J. W. STEPHENS, PRESIDENT

JOHN F. DEAN, CASHIER

BEREA BANK & TRUST COMPANY

CAPITAL STOCK $50,000

BEREA, KENTUCKY

Pell 9

July 31st. 1935

Ida Tarbell,

120 E. 19th. St.

New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I am desirous of some information that I believe you might be able to give me. There has long been a traditional relationship in our family to the family of President Lincoln. ~~Recently~~ I have been trying to find some public records to verify this tradition.

Just recently I had a letter from a cousin of my father's that his great grandfather, John Dean, married a sister of Nancy Hanks. He thinks this marriage took place in Virginia but does not know what County. I have written to some of the Counties in Virginia and one clerk sent me a record of a marriage of a John Dean to Mary Nicely in the year 1787. This was in Rockingham County. I am of the opinion that this was a relative, probably a cousin.

You state in your History of Lincoln that Joseph Hanks migrated into Kentucky in the 1880's, that he had eight children Nancy being the youngest, that he died in 1793 leaving a will of record at Bardstown. Other histories dispute this and try to infer that Nancy was an illigitimate child. Your version of the matter seems to tally with our tradition as John Dean could have easily married one of the older girls in Virginia and have come into Kentucky with Tom Lincoln which is according to the tradition handed down. Tom Lincoln could have very easily gone back to Virginia sometime during the period between his first trip to Kentucky and his marriage to Nancy Hanks.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

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You also state in your history that Joseph Hanks and Abraham Lincoln, the president's grandfather, married Shipley sisters. The other histories say Abraham Lincoln married a Herring.

If you can have your secretary look into your old notes, which you undoubtedly have kept and can straighten me out on any of this I will certainly appreciate it and will gladly pay the expense.

I would like to purchase your Life of Lincoln but I hate to pay the prices listed by the publishers including postage.

Yours truly,

Jos F Dean

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