Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1920

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MRS. CALDER EHRMANN, CHAIRMAN, ROCKPORT
JUDGE ROSCOE KIPER, BOONVILLE
MRS. GEORGE S. CLIFFORD, EVANSVILLE
MR. ARTHUR E. FRETAGEOT, NEW HARMONY
MRS. ALBION FELLOWS BACON, EVANSVILLE
MR. D. FRANK CULBERTSON, VINCENNES
MR. GEORGE R. WILSON, INDIANAPOLIS
MRS. CHARLES T. JOHNSON, MT. VERNON
JUDGE OMAR TRAYLOR, JASPER
MRS. CARRIE V. HALBRUGE, ROCKPORT
MR. JOHN E. IGLEHART, EVANSVILLE
JUDGE LUCIUS C. EMBREE, PRINCETON
MR. JOHN K. CHAPPELL, PETERSBURG

MR. JOHN E. IGLEHART, PRESIDENT EMERITUS
MRS. CALDER EHRMANN, ROCKPORT, PRESIDENT
119 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
MR. WILLIAM BARKER, BOONVILLE, VICE-PRESIDENT
MR. THOMAS DE LA HUNT, CANNELTON, SECRETARY
MR. GEORGE H. HONIG, EVANSVILLE, TREASURER
314 MERC. BANK BLDG.
MISS ETHEL McCOLLOUGH, EVANSVILLE, CURATOR

VICE-PRESIDENTS
MR. CHARLES D. SCHRIEBER, PERRY COUNTY
MISS LAURA MERCY WRIGHT, SPENCER COUNTY
MISS GENEVIEVE M. WILLIAMS, DUBOIS COUNTY
MRS. ELDORA MINOR RALEIGH, WARRICK COUNTY
MRS. ELLA C. WHEATLEY, GIBSON COUNTY
MRS. JAMES BOONSHOT, PIKE COUNTY
MRS. WILLIAM DAVIDSON, VANDERBURGH COUNTY
MISS ANNA C. O'FLYNN, KNOX COUNTY
MR. GEORGE T. WATERS, POSEY COUNTY

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE
MRS. CHARLES T. JOHNSON, CHAIRMAIN, MT. VERNON

PROGRAM COMMITTEE
MR. JOHN E. IGLEHART, CHAIRMAN, EVANSVILLE

Evansville, Indiana,
May 19, 1927.

Miss Ida Tarbell,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell,

Enclosed is a letter to Mr. Sandburg with copies to which the letter refers, which speak for themselves. I doubt if he answers the letter, though I have a very fine letter from him, quite appreciative of our work here. I heard him lecture here in Evansville in February, spent an hour and a half with him at lunch the day of the lecture. Confidentially our Indiana committee was selected by the Governor, who followed political channels and men and women of influence throughout the state. The historical side of the committee is the weakest side.

I should be glad to treat the terms of this letter as to privacy and protection to Mr. Sandburg as applicable also to you, and would take it as a favor if you care to write me within a week any suggestions you have to make, however casual, as to how this committee should spend any portion of half a million to a million dollars which they expect to collect.

If you ever think of our correspondence, you may wonder why I have not yet answered your letters of December 19th and December 30th last, relating to our historical work and my relation to it. I only want to say now that on account of what I regard the very great importance of the subject, and of your letters, I have been waiting an opportunity to express to you my views on the subject, and with an assurance of my very deep appreciation of your letters and their value I will still reserve further time in which to write you on the subject, which I certainly will do unless I should happen to be in New York, and it is quite probable that I may be there in June. Are you going away for the summer? If so, how soon?

JEI:MM

Sincerely yours,

John E. Iglehart

Evansville, Indiana,
May 19, 1937.

Mr. Carl Sandburg,
Office, Chicago News,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Sandburg:

I am writing from Macedonia and want a little help. I have been for more than ten years interested in intensive study of historical literature centering upon interesting phases of southwestern Indiana life and have for more than seven years last past driven practical work in an organization of men and women best fitted for the work of writing and giving to the world the pioneer history of southwestern Indiana, involving as I have called it the missing chapter in such history and as a corollary, the missing chapter in the life of Abraham Lincoln, and am now devoting my time and strength somewhat late in life in giving permanent form to my work as a whole in which I have already written and published a considerable number of addresses and papers.

