

FK Matthews

July 15, 1920

My dear Mr. Matthews:

How about the making of maps for the Lincoln Life? Have you someone that you could put on that? If so, I think it would be a good thing for me to take the matter up, chapter by chapter, as I work. For instance, I should like now to have some one get up a very simple map, showing the points in Kentucky, the route of the hegira into Indiana and the trail which Thomas Lincoln broke in locating his new farm.

I wondered if it would be possible by correspondence to get the Boy Scouts in Louisville, for instance, interested in Lincoln hikes and in investigations. Might it not be an interesting thing to see what they would turn up? Let them take a hike and as many of them as will, write their impressions. Then we could select the best one and print it in the Magazine. Might it not be possible to offer a prize for any new bit of authentic Lincoln material? Might not the boys tie up their nature studies to the subject? What were the birds that the boy Lincoln probably saw on the farm in Kentucky? What were the animals and the trees? How did they make their utensils? their furniture? their ironware? I should think that, rightly directed, there might be a very substantial educational value in enlisting them.

Then, as we went on, if we could get the Louisville boys interested, we could go on into Indiana and from there into Illinois. Could this be done by correspondence?

Of course nothing would please me better than to go out on the road myself, but I have not the time nor the strength, and I am not at all sure but in the long run it would be better to let the boys work the thing out largely for themselves. Then, if we succeeded in getting an interest, later on I could make a little trip and consult with them. They probably would teach me a lot. What do you think of this?

Very sincerely yours,

