

*Civil War Period
Lumbersey will
bring -
about Chapter VII*

April 6, 1921

Mr. W. S. Maxey,
Mt. Vernon, Ill.

My dear Mr. Maxey:

Thank you for your letter of March 19.
I think I will have to change the name of Lincoln's sister to Sarah when I come to put the Boys' Life in book form, though I confess I don't like to do it.

You make a suggestion that I like very much for it is in line with something that I have been trying to gather materials to work up. That is, that I bring out the intimacy and companionship of Lincoln with his boys when he was overwhelmed with the troubles and trials of the Civil War and the duties of his office. I already have considerable material on this, and I would like it very much if you call my attention to anything that has particularly impressed you. It might be something outside of what I have gathered. There is something, you know, in my Life of Lincoln on this point.

One thing I am trying to do in my article on the Lincoln and Douglas debates is to show the interest that boys took in these discussions, the way that some of them followed him from point to point, and his liking for boys as it was shown at this period and the way in which his attention to them made some of them his devoted followers through life. I have a number of incidents of this kind; and if you have happened to know of any man who heard the debates and was influenced in any way by them or received any strong impression of Lincoln I would like it very much if you would pass it on.

Possibly you have seen Lea and Hutchinson's book on the ancestry of Lincoln. In the preface Mr. Lea tells something that I am going to quote. I have a letter that Robert Lincoln, who was only fifteen then, wrote to a friend about his recollections, which I shall use. Anything that really brings out the feeling the man had for the boy and the way the boy responded to it, I shall be glad of.

It is very good of you, dear Mr. Maxey, to take this interest in the Boy Scouts' Life. I want to get it so that it will interest boys in the man and his making.

Very sincerely yours,