

January 2, 1923

Mr. Waldo Lincoln,
American Antiquarian Society,
Worcester, Mass.

My dear Mr. Lincoln:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 29, answering my inquiry about Virginia John.

I am glad enough that your book is to appear so soon. You may put me down for a copy, and I hope you will write your name in it.

As to the size of the edition, I should not hesitate to say 300 copies. The interest in the Lincoln genealogy is certainly increasing and both public libraries and private collectors are making more and more demands. It seems to me 300 is a limited number for a book of the value that I feel yours will be, and I hope that you will not make it less. When it is ready I should like to give you the names of a few people that I think might want it.

Some time ago we had a little correspondence about the reliability of Denis Hanks as a witness. Since writing that I have come across in some old correspondence - correspondence dating back to the time that I wrote me Life of Lincoln - a letter of Samuel Schackelford's, written to L. E. Chittenden, under date of March 1, 1896, in which he incorporates a copy of a letter received from Denis Hanks in 1888.

In this letter Denis Hanks says: "The name of Abe Lincoln's grandmother was Lucy Hanks, before she married Henry Sparrow. Lucy Hanks and Henry Sparrow as man and wife were the father and mother of eight children. Nancy Hanks Sparrow was the second child of Henry and Lucy Sparrow. She the above named Nancy Hanks Sparrow was the mother of Abe Lincoln. She looked so much like the Hanks family, that she always went by the name of Nancy Hanks."

Of course this is a very different story from what Denis

Hanks seems to have told Herndon, and it seems to show that Lehman was right when he wrote that Denis Hanks was pitifully weak under cross examination.

Thank you for your promise to show me over the Worcester Library and to let me look at your papers. I am to be in Boston on

the 7th and shall be only too glad to take you at your word. I will go over to Worcester on an early train and go directly to the Library. I can spend the day, though I am afraid not longer.

Of course I realize that nothing could be more advantageous for the piece of work that I have on hand than settling down in your Society rooms, but as I am situated that is out of the question.

Looking forward with pleasure and interest to seeing you in Worcester on the 8th, believe me, my dear Mr. Lincoln,

Very sincerely yours,