

May 24, 1924

Mrs. Caroline Hanks Hitchcock,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Hitchcock:

I am glad to have your letter. I suspected that you would be horrified to have me say a good word for Barton, but as a candid biographer I have to do it. He has already turned up a number of interesting documents and he claims to have many more that are of importance, and what is one to do but give him the credit for that? He claims, as you know, to have documentary evidence that our Nancy was not, as we believe her to have been, the youngest daughter of Joseph Hanks. Now, whether this is true or not I do not know. I have not been able to get the proof from him if he has it, nor was Waldo Lincoln able to do so, though I understand that he tried before publishing his "History of the Lincoln Family."

What you ought to do, I am convinced, for I do not see that anybody else is going to do it, is to get all the Hanks documents that you have together for publication. Nothing but a complete documented genealogy is going to settle this matter. You have more material, I take it, than anybody else. If there are points in which the evidence is not complete, why we should go to work to complete it or get somebody to do it. That is the only thing that is going to settle the matter. We cannot do it by berating Barton however much we may dislike his work and however undefensible we may consider it to be.

Of course if you are willing to send me your papers I will be only too glad to read them and to advise you what to do, for, as I see it, you are the one to take care of Brother Barton. I will help you all I can. I may be a little slow in examining the papers you send for I am exceedingly busy just now, but you may be sure that I will give them careful attention, so send them on whenever they are ready, and believe me always

Faithfully yours,