

Rochester, N. Y.,
Feb. 20, 1928.
2 Canary Street.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell:

Dear Miss Tarbell -- Mrs. Grace Bedell Billings, referred to in the article, "Why Lincoln Raised Whiskers," a clipping of which I enclose, is my aunt. I have seen a number of versions of her letter to Mr. Lincoln and the ensuing incident; but I don't recall ever having seen the incident related in detail accurately, with an attempt to go into the motives of the child who wrote the letter. I've often thought I'd like to tell the story, as I've heard the circumstances talked of many times by members of the family. I finally did so, and sent the MS. out to Aunt Grace, so that she might check it as to facts. I believe that the resulting article is at least correct.

As you referred to the incident in your "The Early Life of Lincoln," I thought that perhaps you would be interested in seeing this account of it, so I am sending it.

Sincerely,

Charles Billings Stilson.