

July 30, 1923

Miss Ruth Raphael,
Publicity Manager,
Harper & Brother.

Dear Miss Raphael:

I am ashamed that I have been so slow in getting the material to you which you want, but I am the poorest person in the world to come to for publicity about myself.

I think that possibly you might be able to get out of the four enclosures I am sending you something that will help you. But please do not fail to send them back. I don't know that they give you much of the "human interest stuff" for which you ask. There doesn't seem to be much of that sort of thing for me to give you.

Perhaps I might tell you that I have one precious plaything - so precious that it has spoiled even Europe for me, and that is a little rocky piece of land in Connecticut where I play at farming, and do raise fairly good vegetables.

Perhaps I might tell you, too, that I have as a hobby here in town helping to build up, naturally and quietly along the best social and professional standards, the club known as The Pen and Brush, where craftswomen will find a simple, unpretentious, but thoroughly stimulating social and intellectual center.

As to where I have lived - Northwestern Pennsylvania, where I was born. My old home, Titusville, Pa.; my college town Meadville, Pa. From there I went to Paris, never having known an American city except through occasional visits. In Paris I lived three years studying, supporting myself, and managed to get out of the grind my first book, a biographical study of Madame Roland, which is now out of print, and which I wish Harpers would take over. Then I came back to New York and Washington, and have lived between the two - most of the time in New York - ever since. That is a long time - nearly thirty years.

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You ask for my clubs. They are, in New York, the Cosmopolitan, National Arts, Pen and Brush (of which I am President), and Women's City Club. Outside, the American Historical Association, the American Economic Association.

And now about the book, "In the Footsteps of Abraham Lincoln". It grew out of my unwillingness that an old acquaintance should be forgot. Back in the 90's, I spent five years studying Abraham Lincoln's life. My two volume Life, which McMillan publishes is the result. The book has had a steady sale ever since its first publication, and only this year the McMillan Company got out an entirely new edition. Although I have written a good many books since that Life of Lincoln I never have been willing to let my Lincoln studies drop and from time to time have written articles, published Lincoln stories and done Lincoln editing; and always I have had it in mind before I died to start in, in Hingham, Mass., where the first Lincoln landed in 1637, and follow the line down through the seven generations, step by step, reproducing as well as I could the actual conditions and scenes of these fathers and grandfathers of Abraham Lincoln. For a long time I have been gathering notes for this particular purpose, and last year I was able to go on the pilgrimage. It was one of the most interesting I have ever done and kindled my zest for the subject in a way which was very surprising to me. Chapters of Lincoln's life which I have been over and over in the documents came to me with a freshness which was most interesting when I came to go over the actual scenes.

I think I have never written anything which has been so really a labor of love, and certainly never anything that has been so much fun. The only trouble is that I should have had three times the time.

I do not know that the above is what you want, dear Miss Raphael, but if it suggests anything further to you, don't hesitate to ask me.

Very truly yours,