December 21, 1922

Col. Armistead C. Gordon,
Staunton, Va.

My dear Col. Gordon:

How kind of you to have taken so much trouble over my letter! One reason that I wrote was that I feared from Mr. Kemper's letter that he was in difficulty, and knowing your friendly feeling towards him, thought that it might be possible to extricate him. It is all very unfortunate, as you say - a great pity and wrong, I feel, that officials should not have sympathy for a man of Mr. Kemper's ability, however much trouble he may make them.

I shall appreciate very much your seeing Mr. Kennedy. As I think I wrote you, I know that the papers I want are in Staunton, for there is a digest of them in Vol. 11 of the printed records of Augusta County, to which Mr. Kennedy would, of course, have access.

The suit is of one "Rymel et ux. vs. Lincoln." It was brought in March of 1813. There is a fairly good digest of the documents, but no copy of John Lincoln's will, which I particularly want. I should like, too, to get any information in the papers concerning Abraham Lincoln, John's son, or any further information about John himself that the documents contain.

Of course I should want to reimburse Mr. Kennedy for his time and trouble. If he is willing to do this through Mr. Kemper I should prefer it as I dislike very much to do anything that might wound Mr. Kemper.

Please believe, dear Col. Gordon, I appreciate very much your courtesy and generosity in getting me this data.

With the best wishes for a Happy Holiday and with all kind regards, believe me

Sincerely yours,

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.