

49 Elm Street
Worcester, Mass., June 14, 1925.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

I received yesterday your review of Mr. Barton's recent Life of Abraham Lincoln for which I am very much obliged. Although published in the Christian Monitor, which is taken at the Antiquarian library, I had not seen it nor had my attention called to it. I have but recently had an opportunity to look over Barton's book, and so far have only read the chapters on his *(Lincoln's)* ancestry, in which I was particularly interested. I have been intending to write to you about his treatment of this subject so that the receipt of your review is most timely. I entirely agree with you that he has not proved his claims about the parentage of Nancy Hanks, and am really surprised that he has not attempted to do so by citing the authorities for his statements, since he was told by both you and myself that it was essential that he should do so. He has, it is true, established the existence of a Lucy Hanks, which I had questioned and proved her marriage to Henry Sparrow, but beyond this he gives us nothing except his own belief for proof of his contentions. Of course he may be right, as a matter of fact he probably is, but the modern genealogist asks for more than family tradition and Mr. Barton, although not a genealogist, should know this since he tries to be one in these early chapters. Thank you again for remembering me. I wish you would pay another visit to Worcester on a day when you can visit the library.

Yours very truly

Walter Lincoln