Lincoln Gossip:

I am continually being told of Lincoln portraits. In the attached letter is a fair type of the kind of thing they are. Mr. Tyrrell is probably right in saying that the woods are full of amateur artists and it was probably some ambitious local painter that did the thing he has, although there is no way to be sure that I know that it was not a copy of a photograph. At all events it is not worth going to Illinois to look at.

One thing that interested me about Hertz' life is that he has reproduced a number of paintings of the period - pretty dreadful most of them - not the kind of thing you would want hanging about. Hertz' attitude towards them is very interesting. The truth is anything that concerns directly or indirectly with Lincoln while he was living is a matter of passionate importance to him. I have never seen quite such an interesting worshipper as Hertz is.

A bit of gossip that came up at the dinner table at the Pen & Brush the night of Lincoln's birthday was from Commandant Yates of our Navy. He was born in Virginia only twelve or fifteen miles from the Battle of Bull Run and says that the bitterness there was universal. He declares that he is supposed

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

te ~~have thought~~ Lincoln a colored man, that is what he was taught and what everybody believed. This was not corrected ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ until when he was eighteen he came to Washington to go to High School. There he began to get a different type of books. He says that the history that they used taught that the North was out generaled in every way, that the South was practically victorious but was over-whelmed by numbers.

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