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1939-02-26

Letter: Walter H. Graves to Ida M. Tarbell, February 26, 1939

Graves, Walter H.

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Masonic Home, Wichita Kansas,
2/26/37.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I am enclosing a clipping from the Wichita Eagle, containing my article on Mr. and Mrs Lincoln. I ordered about a dozen copies, marked copies, sent to a group of friends, of which you are one, but as I have not heard from any of them, I am forced to conclude that my request was not complied with.. I know that you would have written me if you had received the paper.

You may be surprised at the date-line of this letter. I came here a little more than a year and a half ago. The depression had knocked my business galley west, and galley-every-other-point-of-the-compass, so after my little savings were exhausted, I asked my lidge for a ticket to the Home, and am more than glad to be so well entertained. I only wish that I were as comfortable about Ruth. She was doing very nicely until the panic struck France, a little more than a year ago. She had a one-man exhibit at the American Library in Paris, composed mostly of the portraits of children. From this she realized very good results. She didn't sell any pictures, but she got a number of commissions for portraits. Then came the panic, and some of the engagements were cancelled, and the rosy prospect vanished.

She sent me a lot of her paintings and there has been an exhibit at the University of Wichita, which has resulted in a very few sales. I was disappointed, but she thinks that the fact that any were sold is a triumph. She wants to come home this Spring, and strange as it may seem I am not averse to seeing the lady. But here's the rub: What can she do to make a living if she comes? And what can she do to make a living if she stays? The French Government has forbidden the employment of foreigners, fining any French citizen who employs one who is not French, and she is shut out from a line of work that has heretofore enabled her to make ends meet - coaching in English.

Well, we are told that the Lord takes care of the lame and the lazy, and I am hoping that He will extend his interest and activities to include her.

I hope that this finds you well and busy and happy. I have not seen the announcement of the new book of Lincoln stories. Has the issue of the volume simply been deferred to a more opportune time, or did I mistake about the hanging put the extinguisher on the project?

Very sincerely, Walter Graves.