

Harrison's Home Farmer

A Local Journal of Practical
Farming Experience

August 17 , 1923

Miss Ida M Tarbell,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

I have been reading your Abraham Lincoln article in American Magazine and note that you mention a three thousand dollar debt owed by N. B. Judd to Mr Lincoln. I wonder if you know that during the life of this note that Lincoln actually owned land which is now part of Council Bluffs. You may have discovered this in your research but if not, I thought I should like to call your attention to it.

I came here three years ago from the east and upon hearing that Lincoln owned land here at one time I went into the records and found the old document. Judd deeded Lincoln a goodly tract of land and were securing the payment of the note in lieu of a mortgage. On part of this land now stands one of the greatest refrigeration plants in the middle west owned by the Pacific Fruit Express. There are various property owners who, in looking back through their records, find that Lincoln once held title to the property.

I wrote a short article on this once for the Omaha World Herald, I have tried to call attention to this historical matter from eastern editors but they seem to take no interest in this, Since you are writing so much of Lincoln you might like to come here some time and go through the old records that tell a mighty interesting story. As you know Lincoln visited this city in it was in its swaddling clothes and the impression prevails locally that he came here to see his land. As a matter of fact Lincoln did not come into possession of this until after his visit here. Following the war and Lincoln's assassination Mrs Lincoln and the boys deeded it back to Judd. Little Tad had a guardian here appointed for just one day so that his share of the property could be transferred back to Judd through a friendly court proceeding.

Yours Very Truly,

Geo. R. Harrison

GRH/RF