"LINCOLNOOK"
18620 LITTLEFIELD AVENUE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
Route No. 1
Bethel, Connecticut

August 20, 1941

My Dear Miss Tarbell:

I sincerely hope that you will overlook my bold attempt in taking the liberty to ask a personal favor. I have a room in my home which was christened the "Lincolnook", by Dr. Stewart W. McClelland, President of Lincoln Memorial University. Dr. McClelland thinks that I possess one of the four finest private collections of Lincolniana in existence today. This of course was flattering good news that any student-collector of Lincoln and his times likes to hear. In this collection your works in both the periodical literature and book form are well represented.

I have an elaborate manuscript book which is kept in the "Lincolnook", for the purpose of visiting Lincoln authorities autograph inscriptions. Knowing that my chances of having you as a guest of the "Lincolnook" are beyond possibility of reality, I would be grateful to you for an absentee inscription, in which case I would mail this book to you with an enclosure of proper postage for the return of same.

I have often thought of you hoping that perhaps some day I may have an occasion to meet and greet you in person. My hopes haven't vanished, however, I would consider it a distinct privilege if you would grant me the honor by penning a few words in my "Lincolnook Autograph Memories", following inscription page of Dr. McClelland.

In conclusion, thank you for the courtesy and with sincere wishes for an early reply, I am

Very truly yours,

William Springer

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