Letter: James W. Swank to Richard J. Hilton, February 28, 1895

Swank, James Moore

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Mr. Richard J. Hinton,
Box 21, Bay Ridge, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Hinton:

I am glad to receive your letter of February 27th, and to inclose herewith a copy of the Bulletin containing my editorial on Abraham Lincoln's ancestry. I have given considerable attention to this subject and to the ancestry of George Washington. I inclose you the proof of a short editorial in this week's Bulletin on Washington's father and mother. I have somewhere among my papers some information concerning the Hanks family in Virginia, particularly that branch of it which lived in the neighborhood of Lynneburg.

I am glad to learn that your wife traces her ancestry to such a distinguished source. I have no doubt that if the facts were known it would appear that Abraham Lincoln derived many of his best traits from his mother. Can you tell me whether the Hanks family was of English or German extraction? I suspect the latter.

Very Truly Yours,

[Signature]

James M. Swank