Cresco. Iowa. Sept. 18- 1895

My Dear Miss Tarbell.

I am Hattie who is supposed to carry on the family part of this correspondence which has started between the Howes & Tarbells. My mother planned to call me Ida. but Father wanted to name me after his only sister Harriet. or Hattie as he always called her.

I can't say very much about the relatives of our father. I don't know very much about them - or rather - there wasn't much to tell. Father came to Minn. in the Fall of 1856. & I was born in Jan. 1857. I noticed the other day that your birth was in the same year. I don't know whether I ever heard of your father's life in Iowa or not. It sounds familiar - but - I don't know.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

The first I ever heard of you or any of your family was when you began writing for Magazines. Particularly a series of articles published - I think - in McClures. These were read aloud in the family circle. I was teaching at the time and away from home more or less. So I almost got much of the articles & kept in a general way. And none of us had the remotest idea that the author Ida Tarbell was anything to us. A little later Aunt Harriet Barton was here on a visit and she asked us if we knew of the articles & realized who Ida Tarbell was. We were surprised - astonished and all a flutter over the news. I asked Father who the Tarbells were & all about it.

Digital Image, 2009, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

He said "Uncle Tarbells folks" lived fifty or eighty miles from them and the families used to visit back + forth once in a great while and one time the boy that became your father came with his parents when they visited at Grandfathers Howes. That is the only time they met. I should be interested in knowing what part of Iowa your father visited. Something tells me that it was the south eastern part of the state. Come I wrong?

We enjoyed your letter very much. We have always lived so far away from all of our relatives. I know very little about any of them. When I do hear or see anything from any one of the family I get a decided thrill out of it. I haven't figured out yet what degree of cousins we are. I always forget how it goes any way.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library

When we were wondering what to do with the skeletons that Joe is writing- I saw your name in connection with the work of one Jane Hardy. I said if her Father is doing this kind of work for other people she surely will help us out. So that is the way we got started.

the sketches will be finished up + sent along in due season.

I hope you will like them. They are different from anything else.

What ever you do with the articles I hope you will write to us again. I think this is the place for me to stop so will say good Bye

Good Luck. Hattie E. Horne.

126. 6th Ave E.

Cresco. Iowa

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library