

Miss Frances M. Davison
Casilla 848
American Consulate General
Lima, Peru.
April 11, 1935.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York, New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Years ago I read your work on Lincoln, and for the past several years I have wanted to write you a letter, and until Josephine H. Woods of the Inambari River district of Peru informs me in her letter received this morning of the receipt of a letter from you, the moment did not arrive in my life when the tickling fingers contacted with the paper and the thoughts so long in a neblous form appear at last in writing.

The year before my uncle was injured in the cyclone in Cuba, which resulted in his death on New Years, he told my aunt by marriage (Florence Grant Dressler, who once edited FEMINOLOGY), that my grandfather, Johann Christolf Adolph Dressler, founded the Republican party and was the first to suggest Lincoln for President, and that he was a personal friend also of Grant. I did not learn this until two years ago, since which time I have had no chance for research in the United States being an American consular clerk and stationed as above, though hoping to return to the homeland for vacation in June of this year.

Knowing you wrote of Lincoln perhaps you can tell me about whether you think my Uncle had the facts straight. My grandfather, Johann Christolf Adolph Dressler, was born in Meiningen, Saxony, (now Thuringen) Germany. While a young student he became involved in a revolution against the royal family. Many of the students were shot, but as his father was worth a half million marks, had contracts for the leather supply of the King (Chief Leatherer to the Royal Family), and because his aunt had married a younger son of the Roayl Family, the marriage ^{was} recognized, and the couple sent to one of the German provinces in Africa; the Dresslers were allowed to keep their boy in hiding and his mother, who had money in her own right, gave the boy \$4000, and by night he slipped out of the country and to America. In Minnesota, at Saint Paul, he is reported to have been an intimate friend of the first Governor of that State, and his first child, my aunt, to have received her first kiss from the first Governor of Minnesota. He swam the rivers (Mississippi and Minnesota) in winter and neglected to change

his clothes or properly take care of himself. His young wife was having many babies, some of which died, and when he was compelled to take long trips the Indian men frightened her, so, contrary to the Governor's advice, he went back with his wife and babies to "that swamp" (Chicago); where he is reported to have founded the first turner verein in the United States and the first singen verein and have indulged greatly in politics, but disease overcame him, he took overdoses of medicine to keep going; lost everything, including his papers, in the Chicago fire, and died when my mother was a wee girl of about eight years, 59 years ago, being buried in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago, by the side of the road, a great tree now spreading its shade in summer days, protecting it from the sun.

When the Republicans had their anniversary of their founding I wrote "my Senator" to send me whatever they published on the early history of the party; but received nothing.

If you have anything among your papers or know where I could put my fingers on anything to authenticate the statements of my uncle, who was about 14 when my grandfather died; but when Uncle returned to Chicago at 26 I know that the politicians came immediately after him and wanted him to go into politics, but he did not care for it; though I have - since I was 12 years old - had a deep yearning, without any fostering, for "things diplomatic", which may be inherited as from the days when the Minute Men planned our separation from Mother England, down through the years someone in our family has dabbled in a small way in civil service for our Government and seen service in our wars.

I read an account about your daily schedule of life in some magazine about a year ago, and have often pictured you, and thought of you many times through the years. I know that next to Christ, I think Lincoln has had more written about him than almost anyone since Christ, except perhaps Lindberg; his avalanche of publicity that ran from Mother's Day to Fathers's Day on the occasion of his flight to France, in the daily Press alone, must have been the grand total. I have also written one on the "Why of Lindberg's greatness", will enclose it in a letter to you. You might want to brush it up for a Mother's Day publication (Reminiscences), it was rejected by some magazine I sent it to.

With best regards,

Mrs Frances M. Davison

My father thinks we are
of the John Davison Rockefeller
"Davisons", his mother was "Eliza",
and we don't know the family of, my
great grandfather Davison of Ontario Province, Canada.
That Davison

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as our account in the family goes, was a secretary to a London banker named Morgan, who had an only daughter, named Marie. He took the two young people with him on a sea voyage, during which they eloped, and he disinherited the daughter. There is talk of Montreal, Quebec, Suffolk, England, and a Bergen, intangible talk, of which I have never been able to make anything by research in the D.A.R. and Library of Congress leads. My grandfather, George, and his two brothers, Samuel and William, were born around the 1810-20s, at Kingston, Canada, and at Davison's Corners, near Port Hope, Canada, they settled. My grandfather sprinkled the U.S.A. with some 75 descendants; Samuel did almost as well for Canada and William settled in Chillan, Chile, where some 120 descendants now can be found from Santiago to Punta Arenas. My grandfather is buried in Chillan, Chile, so we know little of the Davison's either for Papa, an orphan, was parked with his mother's relatives during childhood.

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P.S. I am not asking for genealogical research, but you also wrote in some magazine years ago about "John D". But if your memory serves you and you could give a young^{er} woman a few tips as to whereabout of any material you may have touched en route in your studies, ^{on these items,} it might serve me for research and diversion when the years come (some 20 hence) when Uncle Sam shall say "Well done, -----servant", "here is your pension" and I shall be free to live in countries of favorable exchange and vent my desire to travel as a "lady of leisure", tho I think, then, I shall maintain my "wee apartment" in the Capital, and not New York, for the winter months.

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Saludos!