I have in this work only sought the prominence which the logic of these events has forced upon me, and am now in a situation which calls on me for something more than I am able satisfactory to myself to furnish in the short time given me as a member of the general committee of the Indiana Lincoln Union, an organization intended to represent the whole state of Indiana in a monument nation wide in its intended scope, the members of a large general committee as well as the officers of which were announced by the Governor of Indiana in a general proclamation of date December 23, 1936.

The name of John Iglehart was on the general committee but the Governor's letter of notice of appointment was mailed to a relative, John L. Iglehart, who declined, of which I had no knowledge at the time, but at a very late moment I was notified by proper letter from the Governor with a short notice of a meeting to be held May 7 at Lincoln City, the first general meeting of the Committee,

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

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

which meeting I attended, where I met and had some talk with Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, who before I had any official notice mentioned had written a letter to Col. Lieber, Director of Conservation of Indiana, copy of which was given me later, and the result of my talk with him is outlined in a letter from him, date 11th inst., written on the train returning East from the meeting at Lincoln City.

These facts are preliminary to the consideration of papers, copies of which are enclosed, and will I hope in the seeming undue haste in a matter of such importance suffice to advise you of the call upon each member of this general committee and his duty in the matter.

I have no hesitancy in writing you, and appreciate fully the questions of propriety and conservative caution in the mind of a man as you have has reached the public eye, in the matter of writing letters and being quoted even in small matters, and beg to say that I do not want to quote you and will not without your consent, but should it happen that you can give a word or a vision upon which to base a material representation of a thing spiritual - which requires an eye only too rare in the historical world - or an interpretation which is a matter of the highest importance. I would if occasion were offered, with your consent only of course, see that you had credit. If you do not care to write, but would favor me with a talk in person, I would call on you as I plan to be in Chicago the first half of next week, possibly Monday if you could see me then, if you don't answer in a letter.

The enclosures referred to are as follows:

1. List of names of officers of the Indiana Lincoln Union, named by the Governor of Indiana.

2. Copy of letter of March 24, 1927, of Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted (chief architect, landscape artist) to Col. Richard Lieber, Director of Conservation of Indiana.

3. Copy of letter of Mr. Olmsted to John E. Iglehart, date 11th May, 1927.

Mr. Carl Sandburg,
#3,
May 19, 1937.

4. Copy of letter of Anne Studebaker Carlisle, President, to John H. Iglehart.

5. Copy of letter of Louis A. Warren, member of the general committee.

Sincerely yours,

JEI:MM

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

C O P Y

OLMSTED BROTHERS

BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

WESTERN OFFICE

Palos Verdes Estates,
Redondo Beach, Calif.
March 24th, 1927.

Col. Richard Lieber,
Director of Conservation,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Sir:-

I have attempted to set forth in the following my present ideas about the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Memorial. I intend to proceed at once with trial studies in general accordance with these ideas and will report to you as soon as they take definite form. I should therefore be glad to receive promptly any reaction from your Committee as to the underlying ideas here expressed.

The controlling factor in the situation is the intimate association of this piece of land with certain events in the early life of Lincoln an association capable in itself, if other ideas are not intruded, of arousing in any thoughtful and informed person ideas concerning Lincoln as deeply moving as any that can come to him.

This makes it a prime duty to let these simple familiar associations speak for themselves to future generations, and to subordinate in this place any desire that we of today may have to impress those future generations with what we think about Lincoln.

Indiana has a right to take pride in expressing the honor which it feels for Lincoln's memory by the creation of monumental works as great, as notable, and as strikingly impressive as the greatest artists of our time can make them. But of all places this spot -- which speaks directly for itself of Lincoln's first great sorrow, which speaks directly from the grave where he buried his mother and from the vacant site of his early home - is the last place in which to express that pride in any self-assertive way that might thrust our twentieth century ideas between posterity and the significance of the place itself.

