

114 Nancy Hanks
JH

November 7, 1935

Dear Mr. Dean:

I must apologize for my long delay in replying to a letter of yours asking whether or no a John Dean married a sister of Nancy Hanks sometime in the year 1787. If you can establish this it will be an important point in the muddled Hanks story. Joseph Lincoln recognized eight children in his will, Nancy being the youngest. This Nancy was not the mother of Abraham Lincoln, but at one time I believed that to be so.

Mr. William Barton's theory is that the Hanks had nine children, the oldest of whom was Lucy, disinherited because she had an illegitimate child. This illegitimate child was Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham according to Barton. I advise you to consult his Life of Abraham Lincoln. I do not think myself he proves the point but does give a possible explanation. The grandfather of Abraham Lincoln did marry a Herring - we have the record of that.

If you can show that a John Dean married a Hank you will have made a contribution to straightening out what I still regard as a tangle. If you wish to consult lives of Lincoln dealing with the Lincoln-Hanks genealogy you probably will find them in the library of Berea College or at Lexington.

Regretting that I have neglected your letter so long, believe me

Very truly yours

Mr. John Dean
Berea Bank & Trust Co.
Berea, Kentucky