

October 28, 1940

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have just written to Mr. Meserve and enclose a copy of the dedicatory note which was pasted on the back of the enlargement of Lincoln's picture from the broken negative by Alexander Gardner on April 9, 1865. The picture arrived the day before the dedication, and we were thrilled and pleased, both with the gift and with the kindly thought of Mr. Meserve. I took the liberty in including your thanks with ours when I acknowledged the gift, thinking it would save you any feeling of responsibility about writing until you feel stronger. The enclosed sheet carries the wording

Your nephew's model of the Lincoln invention arrived in time to be displayed. It is beautifully done, and we were delighted to have it here, but wish that he might have been present to represent your family in what was, we feel, a great occasion. I sent him invitation, program, and a copy of The Tribune, so that he had what information was available. The report of Mr. Sandburg's speech, of which we took a stenographic record, will not be published until some time later. I mailed you, in addition to the two copies sent before the event, six copies of the program, with the thought that you might like to have them to give to special friends. In addition to the 125 persons in Oil City, Titusville and Franklin to whom invitations were sent, and to a smaller number, copies of the program and Tribune Republican, we have mailed programs to every Lincoln organization of which we had the address. I wrote to Brown University, whose former curator you may recall assisted with the cataloguing of your collection, and secured their complete list of Lincoln organizations. We have tried to reach all interested persons so far as we knew them. Many cordial notes of appreciation have been received. We plan to put all of these letters in a book, and when you are here next time, you will enjoy reading them. Or, when they are ready, we could send them to you to read in your own home. Miss Barr loaned her picture of you sitting under your great oak, and I loaned the picture of you and Jumbo, so that we had several portraits of you in the room. Miss Marian Hamnett was glad to give a large bunch of lovely white anemones from her garden for the room. In addition, we had bouquets of bronze chrysanthemums and on the balcony where a large display was arranged, was a big bunch of gladiolas. After passing through the room and across the balcony, the crowd, numbering several hundred, came down the stairs into the main reading room where punch and wafers were served by the staff. At the charging desk, Miss Painter secured signatures in the guest book of as many as possible. Everyone said that the rooms, with the girls in pretty dresses serving refreshments made a nice picture.

Mr. Sandburg spoke as one inspired as indeed he was by the subject, his friendship for you, and the occasion. I hope even at a distance that the spirit of it has reached you. With affectionate regards and good wishes, I am

E. R.