

THE RECTORY,
SWANTON MORLEY,
DEREHAM, NORFOLK.

30/8/28

Dear Miss Tarbell.

Your name has been given me by Mr. A. B. Hart of Harvard University as one who might be interested in this Church & its connections.

The Church itself is a large 15th century building with an enormous lower & beautiful tracery in the windows. Unfortunately, it is in a dangerous condition owing to the ravages of the death-watch beetle, & the roof must be repaired, if it is to be made safe. So far about £3,500 has been raised for the restoration of the tower & part of the roof. If the remainder of the roof is to be saved & made quite safe, £2,000 will be needed. If the Church is to ^{be} put completely into proper order, £6,000 would have to be spent.

If this were all, there would be no conceivable justification for appealing to America for help, though

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Norfolk villages are notoriously poor. But this village is one of the two homes of the ancestors of Abraham Lincoln, & in fact there are over 60 entries of the Lincoln family in the registers of the Church. It is even more interesting than that.

Swanton Morley can claim the distinction of being the village where the will was made by Richard Lincoln, that caused the emigration to America of the Lincoln family. This will was made in 1615 & disinherited Edward Lincoln, who was therefore unable to bring up his son Samuel to the position to which he had looked forward. He therefore apprenticed him to a weaver, with whom the boy emigrated to the United States, where he settled at Hingham Mass. & became the founder of the American line.

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The connection is most easily shown in a diagram —

Richard Lincoln (died at Swanton Morley 1620)

Edward

Samuel (the Emigrant to America)

Mordecai

Mordecai

John

Abraham

Thomas

Abraham (born 1809)

'The Liberator'

That in brief is how Swanton Morley touches American history.

I am writing to you in the hope

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DERHAM, HANTS.

that you will be interested & also
to ask you if you think there is any
possibility of raising the necessary
£ 5,000 in America in order to put
the Church into really good order.

Yours faithfully

Reginald N. Usher

Rector of Swanton Morley.