

J. DUANE UPTON  
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GARLAND, PENNSYLVANIA

March 24th 1942

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Recently I began conducting a monthly department in a small hobby magazine with a circulation next to HOBBIES. This department deals with autograph collecting, which I am interested in. I have made mention to the collection of Lincoln mementoes deposited in the Library of Congress by Robert T. Lincoln, son of the President. I give you herewith the complete reference: "After George Washington's demise, Martha Washington burned a great amount of correspondence written to and by the great General. Some of this material pertained to their courtship and the shy and retiring Martha thought it ought to be destroyed. What a terrible mistake and rebuff to future historians! The tragedy lies in the fact that George Washington had went to great length to save and file the items which Martha destroyed.

"Abraham Lincoln's son, Robert, almost made the same unpardonable error, but was halted at the last moment by Dr Nicholas M Butler, of Columbia University, who persuaded the son of "Honest Abe" to deposit his father's valuable papers in the Library of Congress instead of burning them, as was his intention. There they are today and they will remain sealed up in the Congressional Library until 1947, as per young Lincoln's request."

I know that you are a Lincoln biographer, and I wonder if you will comment on these papers. Do you plan on using them as historical material for an-

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Palfreter Library.

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other book about Lincoln? Do you think, like a number of other authorities on the subject, that these papers contain evidence gathered by Lincoln himself that a plot against his life was actually planned by high up members of his cabinet? I should much appreciate your comment on any phase of President Lincoln's life, and these papers in particular.

Perhaps you recall having had some correspondence with me over a year ago, relative to my asking you for some Wilson letters; you said at the time that you had several and would try and find them for me, but I have never heard from you about these mentees.

Some time<sup>ago</sup> you were kind enough to send me a long-hand letter for my collection, and I am wondering if you could be persuaded to favor an ardent admirer and former Crawford and Erie County resident with an autographed photograph of yourself? I lived over near Mill Village for a year - from 1927 to 1928, and spent over 10 years in Crawford County, although I was born here in Garland, Warren County, Penna.

Thanking you so kindly for your courtesy in the Wilson, Lincoln and your photograph matters, and for all past favors, I am, with best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*J Duane Upton*  
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