

THOS. C. FISHER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SUITE 44 KENYON BUILDING
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

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Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 E. 19th St.,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:-

Your request, and also a request of Mr. Worthington C. Ford for information concerning Henry Whitney Cleveland was discussed at the Filson Club last night. Mr. Ford's request had arrived a few days earlier and the Secretary had done some work toward looking up what information he could obtain.

It seems that Henry Whitney Cleveland came from Georgia to Louisville a number of years ago, and died here about twenty years ago. Before coming to Louisville he was the author of a life of Alexander Stephens and also a life of Andrew Jackson. There were some people at the Filson Club who remember him, but no one knew him so very well. He was a close associate of Col. R. T. Durrett and Col. Bennett H. Young. It seems that he had the confidence of his contemporaries, in spite of the fact that some of his discoveries were even doubted at that time. One in particular was a whole page of signatures of Daniel Boone which he was supposed to have found at some Court House in the Bluegrass. He sold this to Col. Young. During his lifetime Col. Young had it framed in his office, but made the statement several times to his friends that he had reason to doubt its genuineness.

The only record information in the hands of the Filson Club at present, of this man Cleveland, is a short paragraph in Volume 2, page 82, of the Memorial History of Louisville, by J. Stoddard Johnson, published in 1906.

Again about this marriage certificate of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. In doing some work for Senator Beveridge for his life of Lincoln he had me obtain a photograph of the signature of Jessie Head on the marriage certificate at Springfield, and also to go to Harrodsburg and make a photograph of his signature on the court records, where he was Justice of the Peace, and also on other marriage records. Senator Beveridge never mentioned to me that he doubted the genuineness of the marriage certificate, but since this has come up, the minute examination which he gave the certificate and the careful examination of many other signatures of the Rev. Jessie Head, makes me believe that perhaps he suspected that it may not have been genuine. However, no indication of such a doubt, as you know, is shown in his book as published.

The Filson Club is continuing its investigation of this Henry Whitney Cleveland, and if anything else is found I will advise you. I myself intend to inquire of Mr. Joshua Speed and some of the older men in the City as to what they may know about this man.

Sincerely,

Thos. B. Fisher

TF:B

I have talked to Mr. Speed. He knew Dr. Cleveland only slightly. About all he could tell me was that he was a "sanctimonious" sort of fellow and looked about like Henry Ward Beecher.

Mr. Speed suggests that you get in touch with Rev. Louis A. Warren and Dr. William C. Barton. I have their addresses somewhere; will try to locate them for you.