 Ephraim Johnson--my greatgreat-grandparents. I believe this Ephraim to be closely kin to Daniel, and of the Maryland Johnson family, since an Ephraim Johnson (probably my Eph's grandfather), his brother Capt. John, and his nephew Absalom Johnson of Nelson Co., Ky., were all Revolutionary soldiers from Baltimore Co., Md. Acey (Azariah) Davis, [Sarah (Bush)(Johnson) Lincoln's uncle?] was a neighbor (4 doors away) of Charles Houchin and testified in his pension proceedings, and Daniel named his only son John Davis Johnson. If you know anyone working along these lines who would be interested in exchanging data and enlarging our knowledge of this matter, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

  
Robert R. Buell

rrb-ipse

August 6, 1956

Mr. Robert R. Buell  
R. F. D. # 1  
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Buell:

For some time now I have had your letter of July 26 on my desk relative to your interest in the Daniel Johnston who was the first husband of Lincoln's step-mother, Sarah Bush Johnston. Throughout your letter, you have spelled the name Johnson; however, I am of the opinion that the correct spelling is Johnston.

Your letter contains some valuable genealogical data and I expect to file it in our collection.

With this letter I am enclosing two issues of Lincoln Lore which deal with the Johnston family. However, I fear that it will be of little help to you in your present research.

I am a native of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, where Daniel Johnston lived and for many years I have been cognizant of the fact that there is very little information concerning this family available.

I have looked in our Foundation files for information concerning this pioneer and I regret to say that I have found nothing significant to send you. Neither do I know of anyone else who is working on a similar project.

Wishing you a lot of luck in your researches, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

RGM:js  
Enc. 2

Director

4  
RED 1

Prairie du Sac, Wis.  
10 Aug 1956

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

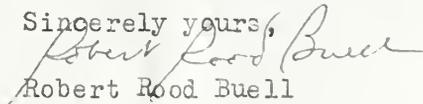
Dear Dr. McMurtry,

Thank you for your kind response of 6 Aug to my letter of 26 July. I enclose a copy for your files of a letter sent this date to Prof. Charles H. Coleman, of Charleston, Ill., which amplifies some of the data given in my preceding letter to you. I am preparing a list of known children and grandchildren (with vital data) of Daniel and Sarah (Bush) Johns(t)on. Though John Davis Johnston signed himself thus, we are not sure if he were JOHNSTON or JOHNSON. His father's wedding bond was JOHNSTON, so that is more likely, but there is other evidence that the clerk used JOHNSTON for both names throughout that period. J.D. Johnston was only 9 when he removed to Indiana, so perhaps used a spelling suitable to him, rather than the original; we simply do not yet know. Daniel and Sarah had:

1. Sarah Elizabeth b. late 1807 Elizabethtown; d. 1864 Charleston, Ill.; m. 1821 Dennis Hanks 1798-1892 by whom 8 chn., youngest of whom was Theophilus 1849-1910 (see enclosed ltr)
2. Matilda b. 1809 Elizabethtown; d. after 1865 Coles Co., Ill.; m(1) 1826 Squire Hall son of Levi and Nancy (Hanks) Hall, half-brother of above Dennis Hanks, Squire b. 1810, d. 1854; m(2) 1856 Reuben Moore 1797-1859. 8 Hall chn., 1 Moore child
3. John Davis b. 1810 Elizabethtown; d. 1854 Coles Co., Ill.; m(1) 13 Oct 1834, Mary Barker 1816-1850; m(2) 5 Mch 1851 Nancy Jane Williams b. 1836 d. after 1854. 7 chn. by first wife; 1 by second wife.

More of this will follow later for your files.

Sincerely yours,

  
Robert Rood Buell

rrb-ipse

RFD 1

Prairie du Sac, Wis.

10 Aug 1956

Prof. Charles H. Coleman  
903 Taylor Street  
Charleston, Illinois.

Dear Professor Taylor,

C  
O  
P  
Y

As promised in my letter to you of 17 Jan 1956, I have made contact with a granddaughter of Sarah (Johnston) and Dennis Friend (Hanks), she a greatgranddaughter, therefore, of Daniel and Sarah (Bush) Johnston, through her father Theophilus Hanks (1846-1910) through his second marriage to Eliza Collins (she born Collingswood in England, but shortened the name after coming to USA; d. after 1940), being the younger of two children (son and dau): Lida Hanks b. 27 Nov 1887 Denver, Colo.; res. (1956) Rochester, N.Y. Lida m. 7 Jan 1905 Miles Rankin. She has 2 chn.: Thelma 1905-1949 and Viola d. 1909, having one grdchd by Viola: Robert Bruce Thompson Jr. (m. Barbara White and has Robert Bruce III b. 1953 Wash., D.C.) Thelma d.s.p. after m. to Ross Zollner.

