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The Ida M. Tarbell Collection of Lincolniana

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1923-01-17

Letter: Louis A. Warren to Ida M. Tarbell, January 17, 1923

Warren, Louis A.

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LOUIS A. WARREN
Morganfield, Ky.

Jan. 17, 1933

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
New York City

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

I am in receipt of your letter containing a copy of selected data from the Pigson Church minute book, and I wish to thank you for thinking of me when having the copy made.

The trip to Boonville, Ind. which you suggested that I make, has been impossible thus far, but I hope to be able to go over there soon. I have noted your reference to the other old record book and will see if I can find any authority for the tradition.

It seems to me that Mr. Mc Clure would be just the man to feature my findings, because I feel he will fully appreciate the value of them as a source for all future biographers who care to discuss the childhood of the President.

I notice that two of the latest books use as sources for Lincoln's early life erroneous data. Weeks uses the purely traditional Herndon manuscripts, while Stephenson strange to say takes Rogers Gore's work seriously.

The latest of Herndon's sensational stories about Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, to wit, is the Elizabethtown camp meeting scene, with John L. Helm as the informant. I have found data that makes the traditional untenable.

The "errata" which I am compiling as introductory matter for each chapter has now reached the total of more than two hundred paragraphs, with practically no duplicates. I feel that this will be one of the features of my book and show the need of a documentary discussion which can be used as authentic.

Thanking you for your continued kindness I am,

Sincerely yours

Louis A. Warren