

July 9, 1941.

Dear Dr. Giddens:

Your very welcome letter of July 5th has just reached me. I was so pleased to hear from you and hear just the things that you write. For a long time I have been anxious to send you a letter. I wanted to congratulate you and the Mrs. on that special boy's arrival I learned from one of your colleagues at Needville. It must be great fun for Jackie to have a brother, and it must be a handful for you and Mrs. G. at times.

You seem to have done a smashing winter's work in spite of a growing family. Of course it was a real satisfaction to me to know that you had used the Lincoln Room and the little collection in the way that I hoped it would be used--as worksheds for a few interested students in original research. I have heard in various ways of what you have been doing and always with enthusiasm. Miss M. and Miss Taylor dropped in here on their way from the Boston Librarian meeting. I was so pleased to see them and we had a good Lincoln talk. She told me how much she enjoyed your Lincoln Course.

My notion has always been that with a nucleus there the collection will grow, and if it's kept alive by such work as you've begun it will be something unique in Lincoln Collections--most of them are show pieces, though don't repeat that--and I should like to see this a living item American History work, something to which we must give more and more attention. I can be sure, that is if we are to make something genuine out of democracy.

Miss Barr sent me a copy of The Herald's account of your appointment as Chairman of the Crawford County Civilian Defense Committee. That is a deserved tribute to you as a citizen as well as a historian. I hope you'll never have to herd your flock into shelters, but I wouldn't want to bet that you won't. If there are any deep caves in Crawford County

better have them fitted up.

And so you are going to South America. That will be a fine and valuable trip for you. I suppose you listened to Tomlinson. I think he's got it right. We've high-hatted the South American countries, treated them unfairly in many other ways ~~in~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~best~~ <sup>best</sup> but their beef. I don't wonder they suspect our love-making now.

That bibliography of yours with the Brower letters will be a valuable contribution to oil history, and I will appreciate the copy you say you will send me. I haven't seen Heybe's work, but I'll look it up. That was the way that Neven's got a great deal of his material I found for the Rockefeller, setting students to do his research and not always giving them credit I am afraid. It makes a spotted product. That is particularly true of Neven's work in the American Life series.

I wish I were going to be able to see you for a little visit either in your coming or going to South America, but I am still so restricted in visiting time we couldn't have the talk that I want to have with you about the disposition of some of the papers. You wrote me about personal documents, correspondence, etc. Do you still think it's worth your while to have them gathered?

As soon as I can get to it, I am only just beginning on the accumulation in my big barn, I'll see about the list of published articles. Then we'll get definitely in mind what it's wise to turn over to Allegheny. Lincoln stuff of course will go there, and I'm inclined to think the correspondence is the most valuable item in it. Possibly not for undergraduates.

Here I've written a long letter and not said various things I would like to say. Love to Mrs. Giddens and the boys. Have a good trip and keep out of the clutches of the raiders. I haven't much faith in the seas these days.

Faithfully yours,