

Nancy Hanks

WILLIAM MARSHALL,
WILLIAMSPORT,
W. V.

Williamsport, West Virginia.
April twenty-first,
1927.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

As a member of the Nancy Hanks Memorial Committee we are glad to advise that at the suggestion of Dr. William E. Barton, whom we met at the birth-place of Lincoln's mother in these beautiful mountains on last Tuesday your name was placed on the Advisory Board of this Memorial Committee, so we are proud to have your heart and suggestions in our cause.

We feel sure, you can be of wonderful assistance on the Board of Advisors of which Dr. Barton is Chairman and our committee have made permanent arrangements to forge ahead and restore the old Hanks cabin and if possible build a memorial road to the beautiful spot.

Dr. Barton after a most eloquent tribute to Lincoln and his mother at the foundation of the crumbled ruins of the old home, placed the corner-stone to what we hope to be a most noted memorial which has so long been hidden from the outside world.

I wish you could visit the picturesque spot where Nancy Hanks first saw the light o' day--there is a beautiful view surrounding where the humble cabin stood and near-by from under the roots of a persimmon tree bubbles forth the same spring from which the President's own mother first drank. Down the slope of a green pasture completely decorated with pale-blue wild violets are the sunken graves of the father and family who foreclosed the mortgage to the old homestead for a mere pittance and perhaps induced the Hanks family to seek a new homestead in the same kind of green-pastures of old Kentucky.

Someday soon, I hope you can visit the spot and I shall likely send you later photographs of the picturesque-spot, which will increase your interest in visiting the actual birth-place of Nancy Hanks and these pictures showing Dr Barton with bared head describing to a few citizens who had assembled on April 19, 1927 the efforts and travels which he had undergone that eventually led to the isolated plot in the West Virginia mountains to a birth-place of a mother who had borne to the World a most famous American president and statesman.

We are striving, too, to give the spot as much publicity as possible in our efforts to complete our plans and should you have any duplicate Lincoln items such as photos. prints, or even an autographed photograph of yourself, I do hope you will send them along for we can use same very advantageously just now.

Assuring you that we are glad, indeed, to welcome you in our circle and shall esteem any suggestions you have to offer. Let me in parenthesis state (I am the son of a Confederate soldier and the nephew of Jefferson Davis' secretary) so you can actually realize that the North, South, East and West honors Lincoln.

With kind wishes and anticipating and early reply.

Sincerely yours,

Vause W. Marshall
(Vause W. Marshall)