

# Pannebakker Familie Views

A Newsletter for the Pannebakker Family Association

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## L I N C O L N - P E N N Y B A C K E R   H O U S E

In response to my plea for assistance in creating content for the Pannebakker newsletter, Rudy Evans, sent the following, much appreciated, information. "There was a recent article in either the Washington Post or the New York Times about Abraham Lincoln's ancestors in Rockingham County Virginia and how a local man conducts a memorial service each year at the Lincoln family cemetery. The last person to be buried there was a Kate Pennybacker."

Lincoln Hall  
(Lincoln-Pennybacker House)  
Route 1, Box 211  
Linville, Virginia 22834

This house stands on one of the most interesting sites in Rockingham County, part of a vast tract of 8,000 acres patented in 1739. In 1744 the O'Bryans (later Bryan) bought 600 acres and erected a cabin, probably near the spring. (Remains of the spring house are visible at the bottom of the lawn.)

In 1751 Daniel Boon's (sic) family left Reading, PA, where he was born, to go to North Carolina. They spent a winter on Linville Creek, and local tradition unanimously asserts that it was here, with the Bryans; uncontradicted tradition is usually reliable. Boone's wife Rebecca Bryan, was doubtless a relative of the people who lived her, although the relationship has not been traced.

The road past the house is an old Indian trail from the Shenandoah Valley to Ohio. The most distinguished traveler who ever passed by no doubt was George Washington, who came through on 30 September, 1784, en route from an inspection of land granted to him near Uniontown, PA. He noted that he passed "one Bryan's" evidence that he stopped long enough to learn the name of the owner.

Some time around 1800, ownership passed from the Bryans to the Lincolns. About 1767 John Lincoln, great-grandfather of the President, came to Linville Creek and bought land about a mile below (north of) this house. His grandson, the President's father, born on that land (1778), was taken to Kentucky at the age of three.

John Lincoln's son, Jacob Sr., about 1800 built the so-called Lincoln Homestead, which is not on the original Lincoln land, but immediately to the south of it, and the latter's son, Jacob Jr., built the brick part of Lincoln Hall about 1823. Jacob Jr. married a widow with two children; she bore him nine more. In 1840 she went insane and spent the last 26 years of her life in what is now Western State Hospital in Staunton. Jacob died under unexplained circumstances in Ohio in 1848; his body discovered when vultures were feeding on it in a field.

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## LINCOLN-PENNYBACKER

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Jacob dead and Nancy incompetent, Dr. Richard Maupin, who had married Mary Elizabeth Lincoln, Jacob's niece, was appointed guardian of the minor children. The Maupin bought out the children as they came of age and thus gained possession of the house and land. Dr. Maupin died in 1855, leaving a widow and three children, and in 1865 Elizabeth married John D. Pennybacker, by whom she had three more children.

In 1874 Elizabeth's mother died and the Lincoln Homestead was sold to settle the estate. From her share of the proceeds, Lizzie, as she was called, tore down half of the Jacob Lincoln house (which originally had four rooms strung out railroad style) and added the frame part and the porch to create the house as it stands today.

For some reason Lizzie did not want any doors cut between the parlor, the dining room, and the kitchen. Accordingly, only a serving shelf connected the kitchen and dining room, but a door was cut between the dining room and the parlor over her objections. Lizzie still had her way; she locked it and threw away the key! The door was never opened from 1874 to 1939, after the death of Lizzie's daughter, Kate Pennybacker. The only access to kitchen and dining room was via the porch, regardless of outside temperature, which in winter can fall below zero.

Mary Elizabeth Lincoln Maupin Pennybacker inherited a house full of Lincoln furniture, linens, glass, and china, which she passed on to her daughter Kate. Kate, born in this house in 1868, spent her life here, much of it alone, until her death in 1938. At the time the contents were dispersed and the property passed out of the hands of the Lincolns.

During Miss Kate's lifetime, Dr. John Wayland, a local historian, brought several interesting visitors to the house. Ida Tarbell, Hamlin Garland, and Carl Sandberg all came to the Valley to do research on the Lincolns, and very likely all three came to this house with Dr. Wayland. The most interesting, however, came on the train to Harrisonburg in 1903, rented a carriage, and drove out. He introduced himself as a member of the Lincoln family and was bidden to come in. After some minutes of conversation about the family, he was asked what relationship he was to Old Abe. ""He was my father. I am Robert Todd Lincoln."

