

Aurora, Ill., Jan 31, 1896

Miss Ida Tarbell:

Dear Madam:

My Grandmother

Mrs. C. L. Hoyt, who is in receipt of your letter of recent date, has allowed me to answer same and send you a copy of Mr. Lincoln's, hitherto unpublished, letter to my Great-grandfather, Charles Hoyt.

She also remembers an incident in the life of Mr. Lincoln as she knew him, which I believe may be of some interest to you.

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In the fall of 1848 Mr. Lincoln was employed by Mr. Chas. Hoyt as counsel for him in a case regarding certain riparian rights of Mr. Hoyt's property on Fox River here in Aurora.

Mr. Chas. Hoyt then lived with his son, Mr. C. L. Hoyt, deceased, and his wife, my Grandmother.

While Mr. Lincoln was here he stayed with Grandmother and Grandfather and was with them for three weeks. Grandma says he won the favor and

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warm regard of all with  
whom he became acquainted  
she remembers that  
while at the table he kept  
the family laughing almost  
all of the time at his droll  
stories and anecdotes.

Mr. Lincoln won the  
case for my Great-grand-  
father who was, consequently,  
very grateful to him. Thus,  
when Mr. Lincoln took the  
stage to go home Great-grand-  
father, who besides being a  
miller kept a store of gener-  
al merchandise, put a  
package into his hands  
and said, "Here is a present  
for your wife."

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The package, however, contained  
broadcloth, for a suit of  
clothes and Grandmother  
says that Mr. Lincoln wrote  
back, in a letter which has  
unfortunately, been lost, that  
his wife was indignant on  
opening the bundle and  
remarked that she didn't wear  
trousers nor a coat and vest  
which to her were closely  
associated with broadcloth.  
Grandmother says that while  
Mr. Lincoln was here he  
wore homespun clothes and  
that this was the first  
suit of broad that Mr. Lincoln  
ever possessed

Grandmother wishes me  
to acknowledge the receipt  
of the magazines which  
you have kindly sent to  
her.

Sincerely yours,  
Allen G. Hoyt.

Clinton, De Witt Co.  
Nov. 18, 1854.

Mr. Charles Hoyt

Dear Sir,

You used to express a good deal of partiality for me; and if you are still so, now is the time—some friends here are really for me, for the U. S. Senate; and I should be very grateful if you could make a mark for me among your members—Please write me at all events giving me the names, post-offices, and "political position" of members, round about

you—Direct to Springfield—

Let this be confidential—

Yours truly

A. Lincoln