

April 27, 1933

My dear Mr. Kurz:

I regret there has been so long a delay in replying to your letter of February 6th. I have been ill, out of New York, have only just returned to my desk.

Yes, several years ago I did have some correspondence with James Lemen, Jr. about his connection with Lincoln. But that correspondence and the material he sent me I cannot at this moment put my hands on as my Lincoln papers are in process of classification. I am sorry. If I am not mistaken the article that you say you have found, "Lincoln, As Lemen Knew Him" was among the material that James Lemen sent me. In a book of mine published in 1925, "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns" I have made some comment on Lemen's documents. I think there is reason to doubt the authenticity of the Lincoln letter he published. And as for the article, "Lincoln, As Lemen Knew Him" I said "In the Footsteps" that one must remember the reminiscences were written long after the event by an aged and fervently pious man. He probably exaggerated his intimacy with Lincoln. I added that I saw little reason to doubt their genuineness.

I regret that I cannot give you any further help than what you may get out of what I have said in the book referred to.

If you do write anything on the Lemen family I should very much like to see it.

Very truly yours

Mr. Walter Wm. Kurz
Waterloo, Illinois