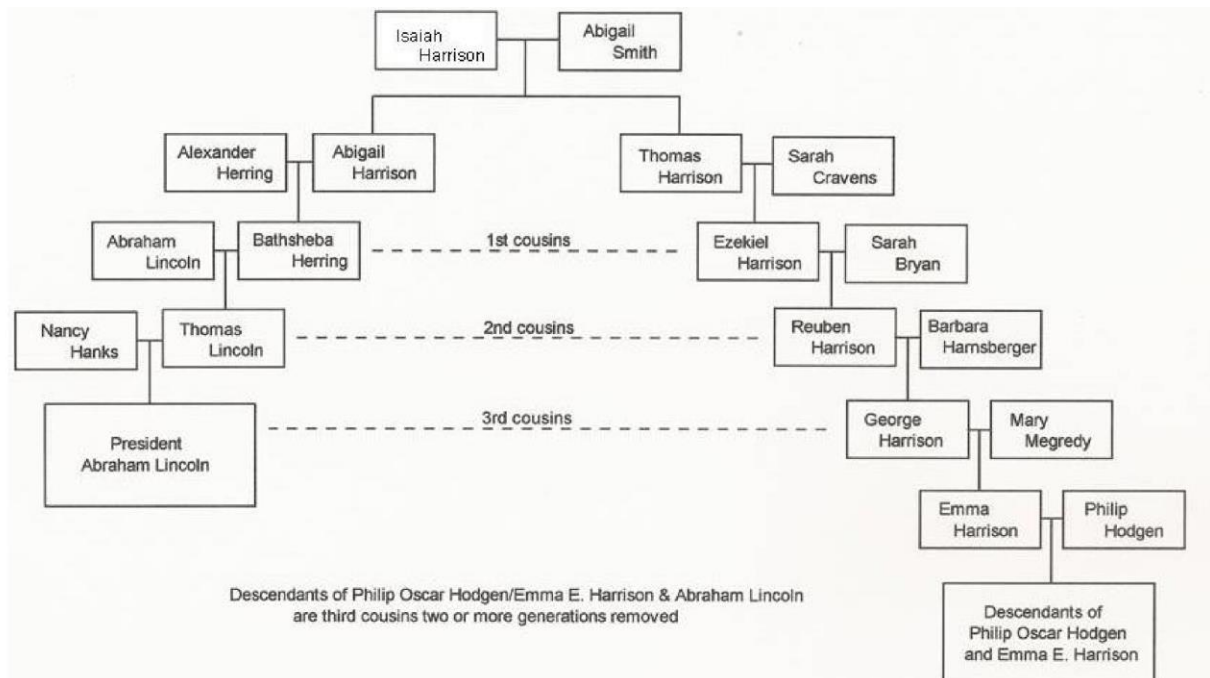


Abraham Lincoln Connections to Hodgens, Harrisons & Millers

A brief History of the Lincoln Genealogy & how the Thomas Lincoln family came to be near Hodgen's Mill in 1809

The immigrant ancestor in the direct Lincoln line was Samuel Lincoln, who immigrated to Massachusetts from Norfolk County, England in the 1600s. He had a son Mordecai, who in turn had four children; the oldest was also named Mordecai. This son married Hannah Salter and the family moved first to New Jersey and then later to Pennsylvania. Hannah and Mordecai's oldest son John was born in 1716 in New Jersey. Virginia John, as he is known by Lincoln historians, married Rebecca Flowers and the family moved to Rockingham County, Virginia, in the vicinity of Linville Creek, purchasing 600 acres of land. In 1773, Virginia John deeded 210 acres to his eldest son, Abraham Lincoln, grandfather and namesake of Abraham Lincoln, the President.

It was in Rockingham County that Abraham Lincoln (often referred to as Captain Lincoln) married Bathsheba Herring and it was also there that their children, including their youngest, Thomas Lincoln, were born. Bathsheba Herring was the daughter of Alexander Herring and Abigail Harrison. Abigail Harrison's brother was Thomas Harrison, whom Harrisonburg, Virginia is named. He is also the 3rd great grandfather of Emma E. Harrison, who married Philip Oscar Hodgen. Since Thomas Harrison and Abigail Harrison share the same father, Isaiah Harrison, descendants of the Philip Oscar Hodgen and President Abraham Lincoln are third cousins, some number of generations removed.