It is most unfortunately true that present conditions, at and around the site, themselves confuse and distract the visitor's attention from thought of Lincoln and of the significance of all that befell him here. These distracting sights are the results of mischance and neglect, of the intrusion of utilitarian structures of a very different period from Lincoln's and also of the well-meant but misapplied efforts of some of our predecessors to express, as well as they knew how, their desire to honor Lincoln's memory. Of the former class are the branch railway track and the state highway with its rush-

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

ing automobiles, bisecting the space between the cabin site and the grave of Lincoln's mother, and the buildings scattered on and around the site. Of the latter class are the cast iron gates with their gilded concrete lions, the bits of gardenesque lawn with exotic shrubs and conifers, and the general "slicking up" of the remnant of second growth woodland around the grave into the semblance of a town picnic grove or a conventional "landscape cemetery." The first task is to eliminate or obscure all such distracting elements, while avoiding to the utmost the risk of introducing new distractions of our own creation, and to leave the surroundings of the cabin site and the grave quiet, peaceful and unassertively beautiful.

When we deal with things that have a great spiritual message of their own, apart from the expression which we may add to them, it behooves us to be humbly self-subordinating lest we thrust a personal, local or other extraneous expression, which time may prove to be unworthy, between future generations and a priceless thing much greater than ourselves.

Yet if this place is to convey its potential message to any but the ardent pilgrim - if it is generally to arrest the attention of Lincoln's own "common people" - that attention must be grasped by some more striking appeal than is afforded by any condition natural to the site. The site is by nature a not unpleasant but a very commonplace fragment of the prevailing present-day landscape of southern Indiana. Even if its second-growth woodland were to be extended and restored in course of time, as it might be, until it became a venerable forest like that of all such forests and offering a real contrast with its modern agricultural surroundings, that contrast alone would not be sufficiently arresting to the attention of passing or approaching motorists, would not alone be enough to prepare them to enter the shrine in a receptive mood.

Something frankly and obviously monumental, in the broad sense of that term, seems to be needed to mark the approach and entrance to such a shrine, even though the monumental note be kept, as I think it should, from intruding upon those who have entered the shrine itself.

Evidently it was a line of thought closely akin to what I have tried to express above that has led you and your associates, Col. Lieber, to certain conclusions which you set forth to me and with which in principle I find myself emphatically agreed, namely:

1. The main area, which you have referred to as the Sanctuary and which includes the site of Lincoln's cabin and his mother's grave, should be freed of every petty, distracting, alien, self-assertive object. The State Highway should be carried south and east of the Sanctuary, the branch railroad east and north of it. The buildings should be swept away. Exotic types of vegetation should be suppressed. The scars of these things should be obliterated. All of which is negative, not positive; but good as far as it goes.

II. Automobiles should be absolutely and permanently excluded from the area of the Sanctuary; but there must be provided con-

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

venient and agreeable means for parking automobiles in the vicinity in large numbers, and for proceeding thence on foot into the Sanctuary under conditions favorable for producing the right impression.

III. In conjunction with the parking of automobiles orderly and convenient provision must be made, outside of the Sanctuary proper, for the needs of fairly large crowds: rest rooms and toilet facilities, shelter against storms, supplies of gas and oil, and means for decently partaking of food and drink whether brought by the visitors or obtainable on the premises.

IV. Either in connection with the above or otherwise, where it will not intrude upon the Sanctuary proper, provision should be made for the occasional assembly out of doors, under dignified and satisfactory conditions, of crowds of varying and unpredictable size up to several thousand to listen to addresses and take part in exercises appropriate to the locality.

V. The utmost artistic skill and discretion we can command should be devoted to the problem of so arresting the attention of those who approach the Sanctuary deliberately, and even those who approach it casually in passing, as to make them aware of its importance and its nature; and to the problem of so preparing their minds as they enter it and so influencing them as they consider it that they may appreciate its message to the greatest possible degree.

