

April 18, 1931

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th St.,
New York City

My dear Miss Tarbell:-

I enclose herein a photograph of a good contemporary portrait of Abraham Lincoln painted by George V. Cooper.

In the New York City directory for the year 1865, the artist is listed as living at 25 Greenwich Avenue. In 1849 he had gone to California to seek wealth. In the book 'California Illustrated' by J.M.Letts, published in 1852 by William Holdredge, of New York City, all the forty eight plates are by him a show his ability as an artist. On page 17 of this book, the author refers to him as "...Mr.Cooper, an artist, also of New York, a man of energy, perseverance and genius, and one of the most efficient men of the party'. He is further referred to on pages 23 and 24 when the party made the overland journey from the Atlantic to the Pacific when Cooper's ability was shown not limited to drawing or gold mining.

This portrait is said to have been painted from life. Have you ever found his name mentioned in connection with portraits of Lincoln? Up to the time I found this painting, the artist was unknown to me. He is not listed in any of the art dictionaries, but his name appears with the qualification 'artist' in the directory of 1865. And the portrait is excellent in every respect. He may have been a lithographer.

This painting is painted in oil and in its original condition.

If you know anything concerning this artist painting Lincoln, I would sincerely appreciate your advising me thereof.

Yours very truly,



A.E.Rueff

Enc. Photograph of painting by Geo. V. Cooper