

November 24, 1922

Miss Cora Curry,
Department of Commerce,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Miss Curry:

Some months ago your name was given me as an authority on the genealogy of the Berrys in Washington Co., Ky. It was impossible for me to arrange to see you at that moment, and since that time I have myself been over historically the Washington County field.

I did not find there anyone that had worked out clearly and with documentary evidence the Berry genealogy and the relation of the Berrys to Nancy Hanks. Is it your belief that Richard Berry's wife was a Shipley and that Nancy Hanks' mother, the wife of Joseph Hanks, was also a Shipley. And what is your evidence?

As you probably know, it has been believed that Richard Berry, Joseph Hanks and Abraham Lincoln (the father of Thomas Lincoln) married sisters in North Carolina. It has been established, however, in the last few years, that when he left Virginia Abraham Lincoln's wife was a Bathsheba Herring. It is of course possible that his first wife was a Shipley.

May I ask, my dear Miss Curry, that any clear evidence of the relationship of the families which you have, you would pass on to me?

Sincerely yours,

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