Lida knows nothing of Daniel Johnston. She says Dennis Friend's parents d. when he was very young (I had a friend call on lida and he obtained all this info from questions) and he assumed the name of his Hanks relatives with whom he lived. She recalls her grandfather Dennis very well, especially his death, caused by a runaway horse; she was taken to his funeral. When Lida visited in Wash., D.C. some years ago, her ancestry leaked out, and Bureau of Archives (so named then) wined & dined her and pumped her dry of Lincolniana she might have, so I suppose they have this document there. She states that Dennis Friend (Hanks) was the first to hold Abraham Lincoln after he was born. Dennis Friend (Hanks) is shown in several references to have been a "mendacious old fool" who led researchers astray for no known reason. Of this I do not know; apparently Lida knows nothing of this. Your notes on my 1-17-56 letter indicate that Dennis Friend Hanks was b. out of wedlock, which explains the story his granddaughter has been given.

I have been investigating whether Daniel was JOHNSON or JOHNSTON; his descendants used JOHNSTON, but the 1810 census lists him (and all others in Hardin Co.) as JOHNSON, and strangely enough, the marriage recorder used JOHNSTON throughout his marriage bonds 1794-1816 and thereafter (with a few exceptions) used JOHNSON. Apparently not much care was taken to distinguish these different names. Known JOHNSTON families appear both ways, as do known JOHNSON families, so this is no clue, alas! Incidentally, the 1810 census shows Abraham in the "Males 0-10" column.

The 1810 census occupies (44 lines to the page) 114 pp., the last page containing only 4 entries of which line 3 is Chris Bush 0-0-2-0-1 0-0-0-0-1 and line 4 (evidently the enumerator) our friend Samuel Haycraft 0-1-1-0-1 2-0-4-0-1 (Bush had 1 slave, Haycraft 2, in addition to above; Haycraft also had 1 alien). Just 3 houses from Bush (page 113 line 44) lived Thomas Johnson 1-2-0-0-1 0-1-0-0-1 (no slaves) which MIGHT be a clue as to Daniel's father. Thomas Lincoln (Page 109 line 6) 1-0-0-1-0 1-0-0-1-0 lived quite a distance from Daniel Johnson (Page 94 line 8) 1-0-1-1-0 1-0-0-1-0 (no slaves). Daniel lived in quite a "nest" of JOHNSON families (no other spelling in entire co.) all of whom lived (pp 92-114) close together as regards total Hardin Co. census:

1810 Census (Hardin Co., Ky.) Males 0-10/10-16/16-25/26-45/over 45  
 Females 0-10/10-16/16-25/26-45/over 45    aliens/slaves

| Page | Line | Head of Household |           |           |     |
|------|------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| 92   |      | Mathew Johnson    | 2-2-0-0-1 | 2-1-1-1-0 | 0-0 |
| 93   | 5    | Charles Houtchens | 1-0-0-0-1 | 4-1-0-0-1 | 0-0 |
| "    | 18   | David Johnson     | 1-0-0-1-0 | 2-0-1-0-0 | 0-0 |
| "    | 19   | Andrew Johnson    | 1-0-0-1-0 | 3-2-1-0-0 | 0-0 |
| "    | 20   | Isaac Johnson     | 1-0-1-0-0 | 0-0-1-0-0 | 0-0 |
| 94   | 8    | DANIEL JOHNSON    | 1-0-1-1-0 | 1-0-0-1-0 | 0-0 |
| "    | 12   | William Johnson   | 0-0-0-0-1 | 0-1-1-0-1 | 0-0 |
| *2"  | 42   | Joshua Johnson    | 2-0-0-1-0 | 1-0-0-1-0 | 0-0 |
| 99   | 7    | Martha Johnson    | 2-1-0-0-0 | 0-0-0-1-0 | 0-0 |
| 102  | 10   | Elisha Johnson    | 0-0-0-1-0 | 1-0-1-0-0 | 0-7 |
| 103  | 41   | Jack Johnson      | 0-0-1-0-0 | 1-0-1-0-0 | 0-0 |
| 109  | 6    | THOMAS LINCOLN    | 1-0-0-1-0 | 1-0-0-1-0 | 0-0 |
| 113  | 44   | Thomas Johnson    | 1-2-0-0-1 | 0-1-0-0-1 | 0-0 |
| 114  | 3    | Chris Bush        | 0-0-2-0-1 | 0-0-0-0-1 | 0-1 |

This points out, as "likeliest father of Daniel" either Thomas (p. 133) because of his proximity to Sarah (Bush) Johnston's father, or William (p. 94) because of his proximity to Daniel and Sarah.

