

84 Nixon Place.

South Orange - New Jersey

June 11. 1920.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell -

Dear Miss Tarbell -

Yesterday my
sister Emma and I received
your lovely present - of your
latest book, "In Lincoln's Chair",
and as you can imagine we
read every word of it directly.
We thank you very sincerely
for the gift, and the autograph
inscription which you placed
in it. We never knew before

that there was the slightest
 doubt as to Lincoln's Christian-
 ity. We always thought he was
 a too devout and Christian
 man - and reformer, to suit
 his enemies, and that this
 was the reason he lost his
 life - and that he intended
 to advocate Suffrage for Women
 after the Civil War, and farther
 National reforms -

I shall never forget the
 morning in April 1865, seeing
 young school teacher in
 Newark - Miss Agnes Lambson,
 who made her home at my
 grandfather's house in Newark
 as our parents did. come in

from the large Dining room porch
 holding a black bordered newspaper
 and weeping, as she told our
 household that "the President
 has been shot" - I was nearly
 eight years old - so I could
 understand what a tragedy had
 happened - and the deep sorrow
 it caused, and the trimming of
 our little spring hats with black,
 and the tying of black ribbon
 bow knots around our sleeves
 as an expression of mourning -
 and grief, my sister and I also
 remember being taken to see the
 parade - held on the day of his
 funeral - at Newark. Our father -
 the late Daniel Freeman Tompkins,
 had left his law practice at 74
 Wall Street - New York - and had
 become a member of the Newark

firm manufacturing Cavalry Equipments
for the U. S. Government - and he spent
considerable time in Washington, and
was at the front - several times dur-
ing the War - so during all our lives
we heard him relate very interesting
incidents of those times, and of the
Army officers - and men and officials
of the Government he met - The Girths
and the Patent Felt Saddle Cloths his
firm made, saved the lives (pre-
serving their backs from the former
injuries, often causing death, of
thousands of the horses and mules
of the Union Army - and this in
a great measure won the war.

Hoping that you are enjoying
the best of health - and with
many wishes for your future happi-
ness and prosperity - in which
my sister joins, I am -

Very truly yours -

Abigail Brown Tompkins.

Lincoln death Tompkins

"I shall never forget the morning in April, 1865, seeing a young school teacher in Newark--Miss Agnes Lambson, who made her home at my grandfather's house in Newark as our parents did, come in from the large dining room porch holding a black bordered newspaper and weeping as she told our household that "the President had been shot." I was nearly eight years old so I could understand what a tragedy had happened, and the deep sorrow it caused, and the trimming of our little spring hats with black, and the tying of black ribbon bowknots around our sleeves as an expression of mourning and grief, my sister and I also remember being taken to see the parade, held on the day of his funeral, at Newark. Our father, the late Daniel Freeman Tompkins, had left his law practice at 74 Wall Street, New York, and had become a member of the Newark firm manufacturing cavalry equipment for the U.S. Government, and he spent considerable time in Washington, and was at the front several times during the war, so during all our lives we heard him relate very interesting incidents of those times, and of the army officers, and men and officials of the Government he met. The girths and the patent felt saddle cloths his firm made, saved the lives (preserving their backs from the former injuries of the old steel saddle blankets, often causing death) of thousands of the horses and mules of the Union army, and this in a great measure won the war."