June 15, 1932.

My dear Mr. Simmonds:

I have your note asking how it was that Mrs. Abraham Lincoln was in such serious financial straits after the assassination of the President.

It is true that Mr. Lincoln left an estate of about $100,000.00, a third of which went to Mrs. Lincoln. This Estate was not settled until a number of months after Mr. Lincoln's death. In the meantime, she was voted his salary I think for the rest of the year of his death, 1865. She owned the home in Springfield, to which she could have retired, but she preferred Chicago and bought a house there. Before Mr. Lincoln's death, she had unknown to him, run heavily into debt. She had little money sense, was naturally hysterical, a temperament which the tragedy of her husband's death accentuated. It's an unhappy story, the gist of which is that Mrs. Lincoln was an extravagant woman, quite unfit to handle money.

Hoping this answers your question, believe me,

Very truly yours,

Mr. Claude E. Simmonds,
17 Warren Road,
So. Natick, Mass.

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