Meeting Lincoln

Original letters describing encounters with the 16th President of the United States

Surnames beginning with W

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
February 29 - 32.

Mr. H. K. Terry

Dear Sir,

I am afraid I cannot give you more information than the newspaper article contained, as it was a very little girl when the incident occurred, only 5 years old.

My father, Major William Condlinus, Henry Alleman of Phila, Puma & Volunteers,
was stationed at or near Soldiers Home (near Washington), where Abraham Lincoln had his summer White House home.

My brother-in-law had taken me to visit my father in Camp - and my father took me to see that wonderful Man. And while conversing with my father he took time on his knee also had a glass of milk brought for me. I have
only a very recollection of it myself but my parents spoke of
it not often that it has helped me to remember.
I remember more clearly some of the Camp life there. Although
my stay was less than a week.
General years ago while visiting in Auburn, New York, I met a
man who had seen Lincoln— and remembered him well. I do not remember his name but
could possibly find out through
my son - Rev. Ralph Walker - Pastor of Euclid Ave. Baptist Church in Cleveland - who was a member (I think Chaplain) of the same organization as I. I think it was "Sons of Veterans" or something like that.

If you are interested I will write my son about it.

Yours very sincerely,

Virginia C. Walker
Full Name: Samuel Read Ward
Present Address: Richmond, M. Henry County, Ill.
Date of Birth: Year 1849, Month August, Day Seventh
Place of Birth: Ceylon, East Indies
Where you saw Lincoln: Washington D.C.
When you saw Lincoln: Many times
Remarks: Was present in the theatre when he was assassinated.
I lived in Washington four years, 1864-68.
Received my medical degree there.
Georgetown Medical Department, Georgetown University.
Graduated University of Vermont in Burlington, Vt. in 1864.
TELLS OF SEEING LINCOLN

Chicago, Ill. April 12.—Sixty-six years ago, on the night of April 14, 1865, a young man, a student in Georgetown university, made his way with a party of friends to Ford’s theater in Washington.

He had met the President, and had heard him speak at Gettysburg, but had never seen Gen. Grant, and it was for this purpose that he was attending the theater, for it had been reported that Grant would be a guest in the presidential box. The young man did not see Gen. Grant after all, but he did hear the shot which fatally wounded Abraham Lincoln, and saw the assassin escape. Lincoln died the next day.

Now 83 years old, Dr. Samuel B. Ward, of Richmond, in McHenry county, recalled yesterday the historic scene of Lincoln’s assassination. He was 22 years old at the time, and employed in the registrar’s office of the treasury, studying medicine at night. Although he had seen a part of Miss Laura Keene’s performance in “The American Cousin,” he bought four tickets when Grant was to accompany the President and his wife that night.

Learn Grant Had Left

“We were most excited about seeing Gen. Grant,” he said, “the four of us—my brother and his wife and a young lady. I’ve forgotten her name. When President and Mrs. Lincoln and Maj. Rathbone and a Miss Harris arrived, and we had understood Gen. Grant had gone to Philadelphia, it was a great disappointment.

“We were sitting in the dress circle, which was elevated above the main floor and extended in a semicircle around the auditorium. We had an unobstructed view of the Presidential box which was a double box in which they had removed the small partition so that the President and Mrs. Lincoln, sitting in the box farthest from the stage, were not separated from the rest of the party.

“The boxes were inclosed, and the occupants watched the play from two windows, one in either box. All I could see of the President, despite the fact that his box was on the same level as our seats, was one arm, resting on the sill of the box window.

Actors in Confusion

It was a very popular play and the theater was crowded with many of Washington’s notables among the audience. The performance had been in progress about an hour, during which the audience applauded it frequently, when I heard a shot, I thought at first it might be a part of the performance. Then, glancing across, I saw Mrs. Lincoln standing up, wringing her hands.

“The actors disappeared in confusion and a few people stirred, half realizing that a tragedy had occurred. Then, while we all sat there, dazed, I saw a man, a bright shiny dagger in his hand, mount the sill of the window in the President’s box and look about. At that moment Maj. Rathbone lunged forward to seize him. The man struck out with his dagger and Maj. Rathbone went down. I learned later the man...
Shot That Killed Lincoln
Echos in Doctor's Ears

Retired Physician of Richmond, Ill., Tells of Tragic Event in Ford's Theater

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE JOURNAL

Richmond, III., April 14. A shot fired 13 years ago still echoes in the ears of Dr. Samuel Reid Ward. He sat almost opposite the box of President Lincoln in Ford's theater, Washington, the night of April 14, 1865, when the Emancipator was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

Dr. Ward was 22 then. Soon he will be 86, but the passing of the years has not dimmed the memory of that frightful night in the life of Dr. Ward. He was in Richmond home Saturday night, on the anniversary of that tragic event, he described the assassination of Lincoln.

"I have been told that Booth had a fellow conspirator stationed back stage to turn out all the lights in the house at the sound of the shot, so the assassin could escape. The lights did not go out, and after a moment the assassin appeared at the front of the president's box with one foot upon the low rail and a glittering dagger in his hand.

"He looked over the audience, waved the dagger, and shouted, 'Sic semper tyrannis!' Maj. Rathbone seized the assassin by the shoulder, but the man struck backward with his dagger and cut a long gash in the major's arm. Then he jumped for the stage. One foot landed on the stage, but he slipped into the orchestra pit and pulled himself up on the stage. He ran diagonally across the empty stage to a door. I understand a horse awaited him in the alley at the rear."

