

August 26, 1938

Dear Mr. Lytle:

This must be a letter of humble apology as well as one of real gratitude, for I have a copy of "Abraham and Ann Rutledge, autographed by Mr. Rennick, sent me in 1932 when the book was published. It is properly entered in my little Lincoln catalogue but somehow it escaped my mind and I told Ann Rutledge that I did not possess it. I am so ashamed of my lapse of memory.

But now I have your second copy and the kind letter you sent with it. I do not want to give that up. May I keep it, or do you think that I ought to return it to Mr. Rennick's secretary. I want to keep your letter inside the copy and also to make a footnote explaining my own forgetfulness. The book is to go along with my little collection as a nucleus of what I hope will be a substantial collection in my old college - Allegheny, Meadville, Pennsylvania. This would be an instructive lesson in the necessity of cultivating the memory better than I have done. What do you say? I shall return the book if you think I should.

It was a real pleasure for me to meet the present day Ann Rutledge. She seems to me a very charming reproduction to my own notions of the original.

With renewed thanks for your kindness, believe me, my dear Mr. Lytle

Very sincerely yours

Mr. H. J. Lytle
Davenport, Iowa

See his letter Aug. 13, 1938