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Evansville, Indiana,

January 23, 1924.

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Miss Ida Tarbell,
120 E. Nineteenth St.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

Several days ago I mailed you a copy of bulletin 18 of our Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, and marked in pencil on the cover references to such parts as interested me, and particularly my Chamber of Commerce luncheon address, part of the work of our annual meeting, embracing twenty-five pages of that bulletin. If, for any reason, you need an additional copy or copies of the bulletin, please let me know. One of our Society papers on account of its length was crowded out of the bulletin as appears at page ~~21-32~~ but published in the advance number of our state historical reports giving it full importance. It is an article assigned by me to one of our great workers, Mr. George R. Wilson of the State Life Building, Indianapolis. When it comes to practical details in original research work covering many years of labor, of which a proper record has been kept, Mr. Wilson has no superior in Indiana, and I think he outranks us all in southern Indiana information, and if you care to get in communication with him on the subject, he will answer any of your letters, I am sure.

I write particularly to say that Herndon's account of the use of the eight verse poem beginning with the words "When Adam was created", says that this poem was sung at Lincoln's sister's wedding, when he was seventeen years old. I do not recall whether my mother sang it, but I distinctly remember her reciting it without singing at the table in the presence of guests, but others will remember, and I will find out. If it was set to music, as I think probably it was, you will have an excellent chance to find it in the Music Department of the Library of Congress in Washington, where a considerable portion of the basement is devoted to musical publications, and one room contains a number of shelves with nothing on them but old English, Scotch, Irish and Welsh songs in old books, evidently collected second hand from all over Great Britain. It is a rare collection, and I have spent hours in that room hunting for a beautiful poem, one of Felicia Heman's fine poems set to fine English music. The entrance to these rooms, if you have not been in them, is down the stairway to the left from the front entrance of the library building, and the Musical Department is in charge of a lady. The clerk under her was, when I made my search, a young colored man, evidently educated as such things go, but whose negroid mind was incapable of analysis or classification, and he made a very earnest effort to find out what I wanted, but I was

Miss Ida Tarbell,
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finally compelled to tell the lady in charge that he could not help me, when she gave me the free use of the room, where I spent hours on several occasions.

If you have not searched there, that is the place in all this country to look. Most, if not all, of these old musical publications contain a table of contents or index, giving the first lines of the song or poem alphabetically, as well as the list of authors, so that where you have the name of the author, you have a double method of searching, but in this case you would only have the first line of the poem. I was in Washington a year ago on my way home after meeting you in New York, and if I had thought about it, I would have looked.

My book seller reports that your book is not yet out of the press, but as soon as it is issued, I shall read it, and am curious to know what you have to say.

Sincerely yours,



JEI:MM

P. S.-- There has just been issued by subscription, not placed on the market for sale, a history of Vanderburgh County, embracing the City of Evansville, and the work should more properly be called a history of Evansville, upon which my name appears as editor. It is volume three of a historical publication, where the first two volumes are a reprint of Dr. Logan H. Esarey's volume one and two History of Indiana, with a third volume in uniform binding devoted to local history, the scheme which has been carried out in a number of counties and cities in the state. In addition to editing this book I contributed original material relating to the early history of Evansville, something like 150 large printed pages or more, which contains matter relating to the beginnings of this city and county, and what I believe to be an authoritative sketch of the first decade of this city previous to 1830 such as can nowhere else be found. I was limited in space and time, although I had my material collected together a good while in advance, and if my interpretation as outlined in my Chamber of Commerce address in bulletin 18 above mentioned is well taken, my contribution to this local history ought to have some value. I have copyrighted volume three of this set, which is in the Library of Congress of course, but is not on the market for sale otherwise.

J. E. I.