

564 Woodbine Ave.
Warren, Ohio
Sept. 25, 1924

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
New York City

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I have before me a letter written by you, April 7, 1923, to A. E. Ewing of Grand Rapids, Mich. Mr. Ewing and I are second cousins, once removed, - descendants of John and Sarah Evans Hanks of Whittemansburgh, Philadelphia County, Pa. He and I are very much interested in your Lincoln studies and he sent me your letter as an enclosure with one of his own only this morning.

I note you say that anything bearing on the Hanks subject will be gratefully received by you, and, since I am laboriously collecting material, with Mr. Ewing's generous aid, for a Hanks-Hank genealogy, I thought you might be interested in looking over my data; we might be mutually benefited by an exchange of ideas.

My Hanks records begin in Philadelphia Co., Pa., in 1709, where Wm Southwell sold 250 A. of land to "John Hanks of the township of Darby and County of Chester". In the body of the paper, which was probably made by an official unfamiliar with the name, John's surname is spelled Hank. But in the endorsement it is spelled

Thanks. I have a certified copy of the deed and James M. Hazletts (present Recorder of Deeds of Phila. Co.) statement as to the variation in the spelling of the surname. The original deed may be found Book E. 3, Vol. 5, Page 400.

John Hanks married Sarah Evans, daughter of Cadwallader and Ellen Morris Evans, Dec. 12, 1711. They lived on the farm at White-march which John Hanks had purchased eleven years before. There at least seven children were born to them, for he mentions seven living children: John, William, Samuel, Joseph, Jane, Elizabeth, and Sarah - in his will which was made Dec. 12, 1730 and probated May 31, 1731.

John used the surname Hanks throughout the will but it is interesting to note that in probating they spoke of him as "John Hanks". I have a certified copy of the will sent me by Wm. T. Campbell, present Recorder of Wills, Phila. Co., Pa.

John Hanks was a Quaker and seems to have attended the meetings at Gwynedd, near Philadelphia, for it was there that he married Sarah Evans. After his death Sarah married Thomas Williams, "widower", and her seven children witnessed the marriage. (See "Historical Collections of Gwynedd".)

This winds up the data I have pertaining to what I believe to be the first generation of Hankses.

in our time in America. I have often wondered if the "Township of Parly and county of Chester" referred to Chester Co., Pa., or Chester in England. I have wondered, too, if John might not have been a brother of Benjamin of Plymouth Benjamin, you remember, arrived in America in 1699, and John was probably here a year before he purchased land. Brothers, one of whom was a Puritan, the other a "Quaker", could easily fail to "recognize" one another.

In dealing with the second generation of Hankses - the children of John - I shall mention only John II and William, for I know nothing of Samuel and Joseph, and of the three daughters I know only that one married an Evans and another a Roberts.

John Hanks II was born in Phila. Co. about 1712. (I judge from John's will that John II would be 22 years of age in 4 years - 1734) He, too, was of the Society of Friends and seems to have attended meetings in Philadelphia. He is the John Hanks to whom you refer in your new printed book, - he was unable to bring himself to the "necessary clearness in relation to marriage". Do you suppose he approved of his mother's second marriage? Rather late in life - not before 1750 - he married Margaret

Williams. They lived on a farm in Berks Co. Pa. — neighbor to Mordecai Lincoln and the Boones. There three sons were born to them — John, Caleb, and Williams. In 1759, this family joined the tide of emigration from Pennsylvania to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, settling in what is now Rockingham, but then Augusta, County. There, April 10, 1765, a daughter, Margaret was born.

This daughter married Wm Cherrington in 1779, and had two sons John and William — her descendants live in Ohio — around Jackson — and are very clear along genealogical lines.

