

Lincoln Gossip:

It happened that, but a day or two before I joined the Sons of Veterans in historic Faneuil Hall, Boston, I attended a service at the Union Congregational Church, then in charge of the Rev. Allen A. Stockdale, at which the minister read the story, then recently published from the pen of Miss Ida M. Tarbell, entitled, "He Knew Lincoln." That account, with its gripping portrayal of the very heart of Abraham Lincoln, impressed me as no other piece of biographical writing had ever done, and it was the beginning of my inspiration for a protracted study of him who became my hero. Two years later I was asked to deliver the Memorial Day address in Roxbury, when the G. A. R. Post there was still flourishing, and in my remarks I quoted from memory the most heart-stirring parts of the Tarbell story..... At the close of Brown's visit to the Anderson Cottage at the Soldiers' Home in Washington, where Lincoln was spending the summer nights, the two men go out into the open and sit upon a bench, continuing their talk "till the stars began to go out." When I had finished telling this story before the Comrades in one Massachusetts town, a veteran got up and stated that he had himself been on that memorable hill on that very night and that with his own eyes he had seen those two men sitting there in the wee small hours of the night. After this experience, I found a new zest in repeating this touching anecdote of the great-hearted President.

From - "My Abraham Lincoln" - Radio and Other Addresses
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Pages 12, 13 and 14