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February 18, 1926.

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

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Enclosed is carbon copy of the address of Mrs. Bess Ehrmann prepared for our Princeton meeting in November; also one by Will Adams, a grandson of Josiah and Elizabeth Crawford. The copies are somewhat dim but I hope you can read them. I had them struck off for you. They interest me a good deal, and Mrs. Ehrmann's paper is that of both a witness and an interpreter and one of the oldest and best families of Spencer County who has all her life taken deep and sympathetic interest in the history of Lincoln in Spencer County.

The importance of this kind of testimony has not been elaborated by us, but I am in the process now of doing it, and in fact my address at Princeton at the same time dealt with that phase of the matter, and when I have corrected it ~~it~~ which will be some time later I will send you a copy of it which will give you a little more fully my view of the importance of the work of our workers in the local field. I have several very interesting printed papers to send you, which I will do very shortly. I am waiting for one of them from the press, and you will get them within a few days.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Iglehart

JEI:MM

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF
JOSIAH AND ELIZABETH (ANDERSON) CRAWFORD.
BY WILL ADAMS.

The early settlers of Southern Indiana were mainly emigrants from Kentucky, and the immediate progenitors of these emigrants had come from the older states of Pennsylvania, Virginia and the Carolinas. Spencer County was settled almost exclusively by people from Kentucky. My maternal grandparents came from Bardstown, or as it was sometimes called, Beardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky.

Josiah Crawford, Jr., my grandfather, was of Welsh and Scotch ancestry. His father, Josiah Crawford, Sr., was born near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, May 6, 1767. His wife, whose maiden name was Ruth Hicks, was born near the same place December 19, 1772. They were of the Quaker or Friends sect, and their ancestors had come over with William Penn. They were married about the year 1790 and came at once to what is now Nelson County, Kentucky, where they lived until their deaths.

They raised a family of eight children, four boys and four girls. The names of these children indicate the religious character of the parents. The boys were Abel, Ephraim, Josiah, and Elijah. The girls were named Ruth, Sarah, Leah and Rachel.

Grandfather was born near Bardstown, Kentucky, September 23, 1802.

My maternal Grandmother was of English stock, whose ancestors had also settled in Pennsylvania. Her father, Samuel Anderson, was born in April 1780, in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

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His wife, whose maiden name was Polly Summers, was born in the same locality in August, 1784. After their marriage they also came to Nelson County where they lived until their deaths, the wife in 1837 and Grandfather Anderson in 1864. They raised a family of six girls and one boy. The Girls were Elizabeth, my grandmother, Mary who married Silas Richardson; Sarah who married Benedict Hagan; Martha who Married Vincent Shields; Sophia who married Smith Hubbard; and Susan who married Wesley McDaniel. The boy's name was William.

All of these children, after their marriage, emigrated to Indiana, except Martha. William settled at Corydon, Indiana. The five girls settled in Spencer County in what is now Clay Township.

Grandmother was born in Boardstown, Kentucky, November 14, 1806. She and grandfather were married at that place March 27, 1823. Grandfather was in his 21st and Grandmother in her 17th year. The first three years of their married life was spent in Nelson County, where their first two children were born. In 1826, they emigrated to Spencer Countyand settled about 1 1/4 miles west of the present village of Buffaloville. Two years previous, in 1824, Grandfather's elder sister Sarah, who had married William Barker, had come with her husband to Spencer County and settled about one-half mile southeast of where Grandfather later settled. In 1836, the Barkers moved to where the village of Buffaloville now stands and built their homes one-fourth mile north of where this village is now. The village was platted by William Barker and his sons and was first known as Barkertown. Barkers raised a family of ten children,

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eight boys and two girls. The boys were Silas, Hardin, Elijah, Isaac, William, Tomas, Hamilton and Abel. The girls were Mildred who married John Wesley Lamar, and Sarah who married Jacob Varner, and after his death she married Thomas Littlepage. They all raised large families some of whose descendants still reside in Spencer County.

