

LANGLEY PARK
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

May 11, 1931.

Miss Ida Tarbell
120 East 19th Street
New York, N.Y.

Dear Madam.

I have been making enquiries for the purpose of securing an author of ability and importance in the literary world to write a history of the life and inventions of my Grandfather, Robert McCormick of Walnut Grove, Rockbridge County, Va and have been advised to approach you on the subject.

Doubtless you know of the name of Cyrus ^{Hall} McCormick in connection with this subject, as recently he and his branch of the McCormick family have published two books on this subject, "Cyrus Hall McCormick" and "Century of the Reaper", which make statements claiming the invention of the Reaper, in 1832, by Cyrus McCormick, son of Robert, which are open to criticism and should be exposed.

The first of January of this year, models of the original McCormick Reaper as conceived and made by Robert McCormick were placed in the National Museum in Washington and are now on exhibition there, as inventions of Robert. Duplicates of these models have also been accepted by the

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University of Virginia and by the New Historical Society of Chicago in recognition of the genius of the inventor.

There is ample proof of these facts to justify writing a book of this character should you be inclined to undertake it and it would give me great pleasure to discuss the matter with you if you could make it convenient to come and see me at some early date and I would of course be glad to defray your expenses.

This morning I have received the enclosed clipping from a cousin, a descendant of Amanda McCormick, sister of Cyrus Hall McCormick, which bears upon the question of the invention of the Reaper. Note how subtly it is written. The comments are by my cousin. Kindly return it to me.

In closing I may state that I am the only daughter of Leander James McCormick, third son of Robert McCormick and younger brother of Cyrus McCormick.

I remain

Very truly yours

Aurora
McCormick