230 East Pratt St. Apt 408
Indianapolis, Ind. 3-25-3

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

Dear Mrs. Hitchcock

I have tried twice to communicate with you since your first letter (1) before I was leaving for Ky. and Va. in Spring of 1918, (2) Once while I was somewhere making researches - no reply.

I sure was following long your expose of facts as to Hanks matters - I found

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very great difficulties, the
whole being (1) the multiplied
use of the same names
as Joseph Hanks and
Robert Mitchell and
Richard Berry (2) the
scarcity of Shipleys and
of Spencers - (3) the complex-
ities of county take "offs" from
originally very few divisions
in both Va. & Ky, (4) the
use of names of streams
and other markers of lands
at an early date and
now changed or unknown
(5) Careless and other early
errors in copying, especially
of names (multiple spellings
and signatures only written
by Clerks). (6) the fading
lines (7) the neglect of women's
records and Children's births.

I wish we could compare
and exchange data and di-
vide out some efforts in the
interests of accuracy and surety.

Tho' I have only had one
letter from you I am hoping
this will bring me another
or definite news of you. I
asked before and I ask
now about the further work
you had indicated you
would soon publish, a

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Hanks Genealogy - I do so wish your success in this - Is it being forwarded? Was "our" Joseph H. the one you indicated whose brothers(?) were about him and near his 246 A. in Amelia Co.? Have you accepted the analyses on this of Lea & Hutchinson that at least he is not the son of the William you name and b. in 1704? I have so much of deeds, to carry about for future comparisons, found for the Amelia Co. "Crowd" of Hankses, and

must get busy or throw up the whole matter.

I at present have grown spiritually even intellectually "sick" and my efforts seem under a great debris recently piling up by a revival of the very vilest of the slanders - I feel that whatever of right and whatever the purity of motive to make absolutely modest and honest finds, etc. such a searcher is to be questioned and rebuffed by such writers as Weik Even Dr. Wm E. Burton's "The Paternity of Lincoln"

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will add naught but Clouds of Smoke. It will sell widely and make belief against Nancy and develop other false affidavits, etc. Shall I proceed and try for more matter? If so, is there any thing you have in mind that I could join you about? I was full of enthusiasm till I have read Neil's "The Real Lincoln" and Barton's "The Paternity of Lincoln" — Really I think Barton's is by far the more harmful as it suggests that there is still some awful revelation that he will not reveal unless (?)....

If Yourself and Mrs. Cummins and myself could organize our efforts and make some common purpose or search, even if we take some different matters in turn, it might bring strength by union. I hate to give up Amelia C.

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for Joseph Hanks. I believe he is our man whoever his father was or from whatever parent as an early pioneer.

I found that he was a supervisor of a road in 1755 so he lived there, I found also that he had bought in 1735 290 acre tract on Deep Creek close and on Abram's lines, his Sweathouse grant or purchase being in 1747 for 246 acres. I could not find when he sold either property. If he

latter land is I think in present limits of Nottaway whose records were almost all burned during 1865. It was so important to find the date of disposal of these lands in order to be sure he is "our" Joseph, as there was no such Va. holding mentioned in his Ky. will. Did he leave Amelia Co.? If not, then we are on wrong track.

I do hope you

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are to be found and are now well, and strong in purpose as well as in your capacity to add more evidence where it is now more greatly needed than ever.

I have withheld all I have from publication tho' I sent on some material to Cousin Cotton Noe Prof. J. T. C. Noe, Litt. D. and Head of Educational Dept in Ky. State U. at Lexington, Ky. He had an oration on Lincoln to make on Febr. 12 and he used my material and some from yours and the lecture was published in a Ky paper. It was much like previous utterances and caught little attention, tho' it was worthy enough. Now the resume of slanders will get the attention.

Can we not help and comfort each other and

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keep on going the better therefor? — Please at least give me your address + tell me what deeply concerns us both in this matter.

I have also lost out on Mrs. Cummins's — address and work. Can you inform me of her?

Yours in cordial friendship and appreciation

Kate A. Thompson

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