

564 Woodbine
Warren, O.

Feb. 14, 1925

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

Your note and the
newspaper article much appre-
ciated.

Dr. Barton's "Lincoln's 'Lost Grand-
mothers'" has, I fear, gone forth
to darken counsel by words
without knowledge. The
only thing he proves in the
latter half of his article is
that Dr. Barton, himself, is as
given to flights of fancy as Mrs.
Hitchcock. His criticism of
the latter would lead one to
suppose that only those bearing
the title "D.D.," or "Rev.," have the
right to imagine, - which, of
course, has been the minister-
ial attitude since the days
of Paul.

We must admit that Dr.
Barton is a great Lincoln
student and that he has
added greatly to the fund
of knowledge pertaining to
Lincoln; but he has yet to
prove that Nancy Hanks

Lincoln was the daughter of a Lucy Hanks, and that this Lucy was in turn the daughter of Joseph Hanks. True, he has two legal documents pertaining to a Lucy Hanks, but neither one proves her to have been the daughter of Joseph or the mother of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. If Joseph and his wife Nancy did have a daughter Lucy and she turned over to them entirely the care of her baby, as Dr. Barton's article leads us to think, it seems strange that the name of "Nancy" should have been given it when there were already two Nancys in the home and one of them very little, if any, older than the unwelcome little stranger.

The article states that Joseph Hanks could not write. Did he not sign his will? I do not remember having seen "his x mark" on the fac-simile of the will which I saw, although I may have forgotten. When one stops to consider the kind of man Dennis Hanks

was - the personification of that type which those who pretended to know condemn - it seems strange that Dr. Barton, just because Dennis happens to agree with him on a purely conjectural point, finds him a well-educated, honest, upright, Christian, gentleman. "Well, I can see and hear the Doctor found his fault and denounce this same Dennis as a godless and immoral man. Had Dennis' testimony failed to back up his own. (This "seeing" and "hearing" of mine takes place only in fancy. I don't pretend to fancy that I see the look of anxiety in Lucy's eyes or hear the "music of splashing water", as Dr. Barton does when he "sees" Henry and Lucy Hanks Sparrow, two purely imaginary guests, ride to Nancy's wedding, June 12, 1806.)

Who was the John Berry who witnessed Henry and Lucy's marriage bond? These Beres and Shipleys! They hold the key.
Very Sincerely,
Myra Frank Rudolph

Copy of letter written by George Hank
to his niece, Myra Hank Rudolph.

Box 364. At ranch near Cody, Wyo.
Jan. Mon. 19th, 1925.

Myra H. Rudolph,
Warren, O.

Dear Niece:

I was very much pleased to get a letter from you. I haven't heard of you or where you were for several years. Thanks for Christmas greeting.

As to the genealogy of the Hanks, I have but very few notes left. I think they are notes I jotted down and corrected afterwards. I don't know as I destroyed or lost them.

The Hank came from Holland and settled in Berks Co. Penn., in ontof Wm. Penna colonies. The third house built in Reading, Penn. was built by an uncle of Wm. Hank, Sen., named Joe Hanks. Wm. Hank, Sen., emigrated from Penn. to Rockingham, Va. "No date when".

Wm. Hank, Sen., was a Quaker. Susanna Berry, his wife, was a Presbyterian. Wm. Hank, Sen., could not accept the Westminster confession, so they compromised on the Methodist Episcopal church.

Wm. Hank, Sen., German, died Sept. 3rd, 1823. Susanna Berry ~~Hank~~, Scotch, died July 23rd, 1837. These dates are authentic. I got them from uncles Jehu and John.

Uncle John used to tell a story that when the Hanks emigrated to this country, there were two brothers. One of them quarrelled with one of the passengers and got off the boat on the New England coast to fight a duel. The other went on to Va., and he was the one our family sprang from. Uncle John thought the New England Hanks affixed the s to their name. I am inclined to think this story is correct. The notes I have don't bear me out. At that time the original homestead was in the Hank family.

Aunt Sally claimed that Nancy Hanks Lincoln was from the original Hank family, but she had no proof except the name.

I have several names and dates of the births of second or third generation of Wm. Hank, Sen. Some of them I could not tell now who they are or to what branch of the Hank family they belong. But suppose you have them. You will be tired when you wade through all of this. Will wait till you get your notes perfected. Wishing you success,

Your Uncle

Geo.

The above copied by A. E. Ewing, Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 25, 1925.

N. B. See ^{your} Hanks will for mention of Joseph.

Wm. Hank, Sen., was not a German.

His grandfather was an Englishman who bought land in Whitmarsh Twp., Phila. Co., Pa., in 1700 - John Hanks.

In 1711, John m. Sarah Evans, Welsh Quakeress. Their eldest son, John, m. Margaret Williams, Welsh Quakeress, and they were the parents of Wm. Hank, Sen. George Hank is great-grandson of Wm. Hank, Sen. Myra Hank Rudolph.