

Saratoga California, Feb. 19, 1925

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Madam:

I have just read your interesting book, "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns". On page 54 you state that there has been uncertainty as to whether the grandmother of President Lincoln was Bathsheba Herring of Virginia or Mary Shipley of North Carolina. You may be interested in a bit of circumstantial evidence supporting the first named contestant.

My great-grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Oiler Russell was born in Virginia in 1802 and moved to Dayton, Ohio, with her parents between 1808 and 1811. In 1852 she moved to California with her own family and remained in this state until her death in 1892. Both she and her brother, Mr. John L. Oiler, repeatedly stated to people still living that their grandmother was a sister of President Lincoln's grandmother. We have no documentary proof of this except a brief family record prepared many years ago by Mr. Oiler's son.

This record shows their parents to have been Henry Oiler and Mrs. Bathsheba Mc Glamery Oiler. The latter was born in Virginia, Nov. 9, 1770, and moved to Dayton, Ohio, ^{later moving to Indiana.} between 1809 and 11 as above stated. Her mother was Mrs. Lydia Montgomery Mc Glamery and it is stated that she was a sister of Lincoln's grandmother. (In one place the given name is left blank, but in a part written later it is given as "Lydia".) Mrs. Mc Glamery lived to be 115 years, 7 months and 15 days of age, but I do not know whether she remained in Virginia or moved to Ohio or elsewhere. Her husband was Scotch and it is a tradition that she was of a Scotch family.

By the above you will see that Mrs. Lydia Montgomery Mc Glamery spent her girlhood in Virginia at approximately the same time that Bathsheba Herring was growing up there. You will also note that Mrs. Mc Glamery gave her daughter the uncommon name "Bathsheba". (The daughter also named one of her daughters Bathsheba.)

Our record implies - although it does not positively so state - that Mrs. Mc Glamery's maiden name was Montgomery. It is possible that she was

a half-sister of Bathsheba Herring.

In order to establish a clear record for my children, I am anxious to secure any information possible in regard to my great-great-great grandmother. I presume you have no information regarding Bathsheba Herring's sisters, but if you have and can assist me in clearing up the above discrepancy, I shall greatly appreciate the favor. Or, if you can give me the name and address of any member of the Herring family, or any other person, who might have information on the subject, I shall greatly appreciate it.

Another reason I have for seeking more information is due to an unrecorded tradition that back along that line I had an ancestor who served in the Revolution and I am anxious to establish the eligibility of my children to be members of the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution.

Very truly yours,

Charles M. Cunningham.