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Lake Magdalene
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GODFREY, ILLINOIS Mar. 9/31

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
Box 59B, R. D. 2
Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Miss Tarbell: I H.

I have your valued letter of the 21st. ult. and thank you very much for the names that you have suggested as possible buyers of my Lincoln letters. Am sorry to say that I have communicated with the parties that you mention, but no one seems to feel that they want to buy at this time. The same reticence seems to have infected the eastern buyers, even Dr. Rosenbach who paid \$24,000.00 for a Thos. Jefferson letter seems to have clamped down on the purse strings. I am inclined to believe that I will have to hold my letters for a while, if I hope to get more than the price of a square meal for each one.

I havent the photos. at the present writing but hope to have them within a week or ten days and will then be more than pleased to send them to you. In the mean time I am enclosing copies of not only my Lincoln letters, but of four others that all bear on the same subject, the Alten & Sangamon R. R. now the C. & A. recently taken over by the B. & O.

In these seven letters I feel that I have not only the value of the Lincoln letters but a real first hand fund of historical facts, that are valuable because of having been written by persons on the ground at the time, and to me were I can assure you veritable eye openers, I wonder if they will strike you as they have me?

With apologies for using business paper, my only reason for so doing is that I write a considerable number of letters, have a very poor memory, and forget what I have written, by keeping a carbon copy I can keep in touch with my correspondence, you will be charitable will you not?

Yours truly,

H. T. Sidway

Copy of Abraham Lincoln letter

Springfield, Mar. 8 1851

Hon. Wm. Martin,

Dear Sir:

Yours of March with enclosures were received yesterday. I agree with the New York lawyers that it is best not to amend the minutes. In my view, if there were no minutes, no entries in writing of the call, then we could prove by parol that the Directors impound the payments, and procure the publication of notices of them in the papers. My difficulty was that calls being entered of record and the fact gotten out in exigent evidence, we could not proceed without producing the records. If I am right in this, it follows that if when the records are produced, are defective, the defects can be supplied by parol.

If any of my cases are brought to trial at the coming term, I shall need the minutes of the commission together with witness, to identify them as you suggest, I shall also want the printers certificate, and if not too inconvenient a living witness also to prove the publication of the call. The reason I say if is that another of my victims J. M. Bankhardt has "caved in" and paid his installment, still another one Jas. A. Benet, as I wrote you is proposing terms. In addition to all this, I can not be ready unless the secretary comes on with his books. If I find that I shall need the proof from Altan I will write you again. As to Benet, if the Board think they have the power, I would rather think they would better accept his terms. Mr. Lyons thinks the change of the location of the road, makes a serious question as to the release of stockholders, and Benet is the only one that I have heard of that is disposed to make the question.

Mr. Lyons opinion notwithstanding, that the change will not make a release, but still it is better to get along pleasantly if possible. I have not time to review your declaration as you desire, but I have no doubt it is right, or at least as right as I could make it, before I get some rubbing by an adversary in court.

Your despatch is just here on the question of the competency of stockholders to testify in these suits. I send you 4 Watts & Serg 337-- the book is not here, I find a reference to it in in the Sept. U. S. Dig. Vol. 2 page 378 sec. 405.

I also send you 7 Dana 33 the case is full and plump and is probably the only reported case exactly in point. There is no case against us, there are many deciding that a stockholder is incompetent for the corporation, but they are all in cases where strangers not members of the corporation were serving or being served.

(This letter is written on
2 pages)

Yours as ever
A. Lincoln