

May 29, 1925

Mr. Walter B. Beals,
Seattle, Washington.

My dear Mr. Beals:

Thank you for your interesting letter of May 19. It is always a satisfaction to know anything one has written has aroused another to take the trouble to comment upon it.

I regret very much that I have not at the moment time to take up paragraph by paragraph your letter as I should like to do; but I am just leaving town and do not want your letter to go without acknowledgment.

You ask about Dr. Barton's book. He has published a *Life of Abraham Lincoln* in two volumes (Bobbs-Merrill & Co., Indianapolis) in which he gives the result of his investigations as to the family of Nancy Hanks. He has made an interesting case, though I do not myself believe it as conclusive as he thinks it is. That is, it does not convince me that there is not still work for the genealogist. I have written a little review of the book, a copy of which I will have mailed to you, which shows how I feel about it.

I like your comment on the will of Joseph Hanks. I think you are right. There has never been any question, however, that I have heard that the Nancy of this will is not the daughter of Joseph Hanks, as I think your letter seems to intimate. The point is he had a daughter Lucy Hanks which he did not recognize as she had misbehaved herself and that this Lucy was the mother of the Nancy who married Thomas Lincoln.

Please believe I am grateful to you for calling my attention to various points in the book, particularly where I seem to have slipped. If you should read Dr. Barton's book, I should appreciate your estimate particularly of his handling of the case of Lincoln's grandmothers.

Sincerely yours,