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From Jessie Houldershaw
Stayner Ont
Canada
Mar 28, 1924

To Miss Ida M Tarbell
New York
Madam

I am a Canadian and live 86 mi north of Toronto I have known for some time that there was a Lincoln Historical Society but just recently obtained your address

The reason there has been so much difficulty tracing the lineage of Lincoln is that the true name of Mr Lincoln Abraham's father was not Lincoln neither is my correct name Houldershaw Abraham Lincoln and the writer should of borne the same name as his father and my paternal great-grand father were brothers He was not a freak or a great product of the soil there was two strains of statesman blood in his veins and he was fitted by hereditary to fill the position to which he was elected

In Jan or the early part of Feb 1865

(over)

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my father came across a little book I think the title was From Log Cabin to White House and while reading it discovered that the man whose course he had watched thru the war was his fathers cousin

That short life of Lincoln would contain the truth as it was written during his life time Soon after father wrote to Lincoln and in a short time received an answer in which he stated that he was very busy but the war was almost over and he would have more leisure and asked father to write again but before he did so Lincoln was assasinated

I sometimes hear young people reiterate that old falsehood about Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks and I do not like it neither do I like to see Lovers of Lincoln place a statue in a wrong county in England and I would like the truth about his ancestry to be known and probably I know more about it than anyone living

(Miss) Jessie Hoddershaw

Stayner Ont Canada

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