

HARRISONBURG STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

February 8, 1924

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I thank you most sincerely for the copy of your splendid book, "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns," which came to hand a few days ago. I have been reading it with much interest and pleasure. Your kindness in autographing this copy for me makes me doubly grateful. And I am obliged for your complimentary references to me in the text, which I fear are too generous.

Recently I have found some definite information to the effect that Jacob Lincoln, son of "Virginia John," was a slaveholder. It may be that his father was too.

Also, I have found interesting records relating to the religious activities of John Lincoln, son of "Va. John," in the Linville Creek Baptist churches. In fact, I have become so enthusiastic on the subject that I am preparing a volume on the Virginia Lincolns - especially on the country hereabouts where they lived (and still live). The book is to be rich in pictures, maps, etc. What do you think of the project? I hope to have it ready for publication in the near future.

A crazy man down in Kentucky says that Nancy Hank was born here in Rockingham County - at least, I fear he is insane. He writes like it. But I have evidence that there were Hanks here - neighbors of the Lincolns. What do you think of the theory? Perhaps you trace this line out in your book - I have not yet finished the reading.

Enclosed you will find a folder from the Grottoes. Mr. Pirkey asked me specially to send it to you when I was over there recently.

By the way, I think you have the picture of Jacob Lincoln, son of David, on page (opposite) 52. This man (Jacob) had two brothers, Frank and Abraham; they were sons of David, of Dayton and Lacey Spring.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I remain,

Yours very truly,

John W. Wayland