

November 29, 1922

Miss Jane E. Hamond,
Schaller, Iowa.

My dear Miss Hamond:

I was much interested in your letter of November 9, which reached me here in New York after considerable delay.

I have been on a Lincoln pilgrimage of some two months, through Virginia, Kentucky, south-western Indiana and finally Illinois; and in that time I have not only refreshed my former studies of Lincoln's life but come upon many new points.

I was much interested in your collection at Decatur. It is admirably selected and admirably arranged. It was a fine idea of yours to make a special Rutledge exhibit; and believe me, I do appreciate your kindness in offering to pass on material. It is never possible for me in advance to tell what photographs a publisher will use, but my practice is to gather everything available.

I should appreciate your sending me a photograph of the stone over Mary Ann Rutledge's grave, and in sending it will you not put on the full information, date of taking, locality, and anything about her which you think might be interesting.

Of course a copy of the Rutledge family record I should value highly, and certainly could incorporate it sooner or later into what I am writing.

As for a print of the "Old Harmony" open at "Legacy", do please give it to me. I shall use it with joy.

Believe me, dear Miss Hamond, I do appreciate the persistency and devotion that you have given in collecting this Rutledge material. I know something about what it means to get exact data of this kind, and I feel that your effort is a real contribution to the story of Lincoln's life.

You speak of a photograph of the Lincoln cabin, taken the day before it was dismembered and shipped to Chicago. I am writing

Mr. Simpson today, asking if he can give me a print of it.

I am afraid I do not share your feeling about Old Salem. Of course the cabins as they stand now are only suggestive, temporary structures, that were erected in haste for the pageant; but a complete restoration of the town will, I believe, be a monument of beauty, interest and real historical value not only to Lincoln but to the pioneers of Illinois. It will give moregraphically than anything that I could imagine a picture of the early settlements. That is, it will, if it is carried out with fidelity to detail. I believe that in time you will come to agree with me.

Thanking you again and again, my dear Miss Hamond, for your kindness in writing, and assuring you of my appreciation of the efforts you have made to gather the choice collection at Decatur, believe me

Very sincerely yours,