

July 7, 1937

Dear Mrs. Knudson:

I have just received through Mr. Roll at Springfield a copy of your brochure announcing The Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden and with it a copy of the plan. Needless to say I am delighted with both and I am wondering if I would be intruding in making a suggestion for a corner of the garden. Of course I may be carrying coals to Newcastle and the idea may not fit in with Mr. Jensen's design which seems to be admirable, but I do think there is something in it. Here it is:-

An ancestral group, or corner, or garden, as you might wish to call it, the planting to come from the successive settlements made by the Lincolns from their arrival three hundred years ago. Would it not be possible to have transplanted from Hingham and Cohasset in Massachusetts, Monmouth County in New Jersey, Burk and Lancaster Counties in Pennsylvania, the Shenandoah Valley, Kentucky, Indiana, into your garden shrubs and trees and flowers which would represent the steps in the Lincoln Pilgrimage?

If this be done I suggest that in the planting which represents New Jersey there be placed a replica of the touching little tombstone which still marks the grave of Mordecai Lincoln's daughter Deborah who died on May 15, 1720, Aged three years four months.

Possibly there are at other points simple things which could be reproduced and enclosed in the native shrubs.

Of course you see what I mean, dear Mrs. Knudson. If it should appeal to you and your committee and your designer can fit this idea into

his plotting the gathering of the materials
could be done through people locally interested
I am certain.

Is it a practical idea? Am I
carrying coals to Newcastle?

You will understand my interest in
this I think from the little article I am enclosing.
It is a brief digest of materials that I gathered
fifteen years ago embodied in my book called "In the
Footsteps of the Lincolns." It was called out as
you will see by a ten days Pilgrimage that certain
Lincoln enthusiasts were taking under the
direction of Dr. Louis Warren of the Library in
Fort Wayne.

Whether my idea is of any use to
you or not, dear Mrs. Knudson, believe I am heartily
in sympathy with your fine undertaking, and I feel
sure you are sponsoring one of the most beautiful
memorials yet undertaken in Lincoln's memory.

Very sincerely yours

Mrs. T. J. Knudson
Gladares
Springfield, Illinois