I put in Charles Houchin because he is my ggtgradfa and his dau Hannah (b. 1799) m. 1819 (prob. Hart Co.) Ephraim Johnson (Johnston?) whom I believe to have met and courted Hannah in Hardin Co. (they moved to Hart & ~~WILLIAMSON~~ Edmonson Co.---on the co. line, where Mammoth Cave is) and when she moved 1818 to Edmonson/Hart Co. area, Ephraim followed her and they were married. She moved 1818, of course, with her parents Charles and Martha (Sale) and their other younger children. I cannot find Ephraim and Hannah (Houchin) Johnson in 1820 census as yet.

Will keep you informed of other developments. There was proven relationship between cert. in Bullitt & Nelson Co. Johnson-Johnston families and those in Hardin Co., so I am working on that angle as well.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Rood Buell

cc. Dr. Q. Gerald McMurtry  
 Lincoln National Life Foundation  
 Fort Wayne, Indiana

Adin Baber  
Kansas, Illinois 61933

August 6, 1969

File under  
Descendants of  
Sarah Bush  
Johnston

Res. Tel.  
Area Code  
217  
948-3723

Dear Gerald:

Yes, the old lady Hall was a keen one; I must tell you this story.

My late brother-in-law, the late Dr. Dudley, about 25 years older than me, and who was a surgeon in World War I, was the physician of Nancy Hall. She fell and broke a thigh so he had her fetched to the Charleston hospital.

I said to him, "Gerry, are you going to put a pin in her hip?" To my astonishment he said "No, she is not going to live very long and she is having the best time of her life in the hospital. She is quite a character and all the nurses love her--go in to sit and visit with her. She does not know that she has a broken hip and I shall not tell her. She has the best food she has ever had and the syndromes indicate she is not in here for long."

Only to you and to Lloyd Ostendorf would I tell this but it is still a part of the Lincoln story.

She died presently and Dr. Gerry Dudley presented no bill.

Now I add more: her son was not an illegitimate as most persons think. She was properly married to her, as I recall, three husbands, and he was her first born. I think this is in Coleman's book but do not recall nor can I see to look it up. I forget what his name should be but it could not have been Hall.

Truly,  
*Adin*  
Adin

AB:m1

Mr. Gerald McMurtry  
The Lincoln Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

# MAN BROTHERED BY LINCOLN FORGOTTEN

Old Letter in Lamson Collection  
Recalls the Emancipator's  
Boyhood Companion.

## SECOND MRS. LINCOLN'S SON

Ignored by Most of Lincoln's Biographers,  
Johnson Was a Shiftless, Thriftless Idler.

Two words in parenthesis following the salutation in the printed copy of a letter of Abraham Lincoln caused much comment to be centered yesterday upon a character who played a large part in Lincoln's boyhood, and yet has been so obscured by the events of Lincoln's later life that he is almost overlooked in most of the Lincoln biographies.

The words were "his brother," printed after the salutation "Dear Johnson" at the head of a letter forming part of the Lamson collection of Lincoln documents, arranged for exhibition on Wednesday in the showrooms of George D. Smith at 48 Wall Street.

"Well, whoever knew that Lincoln had a brother?" was the first question asked by many who considered themselves to be fairly familiar with the Emancipator's life, as they glanced over the Johnson letter.

Some maintained that the words "his brother" in parenthesis were obviously a mistake, since Lincoln's mother only had three children—himself, another boy, who died in infancy, and his sister, Nancy, who died while he was still a young man—and Lincoln's stepmother had no children after her marriage, as a widow, to his father.

There was a turning toward bookshelves, where it was found that many biographies of Lincoln made no mention whatever of the person to whom he wrote as "Dear Johnson" and gave sound advice on thrift. The pertinacious, however, learned that Johnson was a son of Mrs. Lincoln by her first husband. His name was John D. Johnson.

### Johnson His Boyhood Companion.

Johnson was the boy most in Lincoln's company while the latter was a youth. They were reared by the same woman, played with the same friends, joined in the same tasks, and slept under the same frontier roof. Johnson was with Lincoln when Lincoln met for the first time a group of chained slaves and formed his first hatred for slavery. He was with Lincoln on board a flatboat when it was wrecked on a mill dam in the Sangamon River, and Lincoln drew from the experience the inspiration to devise an invention for helping flatboats over dams, the original drawings of which are still shown with pride to visitors at the Department of the Interior in Washington.

