

Friday, February 23, 1923

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

My dear Miss Tarbell

It is hard to express in words the satisfaction that the citizens of Springfield enjoy after reading even just the first installment of your new history of Abraham Lincoln. So many of us had not realized the meaning and extent in early influence in the localities where they lived of the sterling qualities of Lincoln's forebears. It helps explain the character that stands so preeminently above the mass of his fellow countrymen.

Your unequalled manner of telling the story holds the interest as closely as though some rarely gifted conversationalist was personally relating the incidents to us. On behalf of all lovers of Lincoln I want to let you know how we appreciate the labor of love that has resulted in such glowing success.

Some days ago I mailed to your address clippings concerning the Springfield celebration of his birthday. Previously I had sent you a couple of photographs (the receipt of which you so graciously acknowledged) - one showing the hotel that was his last residence here, the other the residence of my Mother. I omitted stating that my aunt, Miss Susan Chenery, my father's sister, who was present at the departure of Mr. Lincoln from the hotel, is still living and in her 83rd year. Another omission was that my Mother's place of residence, built the year she was born, was originally built by Mrs. Henrietta Ulrich who was the Lincoln hostess on the occasion of his presence in this residence.

Very sincerely yours

William D. Chenery

From
William Dodd Chenery
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