The following is a copy of a letter from Wm E. Barton to Myra Hanks Rudolph

University Club of Chicago
Jan. 2, 1926

My dear Mrs. Rudolph:

In reply to your letter of the 21st ult. I find no evidence that the Hanks family were ever Quakers. The Virginia Hankses were first Episcopalians and then Baptists.

I have seen and photographed the will of Joseph Hankes. He made his mark as did all the Hankses in Kentucky at that time except his daughter Lucy.

I have not explored the line of the Hanks family in Pennsylvania, but I have the impression that the original form of that name in that State was Hankes.

It may be that your ancestor John was a brother of Benjamin of Massachusetts; but Benjamin was not related, on this side of

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the water, to the Virginia Hankses who were here long before Benjamin arrived.

If you have any information at any time on the Hankes family of Virginia I shall be glad of it.

I should not care to add anything concerning Mrs. Hitchcock's work to what I have said in my life of Lincoln.

With every good wish, believe me,

Faithfully yours,
William E. Barton.

P. S. I do not know if you are familiar with my "Paternity of Lincoln" — I enclose an old circular. There is a new edition of the work at reduced price. I do not have any of my books for sale but your book seller would know

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