May 10, 1932

My dear Mr. Ormsbee:

I am glad to give you all the information that I have on Thomas Lincoln as a craftsman. If you will look in the library for a volume of mine, "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns," you will find on Page 132 and 133, the best evidence of his skill that I have ever seen. I am enclosing a photograph of the cupboard referred to in these pages which you can return to me at your convenience.

Mr. Garrett Newkirk of Pasadena, California, a student of Lincoln, called my attention to the enclosed notes and sketch. I know Mr. Newkirk thought these authentic. This is all the information I have. Whether you could get more by writing Mrs. Crycleman, whose address is on the notes, I do not know.

These are the only pieces of cabinet work that I have come across and of the authencity of the second I have only the lady's word.

If you wish to follow back these illustrations you will find on Page 51 of the "Footsteps" a reference to a house built in the Shenandoah Valley by Jacob Lincoln, also to certain fine mahogany pieces which he made. These pieces are really fine. A few years ago, when I visited this region, they were owned by a Miss Pennapacker. Whether she still is living in the neighborhood, whether she still has them, I do not know. But that you could find out by writing Dr. John W. Wayland, Harrisonburg, Virginia. It is possible through Dr. Wayland you might get photographs of the pieces. They were enormous, made for the high-ceilinged house of which you will find a photograph on Page 52 - the house ~~which~~ still stands.

I think this is all I can do for you, dear Mr. Ormsbee. I certainly hope it will be of some use.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Thomas H. Ormsbee
182 Congress Street

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

P.S.

I think you referred in our talk to the possibility that Lincoln may have helped in the building of the Pigeon Creek Church in Southwestern Indiana. It is hardly probable, though of course not impossible. As far as I know he was just a young boy when that church was built. For any reason you want the exact dates and records of the church in the years that Thomas Lincoln lived in Southwestern Indiana I could let you have the notes I made from the records.

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