

120 North Overbrook Ave.  
Trenton, New Jersey  
August 18, 1931

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

Knowing that you are  
best known as the biographer  
of Abraham Lincoln, I wonder  
if you could use the following  
short story. Recently I visited  
a lady who before her marriage  
was a Miss Miner. Her family  
lived just across the street  
from the Lincolns in Springfield.  
She told me one or two  
experiences she had had with  
"Abe". He often visited them  
and vice versa.

One story she told was this —

"On the day that Lincoln received news of his nomination for the Presidency, he was playing ball with some boys in a field. When called away to receive congratulations and accept the nomination he seemed sorrowful and told a friend that he wished he had time to finish the ball game."

A second tale —

"The Miners visited the Lincolns in the White House in Washington. After they were all seated for dinner Miss Miner noticed an empty chair next to the President. However, before she could ask whose chair it was, (for all the party was seated) a large sleek black cat walked in and jumped into the chair. At "his" place was a small plate and a gold knife and fork. Mr. Lincoln fed him like a child all through the meal while his wife berated him for his indulgence."

Mrs. Frank Hill (nee Miss Miner) has a former Bible of Ab's which was given to her by Mary Lincoln. She also has two letters written by Mary Lincoln. Two letters from President Lincoln were stolen some time ago. These stories are absolutely

true and I wondered if you  
could ever use them.

Respectfully yours,  
Elwood C. Hammeel Jr.