510 S. 2nd St.,
Springfield, Ills.
April 21st 1914.

Dear Miss Tarbell:

In response to the kindly permission in yours of 17th inst I am sending you by to-days Express my MS. of "Personal Recollections of Abraham Lincoln".

Permit me to add here some little mention of a background to my MS. memories sent you;—

My mother's family (Rogers) came from N. Y. and settled in Ills. in 1818. Their home was located four miles east - and across the Sangamon River - from where Salem was later located. She was then in her 16th year. She there became the girl-friend of Ann Rutledge,— visiting socially and attending Church

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held alternately in the cabin homes of the Rogers and Rutledge families before "meeting houses" were erected. The 16 miles apart that they lived was but a trifling distance in those neighborly times.

The first post office in that locality was "Rogers P.O.," of which my mother's father was the first appointee, and her brother succeeding him, - but my mother, Arminda, the clerical divinity most usually on duty, as being most regularly on postal guard.

The Rogers P.O. (as postal records in Washington show) antedates more than a year the one at Salem. The two offices were on different post routes, - making mail deliveries on different dates - one from Springfield, Havana to Rock Island; - The other from Springfield Peoria, Chicago, East via Lakes.

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After Lincoln came to Salem he quite frequently walked the four miles through the then virgin forest, to the first prairie home East of Salem – the Rogers P.O., – with letters to mail there to go more directly north and east, – or read the papers in Rogers P.O., often bringing one or more from the Salem office for the Rogers family's reading; – and, when the mail carrier was belated, – which was often the case in winter, – staying all night. Recall that postal patrons were few, and lived from 5 to 20 miles, or more, from the nearest P.O., and their papers were free reading to all callers while in P.O. awaiting delivery.

These friendly neighborly visits to the primitive P.O., and my mother's girlhood intimacy with Ann Rutledge, made my parents home, – in later years, –

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one that Mr. Lincoln was sure to visit wherever he was in Petersburg attending Court, — and I always felt that the many Kindnesses I had from Mr. Lincoln at the office in Springfield and elsewhere, were largely due to the earlier acquaintance with the Rogers' family — and even more, by the girlhood friendship between the two girls, — Anna & Arminda.

With this background my MS. may be read more understandingly.

You will see I have interleaved some pages with Alphabetic Numberings, and may yet add others.

I am sending you my first Carbon Copy — the direct first one being temporarily out of my hands.

I await with peculiar interest your estimate of my MS.

Thanking you in advance for the favor of your reading my

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MS., and assuring you, in meanwhile, that a long and varied life has taught me the excellence of judicious criticism, and left with me a comfortable willingness to take advice – whether it be sugar coated, or nude, rude, truth – from those of wider experience and success, I remain

Most Truly

Henry B. Rankin

P.S. Please return MS. – at your convenience – by Exp. Charges to follow.

R.

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