

February 3, 1924

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

My dear Miss Tarbell:

I wrote you last June concerning a memorial to the mother of Lincoln, and only when I received your most gracious reply did I realize how every moment of your time is needed to finish your important work, "In the Footsteps of Abraham Lincoln." So I thought best to let the matter rest for the time being, but now that your work in that line is finished, as the Buffalo Evening News states, may we take up the memorial idea again?

I first thought of this memorial to Lincoln's mother, back in February, 1908. In a paper on patriotism which I wrote at that time, and which now lies before me, I said, "By that obscure but noble woman's faithfulness to her highest possibilities she gave to the world the greatest man that ever lived and I would that a monument of noble structure might be erected to her sacred memory by the loyal women of the United States," and in my humble judgment it now seems to be the proper time for the beginning of this memorial to Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who in her isolated life in the primeval forest moulded her son's character by that of her own.

I hope, Miss Tarbell, that you still think well of this project, and, as you say in your letter of June 19, 1923, the greatest American sculptor we have should do this work, "possibly Anna Hiatt", which would be very fine.

I shall be glad to hear from you again on this subject, which has been on my mind and heart for years, and with sincere congratulations upon your success as Lincoln's best biographer, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Annie Grove McClellan
(Mrs. I. A.)

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