

Aug. 4, 1920

Mr. Garrett Newkirk,
Pasadena, California.

My dear Mr. Newkirk:

I felt very guilty this morning when I received your letter of July 27, with its reminder that I had not answered the one of a month ago. It is not that I have forgotten it; I have been meaning every day to take it up, but have been pretty crowded with things to do.

I quite understand your feeling about Mr. Morgan's article. It is true, it has its inaccuracies, and that it accepts gossip as fact; and this, of course, is bad. What does seem to me valuable about it is that it gives a color and feel to the life of the Lincoln family which I cannot but believe is true. It gives the impression of a life more real and less sodden and miserable than most of the accounts that we get. Of course it was a hard life but I have always felt that it was full of interest and variety. Mr. Morgan's article supports me in this feeling.

For instance, I never before had come across the fact that Tom Lincoln made spinning wheels; but when you come to think of it, knowing that he was as good a carpenter as we have proof of, it is a natural thing for him to do. I don't know how it is with you, but with me, the very idea of his building the "little wheels" increases his value. Indeed, the more I study this period of the Lincoln life in Indiana, the more respect I have for Tom Lincoln and his wives.

It is, then, I repeat, for the color and the feel of the thing that I value Mr. Morgan's article. He knows little or nothing of the documents in the case, that is, he has not been a student of the period, but family traditions have their value, distorted as they usually are, and certainly when they pass through as many mouths as these stories that Mr. Morgan tells, they rarely new exactly to the fact.

You say that Mr. Morgan writes you that I had called his contribution "the most important made concerning Lincoln's boyhood." I am pretty sure he misquotes me there. I think I said, the most important for some time, and I also called his attention

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to some inaccuracies. I have not the article by me at this moment, but I am going to take it up in detail soon.

I suppose you know the papers by J. Edward Murr that were published two years ago in the Indiana Magazine of History. They have interesting things in them, collected first hand from Murr's pioneer acquaintances. If you have not these, you certainly should get hold of them.

Do I understand that your Lincoln book is on the press now? I shall be very anxious to get hold of it.

Do you know anything of a cabinet that is now in the LosAngelese Historical Museum? It was placed there by a Mrs. Cryderman, who is a granddaughter of Josiah Crawford. It seems to be authentic, and the picture shows it to be a pretty good piece of pioneer cabinet work. According to the owner, Abraham had a hand in its making.

I hope you will not serve me as badly in replying to this as I did your June letter. I am working at this moment on a Boy Scouts' Life of Lincoln, and appreciate talking things over with anyone who is interested.

Very sincerely yours,