Louis of L. Thomas - see below

Pasadena, California.
Sept. 10, 1920.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York City, N. Y.

My Dear Miss Tarbell:

I, too, can plead the busy life, hence delay of correspondence. I was in Los Angeles recently and tried by telephone to get tab on that cabinet. The Historical Museum, where I suppose it may be, is far out, but I mean to find it this week if possible. I am glad you had the talk with Mr. Morgan. I guess he is considerable of a man. He was unprepared for his discovery, and lacked time in Arkansas for being thorough. His mistakes are pardonable if he will acknowledge the truth when the truth comes home to him.

I saw Dennis Friend Johnston recently. Did I not mention him to you? Only survivor of seven children of John D. Johnston, Abraham's stepbrother. He is failing - had a slight "stroke" recently. He has helped my story of "Grandpap" not a little. He and his wife, a south Kentucky mountaineer, are a story by themselves. I wish you might visualize them. I would not exhibit them to anybody else.

Let me quote you from James G. Blaine's oration on Garfield. A paragraph I use in my Thomas Lincoln paper.

"The poverty of the frontier is indeed no poverty, it is the beginning of wealth, and has the boundless possibilities of the future always opening before it. The poverty of the frontier where all are engaged in a common struggle, and where a hearty sympathy and co-operation lightens the burdens of each, is a very different poverty - different in kind, different in influence and effect from that conscious and humiliating indigence, which is every day forced to contrast itself with neighboring wealth, on which it feels a sense of grudging dependence."

Thomas was very unfortunate in his first two locations as you have duly emphasized - (of Indiana in particular). Suppose the gun had missed fire instead of killing his father Abraham, who, according to Lea and Hutchinson's Genealogy, had entered over 3,000 acres of the best land in Kentucky. Its value was all prospective, but sure by holding and waiting. He and his children might have become great in the history of the State.

Oh, why cannot we look deeper beyond externals, the mere possession of things. I believe that Thomas had in him the elements of true greatness. He was very religious and in a small sphere influential. Mr. W. W. Ellsworth told me when here lecturing a few weeks since, that he had at home a picture of a

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religious assembly, (probably "Campbellite") of which body Thomas Lincoln was moderator. You may doubt - That's all I know.

You speak of your increasing respect for his two wives. Yea, verily, they were great in the eyes of the Lord. Pioneer life "Sodden"? Not of necessity so - it may be glorious; all depends on the soul that is put into it.

Regarding the little book now being printed, the distance and retarded mails have caused delay just at the last. One letter was eight days coming. Even a telegram to New York was not delivered till third day. But I feel quite sure that within a month we shall have it in boards, and you shall receive one of the first copies.

How long ahead probably is the completion of your new book?

I should say that the manuscripts of Lincoln story I sent was just first draft and should undergo revision doubtless, before it is printed.

Sincerely yours, Garrett Newkirk

GN:NF

It is necessary, I guess to modify or qualify the "Captain" a little - possibly the title might be - A. L. - at Paulon, U.S.A.
I do not find another Tudor in the Gazetteer, except the original in France.

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