

August 23, 1929

Mr. W. H. Graves
318 W. Douglas Ave.
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Mr. Graves:

I am afraid I have gotten myself into trouble over your brother's story of his and Bob Lincoln's exploits with cats and dogs so rudely interrupted by Mr. Lincoln.

I used the episode in a very general way in a recent article, basing my story on a letter of yours written on August 13, 1911, in which you state:

"There had been a hanging at Springfield and the children of the neighborhood had gathered up some puppies and kittens and were putting them through the dreadful performance in Mr. Lincoln's barn.

"I don't know whether any of the little innocents really gave up their lives or not, but when Mr. Lincoln came home and learned what was going on, he lost no time. Running across the back yard, to the barn, he snatched a stave from the decrepid old ash hopper and burst upon the assembled barbarians, scattering blows right and left. My brother came in for his share and the present President of the Pullman Palace Car Company got a full quota. The kittens and puppies were rescued and the children departed for their various homes with more celerity than that with which they had assembled."

Now comes your recent letter in which you tell me that your brother in his articles says

that the genesis of their performance was a wild animal show that was held in Springfield, and what they really aimed at was the training of cats and dogs, not hanging - that the hanging came in only incidentally, in order to subdue their victims sufficiently to educate them. How about it?

Can you find out from your brother if there had been both a hanging and a circus in Springfield, and what the young gentlemen were doing was really attempting to apply what they had learned from both events? I must square myself with my readers some way; and, as the article will probably go into book form eventually, I should like to have it cleared up.

At all events, thank you very much for your letter, which is most interesting.

With all good wishes, believe me

Sincerely yours