

Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> 28  
Alexandria Va.

My dear Miss Tarbell —

Last evening Mr. White and I returned from our visit to Richmond and Old Tappahannock Counties, and a stop of two nights in Fredericksburg so that I could get a chance to see some records which Judge Embrey of that town had abstracted. I am not going to attempt any opinion, until I have digested the material, but I have all that could be found in the places visited and I can not see how Dr. Barton came to

Mr Warren is, just exactly, "an honest painstaking young man" and he has given us some excellent material and expressed himself so flatly, and put together his results so awkwardly, that his book is practically unknown. But he was utterly wrong in not making known, at once, the loss of the document which belongs to no circle - but to the world. It is poor, however, and the good will of county clerks means a great deal to him in his research. Your investigation of any Lincoln document will be a perfectly natural thing - with no reference to Mr. Warren - thus, saving his feelings and doing him no harm. Perhaps you will allow

his conclusions. However, I may  
be able to gain some insight, after  
my next foraging trip, which will  
take me to Amelia and Lunenburg  
and adjacent Counties after a  
few days' rest. Accommodations  
in Rural Virginia are something  
pretty bad, and I long for the  
rest which is coming when I  
have finished this work!

In regard to that lost document.  
Your name, dear Lady, carries much  
authority and any word from you  
would have much greater weight  
than from me. I have no gift at  
writing, and no experience save as  
a genealogical searcher, and  
that will keep me as busy, at  
my limited strength allows.

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

me to say, that a registered letter  
with "return receipt requested" helps  
tremendously, if any questions as to  
receipt arise. So often, I have had  
the experience of complete ignoring of  
an ordinary letter - then I send a  
registered one and finally a postal  
or a telegram and usually get some  
attention. Finally I have copied the births  
deaths and marriages, wills and  
deeds - of such towns as are  
recorded in the regions visited  
I wonder if you wish copies? I  
will send them to Mrs. Rudolph  
who has offered to copy them. Sent  
her a card? Did you know that  
she is a wheel-chair Cripple from  
infantile paralysis during the war?  
Do set the Post Document Search going.  
When I have anything to offer I will  
write. Always Sincerely yours -  
Tomie D. White -