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July 20, 1923.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East Nineteenth St.,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Your letter of May 4th, 1923, came to hand in due time. I delayed answering because I intended to go to Attica and thought I would see Mr. James Grigsby, son of Nathaniel Grigsby.

I did go to Attica and saw Mr. Grigsby and arranged with him to let me take a picture of the Abraham Lincoln letter for your benefit. I am now advised by a friend of mine in Attica that Mr. Grigsby has changed his mind and declines to allow a picture of this letter to be taken because he has conceived the idea that someone might use the picture as a means of making money.

I had my heart set on getting you this picture copy of the letter for your Lincoln collection and I am very sorry I have failed. It might be possible that some time or other later on that I can see Mr. Grigsby personally and can arrange it but I doubt very much whether I will be able to do so, because as Nathaniel Grigsby stated at the time of his death, "when a Grigsby makes a promise, I know it will be kept."

I did not see the head stone when I was in Attica but I am informed by parties there that it is still in place. Mr. James Grigsby stated they had had one other letter from Abraham Lincoln but which had been lost and the one of which you have a copy is the only other one they have.

I think I wrote you something about the connection of the Grigsby's with the Lincoln family years ago. Mr. Grigsby reminded me again when I was in Attica that Nathaniel Grigsby's brother, Aaron Grigsby, married Lincoln's only sister and they lived in Spencer County, Indiana and are both buried in the Pigeon Grave Yard near Gentrysville, in that county..

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Among other things he told me that shortly before Mr. Lincoln went to Washington in 1861, Nathaniel Grigsby visited him and spent three days with him. As Nathaniel Grigsby was leaving, Mr. Lincoln said to him. "Nat" when I go to Washington, if there is any office I can get for you or any of your boys, I will be glad to do so. I will keep it in mind." Mr. Grigsby said. "There is going to be a great war and my boys and I will have a part of it and that is all that we will be able to do." Mr. Lincoln dropped his head and studied a little and then he looked up and said. "Well, I have hopes of preventing that."

If you could see Mr. James Grigsby, you could have a very interesting conversation with him about Mr. Lincoln, but he is the son of his father and very much set in his ways. He has been a friend of mine for years and very cordially consented to give me a copy of this picture. He inquired of me, however, what you would do with it. I read him that part of your letter and explained that you had not asked for it, and that it was my own notion, but he has undoubtedly been thinking it over and is afraid that you, living down there in New York, will use this letter for making money. I am certain if I had told him I was going to keep it and not give anybody a copy that he would give me a picture of the letter.

Regretting I have been unable to do this for you, I am,

Very truly yours,

N-mo

I. A. Hoffzger

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