

Aug. 10, 1920

Mem. of Conversation with Charles M. Moores

Mr. Moores is the most intelligent Lincoln collector that I have met since William Lambert. But he is more than a collector. He has a sympathetic understanding of the character, temperament and struggle of Lincoln which is unusual. His Boys' Life is an excellent piece of work.

He specializes on Lincoln as a lawyer, and went over the entire 8th Circuit, examining records in the court houses, so that he knows the actual cases of Lincoln as nobody else, probably. He tells me of being turned loose in the Court House at Springfield and of having in his hands, as he says, \$10,000 worth of Lincoln documents. He estimates this, I take it, from the present price of a Lincoln legal paper which, he tells me, is on an average of \$40. He says that after twenty minutes, he put on his coat and went away because he feared, if he staid, he would steal some of the papers. This rifling of legal files for Lincoln signatures has not been infrequent, and he told he had a paper which Jesse Weik gave him which Weik stole from some court house. As I understand it Herenden and Weik's papers were boldly taken out of court files.

Apropos of Robert Lincoln's dislike of Herenden, he says that after his father's death, young Lincoln went to Herenden and asked for some of his father's legal papers, simply to have something of that period of his father's life. Herenden turned him out, saying that everything in that office belonged to him.

Moores had a very unsatisfactory time in Springfield--says nobody there would talk, and everybody against Herenden.

Moores does not believe that boys can be interested in history as history, that it must be something that appeals to their personal life and interests to get them awakened,

says that his boy was touched by nothing in his Life except with Whitman's lines with which he closed it, "Captain, Oh, my Captain!" He said it must have been a wonderful man that would make anybody feel so.

He thinks the best two lives are those of Lord Charwood and Binn--remarkable that both should have been Englishmen. Says that sales of his Boys' Life increased tremendously during the War.

Puts down Morgan's Atlantic article as gossip, evidently feels about it as Newkirk, and does not appreciate the color. Curious how different my reaction to his and Newkirk's. The article was finished for them because of obvious mistakes, such as killing off the second Mrs. Lincoln several years too soon, and also by the admission that Nancy Hanks' sister Lucy had six children but no husband. I jumped all of these things as obvious mistakes but rejoiced over the article because it told me that Tom Lincoln made a "little wheel" which showed that he was a better worker than anything I had come across. Also because the article showed a more animated pioneer social life than most things do.