Curry Lincoln Out
"I spied a friend, Charles Prentice, on the main floor and attracted his attention. I shouted that I would join him at once. My brother and his wife undertook to see my young lady companion to her home, and I left them."

"At the top of the stairs, a man said to me, 'That assassin is J. Wilkes Booth. I have known him a long time and I am sure it is he.' I hastened downstairs and joined Prentice. We went up on the stage and watched the audience. We could see into the president's box.

Six young men carried him out of the theater and across Fourteenth St. to the second floor of a building. I knew two of the young men. The actors and actresses were about and heard wild reports that Secretary Seward had been killed and that Gen. Grant had been assassinated on his way to Philadelphia."

"The theater soon emptied after the president had been taken away. We walked down Pennsylvania Ave. Everyone on the street and in the hotels was talking about the assassination. We saw several fist fights which arose due to misunderstanding of remarks. Prentice and I decided to do no talking except between ourselves."

"The street in front of the building where Lincoln lay had been cleared and was patrolled by police, but at the corners crowds had assembled. Occasionally a policeman would walk to the corner and give the latest news on Mr. Lincoln's condition."

Heard Shot for Weeks
"Finally, Prentice and I decided to go home. It was early in the morning. I had to pass Secretary Chase's home to get to my room."

Soldiers were guarding it. The next day I saw soldiers guarding the homes of other cabinet officers."

"As I was falling asleep that night I heard again that shot in Lincoln's box and I heard it every night for nearly three weeks. Nothing ever left so deep an impression on my mind."

Dr. Ward now is retired. He was born in Ceylon, India, the son of a missionary physician, but was brought to this country at the age of 4. He lived in Montpelier, Vt., and was graduated from the University of Vermont. After studying at Georgetown he worked in a St. Louis hospital and then went to Chicago. He was in Chicago during the big fire in 1871. He was married shortly before the fire, later coming here. He has three daughters, Elizabeth, who lives at his home; Mrs. Thane M. Blackman, wife of a Whirlower (Wisc.) banker, and another in Glenoel, Ill. His grandson, Thane Blackman, jr., is employed in a Milwaukee bank.

Washburn, Mrs. Elizabeth Ward, Dr. Samuel R.

Chicago, Ill.
Mr. Howard K. Terry,

My dear Mr. Terry,

I have just heard of a name. I am sure this person will interest you and her signature worth securing. Although she is very aged, I understand that she is well mentally and able to write her name clearly.

Mrs. Elizabeth Washburn, was eighteen years of age when Lincoln and Douglas engaged in their famous debate, and as I understand she was at Freeport, Illinois, where the fifth debate took place and remembers Mr. Lincoln very distinctly. She is now a resident of the Methodist Episcopal Old Peoples' Home, located at 1415 Foster Avenue, Chicago. Her age is ninety-one, having been born in 1840.

I trust you received my letter a name of a very distinguished professor, who remembers Mr. Lincoln well, and he is also of extreme age. Perhaps you did not understand that I carry my book—The Journey from the Log Cabin to the White, and furnish them direct from my home, as many wish their copy autographed.

I hope you will be able to secure Mrs. Washburn's signature, at any rate, and also hope she will be able to write a short note.

Yours very truly,

Eleanor Gridley
George Watkins, Capt.

I shall send my regards to all the family. I trust the weather will improve. I am now on my way home, if you can receive this letter, I will be happy. I trust you find the people well.

Mrs. Watkins

Professor S. T. Miller

Watkins, Ohio

10.7.1866
Pittsfield, Illinois,
October 24, 1932

Dr. Lewis A. Warren,
Ft. Wayne, Ind.,

Dear Sir,

I am almost seventy-eight years old. I remember Mr. Lincoln very well. I am a daughter of Benj. A. Watson, who was one of Lincoln's best friends and lived near him in Springfield, Illinois.

I can't remember the first time I saw Mr. Lincoln, but I saw him repeatedly up to the time he went to Washington, when my father went with him.

I remember once when I was on the gate Mr. Lincoln came by and said he knew what I had for breakfast. Upon being questioned he said "Egg," to go in and have my mother wash my face and take off my bib.
It is needless to say more as I have told.
yours very truly,
Hester Cape Nation.
December 9, 1931.

Mr. H. K. Terry,
9528 Wisteria St.,
Bustleton,

Dear Sir:

Soon after I received your letter of November 11 I inserted a notice in the local papers regarding your request for names and addresses of people who remember Abraham Lincoln with the following result to date:

Persons living in Decatur—

Mr. W. J. Wayne, 424 E. Waggoner St.
Mrs. Mary Jane Taylor, 940 N. Oakland Ave.
Mr. Henry A. Wood, 916 E. Lincoln Ave.
Mr. John W. Knowlton, 345 N. 18th St.
Mr. William H. Tozer, 923 View St.
Mr. B. W. Dillehunt, 609 W. William St.
Mrs. C. C. Morris, 429 Peoria Ave.
Mr. C. A. Constant, 2325 E. Eldorado St.
Mr. D. A. Good, Route 1.

Persons living in nearby towns or who once lived here—

Mr. William Spangler, Rural Route, Maroa, Illinois
Mr. James W. Berry, Dalton City, Illinois
Dr. J. B. Matthew, Blue Mound, Illinois
Judge W. G. Cochran, Sullivan, Illinois
Mr. W. N. Lanham, 435 Delaware Road, Burbank, Calif.

I am enclosing any letters or statements sent. Those who have written would probably send you more information if you write them. Those who talked to me personally or telephoned I told would hear from you direct, as I was not taking the story only sending you the names.

