

Thomas M. Galey
Independence
Kansas

405 W. 7TH ST.
OWENSBORO, KY.
April 23 1933

Miss Ida Tarbell,
120 E. 19th
New York City

Dear Miss Tarbell:

As I am doing some oil operating over in Eastern Kentucky, my route takes me thru the country of Lincoln's origin and I have made inquiries which are leading to certain conclusions I shall outline below. Some later editions of the booklet I presented you when I was in New York have been published by Judge Noe of Springfield, Ky (Washington Co.) but I mislaid copies he gave me last Tuesday and when I have received duplicates, I shall send you a copy.

Last Tuesday I looked up Charles Haydon in Springfield, age 68. His grandmother was a neighbor to the Thomas Lincoln family. She died 60 years ago at the age of 86. Mr. Haydon took me to Judge Noe at the Court House and in the office of the register of deeds I was shown some of the old records, beginning 1792 (a bootlegger case, a woman). Judge Noe was raised in that Court House from a youth. Both of these men are fine intelligent citizens. I saw the original marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, also the officiating ministers record of that marriage. I was impressed with the relatively high degree of culture shown in the signature of Thomas Lincoln. Also I was impressed with the culture shown in the hundreds of records left by Mordaci Lincoln, the oldest brother of Thomas.

When the roads dry up I shall make a series of photographs (stereoscopic) of the sites of the Lincoln marriage house, the site of the cabin now in Harrodsburg and the approximate spot where the grandfather was killed by the Indians. These I shall send you for your records that they may be permanently preserved. At that time another man, who has done much research, will conduct me. Here are my premature conclusions:

Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married in 1806 in the residence of Nancy Hanks' ward, who is on the marriage bond. The young couple then set up housekeeping in the cabin which was nearby and is now in Harrodsburg. There was born the girl child who died, there was born Abraham Lincoln. A degree of proof is furnished because of a court record of the sale of some logs AFTER the birth of Abraham Lincoln (after 1809). That record was stolen from the court house. Further, Mr. Haydon's grandmother remarked, when Lincoln was made president: "Well, I can say I have had a President of the United States in my lap many a time". She had never lived outside of that vicinity. Further, much local tradition establishes the fact of his place of birth. Hence the cabin in Harrodsburg is the really valuable relic.

I don't believe Lincoln knew the facts, believing he was born in Hardin Co. That is why he had the records searched at Elizabethtown without result. This was that he might establish his legitimacy.

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Evidently, Abraham Lincoln was a very young child when the family moved to the cabin which is now known as the birth place. There they lived until they migrated to Indiana. I am advised that the reason that place was promoted as the birth place was because of the ambitions of a local member of Congress from that district. Incidentally, the spot has been ruined by fancy landscaping so that it possesses little interest for me. It is not so with the Harrodsburgh relic. My fine stereoscopic photography will make it possible for future generations to accurately mark the two spots of interest six miles from Springfield.

From time to time I shall send you a series of letters for your records to be preserved. Included will be statements by my friend, Col. Wright, aged 100 years, ~~sixty~~ last June. He knew well Lincoln's contemporaries during the life in Indiana, his father-in-law being a close friend of Lincoln's.

If there is any feature you would have me explore, advise me.

Very sincerely,

Thos M. Galey