Dear Ida Tarbell: You will think this the queerest letter but if you will read it through maybe it will make sense.

I know you write about Lincoln. I have read your articles and I believe I know where you can procure materiel for a new Lincoln article. It just now popped into my head.

I live in Marshall County, Kentucky. Look on the map. It's down Irvin Cobb's way. Our forefathers who settled this country sang from an old hymn book and they called the songs "Southern Harmony". Forty-seven years ago the editor of the county seat

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write one up for a New York paper.

I received a sample copy of February 1930 Kentucky Progress magazine, Oh it could have been February 1929 but it had a Lincoln piece in it by a Kentuckian and I am stupid not to remember his name. I meant to read the whole article but a neighbor came in and picked up the magazine. Husband let him take it off and that was the last of it. There was a copy of the Hanks boy's letter to the author's father. The man had written and asked about Lincoln's boyhood, what songs he sang, what games he played etc.

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In the reply he named as a song "How tedious and tasteless the hour." The words were all misspelled but I could make it out as one of our dear old Southern Harmonies. That very song is still sung in Benton the fourth Sunday in May every year.

I believe just a little tracing will prove that our old song books were used by Lincoln's people. This part of Kentucky was settled by people from Hart, McClean Larue and those counties. Of course they brought their song books with them.

Would you like to see one of the old song books? My neighbor has one. I have not. She is so poor she might want a little money just to loan it but you might find it very interesting.

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paper invited all who could sing "Southern Harmony" to come to the county seat - Benton - on the fourth Sunday in May and they would have a singing. Well, from that has grown the "Big Singing" the one annual event in our county and it has been held on the fourth Sunday in May for 47 years. Think of that! They still sing from those same old books. The songs are the quaintest things and I have wondered for years why some feature writer did not find material enough in "Big Singing" to

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I am provoked at myself for not remembering the Progress magazine article better but you can easily procure a copy by writing to the Kentucky Progress Commission Frankfort, Ky.

By the way I heard you speak on "Give the girls a chance" in 1916 at K. E. A in Louisville. You and Dr. G. Stanley Hall spoke from the same platform.

I am afraid the mention of songs will give you the "creeps" for I remember a girls' chorus from Richmond being on the program before you and

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Dr. Hall and they sang till nearly mid-night or so it seemed to us teachers. Oh! we wanted to choke them for we had gone to hear you and G. Stanley Hall.

Hoping to hear from you I am,

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Reid Travis

Gilbertsville Ky

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