

January 11, 1923

Mr. Waldo Lincoln,  
Worcester, Mass.

My dear Mr. Lincoln:

I am sure you and Mrs. Lincoln will be glad to know that after leaving you I was not lost in the storm, but reached New York - two hours late, to be sure - but still with entire comfort.

I cannot begin to tell you how much I appreciate your generous courtesy in reading me the portions of your manuscript in which I am particularly interested. You can depend upon my not revealing any of your finds before your book is out. But after it is out, you can also depend upon my making very free use, with credit to it, of course!

I find that I have two little photographs of Deborah Lincoln's headstone, sent me by Mr. Charles Hutchinson of Allentown, N.J., the old man of whom I told you.

While the grave is in what is known as the "Rebbin's burying ground," Mr. Hutchinson writes me:

"This was probably the first place of interment in that neighborhood. Daniel Robbins came from Connecticut to Woodbridge in 1668 and thence to this 500 acre tract in 1695. He died there in 1714 and his son Nathaniel had died there previously. The oldest Robbins stone is that of Moses, another son of Daniel who died in 1723. There are many later stones with inscriptions and many other graves marked only by common field stones, all in the western part of the lot. Such other interments as there have been being of persons not allied to the family are mostly in the eastern part and have been only by suffrance and without proper authority. In the northeast corner a number of paupers have been buried. The gravestone of Deborah Lincoln is at about the centre of the lot, and there is no indication of any grave near it. It is rudely shaped, apparently of sandstone and the inscription (also rude) is as follows:

"Deborah Lincon aged 3 y. 4 m. May 15 1720.

"Only the top of this stone was visible until (about 40 years ago) it was raised to its proper position and the inscription revealed. In 1762 Daniel Robbins, grandson of the first Daniel and then owner of that part of the Robbins tract on which the burial ground is located, conveyed to trustees one acre of land 'wherein the family of the Robbins have frequently buried their dead, in trust for the use and purpose of a burying ground as aforesaid;' which trust by subsequent releases still exists.

"In May 1720, when Deborah Lincoln died, there was no public place of burial in all that region and the Robbins were near neighbors of the Saltar family."

If the map showing the relation of this burying ground to the supposed site of Richard Saltar's house, where Mordecai probably lived for some time with Hannah, would be of any interest to you, I shall be glad to have an outline of it made.

I have just begun a careful reading of Barton's "Paternity," and I must say that in the face of the documents of Abraham's legitimacy which we possess, his muck-raking seems to me a questionable and futile business.

There is one question I should like to ask about the wife of John Lincoln, whose family name you told me you had discovered. Is there any reason to suppose that she was a Quaker? This would give more backing to Lincoln's supposition that he was of Quaker descent than the known association and inter-marriage of Abraham's and Mordecai's children in Pennsylvania with Quakers.

Of course anything that you may tell me about this will be confidential until your book is out.

Thanking you again, dear Mr. Lincoln, for all your kindness, and awaiting with interest the publication of your book, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,