

THOMAS HENRY BOYD

Evanston, Illinois.
August 17, 1941

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,
120 East 19th St.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Miss Tarbell :

I am just another business man whose amateur hobby is Abraham Lincoln. I got interested when I saw the restoration of New Salem, and thru the studies made there I started in on the other points of interest connected with the Lincoln family. My interest was further whetted by seeing the immense amount of misinformation believed by my fellow Illinoisans.

Right here, in highly educated Evanston, few know where Lincoln spoke or why, and I am trying to get the place properly marked. Just recently a Professor at Northwestern stated that Abraham was so poorly educated that he spelled his own name seven different ways. I had the pleasure of correcting him on that one, and he now admits his error.

The above is to give you a little of my interest in the matter and to explain my nerve in writing to you.

I went to Princeton, and have done a little work on the sojourn of the Lincolns in Monmouth County, New Jersey. I have visited all the places mentioned in your "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns", and read what is available at the Lincoln Foundation in Fort Wayne. I find that no Princetonians ever heard of the Lincolns in New Jersey altho the locale is just twenty miles south of the University.

I have been in touch with the historical society at Freehold, read General Stryker's Battle of Monmouth, and corresponded with Colonel A.C.M. Azoy, who has lately written on the subject. I have also tried the Princeton University Library, but none of them can answer my questions.

THOMAS HENRY BOYD

In your book, "Footsteps of the Lincolns" you comment that the family was well enough known to have left their names on some of the hills and valleys in Monmouth County. I have looked in vain through maps available here on the Revolutionary period for any such locations, and corresponded with the above sources trying to locate such places.

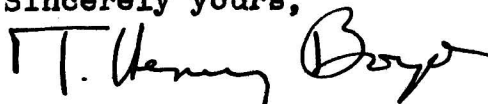
I am just wondering if your notes are still available to you, or if memory would allow you to give me the references to other sources. In any event that is the reason for this letter and the question that I want to ask you.

I would also appreciate it if you can give me any other references worth my study in connection with the Lincolns in New Jersey. I hope to spend a week in Princeton this fall, having a son there now, and I intended to go more fully into the whole thing then, with an idea of covering the ground again, visit the court house in Freehold to read the old lawsuits mentioned in your book, and visit Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Before closing I would like to add that when I first started to seriously read on Lincoln the first books I used were yours and Nicolays life. Then Sandburg's Prairie years. I am glad that I started with these as thru them I got a sympathetic view point of the family, all long before I heard of Herndon and the rest. Therefore I feel that my visits to Kentucky and Indiana have given me a much more human understanding than if I had started the other way. But I just wonder if any amount of writing will ever correct the popular impressions that seem to be almost universally held.

I trust that this enquiry is not out of line and that it is not an improper burden to put on you.

Sincerely yours,



2455 Prairie Ave.,