ARTHUR H. SMYTHE
1394 Spruce Street
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

June 20, 1930

Miss Ida Tarbell,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Permit me, as an introduction, to ask you to recall that when you were in Columbus, Ohio, at the Chittenden Hotel, about fifteen years ago, I received a 'phone from you, asking whether I had in stock "The Diary of Gideon Wells", and on answering in the affirmative, you said, "My train for New York leaves in twenty minutes; if you can get it into my hands before it starts, I will take it. I wish to read it on the trip." You received the book and I received the ten dollars, so this is not a "please remit" letter for the same.

I enclose, Miss Tarbell, for your very careful consideration the preliminary plan for a movement which I expect to release sometime next week to the Associated Press and United Press, for nationwide publicity. In my boyhood I looked into the face of Abraham Lincoln three times in Columbus; on one of these occasions I had the honor of grasping his hand. An interesting incident happened. For many years I have felt that an earnest effort should be made, before the last man who saw the martyred President has passed on, to glean for preservation from the now remaining whatever they can give us from their personal contact with Lincoln.

Any changes or additions that you might suggest would be highly appreciated.

I am sure that you must be in sympathy with this project, which is the result of much thought. If so, I should value greatly your endorsement, with the liberty of using it next week in the national publicity. It would surely assist materially in our obtaining the desired results. As I have an appointment to meet the San Francisco representatives of the Press Associations next week, may I ask you to kindly wire your endorsement to me, charges collect?

I have been a life member of the "Ohio Historical and Archaelogical Society" almost from its organization, and in 1894 was appointed a Trustee of the same by William McKinley, then Governor of Ohio. I enclose copy of my letter of the 18th to Oliver Wendell Holmes. I am thrilled with the hope that he may be our first Honorary President. If he is elegible, may I suggest that knowledge of your endorsement might influence his acceptance? I would gladly reimburse the expense of a wire to him by you. The Lincoln Scholarship Fund of New York and the Lincoln Association, Springfield, Ill., are coöperating.

With confidence that I may be honored with a wire endorsement of my efforts, I am

Sincerely yours,

Arthur H. Smythe

New York Reference:
Mr. Hoyne, Pres. of Harper & Bros.
Mr. William McIntosh, Recently retired president Oxford University Press.

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COPY

June 18, 1930.

Hon. Oliver Wendell Holmes,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Judge Holmes:

These five words, "Despite the Civil War shots", in this week's "Digest", just received, impels me not to lose a moment in getting into your hands the preliminary plan of a movement I am almost ready to release to the National Press.

If during the Civil War you either knew, met, or saw Abraham Lincoln, you are not only eligible to membership in the proposed "Lincoln Fellowship", but undoubtedly the one, as the oldest, to be the First Honorary President. It would thrill me to the utmost if you would allow the use of your name as such, after reading the enclosed preliminary plan. It would insure, without doubt, the accomplishment of the object for which it is being formed, and in the furtherance of which I hope to devote the remaining years of my life.

I am in correspondence with the "Lincoln Scholarship Fund Inc.", 1 East 42nd St., New York, and the "Abrahman Lincoln Association", of Springfield, Ill., both of which offer hearty co-operation.

I regret that I cannot give you Washington reference. Am a retired bookseller of forty years' experience in Columbus, Ohio, where I saw Lincoln three times in my boyhood. In 1894 President McKinley, as Governor of Ohio, appointed me a Trustee of the Ohio Archaelogical and Historical Society. Our First Chaplain, my brother, Rev. Henry Herbert Smythe, Falmouth, Mass., is well known in Episcopal circles in Boston. Mr. Frank Beebe, one of his closest friends, Rt. Rev. Theodore Irving Reese, Episcopal Bishop, Cincinnati, Ohio, or the Rev. E. F. Chauncey, Rector Trinity Church, Columbus, will gladly vouch for my integrity.

I have an appointment with the San Francisco representatives of the Associated and United Press early next week. If you would be so kind as to wire me collect your acceptance of membership and the high honor of using your name as Honorary President, I am sure that generations to come will be grateful to Mr. Oliver Wendell Holmes for his action.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Arthur H. Smythe

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ARTHUR H. SMYTHE
1334 Spruce Street
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

"More has been written about Abraham Lincoln than of any man who ever lived except Jesus Christ"

WE KNEW
WE MET
WE SAW

ABRAHAM LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP

--Organized 1930--

Purpose: To glean and preserve for all time to come every interesting incident obtainable from the personal contact of its membership with one of the greatest men in the history of the world.

Membership: Limited to the living men and women, not younger than 75 years, who are eligible.

Honorary President: Shall be the Hon. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, for life, to be succeeded by the oldest member on the first Lincoln Day following his decease (subject to his acceptance).

Honorary Vice Presidents: Shall be each member who heard the Gettysburg Address -- the greatest speech in all history. No. 1: Mr. William Corse, of the 6th Massachusetts Cavalry, age 86, N.S. Veterans Hospital, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

First President: Shall be Mr. William H. Wharff, age 94, residing at 2000 Delaware Street, Berkeley, California.

First Vice President: Shall be Mr. Edward D. Keys, Ridgely Farmers State Bank, Springfield, Ill.

First Chaplain: Shall be the Reverend Henry Herbert Smythe, age 77, residing at Falmouth, Massachusetts.

First Secy.-Treas., Manager and Custodian: Shall be the organizer, Mr. Arthur H. Smythe, age 80, residing at 1334 Spruce Street, Berkeley, California, to whom all correspondence, and marked copies of newspapers and magazines containing editorial comment on the movement must be addressed.

Lincoln-Douglas Debate Members: All members who heard one or more of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates shall have their entry of membership grouped together under this caption.

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Life Membership Dues: Not less than One Dollar ($1.00), for the expenses of the Fellowship, must accompany each application for membership, to be returned if for good reasons the same is not accepted. No annual dues or assessments.

Photograph. A personal photograph, taken within three years, should accompany or follow every application for membership.

Duties of the Secretary: On receipt of every application, the Secretary will mail each applicant a blank form for the entry of the basis or claim on which membership is asked. This statement must be sworn to before a notary and returned promptly to the Secretary before actual membership can be entered. (If any statements made as basis for membership are proven at any time to be untrue, any such members may be suspended or dismissed.)

The Secretary shall preserve, in a Bank Safety Deposit Box, all papers, letters, etc., received by him that contain historical facts about Lincoln, and he will supply copies of any such to the writers or their heirs, on application.

About January 15th of each year, the Secretary shall send to each city, where not less than five reside, the name and address of the members there residing, with the request that they meet together on Lincoln Day.

Convention. The first convention of the Society will be held in the city of Chicago or Springfield, Illinois, on Lincoln Day, February 12th, 1931, to which every member is invited.

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