Captain Abraham Lincoln purchased 238 acres of land on Mill Creek in Hardin County, Kentucky, but it appears that he never lived on the land, or lived on it for just a short period. In 1806, shortly before marrying Nancy Hanks, Thomas Lincoln moved near Elizabethtown and there remained until moving to

the Sinking Spring farm (also known as Rock Spring or Cave Spring as mentioned in Austin Gallagher's book "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln") with Nancy Hanks just two months before their son Abraham Lincoln was born. It is unclear why Thomas Lincoln chose to live on the Sinking Spring farm, which was of relatively poor quality land, when he owned land of higher quality elsewhere. The Sinking Spring farm was just a couple of miles south from Robert Hodgen's Plantation, upon which the town of Hodgenville was built.

The Hodgens of Hodgenville, Kentucky

Robert Hodgen's pre-Kentucky life is a bit unclear. Whether he was a ship's captain¹ or just a pioneer, at some point he moved from Pennsylvania to Long Marsh in Frederick County, Virginia. It was in Pennsylvania that Robert Hodgen married first Susannah Adkins with whom he had four children, and in Virginia that he married second Sarah Larue, the daughter of Isaac Larue, Sr. and Phebe Carman, with whom he had had twelve children.

Children of Robert Hodgen and Susannah Adkins:

Robert Hodgen, born 1765, married ?

Susannah Hodgen, born 1767, married John Thomas

Joseph Hodgen, born 1770, unmarried

William Hodgen, born 1772, married Mary Magdalene "Leany" Smith

Children of Robert Hodgen and Sarah Larue²:

Margaret Hodgen, born 1776, married Joseph Vertrees

Phebe Hodgen, born 1777, married Jacob Larue

Isaac Hodgen, born 1779, married Phebe Trabue

Sara Hodgen, born 1781, married William Larue

John H. Hodgen, born 1783, married Diedamia Larue

Rebecca Hodgen³, born 1784, married Jacob Keith & later John Thomas

Elizabeth Hodgen, born 1787, married Horatio Wintersmith

¹ It is unlikely that Robert Hodgen was a sea captain as reported by several sources. Instead, after some research into the conflicting stories of Robert Hodgen's origins, Ragnhild "Randy" Bairnsfather in her book *Some Descendants of Robert Hodgen (1742-1810) of Virginia and Kentucky*, in 1991 believes that Robert Hodgen's father was John Hodgen, possibly a sea captain and his mother, Anna Stranaland of Dutch descent.

² Sarah Larue's sister (and distant Great Aunt of all descendants of Robert and Sarah Hodgen) was Mary Larue Brooks Enlow. As related in *Six Generations of LaRues and Allied Families*, Mary Enlow was most probably the mid-wife that helped Nancy Hanks Lincoln deliver Abraham.

³ Rebecca Hodgen Keith, daughter of Robert and Sarah Hodgen (and distant great aunt of all current living descendants of John H. and Diedamia Hodgen,) lived with her family less than a mile from the Lincoln cabin. As related in *Six Generations of LaRues and Allied Families*, Rebecca Keith along with her cousin Margaret Larue (Mary Enlow's daughter) was almost certainly present along with Mary Enlow to help with Abraham Lincoln's birth.

May "Polly" Hodgen, born 1788, unmarried

Samuel Larue Hodgen, born 1791, married Ann Elizabeth Montague

Jacob Hodgen, born 1793, married Frances P. Brown

James Hodgen. Born 1795, married Diedamia McDonald

Jabez Hodgen, born 1800, unmarried

In 1784, Robert Hodgen moved his family, probably by flatboat down the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers⁴ and into Kentucky, on the banks of the Nolynn River. They arrived with other pioneer families, the Larues, Keiths, Walters and others, many of who are connected with the Hodgen name, not only by association but also by marriage. Due to Indian hostilities, the pioneers spent their first year in and around Philips Fort, the first permanent settlement in what would become Larue County. The fort was located about one mile north of what would later become Hodgenville, Kentucky. By 1785 the pioneers ventured outside the fort to stay and build homesteads in the area.

