

August 25, 1920

Mr. Garrett Newkirk,
Pasadena, California.

My dear Mr. Newkirk:

Thank you for your interesting letter. You were quite right in writing me as you did, and, as I said, I understand how you feel. I had a long talk with Mr. Morgan here in New York only this week over his Atlantic paper, and told him frankly that what I found in it was the color and feel which family traditions give, and that I also found there the errors which usually are in family traditions and which must be there with an experience such as that of his doctor and the doctor's family.

I am glad if you can prove the regularity of Polly's marital relation. I never knew anything about her.

I can see exactly how you took those little wheels for granted, but they were a surprise and a delight to me, and, as I said before, they helped make Tom Lincoln a more respectable figure.

There is a great deal, believe me, my dear Mr. Newkirk, in the fact that you have a distinct remembrance of pioneer conditions. I know a little of them for I was born in the pioneer home of my maternal grandfather, though taken away from there when too young to remember what you remember. It would be a worthy task for you to reconstruct Lincoln's early life from the basis of your own recollection.

As to that cabinet, it is not the one in my first volume. It is a much more elaborate piece of work, a corner cabinet, well made, I should say, from the picture that I have.

I don't understand your reference to being "baptized by Lincoln at the age of eleven years." How about that? I should like to know the story, certainly it is, as you say, a mystery that I cannot guess.

I shall look for your book with a great deal of interest; and I certainly heartily second your wish that I may see you and Mrs. Newkirk in Pasadena and hear the hundreds of things that I know you could tell me.

With all good wishes, believe me

Sincerely yours,