

November 22, 1924

Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock,
387 Harvard St.,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Hitchcock:

I did receive your postal, but just as I was leaving town so that I had no chance to answer it - and now, here is your letter.

I don't wonder that you are getting impatient for my report on the material which you sent me. The fact is, dear Mrs. Hitchcock, that I have been so driven all this fall that I have not had a moment to go over it. It is a serious task, as you know, and as I warned you when you sent the material on, I have been overwhelmed with work and have had various interruptions which I did not anticipate, and so altogether I have not had my head above water for some time.

I go away today for ten days and when I get back one of the first things I do will be to give a superficial examination at least to your material. I know perfectly well what must be done if Mr. Barton is to be overthrown, and that is, a documented genealogy must be established, proving that he is not right in his contention that the Nancy Hanks of the will was not the Nancy Hanks that married Thomas Lincoln, instead of the illegitimate daughter of Lucy Hanks, an older sister of the Nancy of the will, not recognized by her father.

What is up to us, dear Mrs. Hitchcock, is to prove that this is not true. Mr. Barton claims that he has documents to prove that it is true. If he has, he has not shown them to me nor did he show them to Waldo Lincoln, whose "History of the Lincoln Family" I expect you have seen.

That's your job, dear Lady. Just as soon as I come back, as I say, I will do as much as I can with your material.

Faithfully yours,