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Los Gatos, California

November 3, 1916.

Miss. Ida M. Tarbell,

381-Fourth Avenue, New York.

My Dear Miss. Tarbell;-

In the course of some desultory reading yesterday I came across the statement, which I shall have to confess was new to me, that Abraham Lincoln was not born in Kentucky, and was not the son of Thomas Lincoln, but was in fact from North Carolina and was an illegitimate child. I do not know that this last was directly stated, but it was very plainly intimated. The statement was made, if I mistake not, on the authority of The Independent, Elizabeth City, North Carolina. I have just written that paper asking for its authority in the matter, and am taking the liberty of asking your opinion of it. I am free to say that it would not in the least affect my regard for Lincoln if the story were proven to be according to fact, but I am loth to give credence or circulation to such a story except on some real authority. Is there any such authority? Pardon me for troubling one so busy as yourself, but I have followed your writings on Lincoln with much interest and profit, and you know "one good turn deserves another," wherefore I thought you might add to my debt to you this favor also.

Very cordially yours,

Robert Whitaker