When my grandparents arrived they immediately began the erection of a rude cabin in which to live until better quarters could be provided. Their nearest neighbors were the Barkers about one-half mile to the southwest; the Grigsbys about two miles to the west, and the Lincolns about two and one half miles to the north. There were no neighbors nearer than four miles to the east or south.

I well remember the wagon in which they came. It was still in use in the late fifties. The running gears were very heavy with large hickory axels with wood spindles, the wheels held on the spindels by linchpins. The wheels were very heavy, the rear wheels being much higher than the front ones. The bed or body was of a type never seen in these days and was the only one of the kind I ever saw. It was constructed of a frame work, boxed on the inside of the frame. The bed was large and instead of being rectangular, in shape, the bottom curved upward from the center to the rear and front ends, the sides curving upward to conform to the bottom and also flaring outward, being wider in the center than at the ends. The bed was about two feet in depth. On the trip from Kentucky, this wagon was drawn by two stout horses. Grandfather was a farrier of that day and was a great lover of horses. In this wagon and another which Grandfather had hired for the trip, they brought their household goods,

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and farming and mechanical tools. Grandfather was possessed of some means in money in addition to his personal effects. The Lincolns were the nearest neighbors that worked for hire. Young Abe was then 17 years old, a strapping, raw boned youth who could wield an ax and a maul as few men could. Abe and his father were employed to help build the first cabin which was soon constructed. They were then employed to clear and fence land and assist in planting and cultivating the crops.

Game was plentiful. Deer, wild turkeys and many kinds of smaller game was to be had in abundance, and there were also some black bear. Panthers, catamounts, wild-cats and wolves roamed the forests. I have heard grandmother say that when they were living in their first rude log cabin, with unchinked open spaces between the logs, the wolves would come so close at night that they could see their eyes by the reflection of the light from the fire in the fireplace. It was necessary to protect the pigs, lambs and poultry at night by penning them up. Grandfather employed young Abe to make rails for pens. These rails were longer than the ordinary ten foot fence rails and larger. Abe notched the rails at the ends to make them fit close together. After they were no longer needed for protecting pens they were used about the place to repair fences. When Lincoln, in 1860, became a candidate for president, there were a number of these rails scattered about the farm in the fences. When it became known that they were there and that they could be identified as rails made by Lincoln "The Rail Splitter", there was such a demand for them to be made into canes that the supply soon exhausted. I well remember,

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as a boy of eight, going about over the farm with grandfather searching for these rails. They were easily indentified by their length and size and the notches at the ends. There were many rails of the usual size that Lincoln had made, but they could not be identified from others of like size and length.

As soon as land had been cleared to raise crops for actual needs, Grandfather began the construction of a more commodious and comfortable home. He built a hewed log house some 36 feet in length and eighteen feet in width, and one and one-half stories in height. Young Abel helped to cut and hew all these logs. As there was no saw mill near, the boards for the floors were whipsawed on the place. Young Abe and Grandfather whipsawed these boards. I was born in the room in which this floor was laid, and spent the first fourteen years of my life in that home. I can well remember that old oak floor grown slick and dark with age and use.

In time Grandfather built an addition to this house in the form of another hewed log building of the same length and height and eighteen feet in width. This was joined to the other building and all roofed with joint shingles of oak made by Grandfather. A huge brick chimney was build between the two rooms with a fireplace in each. This entire building was afterward weatherboarded on the outside and ceiled on the inside with dressed poplar material, the dressing all being done by hand. A porch or veranda eight feet in width was built along the entire west front, and a frame room and porch along the entire east front. The outside of the entire house was painted with white lead and oil and made a very comfortable and respectable home for that time and place. This was the condition of the home as I first

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remember it. The building burned about 1890, but the cherished memories of the happy hours of childhood spent in and about it, of the dear faces that once glowed in the firelight of evening around those hearths still linger fresh and vivid and awaken a longing and homesickness that nothing can appease, and that shall endure while memory abides.

"The glamour of a fairy wand is over all the past of mankind, but on nothing else does it cast so potent a spell as on the personal reminiscences of our own youthful years."