Hoping this will be of some use to you, I am

Very truly yours,

Minnie A. Dill
Librarian.
Library Finds 3 Who Knew Lincoln

Miss Dill Gets Quick Response to Inquiries.

Three residents of Decatur and vicinity talked with Abraham Lincoln or had some contact with him, it is revealed in letters to Miss Minnie Dill, librarian of the Decatur public library.

The letters came in response to a request published by Miss Dill who is seeking the information for H. K. Terry of Bustleton, Pa.

W. J. Wayne, 424 East Waggoner street, is one of the men who has an incident to relate about a personal experience with Lincoln. Mrs. Mary Jane Taylor, 94, of 940 North Oakland, also has some information to contribute. William Spangler of Maroa saw Lincoln when he was a boy.

A fourth who knew Lincoln is W. N. Lanham of Burbank, Cal., formerly of Decatur.

Miss Dill is seeking others who knew the Civil war President and has requested that such persons communicate with her.
POST 2
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
667 N. TWELFTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA

Mr. Howard K. Terry
3528 Wisteria Street Bustleton Pa.

My dear young Friend:

I am in receipt of your letter of June 30th, asking me to give you some of my experience in the Civil war, and if I ever saw President Lincoln.

I cheerfully respond, glad to accommodate one whom I believe is a good Patriotic and loyal Citizen, anxious to know better the history of that great struggle that nearly disrupted our country, during 1861--65.

I enclose you a brief outline of my personal service that I think will comply with one part of your request and confine myself to tell you when I saw President Lincoln.

Our Regiment left for Washington in the early part of September 1861, and while waiting in Washington for orders where we were to camp for the winter, I stole off and made my way to the White House, as it was the first time I had been in Washington, in those days Pennsylvania Avenue was nothing but a dirt road, and from some recent rains it was then worse than that, it was a mud road. Arriving at the White House I was too timid to attempt to try to get in but just roamed around, presently I saw the large door open and out came President Lincoln, he only walked to another door and went in, I rushed back to the regiment, fearing it might move away and I would be lost, and anxious to tell the boys I had seen the President.

The next time I saw Mr. Lincoln was in July 1862, just after our retreat from Richmond after fighting the Seven Days Battles. He came down there at Harrison's Landing where we were encamped, and rode through the camps with General McClellan, and the boys cheered him as he rode by.

The next time was in May 1863, just after our defeat at Chancellorsville, and the men were much demoralized over our defeat, and bad management of that battle, and I suppose he came down to cheer us up, and a grand review was ordered, and he sat on a large horse by the side of General Hooker as we passed by.

In 1864 General Grant was appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the armies of the United States, and realizing that a large force of men were held in the fortifications of Washington and he needed them, he issued an order that all Regiments having only Thirty days, or less to serve should be sent back from the front and those new men sent to the front and do some of the fighting.

That you may know the difference in the strength of those regiments and ours, one of the was assigned to our Brigade, I think it was the 150th New York, an heavy artillery regiment, they had about 1500, men and when they formed in our rear at the battle of Cold Harbor Va, and their line was longer than our whole Brigade of four regiments, each end extending beyond the ends of our Brigade. They lost very heavily in the battle over three hundred men, the got caught in a swampy ground and took them some time to get out.

So in July 1864 our regiment was relieved at the front and sent back to Washington and assigned to DeRussy's Corps, but only about 100 men left, I was then serving on the staff of General John Gibbon Commanding our Division, the Second Division of the Second Corps, General Hancock's Corps. I went to the General and asked to be relieved that I might go with my regiment, he expressed regret that I should go, and promised me further promotion if I would stay, but declined, and said I wanted to go home, My father was dead and my mother needed me, I was on guard one day as Corporal of the guard and as usual when we were relieved the next morning we were at liberty or on leave of absence that day until Dress Parade at evening.
So I got a pass and went into Washington, as I reached Pennsylvania Avenue I heard some music, and looking up saw some troops approaching me, I waited to see what it was, and found it was one of those short time regiments whose term of service expired and they were going home, they had never been outsid of Washington, never saw a Rebel except as prisoners, never fired a gun at th enemy, but they could not go home without having the President thank them for their valuable service, so I thought I would go along, and see the President again, Arriving at the White House they were massed in front of the front entrance, I worked my way up front and got near the railing, on the rotunde, Shortly the large doors opened and out came Mr. Lincoln, he stepped close to the railing, and taking off his hat ( that same high silk hat that I do not think was ever brushed since it left the hatters ) and he addressed those men first apologizing for keeping them waiting, and said he had been up all night attending to important business, and had just laid down and fell asleep, but bade awoke him, and when informed that those men wanted to see him and hear him, he hastily dressed himself and came down, he had not taken time to brush his hair and there it was all ruffled up ends pointing in every direction and in pulling on his boots he had failed to pull down the pants on one leg and there it was held up by the leg of the boot, and there he stood with his hair uncombed and one leg of his pants held up by the boot.

And the last time I saw him was in 1865 after his assaignment and he l ays in state in our Independence Hall, I stood in that line over two hours before I reached the State house and passed up the steps and in through the window into the room where his body lay, and the next day I paraded with the National Guards escorting his remains through the city to the train that was to take him west for final burrial.

I am one of those who greatly admire Mr. Lincoln, I have prepared an add ress which I have delivered many times, ready at all times to pay my tribute to that great and good man.

I trust this will comply with your request and add the views of another veteran to those you have on file.

