Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

Charles R. Scholl, D.D.S., President

Cyrus T. Fox, Secretary

The Historical Society of Berks County, Pa.

Office, Library and Museum in the Society's Building
38 North Fourth Street, Reading, Pa.

Reading, Pa., January 15 192 3

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East Nineteenth Street,
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Replying to your letter of the 13th inst., I would state that the only record that we have of a Hanks family is the fact that John Hank, or Hanks, left Berks County about 1750 with the Lincolns and Boones for Virginia and North Carolina. It is supposed that a daughter, of this John Hanks or granddaughter was the mother of Abraham Lincoln. She is commonly referred to as Nancy Hanks. I have been trying for some time to get a line on this John Hanks, but thus far have been unsuccessful. The records of the Exeter Meeting House ought to show something in connection with him, but these are not accessible, having been transferred to one of the "Meetings" in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Steinmetz was in our building last Saturday for the first time this year, having been ill. When she is here again I will refer your letter to her. She may know something about the Exeter Meeting House records.

Yours very sincerely,

Cyrus T. Fox

Secretary.