December 6, 1933

Dear Dr. Tolley:

I have been slow in writing about your suggestion that Dr. Giddens might errange to come to New York to talk over the project for a history of Titusville on Oil Creek because I have not had clearly in mind my own relation to it. Mr. Scheide and I have had a little correspondence and yesterday we had a long talk here. If Professor Giddens could come down for a day sometime before the twenty-first when I go away for ten days we could talk the matter over carefully. I could explain to him my relation to the undertaking, what I think he might begin on. I could get his ideas and we could plan our campaign, if it turns out that it is to be a campaign. I

I am ashamed to say that I did not talk with Mr. Scheide about travelling expenses. Indeed, I have never talked expenses with him, but I am sure that if you will advance the money for the trip, that the Titusville people interested in it will make it up. This I think I can guarantee.

I am not writing to Mr. Scheide about this because I want this letter to get to you as quickly as possible. Possibly it would as well for you to let me know by wire when Professor Giddens can come, if he can come before the twenty-first.

If it is not possible for him to come on I could write him in full, outlining the work as I now see it and suggesting contacts and investigations in Titusville itself. This might bd quite as sensible a way to begin as coming on here, though I am sure Professor Giddens and I could get a better personal understanding if he were to come here,

I am sorry I have been so slow in writing you, but it was necessary for me to have a little talk with Mr. Scheide. With best wishes to you and Mrs. Tolley

Faithfully yours

Ida M. Tarbell

William P. Tolley
President Allegheny College
Meadville, Pa.

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