Harvey Hawker
Ptr

564 Woodlawn Ave.
Warren, Ohio
Dec. 6, 1926

Mrs. Jennie Schooley Hofmann
2813 Florida Avenue
Tampa, Florida

My dear Mrs. Hofmann:

I recently received from Miss Tarbell some very interesting Hawker notes which with your permission she had forwarded to me, hoping that we would compare notes, for I, too, have some interesting Hawker data. I am sure that an exchange of letters between us would be very helpful.

I am a descendant of John Hawker who purchased 250 acres of land in Whitemarsh Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, in 1700. Philadelphia County then included all of what is Montgomery County today. In the copy of the deed to the above purchase which I have John is described as a husbandman of Chester. His surname is spelled "Hank" in the body of the paper, but "Hawker" in the endorsement. Among the marriage records of the Friends of Haverford (sometimes called Radnor), in whose meeting house the Friends of Gwynedd held their monthly meeting until 1714, may be found the marriage record of "John Hawke of Whitemarsh, yeoman, and Sarah Evans, spinster, of Gwynedd". Sarah was the daughter of Edward Evan and Ellen Morris Evans.

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The date given is "10th mo. 11, 1711." John and Sarah had seven children whose names according to John's will were "John Hanks, William Hanks, Samuel Hanks, Joseph Hanks, Jane Hanks, Elizabeth Hanks, and Sarah Hanks," and whose birth dates are given in the Evans genealogy as follows:
(1.) John II., b. 1712, [m. Margaret Williams]; (2.) Jane, b. 1714, married John Roberts, [d. 1762]; (3.) Elizabeth, b. 1716; (4.) William, b. 1720; (5.) Samuel, b. 1723; (6.) Joseph, b. 1725, [m. Nancy ——]; and (7.) Sarah, b. 1728.
(The notes within brackets are from other sources than the Evans genealogy.)
John's will, of which I have a certified copy, was made Dec. 12, 1730, and probated May 31, 1731; in it he calls each of his seven children by his full name as given above and signs his own name "John Hanks." Sarah with her children went back to live in Gwynedd, for that township is given as her place of residence in the record of her marriage to Thomas Williams, widower, of Montgomery Township, Phila. Co., Pa., in 1732-3.
Gwynedd (Gwyn-eth) Township was situated about eighteen miles a little west of north of the city of Philadelphia and was settled by a group of Welsh Friends in 1698. A very fine history of Gwynedd — "Historical Collections Relating to Gwynedd" — has been written by Howard M. Jenkins, a distant cousin of mine and father of Francis

S. Jenkins of Philadelphia; this book may be borrowed from the Free Library of Philadelphia under the usual conditions of an inter-library loan.

John Hanks II, born 1712, is, in my opinion, the John Hanks of whom Miss Tarbell speaks in her late Lincoln book - "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns" - Of John Hanks Miss Tarbell says: "One of Mordecai Lincoln's nearest neighbors in Berks County, Pennsylvania, was a John Hanks." John Hanks was a Quaker, and we have interesting records in the minutes of the Philadelphia Monthly Meeting of his difficulty in bringing himself to what he regarded as necessary clearness in relation to marriage. His struggle brings to mind that which his possible, though not proved, descendant Abraham Lincoln was having about one hundred years later in relation to marriage! We are fairly certain that John Hanks and his family joined the migration into the Shenandoah Valley and southward about the time that John Lincoln did."

When Sarah Evans Hanks, widow, married Thomas Williams of Montgomery Township her five oldest children and the "union" John Hanks mentioned in John Hanks' will signed their names as witnesses to the marriage. Joseph and little Sarah, her two youngest, aged seven and four respectively, were too young to act as witnesses, and they were unable to write - presumably the latter in Joseph's case,

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for it seems, judging from legal documents pertaining to him, that he was never able to write his name. Four years after Sarah's second marriage, her oldest daughter, married John Roberts of Whitpain Township, son of John and Elizabeth; in the same year - 1736 - John II, her oldest son, married Margaret Williams, sister of Daniel and Reese Williams whose names often appear in Montgomery Township records; and sometime before the Hawks migration southward Joseph, Sarah's youngest son, had married Nancy ——, for in telling of the journey from Pennsylvania to Virginia John II's children always said that "Uncle Joe" and "Aunt Nancy" had started with them.

