

The Historical Society of Berks County, Pa.

Office, Library and Museum in the Society's Building
38 North Fourth Street, Reading, Pa.

Reading, Pa., Jan. 20 1923

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th. Street,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Replying to your letter of the 17th. inst., I would state that all that we know in regard to John Hanks is what is stated in Montgomery's History of Berks County, in his description of Exeter township and some of the earlier settlers. Where he got it from I do not know, but possibly from the records of the Exeter Friends Meeting House. I understand that these records are in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia. Mrs. Steinmetz was here yesterday and said that that is her knowledge of these records.

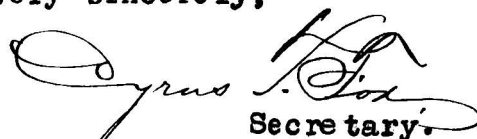
We have no tax rolls prior to 1752, that being the year in which Berks County was formed. I have looked through the earliest tax lists that we have and find no names of Hank or Hanks. I do find Loncoln and Boone names as late as 1756 and thereafter.

There is a book by Howard M. Jenkins on "Recollections of Gwynedd History". This is to be found in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's library as well as many records of early Quakers, embraced in the Cope collection in the possession of the same society:

As to the Hanks family, there is a tradition that Nancy Hanks was a descendant of the Berks branch of that family.

I think it would be well for you to have a search made in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's collection.

Yours very sincerely,


Secretary.