

October 2, 1933

Dear Miss Hughton:

I am very sorry I have been so delayed in replying to your generous letter of so many days ago. You give me in a clear and entertaining fashion the story of the owner of this bracelet which I am so proud. I am filing the letter along with the pictures of Mr. & Mrs. Steele and the copy of the portrait of Mary Ellis Steele, and when I am gone the document will pass on with the bracelet. Of course all that you tell me makes the bracelet, itself, infinitely more valuable.

Now about the autograph collection made by Miss Steele. There is no doubt of its being a valuable piece for a collector. If the conditions of the country were different than what they are you could no doubt place it well. But as things are now I feel certain that Goodspeed's advice to wait two years before attempting to sell it is wise. I feel sure, too, that you could not have a better agent than Goodspeed to handle it. There is one other dealer in old books and documents, particularly interested in autographs - a thoroughly reliable firm I believe them to be - the G. A. Baker & Co., Inc. 480 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

I believe that they would be interested in the collection and they might be willing to take it to show to their clients. I think, myself, that it would be wiser for you to write them directly describing the collection in the same terms that you have described it to me. There are interesting details on Page 3 of your letter. You may tell them, if you wish, that I have advised you to ask them if they would consider selling the collection. You can be sure that they will get the best possible price for it, because the better the price, of course, the better their commission would be. I know that they have at the present time one of the most valuable collections of Lincoln documents in existence in their safe. They are trying to dispose of it, and I am correctly informed they think they have a purchaser, although it has taken them many months to secure one. If you write them telling them what you have of autographed photographs, the circumstances and also telling them

of your original letters I am sure they would be interested. I would not send the material until I had asked them if they would be interested in looking it over and attempting to dispose of it.

As you will see I am sending back with the pieces that you marked to be returned the picture of Mrs. Doubleday and the one of Mary Ellis Steele. I really feel that I ought not to keep these, only the photographs that directly concern the bracelet.

Thank you for including this very charming picture of yourself in your garden. I am most glad to have it.

I do hope you will have success with the Baker people. At all events I shall be glad to know what comes of the approach to them. Thanking you again for your generous story of my precious bracelet, believe me

Cordially yours

Miss Mary Hughston
1326 North Park Avenue
Tucson, Arizona