DeKalb. Ill, April 7 '13.

Miss Ida Tarbell

In 1896 I furnished some 20 pictures of Lincoln which was used for your life of Lincoln in magazine. I never received any money consideration and I trust that you will see that I get a duplicate print of any Lincoln negatives that you have and will personally autograph a copy of "McClure Magazine, Library number 3" "McClure Early Life of Abraham Lincoln with 160 pictures."

FROM HISTORIC COLLECTION, H. W. FAY, DE KALB, ILL.

A NEW PHOTOGRAPH OF LINCOLN.

Under a full-page cut of the McNulty-Butler original portrait of Lincoln the McClure's Magazine of June, 1895, says:

"There are in existence but few original negatives of portraits of Lincoln. Brady made a number, which he sold to the government; and the portraits of Lincoln commonly seen are copies from one or another of these, or of the well-known Hesler picture, wherein Lincoln is shown without a beard. The above is from a photograph by McNulty, taken at Springfield, Illinois, just previous to Lincoln's departure for Washington in January, 1861. It is accounted about the truest portrait of Lincoln ever made. His friends at home esteemed it so highly that they chose it as the model for a painting for the Illinois State House. The original negative, an old-fashioned wet plate, is very well preserved, and is now in the historical collection of H. W. Fay, Esq., DeKalb, Illinois, by whose kind permission the present reproduction is made."

On the back of one of the McNulty photographs, Leonard W. Volk, the great sculptor, wrote the following:

"This photograph of Abraham Lincoln, one of the first with a beard, I regard as one of the best, if not the best, as I remember him after he allowed his beard to grow. LEONARD W. VOLK.

Chicago, March 13, 1893.

The Chicago Evening Journal of April 25, 1895, says:

"Herbert Wells Fay, of DeKalb, Illinois, is well known to the journalistic profession of the United States as a 'historical portrait collector,' and probably has the largest private collection of photographs of noted people in the world. He has portraits of 50,000

persons in stock, which includes 150 different sittings of Lincoln and twenty-five of Longfellow, while he is the owner of the McNulty original photograph of Mr. Lincoln. In conducting his portrait loan agency, Mr. Fay is a regular contributor to many of the leading magazines of the country. He has devoted twenty-five years to making this collection.

Five hundred pictures from this collection were used in the American edition of the Encyclopedia Brittanica. Five hundred pictures were reproduced by the Who-When-What company.

The New York Times of Jan. 21, 1894, says:

"Mr. Herbert W. Fay, of DeKalb, Ill., has made a fad of collecting famous men's portraits and now has 50,000 of them. Many of them came only after a long search and persistent importunity, and some of them are very scarce, if they can be duplicated anywhere."

In a five-column illustrated write-up of this collection the Inland Printer of May, 1899, says:

"He (Fay) has recently added a department of general art illustrating, and aims to furnish original photographs representing every conceivable idea, such as illustrating poems, stories, scientific and anthropological articles, stock, agricultural and dairy subjects, and all conceits for attractive advertising. Samples of this class of work have appeared in recent issues of the Inland Printer, and have attracted considerable attention."

The Lincoln picture was copyrighted 18[illegible] by F. M. McNulty, and assignment to H. W. Fay was recorded by Librarian of Congress, Oct. 24, 1894.

For copies of this portrait or permission to publish the same, address:

HERBERT WELLS FAY, DeKalb, Ill.

Send list of portraits wanted.