

April 17, 1928

Mr. Louis A Warren  
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mr. Warren:

Mrs. Charles White of Brookline, Mass., as you know, has just been in New York, and as probably you know, too, she and I had a long talk over the interesting pilgrimage she is undertaking.

She showed me your last letter to her - the one in which you say that the document in which Lucy Hanks gives Henry Sparrow "approbation" "to get out ~~license~~" has disappeared from the Kentucky records.

Now, my dear Mr. Warren, this seems to Mrs. White and to me to put on you the obligation to at once broadcast this loss. You may have some theory about where the document has gone - I have none, though ~~it~~ <sup>the loss</sup> it is not due to the carelessness of the keepers, as so oft happened in Kentucky, it is probably due to some collector or dealer in documents.

I am inclined to think it is the latter, and that is why it seems to me that it is so necessary to make the loss publicly known. It probably would command a large price, and my judgment is that collectors are willing to shut their eyes as to where a document comes from, all they ask is to get it, and not to know it if it has been stolen.

You would do a good thing for Lincoln students, and also help to establish your reputation as a serious authority on the early Lincoln documents if you would at once call public attention to this.

I am sure that the Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. would see the advertising importance to them of giving out such a piece of information. But do it at once. It might go out through the A.P.; or, if you don't succeed with them, the New York Times would certainly publish the story, properly prepared. My judgment is that you ought to do it, and the organization you have joined ought to get behind you in seeing that it was done, and done promptly.

Remember that the news value of the thing will carry it. A month or six months from now if you report it, nobody but students will pay attention.