Caldwell, Kans.
Feb. 3, 1933

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
New York.

My Dear Miss Tarbell:

About five years ago you had some correspondence with my aunt, Mrs. Alice Grigsby Vale of Long Beach, Calif. in regard to a reproduction of a letter written to Nathaniel Grigsby by A. Lincoln which you had used in one of your books. I note in your letter to her you asked if she cared to dispose of the original letter. My father, in whose possession the letter is, has asked me to inquire of you if you were personally interested in the letter.

My father, J. W. Grigsby, Attica, Kans., is the last surviving member of the immediate family of Nathaniel Grigsby, whose brother Aaron married Sarah Lincoln. My father, his three brothers and their father gave a combined service of eleven years service to the Union cause in the Civil War, my father enlisting at the age of 14 and his father at 53 in the same regiment, 10th Ind. cavalry. He is now approaching his 84th birthday. He has carefully guarded this letter since the death of his father in 1890 but feels that the time has come when some further disposition must be made of it.

My father has retained a wonderful memory of the early life of Lincoln as portrayed by his father who was a schoolmate of Lincoln's in the only school either ever attended and which was located on my great-grandfather's farm near Gentryville.

These reminiscences that I have in turn heard since childhood are not always in line with some of the present stories that tend to disparage Lincoln's early life and efforts but by reason of those family associations and ties, I feel I have the true picture of this great man.

Sincerely

Mrs. J. N. Voyt
Caldwell,
Kansas.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library