

January 2, 1924

Rev. William E. Barton,  
Lake St. & Kenilworth Ave.,  
Oak Park, Ill.

My dear Mr. Barton:

I am sorry that your bad Lucy Hanks continued to get into trouble after settling in Kentucky. I certainly shall not tell anybody until you and Mr. Warren publish the proof. I am hoping that it will not be long before all the documents that the two of you have gathered will be put out in certified copies or fac simile. I am convinced that the hundred and more mentions of Thomas Lincoln which Mr. Warren told me last fall he had found in the Kentucky records, if reproduced, would compel biographers to continue referring to Thomas as a shiftless vagrant.

Yes, I know that Mrs. Hitchcock is very much stirred up by your "Paternity of Abraham Lincoln." I have written her that while I dislike the stories very much I thought it an excellent thing to have them all put down in black and white. Every now and then someone writes to me that they have discovered some of these numerous fathers of Lincoln, and I now have a place to refer them - your book. And I am constantly doing it. It is a good thing to have this stuff down where people can see just what is and is not in it. I am hoping some day that she will finish up her Hanks genealogy. A complete Hanks genealogy is the present big piece of work to be done.

I am hoping to be able soon to send you a copy of my new book, and you will then see how I have handled the Joseph-Nancy Hanks matter.

Many thanks for your letter, and with best wishes for a Happy New Year, believe me

Sincerely yours,