To date I have been unable to find any documentary evidence pertaining to John II's having owned land in either Berks Co., Pa., or Augusta Co., Va.; neither can I find his will. As to his marriage and the names of his children I have them from the family records of Mrs. Alice Hanks Strother of 310 Lanvale St., Baltimore a great granddaughter of William(s) Hanks; from Rev. W. T. Hanks of Bellepoint, W. Va.; and from the Cherrington records.

You can see for yourself that John Hanks II could not possibly have been the direct ancestor of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. (But wait, I'm going to take up John II

brother, William, pretty soon,
Miss Tarbell; I don't want you
to lose interest while I deal
with John II's children and show
you how the Hanks and Hank
family is the same.

John Hanks III was born in
Berks Co., Pa. He was a soldier
in the Revolution - continental
line - fought at Trenton, Brandywine,
etc., spent winter at Valley Forge.
Wounded - cripple - never married.
I have his war record from
the files in Washington, D.C.,
and it begins like this: "The
records of this office show that
one John Hanks (surname also
borne as Hanks) served in the
Revolutionary War as a private
in Captain David Stephenson's
Co., 8th Va. Reg. - - -"

In his old age John III lived
with his brother William in
Monroe Co., W. Va.

Calley, the second son of John II,
married but died soon afterward
presumably without heirs.

William, the youngest son of
John II, always known as
William Hank, was the
first Hanks to definitely drop
the letter "s" from the family
name. In 1780, he purchased
land, 320 A., in Quinbrier Co.,
now Monroe Co., W. Va., from
Wm Cooper and the deed reads
to William Hank. In 1786 or 7
he married Susanna Berry.
She had a brother Benjamin
who was a Revolutionary soldier.

The Berrys were Scotch Presbyterians. I have often wondered if they were members of the Lewis colony of Augusta Co., Va. I feel certain that J. A. Waddell's "Annals of Augusta County" or his "Scotch-Irish of the Shenandoah Valley" would throw some light on the Berry line, but I have been unable to get these books. I have Dr. J. W. Wayland's "History of Rockingham", and two Berrys are mentioned in Felix Gilbert's list of "titheables". William and Susanna Berry (Hankes) had the following children (the first two were born in Rockingham, the others in Monroe): David, 1788, (my great grandfather), Caleb, 1789, (Mr. Ewing's grandfather), John, William (Mrs. Strother's grandfather), Margaret (died in infancy), Mary (m. Christopher Smith of N.C.), and John, 1801, (m. Susan K. Berger of N.C. John was the father of W. J. Hank). The N.C. marriages show that there was some visiting back and forth. Might not the Monroe Co. Hank family have been visiting cousins in southern Virginia and North Carolina? In a letter to me, W. J. Hank says: "Those of our family in the South spell the name Hankes."

So much for John Hankes of Berkeley Co. and his descendants! I have carried the line this far to show you that our family records, so tardily gathered together, prove conclusively that John Hankes of Berkeley Co. was not the direct ancestor of Abraham Lincoln.

I think the reason for so much confusion among Hankes genealogists lies not only in the obscurity of the family as a whole but in the fact that there have been so many Johns; each John moves up the ladder from "junior" to "senior", - something I have found very hard to deal with.

And now I go back to William, second son of John Hankes and Sarah

Evans Hanks of Philadelphia Co., Pa.
I firmly believe this William and
the William Hanks of Amelia Co., Va.
to be one and the same. I know
that Caroline Hanks Hitchcock, after
her splendid research work along
Hanks lines from William of Amelia
County to Nancy Hanks Lincoln, calls
him the son of Benjamin and Mary
Ripley Hanks of Plymouth, thereby
causing people to doubt the correct-
ness of her statements all along
the line for it takes some stretch
of imagination, and surely some
arbitrary arrangement of chronological
facts, to call William the son of
Benjamin and at the same time
the father of Joseph. Benjamin
and Mary were married 1726; if William
was their oldest son, we shall say
he was born 1727; he was thirteen
years old in 1740, which date Mrs.
Hitchcock gives as Joseph's birth - rather
youthful to have left his home in
Plymouth, settled in Amelia Co., married
there, and started a family.

