

December 14, 1925

Mr. Walter B. Beals  
527 County-City Building  
Seattle, Wash.

My dear Mr. Beals:

This is an apology, which I hope you  
will accept.

Some time last summer you sent me a most interesting  
and very valuable analysis of the case of Nancy Hanks as presented  
by Dr. Barton in his Life of Lincoln and in my "Footsteps."

This is one of the best analyses that I have ever read,  
but I have been so engrossed with work which I could not escape  
that I have not been able to give to it the thorough attention  
which it deserves and which I shall give it one of these days.

What I hope is that somebody is going to produce a  
Hanks genealogy. One of my objects in heckling Mr. Barton, as I  
do now and then, is to force him to get all his documents out in  
orderly shape. There are two or three people doing careful work  
on the subject and between them I hope that the whole matter will  
be settled beyond controversy. At all events, whenever I take up  
the subject again your letter is going to be one of my most valu-  
able documents, and I may be writing you again. In the meantime,  
don't lay it up against me that I have not paid proper attention  
to your interesting document, and believe me, with all good wishes

Very sincerely yours