

Friday, April 15, 1932.

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

My dear Miss Tarbell,

It is my sincere hope that a further consideration, on your part, of the particular desire prompting this present writing will tend to dispel any impression of presumptuousness or seeming impertinence in my approach.

For several years past I have been an enthusiastic student and collector of Lincoln material. Inasmuch as I am a young married man, my collection is, of necessity, somewhat limited. It has occurred to me, however, that I may still venture a means of enhancing the personality and pride of some of my treasures, - this, by securing inscriptions in my volumes. Shortly before the occasion of a visit to New York at Christmas time, I took the liberty of addressing you with regard to my desire that you be so kind as to inscribe my several copies of your different Lincoln studies. I did not receive a response at the time and, therefore, did not feel inclined to risk the impertinence of calling at your home for the purpose of leaving my books. I am aware, Miss Tarbell, that I may have been unreasonable in bothering you during the rush of the Christmas holidays. If this was the case, please forgive me.

The titles in question are "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns", "Early Life" and the two-volume "Life". Nothing would please me more than to be favored with your permission to mail these to your home, or better, submit them to you when next I am in New York.

Before coming to a close, I should like to ask if you happen to know whether Mr. Henry B. Rankin, former law student under our beloved Lincoln and, late in life, author of "Intimate Character Sketches of Abraham Lincoln", is still living? In view of your contribution - the Foreword - to this study, as published in 1924, I felt that you would be better enabled to advise me in this query.

Thanking you in anticipation of whatever courtesies may be granted me in this matter, I remain

Very truly yours,

William A. Hall

274 Sanford Road,
Upper Darby, Penna.