Memo:

Called on J.P.Harris,at Harrisonburg, who was very cordial, promising to help the young woman who was looking into records at H. for me. Think it possible to show from assessment record that John Lincoln was a slaveholder. Think myself there is no doubt that Jacob and his sons held slaves. Mr.H. advises me to see Col.Gordon here. Called on him this morning. He tells me that at Charles Scribner's request, he wrote a life of Jefferson Davis.In this research he found that Davis came from a Welsh community near Wilmington; that the records of the old Welsh church are still in existence and have been translated. These people were Baptists and believes in the laying-on of hands and what Col. G. speaks of as "other queer things." He says that Sam Davis, J. D.'s brother, was of this persuasion, and tht he went into a Kentucky or Tenneseee community founded as a missionary effort by the Wilmington church. He believes tht the Hanchers were in this neighborhoss still and thinks this may have been the origin of the scandal about Davis and Nancy Hanks. Says Fairfax Harrison knows something of this Baptist settlement in Kentucky or Western Virginia; think it more probable it was Western Va.

Col.Gordon says that the claim that Davis was of a better blood than Lincoln is entirely unfounded; that, as a matter of fact, he was of more common origin. Think procedure in this case would be to get hold of the Baptist record in Delaware. Also write Mr.Harrison. Col.

Digital Image, 2009. Special Collections, Pelletier Library, Allegheny College