Very respectfully yours

Joseph R.C. Ward
Brigadier General Retired
And now Past Commander of Post 2 G.A.R,
Services of General Joseph R.C. Ward

Two years on the frontiers of New Mexico and Texas during 1859--1860--1861

In State of Texas when that State seceded from the Union 1861

When all United States Troops were ordered to leave the State. Was then stationed at Fort Clarke, marched down to Indiana and took transport to New York March 1861

Entered the service of the United States for the War of the Rebellion as a Musician of Company I 106th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, then known as the Fifith California Regiment of General B. D. Baker's Brigade of California Troops, when General Baker was killed in our First Battle Balls Bluff, Pennsylvania claimed us and we became the Second Brigade 2nd Division 2nd Army Corps, and known as the Philadelphia Brigade throughout the War. Entering the service on August 24, 1861. Detailed to serve as mounted orderly at the Headquarters 2nd Division 2nd Corps April 15, 1864. Wounded slightly in the right shoulder at the Battle of Spottsylvania Court House on May 12, 1864. Promoted to Corporal and appointed Chief of Orderlies at these Headquarters on June 16, 1864, by order of Major General John Gibbon commanding Division. Mustered out in Philadelphia on September 10, 1864 by expiration of term of service. Appointed Paymaster's Steward United States Navy but not mustered, Served on Receiving Ship at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.


The 106th Regiment Volunteer Infantry was organized at Philadelphia from August 14th to October 31st 1861, Served in the Third (Baker's)
Brigade, 6th (Stone's) Division, Corps of Observation at Peeblesville, Maryland, until February 1862. Then temporarily attached to Bank's Division, Army of the Potomac until March 1862 then became the 2nd, Brigade (Philadelphia Brigade) 2nd Division 2nd Corps Army of the Potomac until July 31st 1864 then assigned to De'Russey's Division 22nd Corps in the defense of Washington, until August 28th 1864 sent to Philadelphia to be mustered out of the service.
GEN. J. R. C. WARD IS 85

Former Girard College Military Instructor Host at Dinner

Brigadier General Joseph R. C. Ward, instructor in military tactics at Girard College for many years, celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday last night by being host at a dinner at the Hotel Walton.

General Ward, who is a dentist, is commander of Post No. 2, G. A. R., having gained his Civil War experience as a drummer boy. He served in the Spanish-American War and was active in the World War, despite his advanced age, serving in the Quartermaster Department.

Among those attending the dinner were: Colonel William C. Metcalf, commander of the Old Guard, City of Philadelphia; Captain George S. Davis, Lieutenant Colonel John D. Garcia, Major Edmund John Prittie and Lieutenant Cloyd R. Lewis, all of the State Fencibles; Professor L. Ashley Faught, of Temple University, and Colonel P. D. Landon, head of the Bordentown Military Academy.
March 16, 1931

Howard R. Terry
9328 Western St
Buckleton, Philadelphia Pa.

Dear Sir:

We received your letter to my grandfather, Mr. Spencer C. Weaver, just a few days after his death on Feb 20th.

Grandpa saw Mr. Lincoln several times. One incident I remember hearing him tell several times:

One rainy night while the company was stationed in Washington D.C., Grandpa and some of his comrades were standing guard. Mr. Lincoln came out of the
white house and asked them to come in out of the rain. Some of the Acids started to take them into the servants quarters. When Mr. Smith stood and saw what they were doing he said "No, I won't have any of my boys taken into the servants quarters. Bring them at here with me." He talked to them all a long while and before saying short hands with them and Grandpa often made mention of his powerful grip. No doubt had he been living he could have told you more.
Rose Lawn Ind. Aug 30 1932

Lincoln National Life Foundation

Ft. Wayne Ind.

Serving your request for the oldest person living at the
Lincoln and answering, I may say for the oldest but I am getting too many
people.

I was born Feb 12th 1859, making me 73 last Feb. I saw Lincoln as he
lay in State in the Court House in Chicago Ill. in Union Car and was carried
through in the middle of the Night and sent up on a raised platform where the
Casket stood. Two large American Flags were Drape on it actually in front
of the Casket. The Casket was Drape with an American Flag and the back
Gown was Drape.
with American flags there was a soldier at each end of the course standing at attention and I will say I was born on Lincoln's Birthday, cast my first vote for James A. Garfield and our McKinley died on my fourth of July. The three martyred Presidents.

Yours truly,

To Jay Coehn
Rose Laura
Ind.
"I Saw Lincoln"

Full Name (Rev.) Ernest Werner

Present Address Pensacola, Florida, R.R. 3, Box 215

Date of Birth Year 1853 Month February Day 25th

Place of Birth Cincinnati, Ohio

Where you saw Lincoln At Cincinnati, O.

When you saw Lincoln 1863 on his tour through the north

Remarks: Lincoln was making a tour through the north.

He was cheered very heartily by the people.

When just opposite of us (our family) the 503 Vine street

(late number)

Lincoln stood up in the open carriage and bowed to us,

waving his right hand, in the left holding his silk hat.
Werner, Ernest
Cincinnati - 2nd Campaign
Lakewood, Ohio, Sept. 21, 32

To Editor of The Lakewood Post,

Dear sir,

In your issue of the Lakewood Post of August 26th, you announce under the caption "Seek Those Who Knew Abe Lincoln," that you desire to know if any of your readers who heard, saw, or knew Abraham Lincoln.

In answer to this, I desire to inform you that I "saw" Abraham Lincoln as he rode by my father's store in a great parade in Cincinnati, beginning to us as he rode by the occasion being his second campaign as the nominee for President of the United States, in 1860. It was possibly I am not the oldest person that saw him on that occasion, but one that did see him. Born February 13, 1853, in Cincinnati, O. I am visiting here with my nephew's family.

