December 4, 1928.

Mr. George Lawrence,
590 North Prairie,
Galesburg, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Lawrence:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Mr. Thornton. That ought to bring his document. I shall be much interested to know what he answers.

I have just dictated a letter to Mr. Little, thanking him for his hospitality on Sunday and telling him how flattered I was that he had been so much interested in my own work to look up originals. I am going to try and get for him a copy of the first printing in book form of "He Knew Lincoln." It contained colored prints of three or four of the Hambidge drawings, which he owns.

I can not begin to express my gratitude for your kindness to me, dear Mr. Lawrence.

Very sincerely yours,

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

, DECEMBER 3, 1928.

Mr. Robert I. Thornton,
Ottawa,
Illinois.

My dear Mr. Thornton:--

I do not recall seeing you since you were a small boy, but I knew your father, grand-father, and your Uncle Jimmie, very well, and you will remember me as being the husband of Ella Park, North-East of Magnolia.

Among other things here, I am Vice-President of Knox College, which you know recently celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate here. The College is deeply interested in the collection of Lincoln items, and has already a good many hundred, with a good many more coming in, from distinguished men all over the country.

Miss Ida Tarbell, formerly with McClure's Magazine, and who has written one of the best lives of Lincoln, and is perhaps better posted upon him than almost anyone, is here, delivering a course of lectures at Knox College, and I have told her of the letter that your grand-father received from Mr. Lincoln, concerning my old friend, John H. Widmer, and of which I have seen a re-production in the Henry paper.

This letter should be in a place where it can be perpetually preserved. It will link the name of your grand-father with that of Lincoln, in that way, much better than in any other, and I am sure will be a satisfaction to you and the other members of the family to have it thus placed.

I am wondering if you would trust me with this letter (at least temporarily, even if you are not at present inclined to give it to the College , with your name attached as the donor) so that I may show it to Miss Tarbell, and so that she may make some fitting use of it in the preparation of future articles that she may write, concerning Mr. Lincoln's activities and his interest in young men.

If you can mail this letter (if it be now available) registered and special delivery, or even send it by express at my expense, I would appreciate it most heartily and return it to you as soon as possible, if return is asked for. Otherwise, I would like to give it a place of honor in the new library (fire-proof) which Knox College has recently opened.

I recall very well the time when I was in College, your Uncle Jimmie was a student here with Jake Moon, from over near Streator somewhere, and a very likable chap. Your father and I were very good friends, and I enjoyed very much discussions with him over situations (political and economical* and he was most intelligent in all the views he expressed concerning them.

May I hear from you very shortly? Don't think me presumptious in asking so great a favor. Miss Tarbell will be here for ten

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

RJT-2.

days more.

Since dictating this letter, I have opened the "Congregationalist" which contains a review of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates last October, and am tearing out the page and enclosing to you, knowing you will be interested in it.

Very truly yours,

encls.
C/C-Miss Tarbell.

Geo. A. Lawrence.

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.