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1924-03-25

Letter: John E. Iglehart to Ida M. Tarbell, March 25, 1925

Iglehart, John E.

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Evansville, Indiana,

March 25, 1924.

Miss Ida Tarbell,
130 E. Nineteenth Street,
New York.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

By this mail I send you copy of a history of Vanderburgh County, edited by me, the greater portion of it prepared by a literary man employed by the Publishing Company, and my editing simply involved reading his work to see that it was correct. I only undertook this contract, however, upon the understanding that I should comply with a demand made upon me by our leading people to publish a sketch of early Evansville, which is included as the first chapter in this book. In addition to this, the most of the papers on education and other subjects, including particularly a sketch of early Evansville by John W. Foster, who came to Evansville a boy ten years old in 1846, were procured and furnished by me.

As to my original work in dealing with early Evansville, which covers by its terms only the period from the organization of Vanderburgh County, 1818 up to 1830. This represents a great deal of investigation and labor, the mere writing as far as time is concerned was incidental, but it is accurate and furnishes a view of early Evansville nowhere else found, and which I know to be accurate, and the work represents the results of a very careful search of our public records up to 1830. Beyond this I have not had time to go, but I have brought the history down to the period when other sources of information will enable others to write the subsequent period. There were practically no such sources existing to enable any person to write of the period previous to 1830 covered by my sketch except such as was developed by original research work, and whatever value attaches to this sketch results largely from this fact.

While the purpose of this sketch is in its general conception local, it nevertheless necessarily deals with men and events, public officers, newspapers, particularly the Evansville Gazette, an abstract of which is published in this sketch, and it may be that your trained historical eye may find something in it if you take interest enough in it to read it.

I will add that if there is any particular line of inquiry which you desire made by our workers here in connection with the Lincoln inquiry, if you will indicate it to me, I will learn whether we have any person capable with leisure enough to do the work, in which event I will have the work assigned to such person and see that you get the benefit of it before publicity to other people.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Iglehart
to have a copy of the sketch sent to the University of Chicago