

240 CHURCH STREET  
NEW YORK

May 20, 1943

Mr. Philip M. Benjamin  
Librarian, Allegheny College  
Meadville, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

I enclose a small copy which I have had made of the photograph of Lincoln which you sent to me with your letter of May 12, 1943, the size being similar to those in my book THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN of 1911 and the two Supplements. I want to use this in Supplement No. 3, which will be privately published.

I have been trying to locate it as having been made at the same time other photographs were made, and I enclose some prints with brief descriptions:

- No. 21 By Church, Springfield, May 20, 1860.
- " 22 By Church, Springfield, May 20, 1860.  
(Nos. 21 and 22 were ambrotypes said to have been made for J. Henry Brown of Phila., the Artist.)
- " 29 By Butler, Springfield, Aug. 13, 1860.
- " 30 By Butler, Springfield, Aug. 13, 1860.  
(Nos. 29 and 30 were also said to have been made for J. Henry Brown, Artist.)

Your portrait shows Mr. Lincoln wearing a black vest so the Numbers 29 and 30 are eliminated as having been made at the same time as in these he is clearly shown with a white vest.

Will you please compare the portrait with Nos. 21 and 22 and let me know if you think they could have been made at the same time as your portrait. There is some doubt in my own mind, and so far I have not been able to satisfy myself that your portrait is very like any of the other 1860 portraits.

If it is unlike any of the known portraits we must state that it was made in 1860, and give the history which is written on the back of your copy.

I enclose your cabinet size copy and thank you again for your kindness in sending it to me.

Very sincerely,



F. H. Meserve



I will give this a  
number before you  
supplement No 3  
is published  
7/11/1861

21

Message No 21



Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pellicani Library



Reserve No 22



Reserve No 29