Schaller, Iowa. December 31, 1923.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
New York City,

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

Miss Lindsay, of the Decatur Herald staff, sent me this excellent article from the Indianapolis News of September 30th. I immediately wrote to The News to know if I could get photographs of the prints shown in it, for Decatur, not knowing that Thomas Hendricks is one of the News staff; but today I have received from him six large beautiful photographs, 7 by 9 (unmounted) of those Lincoln City pictures which I could not get when I was there in June. I could only get card photos of the Monument of Nancy Hanks and Entrance to the Park. He says that he and their staff photographer went in July, a month after. Mr Spurlock gave me the little flag that was on her grave.

I told the News that I was glad that the " Hoosier fighting blood was up," and I sincerely hope that Dr. Murr and Mr Hendricks together will give to the world the volume on "Lincoln in Indiana,"-for which it has long been waiting- where he lived during those vital fourteen years, truly the formative period of his life, which prepared him to continue in his career toward imperishable fame.

I told the News that of all the biographies I own of Abraham Lincoln, Miss Tarbell's alone gives the fullest account by far- four chapters- of his life in Indiana, with illustrations now utterly unobtainable. I asked for an extra copy of the News, thinking you would be glad to, this illuminating sketch.

When I sent my Lincoln collection to Decatur two years ago I took from your " Early Life of Lincoln," many of those Indiana prints and had them framed- nowhere else were they to be found. Then I bought another copy of the book fromm Newhall for my library.

That volume of yours must ever remain the standard work on Lincoln's early history- the Court of Appeal- as evidenced in your earnest striving and obtaining absolute facts and data in your long and careful research.

Ah my dear Miss Tarbell, you are the star Seeker after Truth; this fact is borne in upon the mind of the reader in every line and between the lines and for this I love and honor you.

I have just written to Dr. Murr, who has moved to Princeton Indiana, to learn if I could secure those three numbers of the Indiana Magazine of History containing his articles mentioned in the News story. Did you meet Mr Rhodes when you were in Lincoln City this last time?

I have often thought that the many splendid traits of character of the Young Lincoln- which seem to have been inborn- for he had no vices, his sense of justice and fair-play, honesty, tenderness, kindness to animals etc, would be a worthy and beautiful theme for a " Lincoln Boy Scout Guide." Such a book must and will appear some day, and I only wish it might come from your

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your inspired pen. The Scouts of the whole world would welcome it.

Mr Fay (Itold him last summer that I hoped he would live forever, to which he replied," I am going to,") to the Decatur has sent Rutledge collection a very fine set of photographs which he had taken at Old Salem- twelve. They write me that they are beautiful.

The view from Old Salem Hill is magnificent and I wish from my heart that a statue of Lincoln looked out from it, over the landscape of river and woods beyond upon which he had gazed so often.

Wishing you a Joyful Christmas and many years full of joys and blessings, I remain

Very sincerely yours

Jane E. Hamand

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