Johnson continued to be Lincoln's closest friend and associate until Lincoln left his father's home to go into business for himself and carve his own career, unassisted by his rather shiftless relatives, to the great end that awaited him. Johnson was with Lincoln's father when he died, in 1834, and in a letter sent to Johnson just before that bereavement Lincoln's most positive statement was made of his

is that he serves as a splendid example of the manner in which Lincoln broke away from the environment in which he was born and reared to engage upon the tasks which filled his maturer years.

The shiftless, thriftless Johnson, begging for money instead of working for it, and idling his time away, is the typical product, reproduced in countless numbers, of the group of shanty and cabin dwellers who were Lincoln's early associates and from whom he broke away to take up elocution riding, after doing a final act of filial devotion by splitting rails enough to fence in his father's twelve-acre field.

The period in which Johnson entered Lincoln's life was that of the three-faced cabin in Indiana, to which Lincoln's father had moved from Kentucky. Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's mother, had died a year before Johnson arrived, as one of the three children of Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln, born while she was the wife of the jailer at Elizabethtown, Ky. Johnson's mother—he was known in the new household as Johnny Johnson—brought with her enough household effects to fill a big freight wagon, and she specially insisted that Mr. Lincoln build a fourth side to the unfinished cabin and put in the lacking windows and doors.

### Johnson Was the Shirker.

When Lincoln's father again took up the immigrant train it was to pass over the Indiana line into Illinois, and here Abraham and Johnson commenced together the task of building up a cabin on the banks of the Sangamon. But in that work John Hanks, a son of the carpenter with whom Lincoln's father studied carpentry for a time, took the lead. Abraham helped him, but there is no record that Johnson did anything at all. When it came to the plowing of the fifteen acres that were to comprise the Lincoln farm, Abraham was again making a record different from that of his playmate. He plowed the land and then split the rails to fence it, and whenever John Hanks told the story, as he grew very fond of doing after he carried two of the rails into a State Convention and created a stampede in Lincoln's favor, he left Johnson out of the narrative.

Lincoln's habit of caring for his poorer relatives showed itself in his first adventure on his own account. He was hired by Denton Offutt to take a flatboat loaded with merchandise down to New Orleans, and he promptly worked Johnson in as one of the crew, the compensation amounting to the then big pay of 50 cents each a day, with a twenty-dollar dividend contingent upon the safe delivery of the goods. Lincoln and Johnson on this trip first saw slaves in a slave market, and Lincoln received an impression that never left him. It was an incident to which he often referred in stating the origin of his earnest convictions upon the subject.

Lincoln, when his father was dying at the final family homestead, at Goose Nest Prairie, wrote to Johnson: "Tell him to remember to call upon and confide in our great and good and merciful Maker, Who will not turn away from him in any extremity."

Lincoln was always known for his hatred of those who were cruel to animals. The incident which first brought this side of his nature to the surface was one in which Johnson figured. They were studying together at a school, and while at play Johnson picked up a terrapin turtle and hurled it against a tree with force enough to break its shell. The trick was one common among the boys in the neighborhood. Lincoln mounted a stump at once and delivered himself of an oration to his playfellows, lamenting the practice and protesting against it.

After Lincoln and Johnson both were dead Johnson's mother said of them: "I had a son, John, who was raised with Abe. Both were good boys, but I must say, both now being dead, that Abe was the best boy I ever saw or expect to see."

The last time Johnson figured in Lincoln's life was when Lincoln was pleading with him to save the family home instead of letting it be sold for debt, the need to save it being as a protection to Johnson's mother, whose interests the stepson defended against her own offspring.

"Squirming and crawling about from place to place can do you no good," Lincoln wrote from Shelbyville in 1831. "Part with the land you have, and my life upon it, you will never after own a spot big enough to bury you on. Go to work; it is the only cure for your case. I feel it is so on your own account, and more particularly on mother's account."

