

Now, what is the basis of this tradition that Nancy Hanks was the daughter of a Lucy Hanks?

All the supporters of what may be called the Denis Hanks school, Marshall, as part of their evidence, Mr. Lincoln's own reticence about the Hanks family. That Mr. Lincoln knew little of his ancestors is certain. That he was interested in them we have ample letters to prove. He went to the trouble of making a record in the family Bible, part of which is lost, but in that we have, he certainly pays full attention to the Hanks family. A sentence has been taken out of one of the letters which he once wrote in regard to some one inquiring about his forebears which has been frequently quoted as showing him unwilling to discuss the matter of his mother's origin. This sentence reads: "You are mistaken about my mother." Standing by itself it may be interpreted in the way that it has been. Taken in its context, it is impossible for any sensible person to characterize it as an attempt to shut off inquiry. Here is what he says: (Quote letter)

*always around your
Bailett*