

From Jessie Shouldershaw
Stayner Ont-
Canada
May 26, 1921

Y
Miss Ida M Tarbell
New York
Madam

I wanted another letter from you so did not tell you quite all

I have read of Lincoln's secretaries handing him a letter which they thought the most ludicrous of all from someone who claimed to be a relative. Lincoln read the letter and to their surprise said he thought the man was a relative but three or four relations were enough 23 was too many father had counted all us kiddies and at that time Jan or Feb 1865 my grandfather's family numbered 23 also my mother spent that winter with her father who was ill and Lincoln was under the delusion that the letter was from a man who was not living with his wife

Lincoln placed the letter where he kept his private mail and took it to his private apartment. I am not sure but think that after Lincoln's death my father sent a letter of condolence to his wife and I have read that Mrs Lincoln in her widowhood and poverty once cried and told a friend that if she had not lost her cousin's

address she would of had a friend now
 As Lincoln Historian you should have
 an account of this

At that time my grandfathers family
 consisted of himself & wife two sons and
 their wives two daughters and their husbands
 and thirteen grandchildren in all twenty three

The letter also contained an invitation
 for Lincoln to visit at my uncles Richard
 Houldershaw where my grandparents lived
 and my father would meet him there
 fifty miles from Toronto The old Canadian
 home of the Houldershaws where my grand-
 parents are buried is just about fifty mi
 from Toronto and I can prove we numbered just 23

Of course I know considerable more
 about Lincoln's British and Canadian
 relatives than I have told you but this
 will suffice Hoping that you will
 consider the matter

I remain
 Jessie Houldershaw
 Stayner Ont-
 Canada