Harry E. Werner, 1507 Woodward Avenue.
I expect to be with Mr. Carl Langbrooke
South England.
Address 16 47 Oakmount Road, Cleveland, 44.
for a few days.

My address (Sept. 5th) will be Spencerville,
Ohio. 425 Broadway.
Possibly this will interest you, as an
answer to your request.

I beg to remain
 yours respectfully
Ernest Werner.

Home address:
Rev. Ernest Werner
Pensacola, Florida.
(223 (Box 2157).)
Spencerville, O. Sept. 14th, 1932

Mr. Louis 2. Warren,

Director
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear sir:

I have just received your letter No. 2 and enclosed with it, together with enclosures. I thank you very much for the Lincoln items.

I enclose herewith the blank filled out "I saw Lincoln" and thank you if you will place my name in your special file of reminiscence.

With thanks,

Sincerely yours,

Ernest Werner

P.S. The address given is my permanent address.

E.W.
Lincoln Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed you will find an article which was published some weeks ago in the Lakewood Post, Lakewood, Ohio.

I am also enclosing the letters which I received in response to the article.

I would appreciate your publicity agent writing both Lee R. Lucas (c/o Mrs. J. Ruppiesburg, 1421 Larchmont Ave.) and Ernest Werner (c/o Harry E. Werner, 1507 Woodward Ave.) both addresses are in Lakewood.

Thanking you in advance, I am,

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

OFIS/SK

Editor.
Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.  
Fort Wayne, Indiana:  

Dear Miss:  

I would appreciate having my name placed among those having seen Lincoln.  
I had the privilege of hearing and seeing Lincoln at the Lincoln-Douglas Debate held in Ottawa, Illinois in 1858. I am a resident of La Salle, Illinois and am 80 years of age.

Mrs. Mary A. West  
632 E. La Salle Ave.  
La Salle, Illinois.
Sept 29, 1930

Mr. Howard K. Perry
Philadelphia, Penna

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of Sept 24. I will say that if you will write to Captain Robert C. Bunge, Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati, Ohio, I think he can give you the address Charles E. Bull.

One of the pleasant memories of my life is the fact that I was privileged to come in personal contact with President Lincoln. In 1864, when my regiment was in Washington on its way home, we marched up to the White House grounds, forming in line in front of the balcony. President Lincoln spoke to us, and then came down the steps and shook the hands of the comrades. As he grasped my hand, I was 16 years old, he laid his other hand on my shoulder.
and remarked, "Well, my boy, I guess your mother will be glad to see you."
His kindly smile and his words will never be forgotten.
Would that we had more men of his make-up in the world today.

Very truly yours,

Wilfred A. Wetherbee

[Signature]
Mr. Louis A. Warren
Editor of Lincoln Lore,
Fort Wayne Indiana

Dear Mr. Warren:

You kindly sent to me in April a copy of Lincoln Lore. I was much interested in it and have delayed replying until now, owing to matters of importance that required my attention.

On Sept. 23 I pass my 95 birthday and am blessed with excellent health.

I was born in Guilford state of Maine, on Sept. 23 during the administration of Andrew Jackson (Old Hickory) in 1836. I knew very many revolutionary soldiers in my boyhood. My grandfather Isaac B. Wharff was born on Aug 23 1789 at the beginning of our nation.

I served in Company C. in the 11th. Maine Infantry while my brother John served three years in the first Maine cavalry. I saw President Lincoln on March 26 when he and General Grant reviewed the army of the James. This was Sunday. In one week April 2 Petersburg was captured and Richmond was evacuated. But one week later, Sunday the 9th. Lee surrendered.

My brother and I were present, and in desperate fighting met the white flag of truce.

It will please me to receive Lincoln Lore.

Very truly yours,

William H. Wharff
President Abraham Lincoln Fellowship.
Mr Howard K. Terry  
Philadelphia Pa.

Dear Sir:—

Yours of June 29 is at hand and as you are working on the same lines as that of the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship of which I have the honor to be the president, I am pleased to comply with your request.

Soon after the outbreak of the civil war my brother John enlisted and served 3 years in the First Maine Cavalry. My service some later was in the 11th Maine infantry. Third brigade, First Div. 24th Corps.

In the winter of 64 & 5 we were encamped at Chapins farm north of the James river in front of Richmond.

On Sunday morning March 23 we were drawn up in line and was reviewed by President Lincoln and members of his cabinet and Gen. Grant and staff.

As soon as we returned to our tent I wrote in my diary which I kept during my service the following.

This is a wonderful occasion and I shall never forget the care worn face of President Lincoln as he rode upon his horse, hat in hand while the bands were playing "Hail To The Chief."

On Monday following we broke camp went on the spring campaign that ended the war in just two weeks. I was present at Appomattox April 9th, and our regiment the 11th Maine had seven killed and 45 wounded before the flag of truce was displayed.

I have no copies of the Chronicle of April 14 or 15 but I will try to get some if possible.

Very truly yours,

Wm. H. Wharff  
President  
Abraham Lincoln Fellowship.
La Salle, Ill., Oct. 5, 1932.

Dr. Louis A. Warren:

Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir: Having seen a notice in a newspaper that you are searching for people who saw Abraham Lincoln will say I saw his body at Indianapolis, Ind., while it lay in state at the State House. It was a rainy day which did not deter the thousands who formed in line four abreast reaching far out into the street, waiting their turn. I was then a boy of fourteen years. I was not satisfied by passing through once so I passed through a second time. I cannot give the exact date but it must have been the latter part of April and of course in 1865, and if remember aright was on a Sunday. My home was then at Acton, Ind.

