120 EAST NINETEENTH STREET

Feb. 2, 1925

Mr. J. M. Hanks,
Florence, Colo.

My dear Mr. Hanks:

I am writing this letter, hoping that it will find you, though not too confident that it will.

I have a letter of yours before me, dated August 31, 1896, in which you speak of Elizabeth Hanks of Vienna Cross Roads, Clarke Co., Ohio, as having important Lincoln data. I wrote to Mrs. Hanks at the time but received no answer. Can you tell me if she is still alive?

I have been wondering if you would not be willing to make for me a statement in regard to your own relationship to Nancy Hanks Lincoln. From the letters that I have from you and from your mother, I understand that you are the grandson of Joseph Hanks, and that Joseph Hanks always talked of Nancy Hanks as his sister, that his sons regarded her as an aunt, and his grandsons, yourself included, as a grand-aunt. What I should like to get would be a sworn statement from you covering these facts, with any corroborative detail that you might be willing to include.

If you have in your possession any letters from members of the family, recognizing Nancy Hanks as a sister of your grandfather I should much appreciate copies of them.

You sent me, for your mother, a number of years ago a picture of Joseph Hanks and his wife, taken in their old age. I have never used this, but want to do so in an article that I am soon to publish. I shall credit the picture to you and put under it the caption: "Joseph Hanks, brother of Nancy Hanks Lincoln."

Hoping this letter will find you in good health and that you can give me the information that I ask, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

Ida M. Tarbell

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