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EUGENE LYONS
Editor

May 12, 1939.

Miss Ida Tarbell,
120 East 19th Street,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

May I take the liberty of referring to you on a matter of Lincoln lore on which, I am certain, you can set me straight.

We have on hand an article contributed by a member of the Rutledge family heatedly characterizing the whole story of Lincoln's blighted love for Ann Rutledge as a myth. His story sounds plausible enough. According to his version the first known reference to the supposed romance was made by Herndon in a speech in 1866, and "this speech has been the whole source and authority for all accounts of the alleged romance." He then proceeds to show that the whole thing is no more than a pretty legend: not once in the 50 years after Ann's death did Lincoln refer to her, as far as is known; not once did he visit her grave; etc.

What do you think of this version? I shall, of course, treat any comment you care to make as completely confidential, merely for my guidance.

With thanks in advance, I am

Cordially yours,

Eugene Lyons
Editor.

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