Copy.

Cane Ridge, Ky.,

July 23, 1896.

Mrs. J. E. Pendleton,

Dear Madam:-

Yours of 21st recd. The omitted names - bro. & sis. - are Edwin G. Bedford and Mrs. Patsy Clay both of Paris. Since I wrote you have seen Mr. John C. Clay. He gives a circumstantial account of an attempt of Hon. Garritt Davis, near close of war, associated with a Boston party, to develop the doubt upon the paternity of Abraham Lincoln. Describes interview with his father-in-law Matt. Hume who was noncommittal and referred them to an old lawyer in Winchester, had him sent for. Arrived at Mr. Hume's, insisting that Jacky Thomas, near Thatchers, Mi[illegible] knew more than any one. When Thomas was found, they were referred to Mrs. Thatcher and she when found, like the others, suspected politicks and a dungeon and refused to talk; which so disgusted Mr. Davis that he abandoned the field of enquiry and returned to Paris. The Winchester Lawier spent the night with Mr. Hume, where Mr. Clay was then living. Mr. Clay tells me the matter was exhaustively developed that night in his presence and hearing. He says there was a doubt in the minds of these men only, as to the death and identity of one of the two sons given birth to by Nancy Lincoln. The first born was the illegimate. In due season a second son was born. One died which one, the old men did not know, as the death was in infancy. Mc Millen's interview with Dr. Brown of Ind. discloses the identity of the dead boy. He was the legitimate. This evidence is oral and it comes from high sources. Now, a suggestion, if you desire to develop this matter there is but one way to do it -- see the parties -- they will not write. I asked Mr. Clay why he did not write you, his response was how could I write a woman about this matter! I then give you a starting point, you must do the rest. I was a confederate soldier and further delving in this matter is not in harmony. Should you desire to know something of the history of Cane Ridge Church I may be enabled to give it.

I am yrs.,

J. Rogers.

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