

April 11, 1925

The Chicago Tribune Librarian,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of April 7, asking if I can locate for you the original letter written by Abraham Lincoln to General Grant and quoted in your editorial of February 24, 1925. No, I cannot.

The letter is given in the "Letters and Speeches of Abraham Lincoln," edited by Nicolay and Hay, as you no doubt know. Their authority, in all probability, was the copy of the letter which is shut up in the Lincoln papers in the Manuscript Department of the Congressional Library, not to be released until twenty-one years after Mr. Robert Lincoln's death. I hope you will live long enough, dear Mr. Librarian, to consult these papers.

Have you looked in the War Records? I have not, nor have I the time to do so now.

No doubt you have consulted the Grants. I should suppose it would be among General Grant's papers. And if so, it is probable that it has come into the possession of some small collector. The only practical way I can think of would be for you to keep a standing advertisement in the Tribune.

I don't think your comment on the letter is particularly understanding. A father could not force a boy as old as Robert Lincoln was at that time, into the army. There is a question, too, whether he could have gone without an uproar, from certain quarters, from people who never got over the idea that Mrs. Lincoln was disloyal. It is a question, too, whether Mrs. Lincoln, with her temperament and sympathies, would not have fought the boy's enlisting. It seems to me that from all that we know of Abraham Lincoln, we would be led to believe that he would have been proud enough to have had a son in the army.

Very truly yours,