I admit that in doing this last with any measure of success we who do it will necessarily be expressing in some manner our own sense of the significance of the place and our own feelings toward Lincoln; but I believe our chances of accomplishing a worthy result will be far greater if we concentrate our efforts not upon the abstract problem of trying to express certain ideas which we may arbitrarily select as representing our notions about Lincoln, but upon the problem of making it easy and natural for other people, coming to this place after we are gone, to be stimulated to their own inspiring thoughts and emotions about Lincoln.

Thus to arrest the attention and guide the interest of people, in the absence of any striking natural phenomenon, or any very striking landscape condition of a naturalistic appearance which could here be created by the aid of man, demands something of a frankly and boldly artificial and monumental sort in the approach to the Sanctuary. This is the more clearly indicated by the necessity for providing the various artificial conveniences on a fairly large scale mentioned under II, III, and IV. Yet if my reasoning is correct it should not be dominantly characterized by objects conspicuously and obviously created for the sole purpose of expressing through architectural or sculptural symbolism <u>our</u> ideas about Lincoln. Rather the chief purpose of any architectural elements should be to perform well and beautifully certain functions recognizably appropriate to the practical needs of the situation, and of sculptural and graphic elements to the be decorative incidents with a significance historical rather than symbolic, the effective impression of the whole depending mainly upon the general composition of parts which are individually rather unassertive and of a sort that would tend to be taken for granted, even though they might be very choice when examined in detail. I have in mind, for example, such elements as large and well-proportioned vistas and spaces of turf enframed by noble avenues or masses of trees, interlocking with well proportioned masses of the simplest masonry that would serve to house the various

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

indoor functions for which there is real need or adequate excuse, and with walls and piers and steps and gates and metal work forming legitimate elements of the enclosure of the Sandtuary and of the means of access to it; sculpture so far as it is used at all being in the form of unassertive but very beautiful decorative panels in relief, and painting so far as it is used at all being decorative mural painting of interiors that exist to serve practical purposes incidental to a visit to the Sanctuary itself.

This is a hard program to live up to successfully in all respects; but of the two faults I believe that I would be better to fall short upon the side of insufficiently arresting the attention, of not securing a wholly satisfying impressiveness in the approach and entrance to the Sanctuary, than to secure such impressiveness at the risk of treating the grave of Lincoln's mother and the site of his boyhood home like the tail to the kite of a twentieth century monument.

I will not say that some God-sent genius might not for example, as has been siggested, design a great tower, carrying a great bell that on occasion would toll across the countryside a call to solemn meeting beside the grave of Lincoln's mother, and do it in a manner thoroughly satisfying to the feelings of all future generations. Yet the number of towers designed in modern times which have stood well the test of criticism even of the first generation following that in which they were erected is very very small, and the best designers working to the satisfaction of the best of contemporary critics cannot guarantee permanent satisfaction with such a necessarily assertive monument. To fall short of a complete success in an assertive monument to a great man anywhere is a misfortune, but to make such an attempt here and fall short would be a crime. Can we afford to risk it? I think not.

The form of the bare ground south of the Sanctuary and near the proposed line of the relocated State highway is regrettably unfavorable for a dignified and impressive monumental treatment. It might be described as a jumble of small rolling hills and hollows, and appears to call for bold and radical regrading of the surface at the cost of any necessary amount of steam-shovel work. I shall proceed with my studies upon the assumption that some thousands of dollars more or less in cost of grading will not stand in the way of producing the best result physically obtainable.

And now to what is in some ways the most serious problem of all, the treatment of the Sanctuary area itself.

There are two spots of peculiar sentimental interest; the grave of Lincoln's mother in the hill-top graveyard of the settlement of pioneers, to which, as a boy, stricken by his first great grief, he helped to draw her body on a mud-sled that sad October day so long ago; and the site of the cabin on the nearby lower knoll where that grief came to him. No local traces and no other definite knowledge about the cabin and its then surroundings remain, beyond the record that an old settler who had known the cabin as the Lincoln's once pointed out where it had stood, and that the hearth stone was there uncovered by digging as he had predicted, and a monument was set to mark the place. Even the hearth stone was presently removed. Nothing remains but a geographical point on a gentle knoll with a southeast exposure such as a pioneering settler in this region would be apt to choose for his cabin.

