



DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

S. S. PRESIDENT Taft

At Sea. April 21st, 1935.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
c/o Hearst's International Cosmopolitan,
57th St. & 8th Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

To you, as an author and student of the life of Abraham Lincoln, I am writing regarding a rather delicate phase in his history.

From time to time rumors have reached me regarding the parentage of Lincoln. The substance of these rumors, briefly, is that John C. Calhoun was the actual father of Lincoln. Just what details and circumstances, if any, surround the case, I am not clear on.

However, there are several things which might indicate the possibility of this being true: Lincoln's assertion that all that he was he owed to his mother; the profile resemblance between Lincoln and Calhoun; the fact that a man of Lincoln's greatness should spring from such obscure stock, that the inherent weaknesses of his father should be entirely missing in his makeup.

Some time ago I wrote Prof. F. H. H. Calhoun, the last living descendant of John C. Calhoun, asking his opinion on this matter. While he neither confirmed or denied, he did state that there are current rumors in the South to that effect which are difficult to dissipate. I would appreciate your thoughts upon the subject, assuring you I have no ulterior motives in mind. It is a matter of personal interest and the confidence of your reply will be respected.

Trusting that you will accept this letter in the spirit of sincerity with which it is written, I beg to remain,

Very respectfully,

J. Vale Rough
J. VALE ROUGH.

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