The house itself has no particularly gripping architectural features, although the hand-wrought iron

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The Pennybaker DNA Project is proceeding. Several family members have joined since the last newsletter. If you are male and carry the Pennypacker surname, or a different spelling of the name, please consider joining. As an incentive to join, we are offering to help with the cost of the DNA testing by waiving dues for a period of time, depending on how many markers you have tested. If you are interested, please contact Bruce Pennypacker for further details. If you are without internet access, or are unsure how to set up the testing, I would be happy to assist you. All you have to do is contact me by email, phone or regular mail.

Each edition will feature stories about our family members. We'd love to hear about you! Let us know what you've been up to. Articles could be autobiographical or tell us about the kids, grandkids or maybe about that big trip or the book you just had published. Send your story, with pictures if you wish, to the editor.

## LINCOLN-PENNYBACKER

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hinges on the study door (the small room on the south side) are interesting. You will note that the door is hand-planed. The parlor has an imported black Italian marble mantel and the original wallpaper (a jackleg job of hanging if ever there was one), now faded and grown shabby with the years. In the basement the original 1823 beams are visible, and the original shingle roof is still in place beneath the tin one. The rear door of the hallway (leading to the brick portion of the porch) is patched where Miss Kate shot through it. About 1932 her brother George returned to Rockingham County after 40 years of wandering. He inquired whether any of the family still lived in the old house. "Yes, your sister's there." Word was sent out to the nearest telephone, at Wenger's Mill (Miss Kate was too poor to afford one), and someone trudged over to tell Miss Kate her brother wanted to come out for a visit. "Tell him to come."

For whatever reason, George did not arrive until 9:30 pm or so, and when he knocked, Kate, standing on the second floor with a shotgun, said, "Who's that?" "Your brother George." "Anybody who comes into my house comes in the daytime. You come back tomorrow." Reports are unclear about what happened next, but she shot through the door and hit him, wounding him slightly. So far as is known, he never came back to the house he was born in.

**Electronic Update**

Anyone interested in having the *Pannebakker News* sent directly to their e-mail, instead of being sent in the regular mail, should send a message stating their wish to use this option to: [throwcoach@gmail.com](mailto:throwcoach@gmail.com). Using the e-mail option will save our Association time and money, and get the newsletter to you faster. In the coming months, we hope to have our web site up and running, and at that time, the newsletter, and past editions of the newsletter, will be available on the web site.

**Dues Reminder**

Dues are due by April 30. If you haven't sent in your dues, please do so. Please make your check payable to PFA (\$10 for an individual, \$17 for a couple) for your annual membership. Dues year begins May 1 and ends April 30.

Send to:

Pannebakker Family Association, Inc.

N202 County Road B

Kewaunee, WI 54216-9520

The Family Association does maintain an extensive genealogical database, compiled over many years by several dedicated family researchers. Since the database includes living individuals, we will not "give away" the entire database, or publish it on the Internet. Your privacy is assured! However, we are willing to help those who have a specific question about their lineage. With each birth and death within the family, our database becomes more out-of-date. For the benefit of future generations, we ask that you send us notification of these events. Please send requests for information, or family updates to the editor of this newsletter.

Remember, when you turn 80, you no longer have to pay dues. So, if you've already turned 80 or are about to, please let us know so that we can make the proper adjustment in our records.

The Pannebakker Family  
Association

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The Pannebakker Family Association is an out-growth of the family reunion held at Pennypacker Mills, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on July 2-4, 1999. The reunion celebrated the 300th year wedding anniversary of Hendrick Pannebecker and Eve Umstat, in Germantown, Pennsylvania in the year 1699.

In the words of the Steering Committee of the reunion, "We hope that the 1999 Pfannebecker-Umstat Reunion will lead to the growth of a family association, which will provide a forum for conversation, collection and preservation of information, and a sense of lasting community among the heirs of this rich cultural heritage."

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