February 26, 1936

My dear Mr. Volk:

There has recently been offered me for purchase a replica of the Lincoln mask which bears this inscription in the letters on the plaster:-

"This cast was made for Allen Thorn Dyker a subscriber to the fund for the purchase and presentation to the U. S. Government of The original mask made in Chicago, April, 1860 by Leonadr W. Volk. The cast was taken from the first replica of the original. In N.Y.C. February 1863."

Do you know anything about this?

It is true, is it not, that the original life mask is in the National Congressional Library in Washington? Is it in the Congressional Library or in the National Museum? I was under the impression it was in the latter.

I cannot afford to buy this piece but I do want for my Lincoln collection a copy of the mask and of the hand. I am getting my articles together to give to my old college - Allegheny at Meadville, Pennsylvania. I do not want it to go there without the Volk mask and hand. I have as one of my most valued items a photograph which your father gave me of one of his Lincolns. It is signed and has his remarks - the outline of mask and hand in the corner.

Now what I am asking you is, have you in your possession a satisfactory cast. If so what would it cost me?

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Again, one of the things I must have is a copy of the enclosed photograph. I am trying to get it from Zerbe.

I shall be very grateful for any help you can give me in carrying out my ambition in regard to the cast. I had always meant to take the matter up with your father but we always had so many interesting Lincoln things to talk about that I always forgot my quest.

Thanking you in advance for your help.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Gerome D. Volk
Fryeburg, Maine

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.