

Nancy Hanks Lincoln

On September 30, 2015 Bill Hawley related to me, a story he has been hearing since a child. It concerns Moses H. Rhyne who had a store in the Mount Holly area. During the time he owned the store, a woman named Nancy Hanks worked for him. While there, she became pregnant by a brother of Moses H. Rhyne's second wife, Mary Caroline Springs. After she became pregnant, she left the store and North Carolina for Kentucky where she gave birth to Abraham Lincoln who became President of the United States.

Let us examine the possibility of that being true. Moses H. Rhyne lived from 1812 to 1888 when he died at the age of 75. Mary Caroline Springs was considerably younger than Moses, living from 1846 to 1906. Mary Caroline Springs was the daughter of Elias A. Springs (1815-1875) and Sarah Shuford Rhyne (1825-1878). Mary Caroline had 4 brothers all younger than her: James Columbus b. 1848, Charles A. b. 1854, Henry A. b. 1858 and Thomas W. b. 1865.

Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809 and died in 1865. His mother, Mary Hanks Lincoln was born in 1784 and died in 1818.

Therefore, Abraham Lincoln was born (1809) before the oldest of the brothers of Mary Caroline Springs (James in 1848) so could not have had one of her brothers for a father. In addition, Mary Hanks Lincoln died in 1818 when Moses H. Rhyne was only 6. Consequently, this Mary Hanks could not have worked in his store.

Bob Koehler - 2015