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

What makes the place significant and fit to kindly this imagination is the bare historic fact that here, on a little clearing in the midst of primeval forest, the young Lincoln lived and labored, here loved and lost his mother, here wrought out the early steps in the forging of a mighty soul.

It would be sheer impudence ti intrude on the now bare site of that historic fact, so pregnant with meaning to anyone possessed of any imagination, either an artist's expression of his own ideas about Lincoln, or any sham of "realistic" stage scenery purporting to ~~pre~~ reproduce what Lincoln's boyhood home was like. Nothing but a bald and simple marker of the spot is reasonably conceivable. It should rise, I believe, from such a turf as in this climate naturally tends to cover the ground of an old clearing that is kept free from the advance of brush and forest, as by grazing of animals or mowing. But around the clearing, which need make no pretense of following the wholly unknown lines of the original clearing, there are many reasons for deliberately attempting to let nature gradually recreate, as she will in the course of years if given half a chance, a forest substantially identical with that which certainly surrounded the Lincoln cabin in its early days. For one thing a broad belt of enclosing tree foliage is essential to secure privacy for the Sanctuary and shut off sight of the obviously discordant present and future buildings and activities outside. But, more than that, the forest is the only one of the now vanished physical features of the place characteristic of Lincoln's time which can be reproduced without sham or falsehood substantially as it was in his boyhood, because the natural conditions which produced the original forest are still operative, and for all we can see will be operative for centuries hence, with little if any change, if man's interference therewith be guarded against. With protection from fire and other abnormal destructive agents, a forest comes as near to the ideal of perpetual existence, through new life springing from old, as anything known to man in this changing world. From the point of view of a given generation of mankind, the reestablishment of a forest where it has been destroyed may seem like a slow business, but anyone who considers that this Lincoln Sanctuary is to endure for countless centuries and who has seen such a venerable, magnificent and natural-seeming forest as that which was artifically plated a couple of centuries at Het Bosch in the Hague, or even the results of a single life time in some planted forests in America, will I think be willing to accept with prophetic confidence the long look ahead toward converting the entire Sanctuary into something closely approximating a primeval forest entirely surrounding the clearing of Lincoln's cabin.

I do not want to underestimate the serious administrative difficulty of securing that continuity of policy during successive administrations which must be pursued if the end I advocate is to be perfectly attained -- if well-meaning innovators are to be prevented from "slicking up" the forest into a picnic grove or a commonplace "park". But the necessary methods can be well-defined, and the attainment of the ideal set forth is no more precarious than that of any other ideal of permanent treatment. One practical requirement which must be faced is that crowds of people visiting the Sanctuary, while they may deploy freely over the turf of the interior clearing, with reasonable restrictions when the ground is moist and soft, must be confined in their ramblings of the enclosing forest area to paths, as numerous as may be desirable, provided to withstand their wear and tear, so that the rest of the forest floor may be left to untrampled

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

woodland vegetation.

A feature of considerable æsthetic importance in connection with the general plan above outlined is that the open clearing to be left on the low ground and on the subordinate ridge near the cabin site will make it possible to open, and to keep permanently open, from the woodland of the upper hill just south of the old graveyard, a glimpse or glimpses extending miles across the surrounding farm land with little consciousness of any existing buildings. This offers the one possibility of any large and inspiring landscape quality which the site affords, other than the mystery of the interior of a mature forest which time can bring, and other than such frankly man-made qualities of dignity as may be artifically imparted to the approach and forecourt treatment.

I ask your approval or criticism of the above outline of what I have in mind before I go very far into the means for ~~m-a~~ realizing it.

Very truly yours,

Frederick Law Olmsted.

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

March 24, 1937.

Col. Richard Lieber,
Director of Conservation
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Col. Lieber:-

Supplementing my letter this date, written on the train, I want to put before you one more idea which I have been thinking over for several days.

The type of treatment I have proposed for the approach-entrance-forecourt unit, even though it be done well enough to be thoroughly dignified, and even beautiful in a quiet way, especially after its enclosing trees shall have grown to respectable size, is obviously open to the risk that it would not have a sufficiently accentuated focus of interest to be at all satisfactory to those - and they will be many - bent upon a conspicuously arresting demonstration of some kind.