For some time after their marriage John II and Margaret lived in Berks County, six miles east of Reading, on the Perkiomen Turnpike, and there their five children - John III, b. 1738, Caleb, Williams, Margaret, b. April 10, 1755, and Hannah - were born. Joseph, John II's youngest brother, lived in Reading where, tradition has it, he had built the third house erected in that then new settlement. The migration southward took place sometime between the years 1759 and 1776, for John III - one of the party - served in the French and Indian War from Pennsylvania, in 1759, and in the Revolution from Virginia, from 1776 to 1779; and Margaret, the eldest daughter of John II and Margaret and also one of the party, was born in Pennsylvania in 1755, and she married William Cherrington in Rockingham County, Virginia, Feb. 18, 1779.

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Joseph and Nancy Hanks merely crossed the Potomac and settled in Hampshire County, in northern Virginia, while John II and his family pushed farther south into Augusta County, settling in the Brock's Gap region. In census lists for Hampshire County, Virginia, for the year 1782, Joseph Hanks is listed as the head of a family of eleven besides himself. In 1784 Joseph Hanks of Hampshire County, Virginia, signed with his mark, "X", a mortgage-deed binding 108 acres of land on Mikes Run, a drain of Patterson's Creek, then in Hampshire County, Virginia, now in Mineral County, West Virginia, to Peter Putman for the sum of twenty-one pounds and five shillings. Word reached John II's widow, Margaret, and her children, still living in the Brock's Gap region, now in the newly formed Rockingham County, that Uncle Joe and Aunt Nancy and their children had gone to Kentucky. In the 1784 census lists for Rockingham County, Margaret Hank (note the omission of "s"), widow, is listed as the head of a family of four besides herself. These four were John III, Caleb, Williams, and Hannah, — Margaret's her oldest daughter, had married Wm. Cherrington in 1779. Rockingham County was formed, or erected, from part of Augusta in October, 1777.

In the 1785 census lists for Shenandoah county, Virginia, (Shenandoah is just south of Rockingham) John III is listed as the head of a family of six besides

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himself. These six included Catharine-his wife, Margaret-his widowed mother, Caleb and Williams - his younger brothers, and Hannah-his youngest sister. John III bought two pieces of land in Shenandoah County in 1784 and sold what he had in 1792. In all three of these deeds, copies of which I have, his name is spelled "Hanke"; in his Revolutionary War records, copies of which I have direct from the War Department, Washington, D.C., his name is sometimes spelled "Hawke", and sometimes "Hanks". He never asked for a pension. He had no children and spends his later years in the home of his brother Williams, in Monroe County, Virginia - now West Virginia. Among some of the descendants of Williams are records which say that John III, "the soldier of the Revolution", was unmarried; but one may account for this mistake when he remembers that John III came to Williams' house childless and without a wife - hence to Williams' children he seemed "unmarried". The fact that he was married is proved by the deed to the Shenandoah County land which John sold in 1792 and which deed both John Hawke and Catharine Hawke, his wife, signed.

Caleb, John II's second son, married Nancy — and lived again in the Brocks Gap region. It is to this couple, I think, that the Linville Creek Baptist Church records refer in the minutes of their meetings from 1808 to 1818. Caleb died before 1818, for "Sister Nancy Hawke" is spoken of as if she were a widow and the head of the

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family in the later records. According to our family records Caleb "died without heirs."

In 1786 or 7, Williams, the youngest son of John II, married Susanna Berry of Rockingham County. Two sons - David, b. Mar. 5, 1788, and Caleb, br. Sept. 1, 1789 - were born to this couple in Rockingham, and five other children - John, Margaret, William, Mary, and Jane - were born in Monroe County, where Williams and Susanna had moved in 1791. Williams died Sept. 3, 1823; Susanna, July 23, 1837. This family seems always to have used the surname Hank.

Hannah, the youngest child of John II, married Asa Lupton of Fredericks County, Virginia, in 1787. In the marriage record she is spoken of as a "daughter of John of Rockingham." Asa Lupton was born in 1757, and was a grandson of Joseph Lupton, the Elder, of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

I have given these details concerning the children of John Hanks of Rockingham to show that our records of them are really quite complete and that there was no daughter named Nancy as some writers contend. Nancy Hanks-Lincoln was descendent from Joseph Hanks. The question is: Who was Joseph Hanks? Wm. E. Barton, Caroline Hanks-Hitchcock, you, and I, — each has a Joseph Hanks with quite convincing-looking records back of him, and each of us would like to ask his particular Joseph right down in Nelson County, Kentucky, as the ancestor - father or grandfather - of Nancy Hanks-Lincoln. I should like

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very much to prove my relationship to Abraham Lincoln — not just talk about it as my people have seemingly always done — but more than anything else, I want to know who Nancy Hanks was — let the relationship fall where it will.

I have among my papers mention of Hankeses of Washington and Bedford Counties, Pennsylvania. These, I think, are of your family.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Myra Hanks-Rudolph.

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