Robert Hodgen set up his grist mill, tavern and Inn on land near Gum Springs on the Nolynn River. The mill quickly became the major waypoint for commerce and for travelers between Bardstown and Louisville. In fact, the young prince Louise Phillipe, future King of France from 1830 to 1845, spent the night at Hodgen's Inn on April 19, 1797 and wrote of the experience in his personal diaries.

By the time Thomas Lincoln moved his family to the Sinking Spring farm, the Hodgen plantation was the center of activity for the area. It is certainly conceivable that the Hodgens watched with a modicum of interest as Thomas Lincoln moved into the area.

Robert Hodgen was a man of importance. He was one of the first justices of the Hardin County Court and later served as Sheriff of Hardin County and as a member of the legislature. In Collins' History of Kentucky, speaking of Robert Hodgen and his brother-in-law John Larue:

"They were both noted for uprightness and sterling moral worth, both members of the Baptist Church, and beloved for their unobtrusive and devoted piety."

Robert Hodgen died in February, 1810, one year after the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

Sarah Larue Hodgen and her connection with the boy Lincoln

Following Robert Hodgen's death, his widow, Sarah Larue Hodgen continued to live on the plantation while her sons Isaac and John operated the mill. There is little doubt that Sarah Hodgen (known by the boy Lincoln as "Missus Sarah") was instrumental to the early childhood education of the future President. In fact, according to Austin Gollaher in the book *The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln*:

From his mother and from Mrs. Hodgen Abraham learned his A B C's. Indeed, these two women created in him the first thirst for knowledge – that thirst which grew as a boy,

⁴ It was at the confluence of the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers that Ezekiel Harrison, son of Thomas Harrison and distant great grandfather of the descendants of Philip Oscar Hodgen and Emma E. Harrison, and first cousin of Bathsheba Herring (President Lincoln's grandmother), fought and was wounded in the Battle of Point Pleasant, recognized by Congress as the first battle of the American Revolution, October 10, 1774.

until it became his first concern, his one great passion. With pencils of soapstone, upon smooth boards scorched black over a backlog fire, Mrs. Hodgen spelled and figured and explained, never losing patience in her effort to teach the boy – and give him the fundamental three R's.

On February 18, 1818, about one year after the Lincolns moved to Indiana, Sarah Hodgen and her sons Isaac and John filed a petition in the Hardin County Court for the establishment of a town “on the lands of Robert Hodgen, agreeable to a plan submitted, to be called and known by the name of Hodgenville.” Two days later, on February 8, 1818, the county court made the Order for the establishment of the town.

John Hodgen (Mr. John) and his connection to the boy Lincoln

John Hodgen was born in Virginia on April 27, 1783, the son of Robert Hodgen and Sarah Larue. After his father died in 1810, John Hodgen owned and operated the family's grist mill and often interacted with Thomas Lincoln and his young son Abraham (“Abe”). In fact, according to Austin Gollaher, John Hodgen was Abe Lincoln's hero:

“Every boy has a hero. John Hodgen, the miller, was young Abe's The miller was big, and gentle, kind and courageous.” (page 77 of *The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln*)

To the boy Lincoln, John Hodgen, , was the biggest man in the World, and when boys teased him and told him that was trying to be like ‘Mr. John,’ he said: ‘Well, if all of you would try to be like Mr. John there wouldn't be any need for your parents to watch you to try to keep you from doing wrong.’” (page 79 of *The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln*)

John Hodgen was baptized into the Fellowship of the Severns Valley Baptist Church in 1802, the same year that he married Diedamia Larue. He helped organize the Nolynn Baptist Church in 1803, and a few years later he was licensed to preach. He soon, however, became a controversial figure. In 1820, he was invited to preach once a month at the South Fork Church and became a member there. When it was time for him to be ordained, he was denied ordination by the Nolynn Church on account of his “Arminian sentiments.” Nevertheless, he did become the pastor of the South Fork Church, which caused dissention between the two neighboring churches, and this dissention continued until 1828 when John Hodgen was replaced.

John Hodgen moved to Sangamon County, Illinois and joined the Campbellite Order (Disciples of the Christ Christian Church.) He remained there for seven of eight years before removing to Iowa, where he died.

