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

Thomas M. Galey
Independence
Kansas

405 W. 7th, OWENSBORO, Ky.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I was glad indeed to have your kind letter and I see clearly your situation because of illness and the pressure of business. Hot and dusty, I had just arrived from Springfield and the Lincoln birth cabin at Hodgenville when your letter was delivered. My business has taken me over that way much of late and I had paused at the several historic spots to show them to two men who accompanied me.

The enclosed pictures and data relating to Col. Wright I suggest you sell and retain half the proceeds and remit the balance to me and I will give it to Col. Wright. But if you do not care to do so, retain the whole among your archives for permanent safe keeping. You can rewrite the data in your own words should you commercialize it. It is capable of considerable expansion. Mr. George Leighton, a writer for Harpers Weekly will be particularly interested in material of this nature. Advise me if you make commercial use of it so I will know to lay off. My name need not be mentioned, just as you wish.

It is still possible to work out some interesting speculations and logical conclusions relating to the Lincoln family life in the Springfield area, Hardin County, Knob Creek and Indiana. New Roads make it all so accessable. I wish you would accompany me on a comfortable journey and I will show you some new slants. Yesterday, at Knob Creek I speculated on how a boat could readily be launched there at high water which would easily carry it to the Ohio from the cabin site. At least from New Haven, a few miles distant, the trip could be made most any time. These folks certainly traveled by boat and not overland.

There is considerable bunk and uncertanity about the various cabin sites, the marriage cabin and the place of death of Abraham Sr. I can produce strong evidence that he was killed in Washington Co. and the site is identifiable. Let me take you to the house of Richard Berry which still stands strongly near the site of the so called "marriage cabin" now in Harrodsburg. I will show you clearly that Tom Lincoln was married in that house though they certainly lived in the Marriage Cabin for a little while.

I have made many beautiful stereoscopic pictures so these things may be properly marked by future generations. Lincoln was certainly born on Nolin Creek in Hardin Co., but, perhaps not in the cabin enshrined. That memorial is monstrously ruined.

If you will meet Mrs. Galey and me in Louisville this Fall I will show you about in utter comfort and luxury.

Thomas M. Galey
Independence
Kansas

In a few days I am leaving for East Hampton, Long Island to visit my family for a w ek or two. My address is P.O. Box 1039. Drop me a card and if you are anywhere near I will want to know it. The Fitzpatricks very much want to see you.

Here in Western Kentucky I am working hard to build up an oil production. I have a particularly attractive well flowing naturally at 428' and for six weeks it has made 200 barrels daily, partially restricted. Generally speaking, Kentucky is dead because of lack of capital. Yet here is a virgin oil field of high potentiality for the small producer.

The new deal had not yet affected me for better or worse. It is unlikely it will become a potent force in this area because of that deadness. Crude at 85¢ will not bring forth effort. When it passes $1.50 there will be a slow increase of effort. Operators who have crude can meet the New Deal labor requirements provided the crude price is increased materially. Operators who have not got production will be unable to start new work because of increased labor cost, three crew shifts. Unless they have outside resources they will still not be much bettered by crude prices for the finding hazard is great. I believe that principle may apply to other business as well. It introduces a complication which cannot be quickly solved. I look for a very slow recovery and perhaps that is well. In other words, 98% of the operators are starting from "scratch", just as if they had arrived at 21 years of age and had the World before them. Now, their only asset is experience for none of these has any capital. I hear little complaint. People are resigned and hopeful. Misery loves company but is more than envious, even hostile of the few who have capital.

(Say, I always thought effecting was spelled with an "a". I see you start it with an "e". Good, I'm glad to know that)

Answering your question, what to do to restore order: Trust Jimmie Moffett, encourage him, write him. I did. To restore order there is only one route. That is, create a deficiency of crude supplies and gradually permit natural functions to operate. Any tendency to monopoly must be suppressed and yet relatively large units must thrive but not expand. Not in my time will the oil business ever be without a regulator. The time may come when this feature will be abused, when politics and selfishness will cause an intolerable situation. I hope to be out of it after a few years for I do not trust the future.

Sincerely, Thomas M. Galey

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NOTE: Col Wright told me that you had called on his father in law, Jim Gentry and that the old man was not exactly pleased with the published results of that interview. But that is to be expected. There is so much bunk about these matters that a researcher has to average things so that it may hurt the pride of those who "know".

A lawyer in Springfield has preserved many notes of items he has met in the process of examining records. He has even made a map of the Beech Fork area showing the farms as of the time of entry. This material can be worked into something of outstanding interest. It shows the farm of Abraham Sr. and his neighbors. These were administrators of his will. This establishes his place of death. Local tradition identifies the cabin site and the approximate place of death.

You go there with me and I will do some beautiful draughting of a map, for I can do that with artistic effect, and you will learn something new.

TMG

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EXAMINE these pictures under a stereoscope, if convenient, and return them to me at your convenience. Advise if copies thereof would serve any useful purpose in your records to be preserved and I will have a set made for you.

The pictures of Col Wright are also stereoscopic, but I have sent you a unit only and these you are to keep.

T M G

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