Bush. American J  
daughter of William and Sally Matthews Bush } Ryan Day desc  
In June 26 1823

Bush Cemetery, Hardin County

Christopher Bush  
Bush  
22, 1811

Deceased this life April 1, 1842

William Bush  
was born in New Jersey, July 1, 1763  
Emigrated to Kentucky 1780  
Deceased this life Dec 18, 1840

Interials on Bush Home Hardin County

W. B.  
E. G.  
1817

587. Bush—Lewis, lived in the valley of the south branch of the Potomac river, Virginia, during the revolution. He had several children, but three of them came to Ohio. Michael, born 1750, died 1820, married Magdaline —, both buried near Auston Station, Ross county, Ohio. Sarah married Adam Mallow Leonard. Both Michael and Leonard served in the revolution. Michael had four children, John, Eve married Abraham Stookey, Michael Jr. married Susannah Powers, Elizabeth married Abraham Powers, brother of Susannan. They, Michael and his sister Elizabeth Powers, came to Indiana about one hundred years ago. Their descendants have not kept in touch with the Ohio branch of the family. Wanted connection with Indiana descendants. C. G. M.

Lieut. Col. H. H. Wallace and Emory Gibbs, both of Mattoon, were Wednesday guests. Mr. Gibbs brought out a photo of his grandfather, Henry Le Bridwell of Mattoon, who was a brother of Eliza Bridwell, who married Christopher Bush, the parents of Sarah Bush, who was the step-mother of President Lincoln.

| BUSH  |   |                                     |  | INDIANA  |             |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------|
| William   | 1 (20-30)   |                                     |  | Census 1830  | Decatur     |
| Milo  | Essington, Ruth<br>Whittaker, Ruth Ann<br>w/ Sarah, chit. Sarah, Augustus Kelly,<br>Eryn, Alma. - Veterans Elisha |                                     |  | Mar June 23, 1827<br>Mar Feb 11, 1835<br>David Miner Jas.                              | Hamilton    |
| Jeremiah & Michael<br>Abraham & Charles<br>Samuel<br>Jared<br>William S.<br>Elizabeth | Patton David<br>Tullis Mary 3<br>Campbell Christian<br>Blackledge Charlotte<br>Kilgus Jane<br>Tolle John's J.     |                                     |  | July 14 1829<br>Sept 10 1829<br>May 12 1832<br>May 23 1832<br>Nov 4 1834<br>Dec 9 1836 | Jefferson   |
| Japhet (de)   | Sarah William<br>" Warren   | Sam Carolus Putman<br>" Sells, Jous |  | June 9 1829  |             |
| William<br>John   | (60-70)<br>(20-30)  |                                     |  | Census 1830<br>" "   | Warren<br>" |
| Richard<br>Richard  | Ruby, Rachel<br>Bush Mary   |                                     |  | Dec 12 1839<br>Dec 12 1837   | Warren      |

Vital Statistics - Subject

Hander could

copy Petition

61 yrs

den July 3, 1857. Wm. Slynor Bush Hader  
due of Asher

---

Bush, Matthias - Sturkey Gazette July 9, 1791  
" a journeyman tanner will meet with good  
encouragement by application to Matthias Bush  
Harrods Burg July 8 1791.

---

Friday Morning Char May 25<sup>th</sup> 1849

Dear Brother

I hast to inform you  
that father is yet a Live & that  
is all & he Craves to see you all the  
time & he wants you to Come if  
you are able to get here, for  
you are his only Child that  
is of his own flesh & blood  
& it is nothing more than nature  
for him to Crave to see you, he  
says he has all most Despaired  
of seeing you, & he wants you  
to prepare to meet him <sup>in</sup> the un-  
known world, or in heaven, for he  
thinks that over savour savour  
has a Crown of glory, prepared  
for him I write this with a  
bursting heart, I came to town  
for the doctor, & I won you to  
make an effort Come, if you  
are able to get here, & he wants  
me to tell your wife that he Loves  
her & wants <sup>her</sup> to prepare to meet  
him at over savours feet, we are  
all well, your Brother in Christ  
I, S, Johnston

Christopher Bush Janes  
William Samuel Isaac  
Elizabeth Christopher John  
Hannah Rachel & Sally

Our heirs women 25<sup>00</sup>

Value of Estate \$ 221.<sup>00</sup>

Essex cjt wife 252.<sup>29</sup>

Christopher Bush made mark

Feb 1812 will made

March 8, 1813 Estate appraised.

Christopher Bush Jr

nine boys and 3 girls

In Confederate army four years

Always lived in Elizabethton

except from 1866 to 1874 he

lived at Hodgenville

---

Yasun Wilson



*Its name indicates its character*

# THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

MORTGAGE LOAN DEPARTMENT

AUSTIN STULTS

ASSISTANT MANAGER

A school teacher by the name of [unclear] in  
Osborne was present at the [unclear] of [unclear]  
more where [unclear]'s step mother was away  
in 1961 when he visited his [unclear] [unclear]  
to know all the people by first name





