Ridgway Collection

THE LINCOLN FARM ASSOCIATION

Organized for the purpose of developing the Lincoln Birthplace Farm into a National Park

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74 BROADWAY, NEW YORK December 3rd, 1909.

Certificate #5595
Amount $5.00

Mr. Robert Ridgway,
3413 Thirteenth St., N. E.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

It is a pleasure to send you, as one of the creators of The Lincoln Birthplace Memorial, the enclosed report and picture of the building, whose cornerstone was laid February 12th, 1909, by President Roosevelt, and which is now practically completed. The funds contributed by the 130,000 members have been just about sufficient to defray the cost -- approximately $120,000 for the building, landscape work, etc.

A bill was introduced in Congress, unanimously passed by the Senate, and favorably reported to the House, to appropriate $50,000 which would have provided an adequate maintenance fund. Through the determined opposition of Speaker Cannon this bill was not allowed to come to a vote.

Regretting the conditions that make it possible for one man thus to block a measure which must be so generally approved by the people, your Executive Committee must nevertheless undertake at once to secure the fund needed.

Many members have expressed a willingness to add to their contribution if it should be needed. Speaker Cannon's action has created the need. The future care of the Memorial must be provided for. I hesitate to ask -- even to suggest -- that you take part in this, yet if your love for Lincoln's memory inclines you to do so, it will be sincerely appreciated. In any case, will you please write us acknowledging the receipt of this report?

Faithfully yours,

Robert J. Collier

R.J.C./P
Enclosure.

Chairman of the Executive Committee.