E. H. Whitaker, 81 years.
Hon. Big Chief White Horse Eagle.

World's Famous Chief. Lecturer on Indian Culture and Peace.

304 West Avenue 3rd.

Los Angeles, California.

July 6, 1931.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
9528 Winnetka St., Glendale, Pa. Penn.

My dear friend and brother,

It was a great pleasure for me to receive a letter from a friend of my old friend, Col. Twyball whom I have made Chief.

You are doing a wonderful work in preserving history.

I am now the oldest and leading Chief of the American Indians. I have been born in 1822 and have seen Mr. Col. Colby, and the greatest living authority on the culture of the American Indians. I have lived during the life of every President since the first President, Washington, and personally met all Presidents from Abraham Lincoln to Mr. Coolidge. We were in Europe when President Hoover was inaugurated.

I am of the Chepe Tribe and my
Hon. Big Chief White Horse Eagle.

World's Famous Chief.

Lecturer on Indian

Culture and Peace.

304 West Avenue 37.

Los Angeles, California.

July 6, 1931.

Mr. Howard St. Terry
932 Clay St., Pittsburgh, Pa., Penn.

My dear friend and brother,

It was a great pleasure for me to receive a letter from a friend of my old friend, Col. Timball whom I have made chief.

You are doing a wonderful work in preserving history.

I am now the oldest and leading chief of the American Indians and have been born in 1832 on Fort Custer, Missouri, and the greatest living authority on the culture of the American Indians. I have lived during the life of every President since the first Pres. Adams and personally met all Presidents from Abraham Lincoln to Mr. Coolidge. We were in Europe when Pres. Hoover was inaugurated.

I am of the Osage Tribe, and my
father being a leading Chief I crossed country with him six thousand mile a century ago and from that time on I have played an important part in the history of my country. Between my people and the pale faces who came in to set up a nation in my country I have made landmates in the nation's history, having buried the tomahawk for peace under the Capitol Steps at Washington in 1876. Great peace pact ever made. Since then I have been most loyal to the Stars and Stripes. Have come in contact with the great men of several generations. I used to take my Chiefs with me when visiting Lincoln. Lincoln told me I would become a great Chief and leader of my people. I held Pres. Lincoln in the greatest reverence and high regard, and if his life had been spared the history of my people would have been different. I used to pass his old cabin, and his step mother gave me and my Chiefs hot coffee when we passed by on horseback. I knew Lincoln when he was a young lawyer. I have met Gen. Grant, U. S. Grant, Stonewall Jackson, Phil Sheridan, Stonewall Jackson,
Jeff Davis. I was present under Majors Dun, Nelson A. Meade, Crook and
Sheridan.

I would like a copy of the portrait you saw in the paper to
Col. Hubbard and myself. for my

memory book.

I have written a book "We Indians"
that quite much interesting history.
I am making an International Tribal Association by conferring
honorary Chiefhood upon
the leading men of all nations
and individuals who are doing
something to preserve the history
of our country.

I would like to make you
a brother Chief with Col. Stebbins.
Shall I come over to
Penn. to lecture or you pay
a visit to California while I
am in residence there.

A little later I go north on
a lecture tour, also make some
notable men briefly, and pay my respects to your Governor Rolph, whose I made Chief 1908-1910.

This will still be my address 304 W. Ave. 37, Los Angeles until further notice.

With greetings and God bless you, I am,

Res. Big Chief White Horse Eagle, T.W.
Woods Bureau Chief and Queen W-11452-A.
To R. Terry Dear Sir

Your letter of March 13th read.

Cpl. Hanbeth are very sick in the Hospital. His P.O. Box is 124.

The Indian things and address are Big Chief White Horse Eagle

Post 304, West 3rd St., Los Angeles, Calif.

I am sure that you will get a fine letter from him. He is a

friend of peace that he smoked with Lincoln, and every President

down to Coolidge. I knew him about fifty years ago and never

saw him again until last month when we took a ride in the Plain.

when you write him mention my name and you will be sure to get an answer. I am glad

I have left the home.
I don't know his address.

Yours very truly,

Sgt. A. J. Kimball
L. D. Debates
Galesburg, Ill.

Widney, John A.

J. A. WIDNEY
SECRETARY 112TH ILLINOIS REUNION ASSOCIATION
- INSURANCE -

ALPHA, ILLINOIS
Sept 4, 1921

Mr. Howard K. Perry,

Sir,

Just rev. your letter. I was born March 27, 1846, at Spring Run, Ill. I will be 87 next March. I started first farm in this place 44 yrs ago. Have been BANK nallies several years. I shook hands with Lincoln on Oct. 18, 1858, at Galena. We all in his debate with Douglas. I shook hands with Mrs. Lincoln in Washington D.C. on Jan. 26, 1864, while a civil war veteran. I enlisted in April 1862 and 3 yrs in a Henry County Co., hands as mayor of this place and Sheriff of this county. I served 5 yrs as sheriff. I guess this is all you need. See your wish.

Yours truly,

John A. Widney

My father was a col during the Mexican War in 1846

My Capt was 112th Ill. Inf. Regt.
Springfield, Ill. April 11, 1931

Dear Sir, you asked me for a history of Abraham Lincoln, I knew him since I was a little boy. I looked him up in the Lincoln home at the corner of Main Street and Perryville. He would come home from school and play. He was a very handsome boy. I knew him to speak of him. I came home from the home of a crippled boy. I was his best friend, and he came home from the home of a crippled boy.