In the Cincinnati Enquirer there
is, or was, a department pertaining
to genealogy, called "About Our
Ancestors". In the Jan. 23, 1916, issue
Frances M. Smith deals with the
Hankes. After quoting Mrs.
Hitchcock from titled Hankses
in England, through Benjamin, to
Nancy, she takes up William
of Amelia Co. in detail. She says:
"The Evans of Gwynedd, near Philadelphia,
is, are kin to this Hanks family."
Now, if William was son of Benj.
and Mary Ripley Hanks and if
is not known just whom William

married, how does one figure out
any relationship between William
Hanks and "The Evans of Gwynedd"?

I have written to Frances M. Smith,
but, to date, have received no reply.

It requires no stretch of the
imagination to see William Hanks
son of John and Sarah Evans Hanks
of Phila. Co. and brother of John
Hanks of Burke Co., joining one
of the many groups of travelers
on the great highway which lead
"southward from the borders of
Canada, through the Shenandoah
Valley of Virginia to the Yadkin
River in North Carolina". (I have
your latest Lincoln book, Miss
Garbell, and I love it for its beauti-
ful, clear English; but more than
that, I love it for the wonderful
insight it shows in regard to
pioneers and pioneer life. William
may have gone with the Boone
party; he may have gone before
the Boones; or he may have gone
on when John II, his brother, stopped
in Augusta.

I have no records of William other
than those given by you and Mrs.
Hitchcock. I have endeavored to
interest J. D. Hawk, Asst. Attorney
General of Va., who lives in Richmond
and could so easily examine the
records in the Hall there, but so
far I have failed to receive even a
reply to my letter.

Chas. B. Harrison, an attorney
and a cousin of mine by marriage, has
gone through the records for me in
Harrisonburg but found nothing.

I suggested that I try Stanton, which I did, but Mr. Bass, who took up the matter for me, has, to date, found nothing. I fear any records that may have been there were destroyed during the Civil War.

I should like to know if my Shipley notes tally with yours. I have the following Shipley girls: Mary, the first wife of Abraham Lincoln; Nancy, the wife of Joseph Hanks, - they were the parents of Nancy Hanks Lincoln; Lucy, the wife of Richard Berry, at whose home Nancy married Thomas Lincoln; and Betsy, the wife of Thomas Sparrow. It was the Sparrow home in which Nancy Hanks lived after the death of her parents; the Sparrows had no children and Nancy became so identified with them that many thought her their child and called her Nancy Sparrow. Into this Sparrow home there came a nameless waif - Dennis - seemingly the nephew of Betsy, Lucy, and Polly (I take this "Polly" to be Mary Shipley Lincoln, altho, like Nancy Shipley Hanks, she was dead); and to hide the Shipley shame they appropriated Nancy Hanks' surname as his own. In an endeavor to prove it his own he pulled poor Nancy into the illegitimate class with himself. If he said that Nancy's mother's maiden name was Hanks and she was a sister of his mother then his name was Hanks. But Nancy's mother was a Shipley and her sisters were Shipleys. In the genealogy which the sons of Dennis and of John made out and in which they placed Nancy where she belonged the sister of Wm. and Joseph and the daughter of Joseph and Nancy - do you know just how they accounted for Dennis?

I am enclosing a copy of John Hanks' will. You will note that John

mentions a "cousin" John Hanks.
Mr. Ewing thinks we might just
as well be descendants of the
cousin as the son. But we
are fairly certain that John of
the Shenandoah Valley - father of
our Williams - was the John Hanks
of Berks Co., and Coffin says that
John Hanks of Berks Co. was the son
of John and Sarah Evans Hanks, of
Philadelphia County. I am inclined
to agree with Coffin.

I hope I have not bored you, Miss
Tarbell.

Sincerely yours,
Myra Hank Rudolph.