

Sept. 18, 1922

Mr. Waldo Lincoln,
46 Elm St.,
Worcester, Mass.

My dear Mr. Waldo:

Thank you very much for your letter of August 26. I am much interested in what you say of Barton's paternity of Lincoln. It is just about the way I feel. I never did consider Dennis Hanks a trustworthy witness. Moreover, Barton's reliance on word of mouth testimony which he picks up in Kentucky one hundred ten and more years after the event, and after it has passed not only through a succession of mouths but through a succession of political animosities of the bitterest kind - oh, my dear Mr. Lincoln, I cannot accept that in place of a bona fide document. I trust pretty soon to be able to take a whack at it - as strong as I can make it.

There are two questions that I want to trouble you with. One is, have you any clue to what became of Francis Lawes, to whom Samuel Lincoln was apprenticed and with whom he came to this country? I suppose that Lawes landed in Salem, but I do not find in the Essex County history any mention of him. Has anybody ever traced him, to your knowledge?

In your letter of August 26 you say that you are convinced that Bathsheba Lincoln, the President's grandmother, survived her husband, and also that you doubt if he ever married Mary Shipley. May I ask, What is the evidence upon which you rest this conclusion? I shall appreciate any information that you are willing to pass on.

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

Very sincerely yours,