John and Diedamia Hodgen had a large family:

Robert Hodgen, born March 12, 1804

Polly Hodgen, born October 14, 1805

Parmelia Hodgen, born December 10, 1806

Adkin Hodgen, born November 15, 1808

Elizabeth Hodgen, born April 1, 1811

Isaac Horatio Hodgen, born April 25, 1813

John J. Hodgen, born March 25, 1815

Jacob Samuel Hodgen, born June 10, 1817

Jabez Washington Hodgen, born April 1, 1819

Sarah Adeline Hodgen, born October 17, 1821

William Anderson Hodgen, born August 2, 1824

Amanda Adelia Hodgen, born January 25, 1927

Jacob Samuel Hodgen, Philip Oscar Hodgen and the Elizabeth Combs Connection to Abraham Lincoln

Jacob Samuel Hodgen (one of the sons of John Hodgen and Diedamia Larue) married Elizabeth Combs in February, 1840 and are the parents of many including Philip Oscar Hodgen. Philip Oscar Hodgen was born on November 19, 1846 near Burlington, Iowa. As a young man, barely seventeen, he enlisted in the Union Army on February 24, 1864 and served in Company F of the 114 Regiment of the Illinois Infantry. He was captured at the Battle of Guntown, Mississippi on June 10, 1864 and taken to Andersonville prison. On September 22, 1864, he escaped from Andersonville, and eventually found his way back to Company F, but not before developing scurvy from his ordeal in prison. He was honorably discharged from the army on August 26, 1865.

In an 1890 biography of Mary D. Hodgen Frederick, sister of Philip Oscar Hodgen:

"In the family of Jacob and Elizabeth Hodgen were twelve children, of whom seven, four sons and three daughters, are yet living. One of the sons, P.O. Hodgen, entered the service of his country during the late war as a member of an Illinois regiment, and being captured was confined in the loathsome Andersonville Prison. His discharge was secured by his mother, who made a personal appeal to President Lincoln with whom she was intimately acquainted. Her petition was signed by the President on the day of his assassination."

The timeline of events makes it clear that Elizabeth Combs Hodgen had no idea that Philip Oscar Hodgen had escaped from Andersonville Prison and had probably already found his way back to his company by April 14, 1865, the date of Lincoln's assassination.

Philip and Emma Hodgen & the Defoe Connection to Abraham Lincoln

On March 28, 1872 Philip Oscar Hodgen married Emma Elizabeth Harrison, born April 27, 1849, the daughter of George M. Harrison and Mary Ann Megredy. Together Philip and Emma would have nine children:

William O. Hodgen, born 1873, died June 1, 1912, unmarried

Clara M. Hodgen, born September 27, 1874, married Sidney Barnes

Cora Elizabeth Hodgen, born March 9, 1877, married Henry Hanson

Philip Arthur Hodgen, born August 8, 1879, married Susan Mae Morrison
Mary Mable Hodgen, born 1881, died 1882
Clifford Claud Hodgen, born September 17, 1882
Frederick Hodgen, born October 24, 1884, married Myrtle ?
Ella Florence Hodgen, born February 21, 1888, married Thomas Curtis Miller
Eva Louisa "Lulu" Hodgen, born January 28, 1891 died 1905

The marriage of Emma Harrison and Philip Oscar Hodgen creates another "Abraham Lincoln Connection." Emma Harrison's mother's maiden name was Mary Megredy. This line connects to Daniel Defoe, recognized as one of the great English authors. In fact, Mary Megredy's great great grandmother was Elizabeth Maxwell, niece of Daniel Defoe (which makes descendants of Philip and Emma distant grandnieces and grandnephews of the author.)

In 1705, when Elizabeth Maxwell was five years old, Daniel Defoe, who had recently been released from prison for writing against the Crown, came to live with his recently widowed sister Elizabeth Foe Maxwell) and niece (Elizabeth Maxwell.) Defoe became attached to his niece and took it as his job to educate her. In 1718, Elizabeth Maxwell contracted for marriage to a suitor her mother did not approve and caused that contract to be broken. Elizabeth was upset and embarrassed, and that same year, without word to her mother or uncle, sold herself as an indentured servant for passage to America. It appears that she did not write home until years after arriving in America. Daniel Defoe was devastated by his niece's disappearance, not knowing what dangers she may have encountered during her voyage or whether she even completed the voyage. So just one year after Elizabeth Maxwell left for America, Daniel Defoe wrote The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe. Austin Gollaher makes clear in The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln that Abraham Lincoln's favorite childhood book was Robinson Crusoe, and that Lincoln looked at John Hodgen as Crusoe himself.