After the construction of the first rude home it was necessary to provide for a supply of water. Young Abe was employed to dig a well and get out stone to wall it. He, with grandfather's assistance, walled the well. It has been more than twenty years since I have been on this farm, but the last time I was there the well was still in use.

Grandfather was a cooper and wheelwright by trade, having learned the trade while a young man in Kentucky. As the surrounding country began to fill up with emigrants and the marriage of the children of the settlers, he devoted the greater part of his time to his trade, making barrels, casks, buckets, spinning wheels, both large ones for spinning wool and the small or treadle wheel for spinning flax or tow, looms for weaving, reels, winding blades etc.

Grandmother was a woman above the ordinary in intelligence, possessing a wonderful memory that remained clear and unclouded until her death at the age of 83, when she succumbed to an attack of pneumonia. She possessed a good English education for the time and was a great reader. She knew her Bible as few people know it

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today. She was a midwife by profession and had several medical works in which she was well read. She practiced not only in accouchements but also in general practice. She was frequently called in consultation by neighboring physicians. She went wherever and whenever called in all seasons and in all kinds of weather, until she quit practice at the age of about sixty years. She was a woman of robust health and strong constitution. She always rode horseback in her practice; had her own horse, her physician's saddle bags of "pill bags", which was stocked with the prevailing remedies of the time. She was often called for distance of twelve or fifteen miles to treat the sick or minister in childbirth.

She bore and raised five children, three boys, Abel, Samuel and Joseph, and two girls, Ruth and Mary. The latter, the youngest, was my mother, and was born when Grandmother was two and one-half months less than twenty five years of age. These five children all married and had large families of children, but few of them are now living. It was a coincidence that the three sons each married a woman whose first name was Nancy Ann.

While the parents of both Grandfather and Grandmother were owners of slaves, they were both abolitionists, and while it meant some financial loss to them, no one rejoiced more than they when the slaves were freed. I have often heard them relate the particular incidents which embittered them against slavery. Grandfather's older brother, unlike his father, was a stern and severe man with his family and slaves.

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He owned a negress who was the cook for the family. Grandfather once saw his brother Abel punish this woman severly for an act that grandfather did not regard as even a trivial offense. While he had never believed slavery to be right, this act of cruelty and injustice made him an uncompromising foe of the institution.

Grandmother's parents owned a slave woman named Leah, who had been with them eversince their marriage. She had been the trusted housekeeper and the mamma of the seven children. In 1837, Grandmother Anderson died, and not long afterward Grandfather Anderson remarried. This new wife took a bitter and unreasoning dislike to Leah, and insisted that she be sold. To keep peace in the family, or at least with his wife, against the prayers and protests of his children, he sold Leah to a southern planter, taking her away from the home in which she had been a true and trusted servant, and separating her forever from her own husband and children. Is it a matter for wonder that Grandmother was an abolitionist? I have often heard them say that their chief reason for coming coming to Indiana was that they might live and raise their children on free soil away from the curse and blight of slavery.

When Lincoln had entered public life and began his fight against the insitution of slavery, grandfather and grandmother looked to him as a prophet of the Most High. They took an interest in the campaign of 1860. They looked upon Lincoln as a second Moses and the savior

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of the Nation, and when he issued the emancipation proclamation, they almost defied him. They knew, as did Lincoln, when the Civil War began, that it meant a divided union or the death of slavery. They never lost confidence that the North would prevail. Two of their sons and their son-inlaw, my father, enlisted at the beginning of the war. One son never came back.

When all loyal hearts were rejoicing that the long bitter struggle was drawing to a triumphant close, the Nation was suddenly shocked and cast in deep sorrow and gloom by the tragic death of their beloved and revered leader. It was I who broke the news to Grandfather and Grandmother. I shall never forget that scene. I had been sent on an errand on the morning of the 15th of April, to a country store kept by another Lincoln Worshiper, Grandfather Alexander. There I heard the news and hastened home to tell the folks. When I told Grandfather, he slumped down and sat for some time as one stunned. He seemed to feel that all was lost. He had always been a strong, robust man, but from that day he began to fail, and on May 12th, 1865, in his 63rd year, he entered the eternal rest, three days less than a month after the death of his idol.

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