I saw the best of my life, since the time I was a little boy.

Sincerely yours, Jacob Williams.
Joseph Williams
408 West Monroe St.

you meant because had no idea of rail splitting but want to a miner in my life
September 2, 1931.

Mr. Edward K. Terry,
9528 Wisteria St.,

Dear Sir:

Your favor of August 1st received in due time. I note that you are seeking facts pertaining to the incident of the laying away the last time of the remains of President Lincoln which occurred September 26, 1901.

Those present were: John J. Brenholt, acting governor (in the absence from the state of Governor Yates); M. O. Williamson, State Treasurer; Joseph Freeman, acting Superintendent of Public Instruction; James S. McCullough, Auditor of Public Accounts; B. D. Monroe, Assistant Attorney General; James S. Culver, contractor; Floyd K. Whittmore, Assistant State Treasurer; Geo. N. Black, Assistant Attorney General; Clinton L. Ewing; Joseph Lindley, railroad and warehouse commissioner; Edward Johnson, custodian of the monument; Mrs. Edward Johnson; Mrs. Alfred Bayliss; Ross Culver; Jasper N. Reece; Fleetwood H. Lindley; J. C. Thompson, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction; Leon P. Hopkins, master plumber; Charles Wiley, assistant plumber.

The commission consisted of the Governor, State Treasurer, and Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Governor, Mr. Yates, and Alfred Bayliss, Superintendent of Public Instruction, were absent from the state.

It was agreed by the commission that they would meet at the monument at 8:00 A. M. on the 26th of September, 1901, and at the request of Robert Lincoln, the President's son, we would have as little publicity as possible. To our great surprise when we came to the monument at the appointed time, we found awaiting us nearly a dozen reporters. Having promised Robert Lincoln, the son, to have as little publicity as possible, we refused admittance to all except those herein mentioned.
Mr. Terry

Sept. 2, 1931.

The remains of the President were enclosed in a lead casket and that was enclosed in a red cedar casket. The lead casket was opened by Leon P. Hopkins, the plumber, and those present viewed the remains, after which the lead casket was sealed. The remains were in perfect condition, no signs of decomposition. There was a small spot on the necktie and on the lapel of the coat that looked like mildew.

The committee made a certificate of the above facts which was duly filed. The remains were then placed in a concrete block eight feet square several feet under the floor of the monument.

I have marked with an X those who have passed away. If there are any others, I do not know it.

When you have selected out what you want to use, send me a copy and I will see if there are any corrections to be made.

Very truly yours,

M. O. Williamson
Dear Sir,

In answer to your inquiry we of this town wish to present the name of Isaac Wilson, who
will be 97 in October. He lived near in the country and came up to see the parades. On Oct. 22
1858 he heard Lincoln speak on the lawn of court house.

June Clark.
August 27, 1932.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation, 
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Gentlemen:

Mr. S. E. Wilson, who will be 78 years of age in October, of Mt. Gilead, O., saw Abraham Lincoln in 1861 at Brocton, N. Y. The latter was on his way to Washington. When the train stopped at Brocton, Lincoln came out on the rear platform while cannons were fired in his honor.

Mr. Wilson, then only a lad of six, remembers standing close enough to the platform to touch Mr. Lincoln.

If further information is desired address S. E. Wilson, N. Main St., Mt. Gilead.

Very truly,

The Morrow County Sentinel.

By [signature]

O. E. Smith, Sec'y
Decatur, Ill., March 5th, 1882

Mr. Howard E. Terry

Kind Sir,

I beg pardon in delaying answering your good letter. Sicknesse prevented me till I could tell you some things as far as I can remember. We know tellt that by my name and your return Elicho Stover.

I will tell you the Little Egg Court House where President--Lincoln held Court--has been moved to Fair View. Placed on high hill beautiful in summer time. Many Suits claim to there here.

Wild Meetings there large picture of Lincoln as you go inside in Grand Dividing as he used to when standing in these years ago. Several others held meeting there also. Remember much speeches made near garden setting and flowers plants when noise jesus passing by almost daring to stop and what on Earth so matter ah President. Lincoln uses shut glassed shadeless every person seemed crowded. Soldiers badges worn. It was called flowers were many beautiful district they get never cemetry some died get hurt but short time went go most every year. When G.A.R. Union relief Cakes goes jest Wreath on monument. Which is beautifull cause is believe of standing on each side bust and you think here lie bod toward Deep out.
Decatur, Illinois March 7th, 1882

Mr. Howard J. Terrey

Kneel Sir,

May pardon me greatly answering you good letter.

Diseases presented a will try tell you some things as far as I can remember

You are not hearing my name

and you return Envelope with it will tell you the Little Egg Court House where President Lincoln held Court

was been moved to Oak Veil Park on high hill beautiful in Summer time. Deep seats claim it there home. Held meetings there large picture of General do you go made that in hand.

