Los Angeles Cal.
421 W. Adams St.
Dec. 17th 1895

Miss Lola Isabell

Dear Madam

I must throw myself on your forbearance for my delay in answering your note of inquiry in regard to the life of Mr. Lincoln in Illinois. I was occupied every moment when your letter came, in a great charity work and after meals was not well enough to even write letters to my family. Mr. Lincoln is the warm, genial, unfailing friend who put

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

forth a strong hand to
lift up and strengthen a
falling brother and to give
us strength to bear a crush-
ing misfortune. Yet, withal
he was the good cheer and
and happy source of many
a weary comfort
day. He responded
to and was attracted by the
broad, kindly, honest
and intelligent and humor-
ous disposition of my brother,
who published the "Independ-
ent" in Danville, Ill, for him
during the first Republican
campaign; and he recognized
her service gratefully.

Digital Image © 2014 The Jim M. Tibbell Collection 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

how none of this is avail-
able for publication and
the many trifling incidents
of daily intercourse with
the family would be but
poor material in a history.
Of his inflexible honesty
we had a memorable proof
in a criminal case tried in
the Vermilion Circuit Court.
But some of the witnesses of
the criminal are yet living
and I do not know that
I would be wise or kind
to put it in print. Some
time you the incident
and let you judge

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

Mr. Wm Bandy was one of the
early settlers of Danville, Ill. He
kept a livery stable and was
married to the daughter (Sister) of one
of the principal lawyers of the
place. They had a family of
five boys and one girl.
The eldest boy was bright, in-
dustrious but grew up self willed
and passionate. He became
entangled in an affair with
a worthless but beautiful girl
and his father made only one
condition with him in regard
to his position — he was never to
marry the girl. He was passion-
ately fond of her and very jealous
She played on this weakness by
expressing admiration for the

Digital Images, 2014 The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

the handsomer boys of the place
one, Mr. John Kirkpatrick
was a young married man
of handsome appearance &
very pleasant and pleasing
in his ways. He cared to
hear John Bandy about his
sick — he cared nothing for
her as he was deeply in love
with his beautiful young wife.
Early one Sabbath morning after
his bath & breakfast, he called
out to Walk and see his friends
who usually collected on the
porches of the old McCormack
tavern, near the Bandy

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

hardware store where Jim Bandy roomed. He was carelessly walking on the opposite side of the street when suddenly a bright hatchet flashed before his eyes, near his face — another followed, yet another. He dodged all three but picked up one and looking the direction from whence they came he threw it with unerring aim at the opening door — one hatchet — it did its deadly work and was buried in the wood. Bandy's

Digital Images, 2014, Thelma M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

forehead, as he opened the door to cast another at Jim Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick grushed with the crowd who saw the duel of the hatchets, to the door only to find the miserable boy dead in a crimson pool of blood. Kirkpatrick gave himself up and was hailed out by the citizens who knew him only as a harmless handsome boy, full of playful humor and industrious. But the Bandy here was vindictive

Digital Images, 2017, Tina M. Barbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

8

and instantly took measures to
secure the conviction and
punishment of Kirkpatrick
for murder. He rode to Mr.
Lincoln and gave his own
version of the affair and
engaged him for the prosecu-
tion. When the day of trial
came Whig Randy family
sat in court in the deepest
mourning and a great crowd
of citizens filled the court room
Mr. Lincoln patiently listened
to the testimony and when
his time came to speak, he
rose up in the midst of a
court room hushed to the deepest

Digital Images, 2011. Linda Norbeck Collection, 1890-1940, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

attention. On rare occasions
he rose to great dignity of
expression. Calmly looking
over the crowd, the court
the prisoner, and directing
a piercing glance to the
Judge, he said "With
your consent, your Honor, I
entirely
withdraw from this case.
counsel." and sat down
in the continued hush of
feeling. ~~Suddenly a outbreak~~
The prisoner had gazed
with a wistful face on him
from the moment he had risen

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

to speak and down tears
rained down his convuls-
ed face. He loved Mr.
Lincoln and Road he
proved a great refuge
in a stormy hour.
The crowd gently
murmured, in sympathy with
the young
wife who threw herself into her
husbands arms and happy
tears mingled with his grate-
ful ones over our happy
Road & future - They
boy was sentenced to one
year in the penitentiary
and was pardoned out on con-
dition of enlisting in the volunteer

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1899-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Service or when the War made every man a soldier who could possibly leave his business or home.

