

WILLIAM FORTUNE

INDIANAPOLIS August 28, 1920.

My dear Miss Tarbell:

Your letter came during my absence on a vacation. Such data as I have regarding Lincoln's boyhood in Indiana was gathered in 1881 in association with General James C. Veach, who had been a devoted political friend of Lincoln's after the latter became a national figure. General Veach became interested in me as a writer of some local reputation when I was about seventeen years old, and on his invitation I accompanied him on a trip through Spencer County to visit and talk with the people who had known Lincoln intimately as a boy. Soon afterward I was drawn into activities that have since completely absorbed me and the pressing demands upon me have never permitted me to devote myself to the task of putting in form such information as I had gathered.

Within the last year, however, I have begun to curtail duties and drop responsibilities. It is my aim to continue this until I can gain for myself such leisure as will enable me to do about as I please. One of the things I have in mind for attention, when circumstances are favorable, is Lincoln's boyhood in Indiana as remembered by his youthful associates. I may not be able to add anything to what has already been done so well by you and others, but possibly something can be contributed.

If there is convenient opportunity I shall be glad to talk with you preparatory to a more definite approach to the subject. I shall be delighted to have a visit from you if your travels at any time bring you to

Indianapolis; I would be glad to have information in advance of your coming if it can be given voluntarily.

With much appreciation of your very kindly interest,

Sincerely yours,

William Fortune

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
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New York City.