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

December, 23, 1937.

My dear Miss Tarbell,

I am preparing to write a biography of Frank B. Carpenter (1830-1900) an American portrait painter and writer. Since you are one of the few authors to use Carpenter's paintings as illustrations in works on Abraham Lincoln, I am writing to you to ask if you knew Carpenter and if you had any correspondence with him.

There are very few people left who actually knew Carpenter and if you can tell me anything at all about him I would most interested in hearing it as it would be 'first hand' information and therefore extremely valuable.

From an examination of Carpenter's Diary and letters and all the printed accounts of him that I could find, I now know of more than five hundred portraits that he did during the course of his long career. Of his portraits of Lincoln, I have found twenty and there are still many more to find.

I shall greatly appreciate any comment you would care to make on Carpenter and his portraits and book on Lincoln.

Yours truly-

Bartlett Cowdrey

(Miss) Bartlett Cowdrey
33 Randolph St.,
Passaic N.J.

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