

January 12, 1928

Mr. Paul Shipman Drane
The Selkirk
308 West 82 St.

My dear Mr. Drane:

I have recently been collecting information regarding the life of Mary Todd Lincoln. In the course of the work I came across an article by a Mrs. Alice D. Shipman, published in the N. Y. Sun in the 90's, in which she reproduces parts of letters written to her by Mrs. Lincoln in 1870-71.

In the course of the article Mrs. Shipman says that she was a ward of Joshua Speed of Louisville, Ky., who, as you know, was a very intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln. Wishing, if possible, to know something more of Mrs. Shipman, whether there was a possibility that she, if living, or her heirs might have further letters, I made inquiries in Louisville, with no further success; but with the suggestion that I write to Mary Shipman Andrews.

This I did, and Mrs. Andrews wrote me at once, and very generously, saying that she knew nothing whatever about Alice Shipman, but that there was a possibility that she might have been the wife of her father's brother, Paul Shipman, and suggesting that I write to you.

This suggestion seemed to me particularly hopeful because in one of Mrs. Lincoln's letters she speaks of a Mr. George D. Prentiss, and Mrs. Andrews tells me in her letter that Paul Shipman was an associate on the Louisville Courier Journal.

I should appreciate very much any information that you can give me, dear Mr. Drane; and I do hope that I am not adding burdens to a busy man.

Sincerely yours