



WORKINGMEN'S INSTITUTE,  
A. DRANSFIELD, Secretary.

Miss Ida Tarbell

NEW HARMONY, IND.,

Feb 21<sup>st</sup>

1896

New York

Dear Madame -

In regard to Lincoln  
Route to Ills. of which I wrote you  
some time since, I have, as you requested  
given the matter a little more investigation.  
Old man Gentry says he accompanied  
the Lincolns on the first day of their  
journey, and that they took the  
Southern route, which in a manner  
corroborates my statement. The  
Gentleman who took the photograph  
was here at the library yesterday,  
and he says from the testimony of  
Gentry and his own investigations  
he is satisfied that he must have  
crossed the river here. In regard to  
Nelson with whom the family stayed  
over night, was a man of much influence



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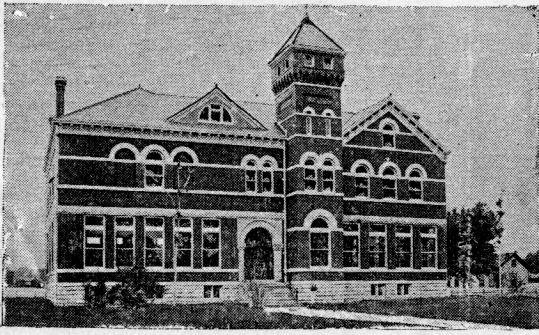
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and wide acquaintance throughout southern Indiana, and through his intimate acquaintance with Judge Pitcher, must frequently have heard him speak of his friendship for Lincoln and that for many years before before he became president his career was a source of pride to the judge, and his connection with his early life was well known before his candidacy for the office of president. Thus the details of Nelson's story of the wagons and the rest of the outfit are strongly corroborated by later investigation. As to the natural features of the country, By taking the New Harmony route he traveled a good road free of natural obstacles to the Wabash; Then he found a good ferry and a good road to the upland in Ills. By going to Vincennes he would have had three rivers



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to cross, also several large creeks, -  
and a very rough country to travel over.  
Had he crossed below Vincennes,  
to have avoided the White and Patoka  
rivers, he would have had to cross at  
Mt. Carmel - or somewhere below -

This would have necessitated the crossing  
of a wide, impassable swamp cut-up  
by deep bays and large ponds -  
as impassable as a tropical jungle.  
After all I do not think it matters  
much at what point he may have crossed  
as at that time he was but a  
common moorman as they are styled  
going to Illinois or Missouri, one of  
hundreds constantly passing

Yours Truly  
Arthur Dransfield