1503 Fifth St., Highlands, Colo.,
July 3-1896.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Your kind favor was duly received. I regret that I am unable to give you any information concerning Mr. Lincoln's mother. Our family historian died last September, and in answer to the last letter I wrote him, his son-in-law replied, that the family were intending to compile a book from the manuscripts which the old gentleman had collected and that they would give me a copy. If you wish, I can give you the name and address of this gentleman.

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My Great-great-grand-father William Hanks, is said to be Mrs. Lincoln's grandfather. Have you anything which would corroborate this statement? I am of the opinion, that there is a mistake, as to the nearness of the relation between her family and ours. Although many things indicate that they were of the same connection.

Our family came from Virginia — William Hanks; one son, Benjamin; and six daughters, Mary, Sarah, Leah, Nancy, Rachel and Rosannah. They located in Bedford County, Pennsylvania. The historian says, that, one son, William Hanks emigrated to Kentucky, and that he was Nancy Hanks Lincoln's father. Other neighbors came to Pennsylvania

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with the Hanks family, and my mother told me that they all came over, together, from England, in very early times. They lived in New Jersey before emigrating to Virginia; one at least, fought in the Revolutionary War,— Ralph Akers, who married Nancy Hanks. His sword is in the possession of his descendants.

Besides the Akers family, were the Hixons and Jacksons. Have you any account of these families?

Our family were possessed of the same spirit which characterized Lincoln's mother; and the love of learning was inherent. But perhaps this has no interest for you. I was about to tell you, that a number of them were College-bred. Although, until my own generation came upon

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the stage, they paid their own expenses
Usually teaching awhile and then
going to school for awhile, and so,
to the end of the chapter.

One of our cousins expects
to spend the summer, among our
relatives, in Pennsylvania. If I can
learn of anything that will be of
value to you, I will cheerfully
furnish it, but I am afraid that
we have nothing concerning Mrs.
Lincoln. I do not know what proofs
the Akers historian possessed, but he
asserted positively, that the relation-
ship was such as I have stated.
If this be true, my mother's step-mother
will have recollections of her aunts
and her grandmother and father,
who as Mrs. Lincoln's near relatives
may have some interest for the
reading public.

Respectfully Yours,

Mary V. Baughman.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell, New York, N. Y.

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