March 8, 1938

Mr J W Connolly
Ford Motor Company
Alexandria Va

Dear Mr Connolly:

In the Lincoln Courthouse of Greenfield Village stands the chair in which Abraham Lincoln was shot. We have proof, including letters from the War Department, that this is the historical Lincoln chair.

Occasionally we receive letters which call our attention to the "fact" that the chair in question is, after all, not in our possession, but in Springfield, Illinois, or some other such location.

At present, on my desk is a letter from a woman in Elyria, Ohio, who brought her son to see the Edison Institute museum and Greenfield Village last summer. Another boy in his class in school visited the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., at the same time and states that the Lincoln chair is exhibited at that place.

Will you investigate this matter at the Smithsonian and let us know if they claim to have the Lincoln death chair. Ours was stored in a storeroom at the Smithsonian from 1902 until the widow of its former owner claimed it in 1929.

Sincerely yours,

F L Black

FLB:EGH