

132 EAST NINETEENTH STREET

August 10, 1920

Mr. William Fortune,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. Fortune:

Last week I had the pleasure here in New York of a long talk with Mr. Charles Moores of Indianapolis on possible unpublished material relating to the life of Abraham Lincoln.

As you possibly may know I published a Life of Lincoln a few years ago--first as a serial in McClure's Magazine and afterwards in a two volume edition under the Macmillan imprint. I have taken up this work again, and at the moment am preparing a life for the Boy Scouts.

Mr. Moores told me that several years ago you had spent considerable time collecting reminiscences of Lincoln's boyhood life in Spencer County from men and women then alive who remembered him, and that you had never published these reminiscences though he had often urged you to do so.

Will you pardon me if I add my voice to his? I cannot but feel that ~~all~~ material on this period of Lincoln's life particularly which has any claim to authenticity ought to be given to the world. It all helps to make more definite and intelligent the picture of the pioneer community in which these important years of his life were passed. It is a good thing, ~~too, do you not feel particularly~~ for our young people, to understand just what it cost men and women to build up the prosperous country which they now enjoy. Is it not possible for you to consider publishing what you collected? If I could be of the least use to you in the enterprise I should be very glad, but I cannot expect that. If I understood Mr. Moores correctly, you yourself ~~have been~~ a trained newspaper man so you would not of course need professional assistance from me. What I am presuming to do is simply to urge you to give what you have to the world.

Trusting that you will not regard this letter as an intrusion, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

~~attach to you~~  
~~have left the profession~~ *Ida M. Tarbell*

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