

October 10, 1938

Dear Mrs. Burr:

You must think me the most ungrateful of people. Here it is a month since I received your generous letter telling me that you were having a lot of fun tracing Booth's movements in and around Franklin. In that letter you told me that Mrs. Alexander was so gracious as to want me to come and stay with you for a few days when I came on. I have not written because from day to day I have been uncertain about my movements. I expected, as I think I wrote you, to go to what is called the Homecoming week at Allegheny College in October. It was last week that I decided it was out of the question - for two reasons. The first is a matter of health. I have had a bad year and am only just pulling out of my trouble. I am down to two hours work a day and you can imagine what that means for me who have always worked at least eight and more when it was necessary. But I am getting better, but the Doctor says no trips at present, so with much regret I am giving up going on now. During the year I shall be in Meadville, however, and then I want to connect with you on these records. I can see a story which will be a fresh contribution.

Have you ever seen a book called, "Myths After Lincoln" by Lloyd Lewis? It has a good and what looks like a well documented study of Booth, as a young man. What impressed me is the impression he made as a youth on his family and friends which seems to have been so utterly different from that he made in Franklin.

I have the picture of the Weber House and of course all your letters filed. And when I run across any kind of an item in it goes.

Before I go to Franklin I want to get my Booth items together so that we can go over them. Also I shall bring along my little Booth bibliography, books and articles, some of which may not be in your library in Franklin.

I am so sorry it is impossible for me to go on now. But I shall be there as soon as I can as I have a piece of work to do in Meadville. I shall be hoping that nothing will take you away.

With much appreciation of your interest and with many thanks to Mrs. Alexander for her generous invitation, believe me

Faithfully yours

Ida M. Tarbell

Mr. James R. Buttr
Franklin, Pa.