

## Bio of Mary Lorretta "Merita" Mudd

**Born:** Aug. 6, 1819  
Grayson County, Kentucky, USA

**Died:** Dec. 14, 1895  
Bertrand, Phelps County, Nebraska, USA

Mary Lorretta Mudd was President Abraham Lincoln's first cousin, once removed.

She used the nickname "Merita" later in life, also spelled Marita in historical accounts, which likely was from a merging of her first and middle names.

Mary's mother, Elizabeth Ann (nee Lincoln) Mudd, was the president's first cousin and they shared a grandfather, Capt. Abraham Lincoln (born in 1744). Mary's grandfather/Elizabeth's father was Mordecai Lincoln (born in 1771), who President Lincoln said was his "favorite uncle."

Mary's father was Benjamin Edelen Mudd (born in 1790).

Mary married Asahel Johnson (born in 1813) on Nov. 20, 1838, in Fountain Green, Hancock County, Illinois.

Asahel was a successful farmer and later became a county judge.

He and Mary had 11 children between 1840 and 1864. According to census, birth and other records, their names were Virginia "Jennie," Thomas Walter, Jerusha, Zerelda E., Hannah E., John Benjamin "Benjamin," Robert, Asahel, Olivia Ann, May and Mattie. (A Hattie and a Mina also are listed in their household in the 1880 census, which may be grandchildren or wives of grown sons.)

Asahel and Mary's family lived more than 40 years in the Terre Haute community in Henderson County, Illinois, which is just east of the Mississippi River, across from southern Iowa. They lived there through the Civil War and through Lincoln's presidential term, until 1881.

They then moved to Pottswattamie County, Iowa – near Council Bluffs and the Nebraska border – and resided there for eight years, until 1889.

In 1889, they moved to Bertrand, Phelps County, in south-central Nebraska, where both Mary and Asahel lived until their deaths. In his obit, they called him "a highly respected and influential citizen."

Both apparently were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

All 11 of their children grew to adulthood, but three of them – Virginia Johnson Woodruff 1839-1869, Robert Johnson 1851-1873, and Zerelda Johnson 1843-1893 preceded both parents in death. Zerelda died a few days before her father.



Asahel died in February 1893, two years before wife Mary. She died at age 76.

Both Mary and Asahel are buried in La Harpe Cemetery in La Harpe, Hancock County, Illinois. The three children who died before their parents also are buried there.

Bio by FindFamilyTrees.com