

New York, N.Y.
106 Waverly Place
c/o Mrs. J.C. Smith
Tel. Grammercy 7-5690

November 10th, 1939.

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

My dear Miss Tarbell:

It was a joy to meet you again yesterday at the Pen and Brush after several years and a proud privilege for me--to be put up by you for membership in the Pen and Brush. The other members whom I have had the pleasure of meeting, including our mutual friend, Mrs. Lloyd, have been most cordial and indeed stimulating to my ambition to dare more and do better with my Kentucky mountain material. All these things would not have come to me except for your kindly interest in my work and your faith in my undertakings.

With this letter I am enclosing the only copy I have of my mother's Lincoln story. I earnestly hope you can make use of it somehow. My mother had six brothers in the Union army-- she was the first woman in the United States to have conceived the idea of teaching adult illiterates-- and her first pupil, the bound boy became a Supreme Court Judge. Of course my mother knew nothing about "publicity" or plans of promotion or how to carry farther the gospel of teaching grown up people to read and write. Years later, long years later when I went to Rowan County, Kentucky, to report a number of court trials, I enthused over my mother's story and her teaching the bound boy. My stories fell upon fertile ears and you know the result, I'm sure. But be that as it may, I have had the joy of seeing Mother's Lincoln story in print and now it is to be the opening story or rather preface in my book that I am now completing for Prentice Hall Company. They have published the interesting volume--"Doctor, Here's Your Hat."

Miss Tarbell, if it is not imposing upon your crowded hours, I should be so grateful if you would feel impelled to drop a line, however brief, to Henry Holt & Company about my "Ballad Makin'". But if you have not the time I shall quite understand.

Sincerely yours and with gratitude to you for your many courtesies to me,

Jean Thomas
Jean Thomas