

February 9, 1939

Dear Mr. Mackey:

I am just back to New York after my Franklin and Meadville visits and find your letter of January 29th.

It is I who should be thanking you for the opportunity to have so interesting a visit as we had in Franklin. It gave me much to think of and made me feel like urging that you hold to your purpose to write your reminiscences of the oil region and do it as soon as possible. You may rest assured that I shall not poach on your preserves, that any reference I make to your researches will be submitted to you beforehand and will be intended to whet an interest in what you have gathered.

Yes, I know the book compiled by Ben Pitman. I do not own a copy, but it is in the library at Allegheny where I am soon to send my Lincoln collection. I have a copy of the testimony of Joe Simonds, as it appears in the Pitman digest of testimony. But I am grateful to you for sending me this extra copy.

~~Simonds~~ is wrong, I think, in saying that the transfer to Junius Brutus Booth was without compensation. The records of the transaction show that J B B put up a thousand dollars, at least that is my recollection. I haven't the notes here.

I shall be glad to have my attention called to anything which comes your way in this matter. I do not remember whether or no we talked of Otto Eisenschiml's book "Who Murdered Lincoln." He is soon to publish a second volume for which he claims fresh material. I shall get it as soon as it appears and if there is anything important call your attention.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Louis J. Mackey
Pittsburgh, Pa.