The George M. Harrison Connection to Lincoln

George M. Harrison, husband of Mary Megredy (mentioned above,) father of Emma Harrison (wife of Philip Oscar Hodgen, mentioned above) and Great Grandson of Isaiah Harrison, was a third cousin of Abraham Lincoln (see chart page 1 above.) George Harrison brings perhaps the most personal connection to Abraham Lincoln.

As a young man, George M. Harrison served briefly in the Black Hawk War, in Jacob Early's company, and alongside Abraham Lincoln.^{5,6} It is clear they knew each other well.^{7,8,9} and in an eloquent letter to Lincoln in 1860 Harrison wrote -

*"But I think you will know that what I say, I feel -- For the attachment [the friendship between Harrison and Lincoln] commenced in the Black Hawk campaign, while messed together, with Johnson, Fancher, & Wyatt, -- when we ground our coffee in the same tin cup with the hatchet handle, -- baked our bread on our ramrods around the same fire, -- ate our fried meat off the same piece of elm bark, -- slept in the same tent every night, -- traveled together by day and by night in search of the savage foe, -- and together scoured the tall grass on the battle ground of the skirmish near Gratiot's Grove in search of the slain, -- with very many incidents too tedious to name, -- and consummated on our afoot and canal journey home, must render us incapable of deception --"*¹⁰

Besides being a physician and a respected farmer, George M. Harrison was a patriot to the end. In the same letter congratulating Lincoln in 1860, Harrison wrote:

"I am also glad to know, although we must act in vastly different spheres, that we are enlisted for the promotion of the same great cause: the cause which, next to that of revealed religion, (which is humility & love,) is most dear: the cause of Liberty, as set forth by true republicanism not rank Abolitionism -- Then let us go on in the discharge of duty, trusting, for aid, to the Great Universal Ruler."

Elinor Hodgen, Thomas Curtis Miller & the Miller Connection to Abraham Lincoln

Ella Florence "Elinor" Hodgen, the eighth child of nine born to Philip Oscar Hodgen, married Thomas Curtis Miller August 11, 1915. This union created yet another connection to Abraham Lincoln for the descendants of Elinor and Tommy Miller. Thomas Curtis Miller was the great grandson of Jacob Miller, who lived in Sangamon County, Illinois and who knew Lincoln. In the 1890 History of Sangamon County, the following statements about Jacob Miller appear in the William Gibson Miller biography:

Jacob Miller was born in Kentucky [actually he was born in Virginia], married in that State, and came to Illinois in 1824, locating in what is now Chatham Township. At the outbreak of the Black Hawk War, he enlisted to defend the homes of white settlers against the ravages of the Indians and did valiant service. After the war he returned to

⁵ It is likely through serving with Jacob Early in the Black Hawk Campaign that young George developed an interest in Medicine, later studying under Early during his training to be a physician.

⁶ Muster Roll of Captain Jacob M. Early's Company of Mounted Volunteers. [1832-07-10].
<https://papersofabrahamlincoln.org/documents/D254535c>. The Papers of Abraham Lincoln Digital Library.

⁷ <http://lincoln-live.lib.niu.edu/islandora/object/niu-lincoln%3A35056>

⁸ <http://lincoln-live.lib.niu.edu/islandora/object/niu-lincoln%3A35796>

⁹ <http://lincoln-live.lib.niu.edu/islandora/object/niu-lincoln%3A34615>

¹⁰ <https://www.loc.gov/item/mal0295400/> . This letter was acknowledged on behalf of Lincoln by John C. Nicolay in June.
<https://www.loc.gov/item/mal0304800/>

his home, where he resumed farming and stockraising and became one of the leading men of his community. Jacob Miller had left his native State on account of slavery, and there is little doubt that he would have enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil War had not his age prevented. He always taught his sons to abhor even the thought of slavery, and instilled in them the love of country that they always evidenced in their after lives. Mr. Miller was a stanch Whig in early days, and later became a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, in whose office he became acquainted with the Great Martyr. Mr. Miller passed to his final rest July 27, 1862, his wife following him to the grave on November 2, 1877, both dying in the faith of the Hard Shell Baptist Church.

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