My dear Mrs. Farwell,

I have just read your article in today's New York Times on the ancestors of Abraham Lincoln, in which you state that you have been unable to locate the site of the forge built by Mordecai Lincoln in Chester County, Penna.

I happen to know where this forge was located. The ruins are still to be seen as well as two very fine houses built by William Branson, a partner of Mordecai Lincoln's in the iron business. These houses have lately been purchased by a wealthy old man who has restored them at considerable expense. I saw them last summer while running down some Branson creeks.

I am descended from Branson through one of his daughters who married Bernardus Van Leer. Branson outlived his children and his iron interests were inherited by his grandchildren who sold out to other ironmasters, the Potts, I think. Branson was the first iron master, I'm told, in Penna. and was associated with Penn in an import scheme, calculated to interest the English trade. I'm somewhat rusty on the subject now, but I do know that Mordecai...
Lincoln and Breson were partners, and when they as well as folks, all owned at one time the Reading Forge, ruins of which still stand near the Breson houses in Chester County, Penna.

If you would like to visit the site I'll be glad to drive out there with you some Saturday or Sunday. It is about forty miles from Wilmington.

There is a man named Montgomery in Phila., who is very well informed on the history of the early forge in Penna. He went with me last year to visit Reading forge and I'm sure he will go again if you come down.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Jones.