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Office: 32 WASHINGTON PLACE, NEW YORK
Address: WASHINGTON SQUARE, NEW YORK

Feb 18, 1936.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
New York City.

My dear Miss Tarbell

I was interested in reading the account of the exhibit on February 12th at the Hotel Lincoln, and your participation in it. Of course I have read your books and know of your deep interest in this subject for many years.

My own interest in Lincoln is somewhat more than passing. For a number of years he was a neighbor and friend of my grandfather, David L. Phillips, in Springfield Illinois, and my father knew the martyred President as a very young boy might know a grown man.

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

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I have a portrait of Lincoln and also a photograph, both of which have some personal interest. The former was done by E. D. Darling, a mid-nineteenth century artist, and the photograph was made by some unknown photographer in Illinois along about 1857 or 1858 and given by Lincoln to my grandfather. It is still in its original gilt frame. I was told by Mr Rufus Rockwell Wilson here in New York that before he published his recent book "Portraits of Lincoln" he searched for six months for the Darling portrait which was known to have been done but no one knew its whereabouts. At his suggestion photographs of both the portrait and the

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old photograph have been made.

Would you be interested in seeing them? I should be glad to show them to you at your convenience, if you are. There are of course other sidelights in connection with their history which I believe you might find interesting.

While it has no connection with the subject of Lincoln, it might interest you to know that one of my closest friends is Marguerite Butterfield, who is a granddaughter of Mrs Antoinette Butterfield of Erie, Pennsylvania. Marguerite and I taught together for some years and I have often heard her speak of you and her grandmother.

Sincerely yours

Mary D. Phillips

145 Henry St.
Brooklyn, N.Y.

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