I have made inquiry about the Rev. James F. Jaquess, and while I am unprepared to assail his reputation for truth and veracity I am wholly unable to find any one here who credits the extraordinary story of Lincoln's "conversation." Even Mr. Diller, who would feel consoled if Lincoln's orthodoxy could be fully established, declares that no such thing ever occurred. Col. Dudley Wickersham, a Methodist of long standing and an old acquaintance of M. Jaquess, never heard of the story before. Jaquess is well remembered by the older people here. He was one of the preachers of the place before the War. He joined the seventy-third Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, and became its Colonel. He has not resided here for many years.

Letter from J. McCan Davis

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