

August 10, 1922

Mr. Waldo Lincoln,
Worcester, Mass.

My dear Mr. Lincoln:

It is very good of you to answer my inquiry so promptly. I am sorry enough of course that you have not run down the surname of Martha. I hope you are not going to give it up, even though your Lincoln genealogy is about to come out.

May I ask when it is to be published? And will you not send your publisher my name for an early copy?

I am much interested in what you say about Mrs. Hitchcock's work. I accepted it with considerable reservations. I have not questioned, however, the will of Joseph Hanks which she unearthed in Bardstown. I have never seen it but I have had its existence certified to by the clerk of the court. It has seemed to me that that will was the most satisfactory evidence that we have of Nancy's parentage. May I ask your reasons for not accepting it? Is there evidence of another parentage as probable as this? It is a bad case, as you say.

Family traditions and local gossip are not evidence, and poor Nancy Hanks as well as Abraham her son have had to suffer enormously from the ~~possibility~~ of their neighbors and relatives which obscures everything for historical students. Under the circumstances, I am inclined to stand on the meagre documents in the case until such time as somebody will produce others.

I am going to be in Kentucky this fall, looking over the field; and if there is any particular clue that you would like to have me follow up for you I should be very glad to do it.

Thanking you again for your letter, believe me, my dear Mr. Lincoln,

Very sincerely yours,

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