

**STEPHEN LINCOLN OF
OAKHAM, MASSACHUSETTS;
HIS ANCESTRY AND
DESCENDANTS**

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Stephen Lincoln of Oakham, Massachusetts; His Ancestry and Descendants by John E. Morris

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JOHN E. MORRIS

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THE STEPHEN LINCOLN HOMESTEAD, OAKHAM, MASS.

STEPHEN LINCOLN

OF

OAKHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

HIS ANCESTRY AND DESCENDANTS

Compiled by John E. Morris

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PREFACE.

The name of Lincoln, variously spelled, was a common one in Hingham, Norfolk County, England, for many years before the settlement of America, and it is quite probable that the settlers of that name in Hingham, on the Massachusetts Bay, were from that town.

There were eight mature male persons bearing the name of Lincoln who were early found in Hingham, Mass. Daniel Lincoln, who died unmarried, April 3, 1640, and his brothers Samuel Lincoln, and Thomas Lincoln the weaver, Daniel Lincoln the sergeant, Stephen Lincoln and his brother Thomas Lincoln the husbandman, Thomas Lincoln the cooper, and Thomas Lincoln the miller. All of these, with the exception of the first mentioned Daniel, and Thomas the weaver, left families, and from these Hingham Lincolns have descended nearly all who now bear the name.

The object of this work, primarily, is to record conveniently the descendants of Stephen Lincoln of Oakham, Mass. [he being a descendant of Thomas Lincoln the miller], all being within easy lines of consanguinity, the most remote being cousins in the third degree. And, secondarily, as a matter of general interest, to record the ancestry of Stephen Lincoln, so far as the various lines can be followed; and it is a pleasing circumstance to note, that in tracing back four generations from Stephen, there are but *two* unknown family names, these being the wives of Richard Stacey and William Robinson. Of the generation immediately preceding these, many are English people who remained upon their native soil, and of whom it is difficult to learn.

No genealogy of the Lincoln *family* is designed, this effort being nothing more than a contribution to such a work should one ever be attempted. It has been made brief in its text, but

as full in its facts as circumstances have allowed, and it is hoped that it contains but few errors or blunders.

The compiler has made use of all material that has come in his way, taking freely from the text of published works, and desires to acknowledge his indebtedness to their authors. Public records have served to supply very much of the earlier history and the kindness of friends has made possible the later portions. To all of these the compiler tenders his acknowledgments.

The work is divided for convenience into two parts. The first contains the record of the *ancestry* of Stephen Lincoln, and the second relates to Stephen and his *descendants*. Owing to difficulty in arranging the two parts symmetrically by reason of their diverse character, two indexes have been prepared, that to part first referring to *pages*, while that to part second refers to *numbers*, all the names in this portion being consecutively numbered.

PART FIRST.

THE ANCESTRY OF STEPHEN LINCOLN.

FIRST GENERATION.

A star (*) prefixed to a name signifies that the person's number and family occur in the succeeding generation, the number being in the center of the line directly over the family record.

I.

Thomas Lincoln was born in England about 1603. He came to New England in 1633, and settled in Hingham on the Massachusetts Bay, and July 3, 1636, had a house-lot of five acres granted him on what is now South street, near Main. Other lots were also assigned him for planting purposes. Before 1650 he removed with his family to Taunton, and established a grist-mill upon a little stream now called Mill River, at a point now nearly in the heart of the city, near the street leading from the railway station to the City Square. Tradition says that in this mill King Philip and his chiefs met with the pioneers of the town for a peaceful conference. Mr. Lincoln was probably brought up to the miller's trade, and continued in this business during his residence in Taunton. He was commonly known as Thomas, "the miller," as a distinguishing title from the several other Thomas Lincolns of Hingham, who were also known by the titles of their avocations.

Not much of fact in the lives of the early settlers of this country can be learned after the lapse of nearly three centuries, but such items as have been preserved are worthy of record, though not of themselves possessing much importance. Among such items relating to Thomas Lincoln is one preserved in the quaint records of the Plymouth Colony, informing us of his service as a member of a jury, convened to inquire into the

facts of the death of a young man named Thomas Cooke, given in this wise:

"The Cooke aged about twenty yeares, late of Ipswidge, traouelling towards Equednett, accompanied with a youth about Twelue yeares of age, both of them lodging att the ordenary att Taunton the 2cond day of May, 1650. and vpon the 10th day of the said month the body of the aforesaid Tho Cooke was found dead in the riuier of Taunton about six miles from the towne. Whervpon a jury of twelue men was empannelled to inquire how and by what meanes hee came by yt vntimly death." "The eleuenth day of May the jury brought in their verdict, yt the youth by the aduise of the said Tho Cooke, did take a cannowe without the knowldge of the owner thereof, and making hast away lest hee should bee pursewed, did stand in the end of the canoowe to paddle it away, and did fall into the riuier and so by yt accident was drowned and came to his end."

Other quaint records of jury duty might be quoted, but one will suffice. June 4, 1650, Thomas Lincoln was appointed one of the "survayors of Hiewayes" for Taunton. The land records of Bristol County show many evidences of title to estates possessed by Thomas Lincoln, and he is reputed to have been the largest land owner in the Town of Taunton in his time. He was a man of substance. We learn of him in connection with a very interesting industry early established in that new country. Iron ore had early been discovered to be abundant in the flats bordering on Two Mile River and other localities in Taunton, and in October, 1652, steps were taken to establish the first iron works in the Old Colony in Taunton, and leading citizens of the town, interested in the enterprise, formed a stock company. Among "the names of those who hath put themselves to be proprietors in the Bloomerie," were Thomas Lincoln, Sen., Richard Williams, Richard Stacey, and George Watson, all ancestors of Stephen Lincoln of Oakham.

The building of a dam across Two Mile River, preparing the timber for the necessary buildings, obtaining from abroad the hammers and heavy machinery and tools required for the manufacture of bar-iron, occupied a long time before the works could be put in practical operation, but this was finally accomplished in 1656. In 1660 the works were leased to George Hall, Hezekiah Hoar, and Francis Smith, "to whom full liberty was given that they might take into this contract with themselves, whom they liked of." They took into the partnership, among others, Thomas Lincoln, Sen., and Jonah Austin, Sen.