Smiling as he used to when standing in doors years ago. Several others held meeting there one. Remember much speeches made was in garden setting and flowers plants were noise persons putting by almost singing. I stepped ask what on Earth is Matter oh President Lincoln was short but gloomy sadness every person seemed to say terrible train for Thingfield were flowers were many beautiful district. Gay get Nell Cemetary some did get hurt but—short-time kept 60 most every year when 4th of July. Wear a white clouds goes forts. Wreath on Monument which is beautiful guard and you think here lies his body. Howard J. Terrey
Until Lincoln home to Springfield Cara tell
Just looks President Would you feel the
Visitors great your every thing in order
The last birthday was wonderful Eight
Get-Duck Commodore 52 at Post 141
Yes there were more in new armorred
Mr. Myers singing cemnence Each one had a
Need to say Honest like President loose
President this past year at one time even
Musical string at celebration only it
Was there any other this will interest or be
any thing to add

Most every one listen to true story
About young pupil faced on long
duty fell as lips aged mother in sloop-
grief was admitted to appear President
Lincoln which she did ask what she could
do for her saving son life he must die
The stinted said go home good Mother your
son wont die will send your son home to
your went on her knees to thank him
and god With tears he took hand
your prayer blessed your son
his kindness to many still lives in many
Hearts Condolence send every Civil war
Spectacle of war as Decision of all
Now kind Sir my trembling hands your
Willing ask you to say as think done best
She could thank you for kind letter hope
May be read you Con use Be your
collectors
Mr. Howard H. Terry
looking great in pencil
written letter and booklet on
both sides please pardon
all but your second letter
and send Early Kindness
Mr. Knowton
Made Effort
my wish could have
written something would
add.
been ill. Just getting better
not very steady on my hands
and mistakes are many.
just feel you know I don't
need to. Could
Wishing you Great Success
in your Enterprising grand
Collection Honored President
Abbe Lincoln Respectfully
Mary Wine Gardner
My age near 80 years
Death notice of R.L. Wintersmith.

Eton House, Feb 28, 1870

Born in Elsin 1816

He had a personal acquaintance with President Lincoln who died at his father's place, and when President Old Abe was returned to the President, his wife went on to see him at the White House where the old acquaintances were renewed and warm friendship established. I for many years have delighted to hear what he knew about the Real Splitting Broadcloth.
Wolfind, C. H. Went to Office Bath, N.Y.

Washington, D.C.

Bath N.Y. Feb 11. 31

My dear P. Terry

9 3 8 Western St.

Phil. April 17

Be a Man,

In answer to your letter, will give you the facts as I was told them.

In 1863 I was as student at Fairfield University, C. I. D.

and a member of the leg to the about 150.

Told old wanted to enlist. But was turned down. But we wanted to be soldiers on our vacation in June.

This is true of the
Went to Washington, D.C. to see the President. We had not little trouble to be taken to his office. We wore overcoats and would be fed at home. We told Mr. and Mrs. thepleasant and loveable glad we were the
Genii and he hoped we would not be needed. Told us we could do more at home to help them at the front. Then we could do their
own. Good hand shaken and great
love, E. W.

[Signature]
Woodring, Peter  Freeport, Ill.  Waterloo, Iowa

Waterloo Iowa
Apr. 18, 1931

Mr. Howard W. Terry: My dear Sir,

Our letter read at hour ago. And, as I have leisure, I will answer it before it is laid aside. I suppose you have a copy of "Freepost's Lincoln" - the Memorial edition of a book gotten out by the Freeport Lincoln Association after the unveiling of the Statue of Lincoln Aug. 30-1929. If so, you have the names and addresses of all who attended those ceremonies.

If you do not have this book, and will write me again, I will send you a copy there, and mail same to you.

I will say further that this book is illustrated and gives
full particulars with all the speeches of the occasion, and a copy was sent me — as one who heard the great debate of Lincoln and Douglas. The book contains some 300 pages — and is published by W. J. Raouligh, Freeport Ills.

My own recollections are that of a 14 year old boy who living 6 miles North of Freeport, and loved to "go a fishing" started early to fish in the Peeler's Creek — at Freeport, but when the tides began to play, and I had heard about this wonderful debate that was to take place, I threw away my Willow Pole, took off my line, and "followed the crowd." I do not now remember what either one said — I did
3
understand that Lincoln "won out" on the side of the Republican party. My father was a
member of the party for several years.

There were 6 of us boys
I the fourth you know. Hour
of our enlistees and served through the war - all coming home without more than a
slight wound. But - Dad,
all are now married beyond the
age one young brother and I. I am 86 years old. I have a good wife, a good home,

A host of children - grand
children - great grandchildren - and a happy

Thank God for it all
I have lived a Christian
life for 64 years and
I am a Republican in politics, and an Anti-Secrecy, Christian.

With warm, kind, greeting and best wishes

Sincerely yours,

Peter Woodring

Late of 62 1437 1st Ault St.
1021 Randolph St.
Waterloo
Iowa
Mr. Louis A. Warren,
Director of Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir:

I see where you are making a list of the "old timers" that personally saw Abe Lincoln.

My mother - Mrs. Mary Woodruff - of Manistique - Michigan - R.P. F. 2
saw Mr. Lincoln when he was making his second campaign for president at Corning, New York. She then lived at "Irwin Center," N.Y. now called Presto.

She is 82 yrs. old. Was born in Sept. 2
1858. She lives on a farm about a
mile from me and is quite active yet.

Yours Respectfully

Mrs. Alphonse Reschur
Manistique

R.P. F. 2 Mich.
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Mrs. Belle Wright
Galesburg, Ill.

Plymouth, Ill.

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Mrs. Belle Wright

Galesburg, Ill.

I noticed your letter, recently published in our home papers concerning the 11th person in Illinois who heard of Yangmin. I met Lincoln personally when he spoke in Galesburg. I shook hands with him. He wished him well and he replied in a few kindly words. I heard the debate that day. Of course there was no inconvenience crowd present.

I was born Aug. 16, 1846 as you see. I am 86. Suppose there are others who are older yet than I who heard I met him that day. If not I would like to reply to your request.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Belle Wright

Plymouth, Ind.