

April 3, 1925

Mrs. Clifford Ireland,
643 Moss Avenue,
Peoria, Ill.

My dear Mrs. Ireland:

Thank you for your interesting letter telling me that you are thinking of writing something on Mary Todd Lincoln.

I am afraid that I can be of little use to you as I never have attempted anything especially on Mrs. Lincoln. On the ground, as you are, you ought to be able to gather a good deal if you went about it systematically.

You should begin with the written material, what the various histories have said. Dr. Barton has interesting impressions of Mrs. Lincoln in his new book, and he seems to agree with you that the public at large had gotten a very wrong impression of her. I have long felt that though she was of a rather ungoverned nature, she has not been justly dealt with, and I should like to see a careful study made of her life. I hope you will go ahead and do it. Begin with the printed matter.

You ought to find a good deal that will help you in the Illinois Historical Society library where they have one of the best Lincoln collections in existence. Look up what they have in the Lincoln home at Springfield, and wherever you can find anybody that remembers her, interview them. This is the best advice I can give you.

Hoping you will keep up the undertaking, and assuring you of my interest, believe me

Sincerely yours,