

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

FORMERLY THE LINCOLN CENTENNIAL ASSOCIATION

LOGAN HAY, PRESIDENT
J. H. HOLBROOK, TREASURER
PAUL M. ANGLE, SECRETARY



PURPOSES:

"To observe each anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; to preserve and make more readily accessible the landmarks associated with his life; and to actively encourage, promote and aid the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of his life and career."

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

June 18, 1931

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
120 East 19th Street
New York City

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I don't like to spoil a perfectly good document, but the fact is that neither the body nor the signature of the letter, copy of which I return, is Lincoln's. I don't believe, however, that it is a forgery. I know of several other letters of this same approximate date, which Lincoln wrote and which are identical in wording with this. My guess would be that they were sent out by the dozen and that friends probably wrote some of them and signed Lincoln's name. The writing and signature in this particular document look more like that of Herndon than any one else.

If you care to have it, I would be very glad to make a formal statement to the effect that neither the body of this letter nor the signature are in the handwriting of Lincoln.

Sincerely yours,

Paul M. Angle.

P. S. By the way, do not buy any autographs which purport to be from the collection of a former coachman of Mrs. Lincoln. They are being strenuously pushed at the present time, and to say the least they are of exceedingly doubtful authenticity.

P.M.A.