

THE MATRIX

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The matrix by Maria Thompson Daviess

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MARIA THOMPSON DAVIESS

THE MATRIX



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BY

MARIA THOMPSON DAVIESS

Author of "BLUE-GRASS AND BROADWAY," "THE
GOLDEN BIRD," "THE MENDING
of MOLLY," etc.



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FOREWORD

In this period of the History of the United States of America, when men and women have again been called upon to sacrifice and die to preserve and extend the liberty upon which their great Democracy is founded, it behooves us to examine and pass judgment upon all of its foundation stones. The author claims that the Romance of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, the father and mother of Abraham Lincoln, is one of those foundation stones. It has been chipped at and marred and banked over by the dust of time since those pioneer days in which it was enacted, of which so little of fact, but so much of tradition remains. The author has dug deep into all legends and collected as much as possible of documentary evidence, and now presents the reconstructed romance

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as a work of fiction for which she hopes she has been granted a measure of inspiration. Her hope of such inspiration is based on the fact that she was born and reared in the same little Bluegrass valley which was the cradle of the great romance, and many of the traditions which she has used in her building are her inheritance. The principal source of her courage to make such an attempt, and material for the work, came from the research into the lives of these humble parents of the great Lincoln, conducted over a period of many years by her aunt, Hannah Daviess Pittman, genealogist of distinction, whose conclusions agree with those of Caroline Hanks Hitchcock, set forth in a small volume on the subject. If this story of the love of brave Nancy Hanks, who had herself been held captive by the Indians, for the simple rough abolitionist, Thomas Lincoln, in whom she must have both planted and fanned the flame of the desire for human liberty and equality, makes the reader feel

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that the primitive greatness of heart and soul of these two pioneers was destined to assure the production of Abraham Lincoln, and gains for them due credit for that greatness, the author will rest content.

Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States, and author of the Emancipation Proclamation, said of his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln: "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother, blessings on her memory."

