November 12, 1923

Mrs. C. J. Coffman,
2365 Scarff St.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

My dear Mrs. Coffman:

I have just received your letter enclosing a picture of President Lincoln and his party at Antietam in the fall of 1862, which you cut from the Illustrated Magazine of the Los Angeles Times.

I am exceedingly sorry that your father, Captain Derickson, whom I used to know very well in Meadville, should have been overlooked in the naming of the persons in the group. The picture was used, names and all, exactly as it came to me years ago. I suppose that the person identifying the parties in the group had not known your father's name or his relation to Mr. Lincoln, and so dismissed him in this improper way. I am more than sorry about it. The faces were not very clear and I should not have known your father's face anyway at that age, and as those I did know were correct, I let it go. It seems to me that it is hardly worth while to call attention to it now, so long after its appearance in the newspapers, particularly as in one of the future articles I have made mention of Captain Derickson and his friendly relations to Mr. Lincoln. Do you not agree with me? Of course if I should be using the picture again, I will have the correction made.

Please believe me, dear Mrs. Coffman, I am very sorry for the mistake, and I am glad that you wrote me about it. Aside from this it is pleasant to hear from you. I am very fond of Meadville and of my old friends there. Judge Henderson, Edgar Hindekoper, Dr. Crawford, and Dr. Bates whom you name are all old friends of mine and your father, whom I valued highly and I am glad of a letter from his daughter, even if it is calling my attention to an error for which I am even indirectly responsible.

Sincerely yours,

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