

Please return

Louis A. Warren
Zionsville, Ind.

June 24, 1925

Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock
387 Harvard St.
Cambridge, Mass

My dear Mrs. Hitchcock:

Since the receipt of your letter and enclosures I have been doing some hard thinking as to just what course I should pursue in this matter. I have found it difficult to come to a decision which would be favorable to both of us.

I am now in the midst of my Indiana History of the Lincoln Family, and find practically nothing has been done in this state towards and documentary study of the family. That the need of such a book is urgent I cannot doubt. You will note that Mrs Tarbell's review of Barton's work mentions the fact that "A period to which Mr. Barton seems to have contributed little is the important fourteen years that Lincoln lived in Indiana." No one has been able to discuss this period because there is no source material.

Of course it would be difficult for me to develop two themes at the same time with the routine work of my ministry also on hand. I am obliged to do all my typing which is quite a task. These considerations have made it difficult to decide just what I should do.

That your work should be published in justice to Lincoln as well as to those who have contributed information I am convinced. But I am also aware that some one must make a sacrifice in its publication. Your sacrifice has already been great I am sure. That anything I might do would also be done in no hope of any financial remuneration from the book, is an assured fact.

The proposition which has presented itself is this; should I stop work on a book that would probably be remunerative, to take up the publication of a book which is also urgent but which would probably be so expensive to publish that the only reward for the effort would be the satisfaction of having made a contribution to our knowledge of Lincoln.

Strange to say that I feel myself drawn to your proposition. As I have felt that we have needed a companion volume to Waldo Lincoln's genealogy. Perhaps my Indiana work can wait, or it may be possible for me to get some stenographic assistance.

I have come to this decision. You may send me every scrap of information which you have gathered, as well as your composition. This material I will carefully review and evaluate. I shall then try and estimate the length of time it would take to prepare it for the publisher, and make any other suggestions that would be of interest to you. We might then come to some agreement in putting out the volume, which would not be too burdensome on either one of us.

That you should receive the chief credit for this compilation I am certain, no matter what I may be able to contribute. I think it would be well to make the work a memorial to your brother however, who evidently was a co-laborer with you at its inception.

Of this fact I am certain relative to Barton's contemplated work. He has not been interested in the Hanks family for more than four years. When he published his Paternity he acknowledges he has had no interest in tracing the family and in a few pages tells all he knows. What he knew at that time was gleaned from your own work and a man by the name of Knotts in Tenn.

The last four years however Barton has been hot on the trail of the Hanks family, he has had a secretary at his elbow all the time and I expect has piled up a lot of correspondence. He cannot hope however to correspond with old people long since dead that you have reached in a period of over twenty five years. It is this fact which makes me optimistic about the superiority of your compilation.

I might say in conclusion that if the genealogy is published it must be put in the most modern form using the "abc" citation system used by Waldo Lincoln. This of course would call for the complete revision of your work which was started and carried on under to numeral system.

I should be pleased to receive any suggestions which you might have relative to the problem before us.

Sincerely yours,

Louis A. Warray