

735 N. Los Robles Avenue,
Pasadena, California.
June 23rd, 1920.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
132 East Nineteenth St.,
N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I suppose you said with me, "O Lord how long!" over the February Atlantic article of "New Light" on Lincoln. Almost the worst thing about it is there are threads of gold among the old rags. The author has no records, not a scrap, seems to be hiding something, conceals names - It took me a month to discover the name of "The doctor" - Le Grand.

I am digging hard, in Indiana, and have enough certified records to convince any reasonable mind, that the very name, "Sophia Hanks" is a myth. It is absolutely certain she was married to her first husband, Linch, (father of the John "Lynch" discovered in Missouri) by the name of Lydia Hall, August 6th, 1826, just four days following the marriage of Sarah Lincoln to Aaron Grigsby, by a J.P. who lived near, on the road to Dubois Co. Lydia was almost surely a sister of Squire, (son of Levi Hall and Elisabeth Hanks) who was one of the Lincoln party, Illinois going, in 1830. Squire married the Johnston girl, Matilda, and his son, John J. Hall, took care of his grandmother, Lincoln's stepmother, 1851 till she died 1869. His sons are on the old farm now. It may be barely possible to find a bible or church record somewhere for Lydia. Then the chain would be perfect. If I were only able to travel, darn it! Morgan found old letters in Arkansas from Dennis Hanks, (nee Friend) I suspect they contained fairy tales for the ignorant children of the Ozarks. Records of Dubois County were burned - 1839, but we do not need them, I guess.

I have been asking Mr. Morgan, of Dayton, O. some innocent questions and I get revealing answers - Facts? Oh, no! Nary a fact. He promises "Data" when he has time - biographies of all the boys, bros. of "Sophia". *Did you know?*

Poor Polly, dead more than a hundred years, her jumbled skeleton somewhere in Kentucky ground. What the devil has she done to be haled into court at this day by an un-"civil engineer" - and held up to scorn? I constitute myself her volunteer attorney without fee.

Say! What's the matter with that Editor of the Atlantic? M. seems to have hypnotized him with a neat written story of Ozark scenery and tales of flatboating and pig-sticking - even killing of Sarah Bush Lincoln in Indiana 36 years before she died in Illinois.

On my gentle remonstrance against this new scandal

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and repetition of the old one, expressed so elegantly - "Tom an' Nancy was married reg'lar, but she was an illegitimate" - the editor replies curtly that such matters are of "National, rather than family interest," and "Mr. Morgan has told nothing but the truth." I note that Sedgwick is a "Who's-Who"zer, has been in many things, once on the American. He can't be exactly an idiot. In my letter I had invoked consideration for the feelings of Robert Lincoln. He's a good man.

Have you heard from Mrs. Hitchcock lately? Morgan tells me she wrote a remonstrance to the Atlantic, but "Mr. Sedgwick was not impressed" thereby. He speaks disparagingly of her book, and "New England's puritain point of view." Isn't that rich?

My little book, "Life Sketches" that I have worked on 25 years, - just a bit of verse - is being printed now by Duffield & Co. And I have prose matter ^{quantity} for two more, "Heredity and Early Life" and "Lessons for To-day" - hoping the Lord spares me just a year or two yet. The "Flu" left me a bit shaky last spring, or I should have gone ~~ast~~.

There is one historian who will surely get no disrespectful mention from me. Her name is up on the left corner of this. I have just reread her Chapter on the Chicago convention, 1860, and wished it were in a book by itself.

I am 10 years older than you, and married. We hope to celebrate the "Golden" in 1922.

With highest respect,

Sincerely yours,

Garrett Newkirk

Do you know of anybody purposing to write a criticism of the Atlantic paper?