

May 7, 1928

Miss Mary Clemmer Tracy
47 High St.
Passaic, N. J.

Dear Miss Tracy:

I am not confident that this letter will find you still in Passaic, but I am sending it to the address there which you gave me in 1922, hoping that if you are not there, your present address may be.

You remember that after your father's death I wrote you that I hoped some day to do a little sketch of him. I have never seen my way until now to carry out my intention. I want, however, to get into a volume of Lincoln letters that will appear probably next February the pieces which he confided to me just before his death - a few of these are in collections, the majority not. The collection now under way, which is to be done by the Illinois Centennial Association is admirably edited. That will include the pieces Mr. Tracy sent me, giving him credit; but before that book appears I want to write at least a short article on him and publish all, or at least the most important of the letters. This I do to emphasize the contribution that he made to Lincoln's memory.

I am going up in a few days to Hartford to look over the collection at the Athenaeum. Of course I should very much like to look into his correspondence, and I have been wondering if that had ever been classified and was available for a student. My impression was that you intended to do this sooner or later. I have an idea that much of that correspondence would be publishable if you cared to consider editing it, or having it edited; or if not that a good deal of it would be valuable to collectors. Will you not let me know just what the status of this question is?

Another question. Your father published, I believe, three Lincoln pamphlets. I have one - an essay by B. J. Edwards, privately printed in Putnam in 1916. I don't know what the others were. Can you tell me, and give me any information as to where I might get copies?

Most important of all, dear Miss Tracy, I want to talk with you about your father. A sketch such as this needs more

Digitized Image, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pellener Library.

personal color than I can give it from my limited acquaintance with him. If you are in Passaic, could you let me come out some day and talk with you? Or would it be possible for you to arrange to come into New York and lunch or dine with me? I should appreciate it very much.

Hoping to hear from you soon, believe me

Very sincerely yours