

July 9, 1924

Hon. W. C. Townley,  
Bloomington, Ill.

My dear Mr. Townley:

I have you to thank, I see, for the copy of the pamphlet reporting the dedication services over the monument erected at the graves of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln.

I cannot begin to tell you what a satisfaction it is to me to know that the graves are marked with so dignified and beautiful a monument. You should have pride in your part in this work.

And now there is one thing that I hope you will let me ask. Have the Illinois Lions Club who so generously provided this monument arranged for proper care of the plot and the ground in its immediate vicinity? Two years and a half ago I visited the old Shiloh cemetery and I was ashamed and disheartened by the neglect of the whole place. It looked so poor, it was so ugly, when by so modest an expenditure of money it could have been made so attractive. What was needed, as it seemed to me, was liberal planting of shrubs and trees to take off the bareness. That would not cost very much, and I am quite sure that the old Shiloh people would, if their pride in the matter was aroused, take care of grass and shrubbery. Of course this is just between you and me. I would not for the world seem to criticize the people of that neighborhood who undoubtedly have a hard time making ends meet; but if the Lions Club would go a little further, in case they have not already done so, and soften and beautify the spot with proper shrubbery and trees, not forgetting a good sprinkling of evergreens to hold up through the winter, they would be completing their work.

I hope, dear Mr. Townley, this is carrying coals to Newcastle, but if not you will take it all in good part, won't you?

Sincerely yours,