

W. A. GLATTE  
BUFFALO, N. Y.

March 4th, 1934

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I trust I am not too presumptuous in letting my interest in Abraham Lincoln, which you have done so much to arouse, be my excuse for writing to you.

Without assuming to have discovered any long buried historical datum but with the feeling that, if it has not previously come to your attention, it will be of, at least, passing interest to know that, in the guest register of the Cataract Hotel, at Niagara Falls, under the date of July 24th, 1857 occurs the signature, "A. Lincoln and family, Springfield, Ills." This old hostelry, as you may be aware was erected in 1814, before the close of the War of 1812 and all of the registers since 1820 have been preserved. Naturally they include the names of many citizens and aliens of note and, from the many who came with a retinue of colored servants, I judge many of them were people of wealth. In the basement of the building may yet be traced the rooms in which the negroes were quartered while in attendance upon their masters. One other signature, under the same date as that of Mr. Lincoln is that of "Smedley Darlington & Lady, Ercildoun, Pa." He was the grandfather of General Smedley Darlington Butler, who has been in the press much of late years.

I cannot recall that Mr. Lincoln had attained any great degree of affluence so early as 1857 nor that any Congressional duties may have called him east in this year. His controversy with Stephen A. Douglas did not, as I recollect, open until a year later.

Would it be fair to conclude that Mr. Lincoln made this trip at this particular time solely for the pleasure of his family and himself?

I would appreciate a reply, if it is not taxing your time and patience beyond reason.

In concluding mya I wish you continued good health and happiness.

Sincerely



584 Parkside Avenue.