Once a year the Circuit Court called the great pleaders to Danville, Ill. where litigation was a great amusement to the people. Upon these occasions Mr. Lincoln always spent a portion of his time with my Mother who was a great <u>conversationer</u> of negro stories and reminiscences of the great

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

Virginia families of a past
era. She was descended
from the Monroes on her
Mother's side and was nearly
connected with the President
whose Virginia residence
"Oak Hill" was near to my
Mothers plantation in London
Co. Va. When a child she
often visited Monticello
and heard Jefferson's
coarse jokes upon her
aunt who had become a
Methodist under Father
Fry's pathetic eloquence

Digital Images, 2011. Tarbell Collection, 1900-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

When I was preaching in Lexington
Mary & My Mother's repertoire
of family incidents was
extensive and contained
a great deal of amusing
history of the old families
to which Mr. L.
listened with great relish,
and never failed to draw
out with his unmistakable skill
in the same vein. He seems
never to have forgotten anything
however trivial, for he always
insinuated to my Mother the
fact of repetition if she
dwelt
chanced into it. In her

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

found an unfailing fount
of sympathy and inspiration
in all that extended move-
ment of political creeds
that after swirling in the
vast of congressional dis-
cussion, at last stood a
cruciál fusion of demo-
cratic, whig, free soil and
"America for Americans" policy
became the basis of the
grand Republican policy
that successfully swept off
all political fungus and

Digital Images, 2011. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

and cleaned up the na-
tional morals and put
on a new, grand and glo-
rious basis the young
men of American as Staunch
Republicans ready to fight
again the great battle of Per-
sonal liberty and Sacred
individual Right - that is here
in every human soul to
country, religion & home,
unshackled by laws founde
in lies, and tyrannical lines
drawn by sectionalism.

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

While Mr. Lincoln was re-
solving these great issues
in his mighty brain he often
came quietly into my mother's
room and propounded each
situation as it presented
itself to him. Her transparent-
ly honest ~~nature~~ nature, warm heart
and large brain always
digested the principles at
once with singular ease.
Born and bred a Southerner
she belonged to the Monroe
family, whose catholicity of
political creed was famous

Digital Images, 2012. Thomas M. Garbel Collection, 1890-1945. Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

for breadth and humanity,
she inherited its wide and
clearing side and saw no
reason for depriving any
human being of the means
of reasonable happiness in
a country like ours, where
the heart "all men free & equal."
Thus she was in full accord
with Mr. Lincoln and he told
me privately that Mrs. J. W. B. Coulter
(my mother) was the cause of
relieving his mind of more
than one great perplexity
during the great transition

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

of the Whig party on a
Northern Republican basis.
One Summer Morning we
were at breakfast, and
nearly all talking at once
about the convention issues
when a shadow fell athwart
the table and the tall person of
Wm. L. Ward decided my step
father shaking hands and
saying "To mother," "how Mrs.
Carothers, I can't eat such
corn bread as you are
enjoying, at the hotel." My
Mother laughed and said to

Digitized in 2011. The Idaho Territorial Collection, 1890-1924, Albertson College of Idaho Pelleter Library.

the girl in writing "Fanny bring Mr. L. a plate, knife & fork and Jimmy set a chair for him." That was all the parade made, but they never rose from that table, till ten o'clock and then after two or three hours to court for Mr. L.

A term of anecdotes then they plunged into the sad hot slavery questions, the whole of the Lovejoy episode at Peoria was discussed. Mr. Lincoln grew slowly

Digital Images, 2017. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1899-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

into his ultimate views on slavery. His strong legal bias of valuation, his low estimate of the negro's mental status and his bad morals kept him from seeing the broader Jeffersonian aspect of the question that my mother imbibed with her mother's milk of the Monroe heartstone, and her clear, strong, moral convictions had great weight with a man as good as he was great.

Digital Images, 2021. Tinsley Arbery Collection, 1822-1945. Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Now you see, my dear Miss Tarbell that this Hodge podge of semi-nines- ence can do you but infinitesimal good as historic material. My personal relation to him dear to be treated summerse- fully about my unwillingness be provided with a husband as handsome (!) as himself. and that he would provide the article within ten days time if I would accept Mrs. L's invitation to Springfield &c &c

Digital Images, 2014. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

The many little items
that recurred to me when
visiting Miss Shore, she
intensely enjoyed but they
make no showing in an
article. If I had her
picturesque style and
could recall the most-
interesting I might also
some good as it is I
close with an apology
for the failure to fulfill
your hope and wish
you success a thousand times
in your lovely work.

Rebecca Laurence

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

Addenda

* I see Mc Clure Clurg has published the revised edition of Ward H. Lemon's travesty on the life of Lincoln. By investigation you will find that book was bought up, destroyed by a committee for a certain compensation to kill Lemon. I knew him personally - was a friend to his wife - and know he was a most unworthy, untrustful and unreliable man, who

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

abused Mr. Lincolns trust in him shamefully and whose vulgar travesties of his life is more of a shame to Lemon than a reflection on Mr. Lincoln. It was true he was his partner-in-Law in Danville but only in the way of engaging work for Mr. Lincoln as I have heard lawyers say that Lemon never wrote a brief out in his life and was no pleader.

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

He did Mr. Lincoln me
great service. In the ex-
citing era of the first year
of Mr. L.'s administration, throng-
ands rushed to Washington to
see, talk to and ask favors of
Mr. Lincoln. His heart and
soul was filled with an
awful dread of work that
fell like an avalanche
on him and it was a
great relief to have a
man of fine manners, friendly

Digital Images, ©2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1899-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

address to meet and turn back the great crowds that pressed to the White House each day. But to my knowledge even here Hill made money by accepting bribes to make occasions for interviews with Mr. Lincoln—

He is dead and gone and I hope the evil he did is dead with him. I think a great pity—

Resurrect—his bad book even if carried by his quietless daughter & on

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