

Christiansburg, Va
~~February~~
March 5, 1939

Dear Ida Tarbell:

Here is a letter for you. Mr. Glass felt just as I knew he would about your request. I wrote at the same time to two friends of mine - not "muddle-headed" - to find out if the material you need is in library in Richmond or in Baltimore. I'll let you know what reply I get.

You know I suppose, that you can write to the Library of Congress and for certain price per hour - I don't know rates - have a competent investigator look up and list for you material on any subject. It saves a busy person's time and helps one decide whether or not a personal research is desirable.

I am so sorry I am unable to give you any help. — Oh! I sent your letter to Mr. Glass, with

a note saying I hoped he couldn't identify your "muddle-headed person" as one of his near relatives or dear friends!

I am leaving Christiansburg on Friday and after a short stay in Richmond — and perhaps a little library work in Washington — I'll be back at Chase City, Va. That is my home address to which it is always safer to send mail. If I go to Washington, I can find out for you about research workers and possibly I can learn if a Washington library contains the material you want. Pity the Lincoln material in L. of C. isn't to be available until 1947!

Affectionately yours,
Edwin Turpin

[illegible]

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HERBERT F. WEA, CLERK
JAMES W. R. SMITH, ASST. CLERK

February 228, 1939.

Miss Edna Turpin,
Christiansburg, Virginia.

My dear Miss Turpin:

Responding to yours of February 26th, unhappily, I have no formidable collection of John Wilkes Booth's papers; hence I am afraid I can be of no assistance to Miss Tarbell. While I am unable to identify Miss Tarbell's "muddle-headed person" as a friend of mine, I may state incidentally that I do not believe any public man has more crazy friends than I appear to have.

To me, the most outstanding thing in Miss Tarbell's letter to you is the idea that it would be "presumptuous" on her part to write me a letter of any kind on any topic. I would feel honored to receive a letter from Miss Tarbell and would put myself at pains to be of service to her in any circumstance.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

Easter Grass

CG/ M.