

October 20, 1931

My dear Judge Horner:

I find in the last issue of Dr. Warren's Lincoln Lore a list of books borrowed by the White House in Lincoln's Presidency. Dr. Warren tells me that this list came from you.

I am curious to know whether or not it was you who unearthed it. It is a valuable piece of investigation whoever did it and has given me clues to a nice little problem or two that I have been after for some time.

I am taking this opportunity to broach a matter which has been in my mind for some time. I have never been a collector, although of course in the course of my Lincoln work more or less pieces of more or less value have come into my hands; thinking what I best do with them I decided that I would try and get together enough to make the nucleus of a group working collection for my old college, Allegheny at Meadville, Pa. The head of the Historical Department is keen for development there of a collection which will center around the Civil War and Lincoln. I am hoping to make my little lot the clue of the thing.

Now one of the things I have set out to develop is a collection of fac-simile of letters and speeches in so far as they are available. I, of course, would like to make a complete collection of letters and speeches in fac-simile but I suppose that is out of the question but I am sure much can be done and in the future pieces of course can be added as they are available.

You see where I am headed, Judge Horner, do you not? It is to ask you if it would be possible for me to secure facsimile of your own Lincoln letters and documents. I am emboldened to do this because you were so generous with me a few years ago when I was looking after Mary Lincoln letters. I am not only going to ask you to let me have the fac-simile of anything that you have had copied but to give me a hint of where I might find other pieces from which photostats could be made. Of course I want to bear any expense that there is in the matter; I would gladly pay for the photostats in any case.