I am inclined to believe that there is one, and only one, large and conspicuous object, idealistic in significance, that could be used as the dominant object in such an entrance composition without impertinence to the Sanctuary within. That object is a great flagpole bearing the American flag.

My idea is to place on an island at the intersection of the axes of the State Highway and of the entrance court of the Sanctuary an almost colossal but very carefully proportioned flagpole rising from a simple massive masonry base. Not an elaborately detailed Venetian mast sort or monumental base, but nevertheless one of monumental character and proportions, even though simple. That is much the hardest kind of base to get just right, but, certainly for this place, much the finest when it is just right. I should not expect to get it right without redrawing and redrawing it again and again and making models of it. But I am ready to bet it can be made a very distinguished thing if we have patience to work over it long enough and not rest satisfied too soon.

Very truly yours,

F. L. OLmsted.

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

THE INDIANA LINCOLN UNION

Indianapolis

May 16, 1927

John E. Iglehart, Esq.,
Evansville, Ind.

Dear Sir:

Notice of June 8th Meeting.

The moment has come when the entire membership of the Indiana Lincoln Union must meet to formulate the plans for the establishment of a significant national shrine at the grave of the Mother of Lincoln in Spencer County.

The Executive Committee has gone as far as it has been deemed advisable in the preliminary work. It has secured competent advice from experts in campaign management and having informed itself upon the possibilities offered at the Lincoln City site, now announces that it is ready to submit suggestions to the full committee.

This is preliminary notice that the evening of Wednesday June 8th., has been selected for the meeting of the Union at Indianapolis. Within a few days you will receive a brief outline of the proposals from the Executive Committee in order that you may give some preparatory thought to the plans before the meeting.

The success of the enterprise depends upon the attendance at this important meeting. Will you advise me at your earliest opportunity that you have reserved the night of June 8 for the Indiana Lincoln Union? Address your reply to Room 126 Statehouse and let us know how many guests you will bring. The charge for the dinner will be nominal, and of course, no solicitations will be made.

Yours very truly,

Anne Studebaker Carlisle

President.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

OLMSTED BROTHERS

Brookline Massachusetts

11th May, 1927.

Hon. John E. Iglehart, President Emeritus,
Southwestern Indiana Historical Society,
Evansville, Indiana.

My dear Judge Iglehart:

As suggested by you I will indicate in this letter more definitely than I could in our hurried conversation on May 7th the sort of information I am seeking as to the physical environment of Lincoln when he lived in Spencer County.

My letter of March 24th last to Col. Lieber, which you have seen, sets forth my ideas about the physical treatment of the land around the Lincoln cabin site and the grave of Lincoln's mother. I append hereto certain extracts from that letter relating to those portions of the land which in my opinion should be treated as a natural and historic sanctuary, distinct and apart from any monumental features that may be devised and constructed to express the importance which we of today attach to what lies within the enclosure, of which these monumental features will mark the entrance.

Before the white man came to what is now Indiana the region is known to have been occupied in the main by a type of forest technically designated by botanists and foresters by the broad term "The Eastern Hardwood Forest". (See , for example, "The Naturalist's Guide to the Americas", compiled by the Ecological Society of America, 1926. Of the character and composition of that forest, of the

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

kinds and proportions of its trees and shrubs and lesser vegetation and their distribution, of the innumerable details which in the aggregate made it what it was --which made it look as it did to those who beheld it in the early days of the settlement of Indiana -- much has been recorded by scientific observers in many parts of the region over which that type of forest is known to have extended. I can obtain access to much of this information through general technical botanical and silvicultural literature.

But in addition it will be helpful in the task before us if we can obtain more specifically local information of two sorts in regard to the physical environment of Lincoln's boyhood in Spencer County.

