In Aug 1862 in response to the Presidents Call for more troops I enlisted and was mustered into Co C 150th Pa Vols, about the first of Sept our Regt was ordered to Washington where we arrived one morning about daylight, the next day we marched out to Fort Stevens & back again the second day we went into camp at Meridian Hill, about dark, Capt Lockwood of Gen Wadsworths Staff rode into camp and ordered Col. Hendelcoper to send two companies to the Soldiers Home immediately, on our arrival there, we first learned that we were to guard the Presidents House, he was at the time living in one of the Cabins near the Soldiers Home, Early the following morning a servant came to camp and informed the commanding Officer Capt Dunlop that the President sent his compliments & requested him to take breakfast with him which request was complied with as soon as he could arrange his toilet, the Capt as well as the rest of the company having slept on the ground that night on introducing himself to the President, the President replied he had appointed a man by that name a collector of Internal Revenue in Penna a few days

before, Capt Dunckin informed him he was the man, but as his services were needed in the field he had returned ~~to~~ the appointment, and recommended the appointment of a friend, which was promptly made we remained on guard duty at the Soldiers Home ~~during the month of~~ untill Nov 13 when we received an order to report for duty at the White House, During our stay at the Soldiers Home and at the White House we were often thrown in contact with the President, who was very ~~sociable~~ agreeable and often came out of the house and entered into conversation with the boys on duty, he was particularly friendly with one W. H. H Williams who happened to be his exact ~~height~~ height, one evening when the Sergent of the Guard was making his rounds he found the President & Williams back to back with their hats off trying to see which was the taller ~~st~~ Williams was taken sick and sent to the Hospital and finaly died, when the President was informed of the fact he appeared to feel badly and ~~[illegible]~~ ~~himself~~ and said he was sorry he had not known his friend ~~he~~ was so sick or should have gone to the Hospital to see him, he no doubt had a warm friendship for him

it was the President custom to have his breakfast about six in the morning and leave for the City about seven O.C. a squad from Scotts 900 Cavalry acted as escort, while we remained at the Soldiers Home Capt Derrickson accompanied him on his trips to and from the White House.

The President evidently paid very little attention to his own personal welfare as the front hall door of his residence at the Soldiers Home was scarcely ever locked, I remember one night about twelve o'clock a Cavalryman came up to the front door and said he had a message to deliver in person to the President As I was Sergeant of the Guard, I asked him to give it to, he at first refused but finaly complied, (having been previously instructed, in similar cases. I opened the front door went up stairs knocked at the Presidents bedroom door which was unlocked, walked in turned up the gas handed him his spectacles, & the message, which he read and receipted for, without leaving his bed I turned down the gas closed the door and thought how little he thought of his own safty

The Sunday following the Battle at Fort Stevens which was about two from ~~one~~ mile from the Soldiers Homes, the President came over to Camp and asked Capt Getchel ~~Getchell~~ if he would ~~did~~ not like to take a ride, saying that Mrs Lincoln had gone to Church in the City with his horses, the Company Ambulance was ordered out and while the horses were being hitched up the, President chanced in, and accompanied by Capt Getchel drove over the ground where a few hours before the armies of the Union & Confederacy were contending for supremacy. On another sunday I remember of his sending over to the Capt. a request for the team and Ambulance to take him to the White House, The driver a young german named Philip Joann relates how when going along on 13th St the bur ~~came off~~ and the left front wheel ~~came off~~ dropping the axle to the ground and the President who was sitting on the seat in front with the driver was thrown to the ground alighting on his feet and catching the horses by the bits, Of course a crowd was soon gathered about them, the bur was found and the wheel ~~was~~ replaced, ~~as~~ just then

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2. M. Gen Meigs rode up and offered his horse to the President, who declined his offer saying he would proceed on the old line.

Some time after the above accident occurred little Tad sent for me to come to Whitehouse to see him, his Father & he both being somewhat ins disposed, (it was the time the President was reported to have the Small Pox) I spent two or three hours with them that afternoon, very pleasantly, in refering to the accident and congratulating the President on his escape he said he had been in several runaways & was never frieghted by horses but about the worst scared he ever was, was when he was a young man he had been hauling wood with a yoke of steers and going through the woods with an empty wagon, sitting on the hounds with his legs hanging down on either side something frighted the steers, they started to run and every time the wheels would strike the root of a tree he would bounce up in the air they finaly got out into an open field when he got them stopped, he also told me about Col Elsworth and how he tried to have him go into the service at that time but could not prevail on him to wait a while

he said Elsworth read law in his Office and was the first Officer killed in Virginia, he got a fuel glass and pointed out to the House in Alexandria (eight miles) away in which he was killed, he also related several other stories which I cannot now recall.

