

LINCOLN FORBEARS ONCE LIVED HERE, HISTORIANS THINK

**Ancestor of Martyred President
Cited to Appear in Court in
Ground-Rent Case**

**TITLE IS TRACED BACK
TO WILLIAM PENN'S TIME**

Historians and biographers of the martyr President Abraham Lincoln are investigating the discovery that an Abraham Lincoln (also spelled Lincon) owned property in Philadelphia, which he probably occupied in or about the year 1744.

There is said to be good reason to believe that the earlier Abraham Lincoln was an ancestor of the Civil War President, directly or collaterally.

Two properties which the Abraham Lincoln of Philadelphia purchased from John and Hannah Fordham nearly 200 years ago are involved in ground extinguishment proceedings which will be heard in Common Pleas Court No. 3 on May 3.

The properties are located at 113 and 115 Church street, which is just above Market street, and got its name from Old Christ Church. Church street was first known as Jones' alley and also at one time as Pewter Platter alley.

The removal of the ancient ground rents is sought by William M. Coates and the Library Company of Philadelphia, in order to clear the title to 113 and 115 Church street.

Lincoln Cited to Court

Abraham Lincoln (or Lincon), his heirs, executors, administrators, assigns or legal representatives have been cited to appear in Court No. 3 to show cause why the ground rents should not be declared extinguished by payment or presumption of law, there having been no payment for the last twenty-one years.

There is no reason to believe that any of Lincoln's descendants will be in court to oppose the application, according to James C. Crumlish, counsel for the petitioners.

Mr. Crumlish said yesterday that he and his clients and others interested in old titles to Philadelphia real estate were much surprised and interested when they came upon the records showing that an Abraham Lincoln, his wife, Esther, and their son, Isaac, were related to early Philadelphia history.

No mention is made of those Lincolns in Watson's Annals or in Sharf and Westcott, two widely known authorities on the history of Philadelphia.

"Certainly the discovery at this late day invites discussion and conjecture," said Mr. Crumlish.

"In the papers I filed in court I used the two spellings, Lincoln as well as Lincon, because I found both were employed in the old records. In some places the spelling was Lincoln and in others Lincon."

Lincoln Will on File Here

The will of Abraham Lincoln, who purchased 113-115 Church street, is on file in the office of the Register of Wills. It was recorded in May, 1746. There is also on file in the same office the will of Mordecai Lincoln, of Amityville, Pa., who is admitted to have been an ancestor of President Lincoln, directly or in the collateral line.

Amityville, just above Pottstown, in those days was included in Philadelphia County. Historians agree that the ancestors of President Lincoln lived in Amityville and that Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the President, settled in Virginia about 1770; that he was killed by the Indians, and the youngest of his sons, Thomas, moved to Elizabethtown, Ky., where his son, later to become President, was born in 1809.

Besides owning 113-115 Church street, the Abraham Lincoln identified with Philadelphia had title to "nine acres on the road leading to Chester," in Springfield, Chester County, as shown by the records of the Records of Deeds here. He was variously described as a blacksmith and farmer.