



Vandalia Cass County
Michigan
October 14-1931-

My dear Miss Tarbell-

I beg pardon
for this intrusion upon your valuable
time, but - I have indulged writing
you ere this - a bit of historical
information. I have your four volumes
set of "The Life of Abraham Lincoln"
and enjoy reading it.
See page 84, concerning his
removal from "one room to sum-
mer Secretary Station". We happen to
be an old friend of his, near - near
a near boy who rode "red Balmy"
to Mr. Stanton's house see that excellent
enjoying. His name is Berah L. Rudd
of Cassopolis Mich. 10 miles distant.
Mr. Rudd is now 84 years old but in

splendid condition mentally - drives his own
car etc. He is a retired business man and
universally respected. We have known him for
more than fifty years. His wife is anxious
that this little act of his should go down in
history and, ^{ask} me to interview him and get
details more fully.

Mr. Rudd was sent to tell Mr. Stanton who
had retired. He heard the crunching of the
horses' feet on the gravel underneath his
bedroom window. Mr. S. stuck his head out
of the window and called "What's the matter
down there?" - Then Mr. Rudd told him
that Lincoln was shot.

Mr. Rudd has been written up in various papers
who met the country as he has traveled a
great deal. But this account has never been
printed where it will be mentioned in history.
One who met Mr. Stanton, he was the first one
to cross the bridge, ^{over which Mr. Lincoln was} after Mr. Lincoln was
shot. It was closed to traffic. In his excitement
he ran into it - was halted but allowed
to pass after they found what message he
bore. Have wondered if you would care to en-
large upon your description of events
following the assassination. If so please write
me and I will send you a better description
of it and time. Will try to get this photograph.

Have thought - no doubt - that no one knew who
bore this particular message to Mr. Stanton.
Mr. Rudd is a picturesque personality - very
retiring in disposition. A pensioner of the Civil



war, and a sincere financially.

Trusting to receive an early response

I am

Very cordially Yours-

Wm. Franklin Chapman.

P.S. I am an even cousin of Edward Matthews
William Matthews was and resident of New York City.
Am myself interested in literary matters con-