Battlefields & Lincoln

January 11, 1928

Mrs. W. P. Caldwell
506 Locust St.
Bloomfield, Iowa

My dear Mrs. Caldwell:

It is a long time since I have had so interesting a Lincoln letter, though I receive many that are interesting, as yours of December 21. It would have had earlier answer only I have been away for my Christmas holidays and my correspondence sadly interrupted.

I am glad that you found my Footsteps of Lincoln of interest, and it is my hope that you can add something substantial to my knowledge, particularly of your great-grandmother Besheba. It has not been proved by documents, as yet, that Besheba was a Herring. There is an old tradition in Kentucky that she was a Shipley. What tradition came down to you?

Did you ever know her name? Is there any way in which you, possibly through family correspondence, could establish it? It would be a real contribution to the Lincoln genealogy if that could be done, and it might be that it would be some help in completing the now unsettled Hanks genealogy.

You see what I want, my dear Mrs. Caldwell, is not only all that you have given me in this letter, but another letter equally long filled with equally interesting things, documentary if possible.

Thanking you again for your kindness in writing, and apologizing again for my delay in writing, believe me

Very sincerely yours

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