One sort of information relates to the local natural flora, the kinds of trees and shrubs and herbaceous plants which grew and which did <u>not</u> grow in this vicinity, as recorded by local observers at any time and in any way that gives the record evidential value; and relates also to cognate local observations as to soils and soil conditions, geological conditions, the character of the minor streams and swamps, and even of the local fauna and of the mode of life of the Indians and the occurrence of forest fires in pre-pioneering days as affecting the natural conditions.

The other sort of information, related much more closely to the "Lincoln Inquiry" which your Society has undertaken, concerns any records, however fragmentary or casual or incidental, of personal impressions and recollections which can help future generations to form a truth ful picture of the physical conditions which surrounded and largely influenced the life of the pioneers of Spencer County, and especially those which influenced the life of the Lincolns and their near neighbors.

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

The efforts of your Society have apparently been directed, rightly enough, to the search for information as to the personal characteristics of the people who may reasonably be supposed to have had an influence on the development of Lincoln's mind and character during the formative years when he lived in Indiana. But the character and habits of those people and of Lincoln himself were, of course, profoundly influenced by the details of their physical environment -- by what the country was like when they came there, by what they saw around them year by year, by what the physical conditions of the time and place compelled them or induced them to do from day to day, as woodsmen, as farmers, as craftsmen, as home-makers, in short as pioneers in Spencer County in the first third of the Nineteenth Century in contrast with pioneers in New England or Virginia at an earlier date or the people of any maturer community.

Such intimate and specific even though fragmentary glimpses of the daily life and physical surroundings of a few individuals as are given in regard to the "New Settlement" of Quakers in Indiana by James Baldwin in "The Days of My Youth" are no less illuminating historically than such summarized records of the achievements and character of many notable persons in any community, such as your Society has been gathering. But however that may be, it is certain that fragments of information of this detailed character from old letters and journals and reminiscences, from old periodical files, etc., should be distinctly helpful to us in guiding nature toward the gradual restoration of the land around the Lincoln cabin site and along the route of the "Barefoot Trail" to Centryville to conditions approximating those which Lincoln knew and which in their own way directly influenced him as he grew to manhood.

I am sending an extra copy of this letter and enclosure direct to Mrs. Ehrmann.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick Law Olmsted

SDO

Written on train by
Mr. Olmsted. Typed and
forwarded from Brookline
in his absence.

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

(COPY)

DOCUMENTARY LINCOLNIANA

Louis A. Warren Zionsville, Indiana

Jan. 24, 1927.

Mr. John E. Iglehart
Evansville, Ind.

Dear Mr. Iglehart:

As I get deeper into my work on the Indiana Lincolns I am more and more impressed with the value of the Lincoln Inquiry, of which I believe you are the founder.

I have been especially interested in going over some of your own contributions to this compilation of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society. In one paper of more than usual interest you challenge the authorship of the "Adam and Eve" poetry credited to Lincoln. I am convinced that your review of the internal evidence is sufficient to discredit the traditional authorship. Have you ever been able to learn through English sources of any earlier copies than those appearing in Spencer County.

Of course the members of the Southwestern Historical Society are pleased with the step taken by the Governor to adequately mark the Lincoln places of interest in Spencer County, and there is no doubt but the agitation of your group was indirectly responsible for it.

I am very anxious to spend several days in The Pocket this spring and hope to be able to run in and see you. In the meantime I should be very glad of any further discoveries you may have made with reference to the above mentioned poetry.

Please call upon me for any service I can render you or the Southwestern Society.

Sincerely yours,

Louis A. Warren.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

THE INDIANA LINCOLN UNION

136 State House

INDIANAPOLIS

OFFICERS

Governor Ed Jackson, Honorary President
Mrs. Anne Studebaker Carlisle, President
Will H. Hays, Vice-President
Mrs. John W. Kern, Vice-President
Thomas Taggart, Treasurer
Stanley Coulter, Secretary

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Richard Lieber, Chairman
Fred M. Ayres
Chas. A. Greathouse
J. Irving Holcomb
Marcus Sonntag
Mrs. Jas. P. Goodrich
Arthur F. Hall
Mrs. Frank J. Sheehan
Mrs. H. B. Wilson
Mrs. A. D. Cook

Paul V. Brown, Executive Secretary.

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