

UNITED STATES SHIPPING BOARD EMERGENCY FLEET CORPORATION
45 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

March 1, 1924
154 De Kalb Ave.,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

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

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I wish to thank you for your recent letter in reply to mine about the Lincoln family. I feel sure that you are right about Thomas being at the home of his uncle Isaac when young. Tradition seldom has a statement fully correct. There are many traditions about the ancestry of Abraham; being such a great character naturally stories will originate about him. I am very sorry that I did not earlier enter into looking up the Watauga Valley records and talk with old people who knew something about it, but have now passed away. My grandfather, Solomon H. Stover was a brother to Wm. Stover, the nephew of Mrs. Lincoln who got most of her property. The brothers ~~brothers~~ and sisters of Wm. Stover felt that they should have received something from her estate, etc. The tradition in the family is that "Aunt Sarah Stover", wife of William engineered the matter and when Mrs. Lincoln had grown old and feeble managed to get her to make her will giving all to William Stover. I am under impression that the people of Watauga Valley, after Abraham became president did not know that he was a great nephew of Isaac, and only learned it later on. Records were poorly kept in those days, and news travelled slowly, and as both Isaac Lincoln and wife had been dead many years, the people did not think much about it. The great war between the states so tore up the country that the people were engaged in building up their broken fortunes that they did not study much about anything else.

I do hope that some times you can visit the Watauga Valley and make some investigations of the early history and the people who settled this region. They were descended from a fine race; a race that had accomplished much for mankind. A race that had planted the seeds of freedom in every land where they went; a race that had set the torch of liberty on every continent.

The Watauga Valley is one of the most beautiful spots on the continent, and the word "Watauga" means beautiful in the Indian language. Landon C. Haynes, the "Silver tongued" orator of Tennessee, whose fame reached far and wide paid a most beautiful tribute to this valley in an impromptu speech delivered in West Tennessee, about the close of the Civil War. If you have never seen a copy of this I will try and get it for you, if you wish it. Landon C. Haynes represented Tennessee in the Confederate Senate. He was uncle to the celebrated Taylor brothers, Alfred A. and Robert L. Both of whom were in Congress from Tenn.; both governor of Tenn., and Robert L. was U. S. Senator when he died. Alfred A. still lives.

I would be very glad to talk with you at some time about this section of Tenn.

Respectfully yours,

James Jenkins