

March 15, 1934

Dear Mrs. Anderson:

I am much interested in your letter of March 12th. The sentences you quote are mine. In 1909 and 1910 I published in The American Magazine a series of articles on American Women beginning with the Revolution. In April and May I had two articles on the women in the Civil War and it was in the course of the first of these that I spoke of Anna Dickinson.

I went to considerable trouble at the time to get material about her. Although she was living she was not supposed to see anybody. She and her friend with whom she lived were both suffering under what I considered a delusion that she was being systematically persecuted and that it wasn't safe for her to see strangers. However, I wrote her and I had from her a coherent and interesting letter, a copy of which I enclose.\* I also enclose a proof of what I first wrote for the article. They were forced to cut certain paragraphs because of lack of space. I shall be obliged if you will return this proof when you are through with it.

I am afraid I cannot give you very much help. If you follow her up you will have to consult the newspaper files of the day. As I recall it now the Tribune was particularly friendly to her and its young men, John Hay and Whitelaw Reed, were said to have been very much in love with her, though that I suppose is gossip. At any rate she was a vivid figure in the Civil War. The only person I have known who was really studying her life was Mrs. Agnes C. Robinson of 141 Washington St., Hempstead, New York. Now that was Mrs. Robinson's address in 1910. Whether she is living or not I could not tell you. I had

\* As you will see from this letter I did have a short interview with her. The first letter I received from her seems to have been mislaid but as I recall there was little in it.

an interesting correspondence with Mrs. Robinson but that was personal and confidential and without her consent I could not pass on to you what she wrote. I think the wisest way, if you are interested, is to write directly there and find if Mrs. Robinson ever completed the magazine article which she was then contemplating, an article founded on her acquaintance. If she is living and is disposed to do so I am sure she could give you interesting material.

I am sorry I can be of no more help to you, but if at any time you should think I could help you I shall be glad to try to do so.

Very sincerely

Mrs. Harold V. Anderson  
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Bethlehem, Pa.