

January 5, 1923

Miss Jane E. Hamand,
Schaller, Iowa.

My dear Miss Hamand:

Pardon the delay in replying to your letter of December 25. I have been very much occupied through the Holidays.

Yes, I think there would be no trouble in your getting a good photograph of the Rutledge portrait, after Trumbull, in Independence Hall, Philadelphia, if you would write directly to them. My impression is that they are on sale there. If you don't succeed with anything satisfactory, let me know; and I will see what I can do for you.

I should say that you should have the best Lincoln genealogies in the collection at Decatur. There will be a very important one issued this spring - done by Waldo Lincoln of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Worcester, Mass. The price, I think, will be \$10. You certainly should have it.

Have you ever done anything on the Hanks family? There is great need that somebody should take hold of the Hanks genealogy and do a careful piece of work on it. There are Hanks around Decatur and I think around Quincy that must have traditions and perhaps documents that would help in untangling the story of her paternity.

Mrs. Hitchcock has not worked it out yet so that it is impregnable. I believe myself that she is right in her contention that Nancy Hanks, recognized in the will of Joseph Hanks, was his legitimate daughter, and that Mr. Herndon's story was an effort to square up some old tale that Mr. Lincoln had told him about an irregularity in some member of the Hanks family with the contradictory stories of Denis Hanks. I don't mean to accuse Mr. Herndon of dishonesty at all, but simply of confusion and of over-estimating the testimony of Denis Hanks as a witness.

I wish you would take hold of this. It would be a fine thing with which to follow your Rutledge work.

I am enclosing the advance sheets of my first two Lincoln articles. I hope they will interest you. Happy New Year to you.