

51 Elm Street
Worcester, Mass., May 7, 1924.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East Nineteenth Street,
New York, New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I sympathize with you in your wish that a Hanks genealogy might be attempted by a trained genealogist, but I have considerable doubt whether sufficient money can be raised to do the work of compilation and publication. After all are we not mostly interested in the Kentucky end of it and would it not be better to devote any money which can be raised to that, rather than to a search for the whole line? If one begins with the Virginia family, mentioned by Mrs. Hitchcock and which she, without full proof, relates to the Rhode Island family, the work, so far as the immediate family of Nancy Hanks is concerned, will be simplified and shortened materially and the expense correspondingly reduced.

This southern research should be done by someone familiar with southern records, rather than by one who has, mostly or only, worked in the north. I think such a one will work for less compensation than the northern genealogists who generally want rather high pay. Mr. Brigham tells me that a Mr. Robert F. Hayes, Jr., who formerly lived in Baltimore would be, in his opinion a good man for such work. He does not know his present address but says that Bernard C. Steinert, librarian of the Enoch Pratt, Baltimore, will be able to give it.

Would it not be well to get in touch with him and get some idea from him as to what such research will cost. After the Kentucky branches have been worked out, if it seems worth while to attempt to connect the family with New England, it can be done then quite as well and perhaps better than at first.

By the time the compilation is finished it will be time to consider the cost of publication, which, it is to be hoped, will be less than it is today. Anyway that cost will depend upon the quality and quantity of the work. My Lincoln genealogy, a little over 700 pages, in an edition of 300, cost a little over \$11.50 a volume, postage and some other expenses bringing up the cost to about \$12. This might have been done a little less but not much without reducing the quality. I will be pleased to hear further from you.

Yours very truly