The President frequently visited our Camp on Sunday evening and talked with the boys and occasionly took a drink of Army Coffee and ate a plate of beans, I remember one evening when his wife was with him he turned to her and said "Mother this better Coffee than we get at home, for which remark she did not seem well pleased.

One day when the workman were mowing the Lawn in the rear of the White House, the President happened along and taking the sythe from the man called Sandy, said Sandy you dont hold your sythe right, let me show you how, he mowed a swath perhaps three or four rods in length and then putting his left foot out to the point of the sythe remarked that it was not being right for him

7

One day ~~Tad~~ Little Tad came over to Camp and asked Phillip Yokum (the Co Teamster) to go down street with him on an errand for his mother near Willards Hotel they were halted by the Patrol Guard Phillip being a soldier was asked for ~~his~~ a pass which he did not have, the Lieutenant of the guard ordered him to fall in, and off they started for the Central Guard House, Tad remonstrated and told the Officer he was the Presidents son and that he would be responsible for the soldier, the Lieutenant said that made no difference, then said Tad I will go too, all right fall in, they were both marched off to the Central Guard House, when the matter ~~of~~ was explained to the Officer in Charge he furnished Yocum a pass to return to Camp and Tad was so ~~incensed~~ provoked, he told his Father and shortly ~~has~~ after came back to Camp with a pass which read thus

Guards & Patrols

Pass Phillip Yocum of the Presidents Guard

A Lincoln

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8

~~December in 1864~~ I think it was, in 1864 two brothers members of our company Samuel & Levi McCall received a letter from their sister who was the wife of a Major in the Rebble Army, The Major had been taken prisoner by the Western Army and was confined on Johnstons Island, he was taken sick and tried to get paroled so he could be sent to Meadville Pa where his wife's parents lived but with all the influence he could bring to bear on the War Dept he was unable to secure the parole, his wife finally wrote to her brothers to see if they could not have our Member of Congress ~~[illegible]~~ see the President, instead of going to the M.C. they went direct to the President, themselves the Parole was immediately granted

in 1864 a general order was issued by Gen Grant to give as many soldiers as could be spared from the army a ten day furlough some of the boys in our company who wanted to go home pretty bad interceded with ~~[illegible]~~ Tad to get them a furlough, he made out a list of those who wanted to go home ~~and took it~~ some twenty five or thirty and took it to the Secretary of War and had furloughs ~~issued~~ granted to the ~~men~~ them without

the knowledge of our company Commander, the Capt, who was very much troubled, went immediately to the War Dept and complained about it, saying if Jad kept on issuing orders he would have all control over his men, the furloughs with two or three exceptions were withdrawn. Jad was a great friend of Sec't Stanton and almost any request he asked was granted, one day I went over to the War Dept with him, and as we approached the secretary of War's Office I expected of course to wait in the hall till Jad came out, but he insisted on my going in with him, as we entered the secretaries room he introduced me to Mr Stanton who invited me to be seated, while Jad talked with him for several minutes, after which we left the Office, as we came out into the hall, we met a Brigadier Gen, who asked me if I had been in the Secretaries Office when I replied I had, he said he did not understand how I (an enlisted man) could see him, when he had been waiting a two or three days to see him and had not had an opportunity yet.

If you think the above should not be printed please strike it out

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The President frequently came out of the White House as late as ~~midnight~~ as twelve o.c. at night to go over to the War Department, The Guards in front of the house were instructed to always follow him ~~a~~ marching a couple of rods behind ~~him~~ & remain until his return I believe he protested about it but was informed that they were only obeying orders I ~~believe~~ think in the testimony at the trial of the Assasins it was shown that it was the original intention to kidnap the President but on account of the House being ~~surrounded~~ well guarded by soldiers that plan was abandoned.

~~We were the recipients of many acts of kindness from Mrs Lincoln, she frequently~~ ~~[illegible]~~ Mrs Lincoln was very kind to the boys and on more than one occasion furnished us with a Turkey Dinner either on Thanksgiving or Christmas,

C. M. Derickson
Mercer Pa
12/15 '97.

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