247 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK

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Dear Miss Tarbell:

Do you think there is any authority for believing that the first suggestion of Lincoln as a candidate for president came from Knox County?

In your life you say (page 344, Vol. 1) 'One of the first men to conceive this idea (Lincoln for president) was Jesse W. Fell, a local politician of Bloomington, Illinois.'

In an old history of Knox County, by Charles C. Chapman, Chicago, 1878, it says:

'It is claimed that the Republicans of Knox County were the first to nominate Mr. Lincoln for the Presidency.' The author goes on to say that R. W. Miles, of Knox County, sat beside Lincoln in the Library of the Capitol at Springfield at the caucus where his name was first suggested as the nominee, and that Lincoln, who had just been defeated for the Senate by Douglas, said, 'Fod God's sake, let me alone. I have suffered enough.' And when Lincoln was nominated, Miles sent him a quill two feet long from the wing of an eagle shot in Knox County, with which to write his inaugural address.

But none of this supports the statement made above. Can you help me verify it? I am writing something in which it would be interesting if I could tie Lincoln up a little more closely to Galesburg and Knox County.

Yours cordially,

Earnest Elmo Calkins

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

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