

April 5, 1928

Mrs. William Brown Meloney
Herald-Tribune, Magazine Section

My dear Mrs. Meloney:

I want to tell you how pleased I was to know that you thought me worthy of a place in your fine Magazine. Of course Mary Day Winn's article makes me out a great deal better than I am, but it is very consoling to see that somebody thinks that about me.

And now here is a bit of business. I wonder if by any chance you would think it too far afield to have an article in the Magazine Section around the Fourth of July on a Lincoln undertaking of the South-western Indiana Historical Society.

You may remember that Lincoln lived down near Evansville, Ind. from the time he was seven until he was twenty-one. No biographer has ever really "done" the period, that is, given anywhere near the influences that undoubtedly played on the boy in those impressionable years.

There has been no adequate picture of the life, particularly of the traveling life. By that I mean the preachers, politicians, old soldiers and rooters for all sorts of causes that tramped the roads, spent nights in the cabins and talked their ideas, some of them very high geared ideas, too.

This Society of which I speak has been trying in a whole-hearted, but (between ourselves) more or less awkward way, to get something out that historians can use; and this year they are proposing to dramatize the coming of the Lincolns into that part of the country and the life of the young Lincoln there by a pageant, to be held at Rockport on the Ohio river, where he lived more or less a jack of all trades in the town and on the river and read all the books, the legends say, that were in the library of an interesting Judge.

This postcard, which is rather a caricature of the beauty of the place, for I have seen it, gives you a notion of the setting of their pageant. They want me to write an article for them, and if you think you could use it, why I will be glad to do it and take pot luck on the returns. I can give you a fine photograph of this bluff scene, pictures of the characters themselves as they will appear in the pageant, and possibly I can rake up something from my own files. But first I want to know whether you have any interest in the thing; and if you have, when I must get the copy to you.