Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

324 East Main Street,
Titusville, Pennsylvania.
July 11, 1939.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East Nineteenth Street,
New York City.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

You may recall that when you were in Titusville and Meadville I spoke to you about a project I had of making a study of the alarm messages which were sent out after the Battle of Lexington and the effects on the people throughout the countryside. In this connection I have had considerable correspondence with the Librarian of the Monmouth County Historical Association at Freehold, New Jersey. I mentioned to you also that I had a transcript of the order to establish alarm signals in Monmouth County, New Jersey and that this order mentioned the "Mordicai" and the "Lincon"Gap" where signals were to be erected.

I have come to the conclusion that it would be very foolish for me to broaden my subject to include the material on the alarm signals which is available at Freehold but that since I am an amateur at this business I had better confine my study to the actual Lexington messages I have succeeded in locating and to the contemporary accounts of their receipt. I have written Miss Becker to this effect and that we would not at present consider the proposition she makes in the inclosed letter.

I am giving you this information and inclosing Miss Becker's letter to Mr. Scheide for the reason that I knew you were interested in finding evidences of the Lincolns in New Jersey and that you would like to learn the location of the "Mordicai" and "Lincon" signal lights. Evidently Miss Becker is working on a project which entails consideable study of New Jersey documents for the 18th Century. I do not know whether or not she could be of any service to you while she was doing this or whether you would want to take the subject up with her. I am merely sending her letter to you for your information. When you have finished with it will you please have your secretary return it to me? I have, of course, said nothing to Miss Becker about referring the letter to you.

I saw Raymond Massey in "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" when I was in New York recently and I was so glad I had not seen it until after I heard your lectures this spring because I know it meant much more to me than it would have before. It was a magnificant performance and I was deeply thrilled and so sorry when it came to an end.

I am so sure that all the people in your class this spring are studying biography with a much clearer view of its possibilities and a better technique of analysing what they read with the thought of using it in their efforts to learn to live themselves that I want to tell you so again. At least I like to feel that I am trying to do that and I want to thank you again for a very important addition to my "tools" for living.

Sincerely,

Miss Lucas