From a MS of Henry A. Wilder 125 So Clark St. returned April 29. 96 See letter consenting to our use of this fragment.

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In the year 1864, I was appointed to a clerkship in the Secretary of War's Office.

It was a custom of mine in going to and from the office to pass through the White House grounds, and by the Executive mansion, and it gave me many an opportunity to meet President Lincoln. In those days the shawl was used instead of the overcoat of to-day, as a winter wrap, and on cold days Mr. Lincoln had a big shawl thrown around his shoulders, when going from the White House to visit his Secretary of War, Edwin M. Staton. My presence became so familiar to the President that we involuntarily recognized each other, although I had never grasped his hand except as a member of the large crowds that used to assemble in the East room of the Executive mansion. His little son Tad was often his sole companion and I distinctly remember on one occasion when the little fellow was following in the rear of the President carrying a miniature flag, and singing out in a loud voice - Three Cheers for "Old Abe." The President enrapt in thought not giving the slight-

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"Old Abe." The President enrapt in thought not giving the slightest attention to the antics of his pet boy. The last time I remember of seeing the President and Tad together was the occasion when Mr. Lincoln delivered his last address to the public. It was a little while previous to the assassination and was upon the reconstruction of Louisiana. The first state requiring action. A large and patriotic assemblage were in the White House grounds about 8 o'clock in the evening awaiting the appearance of the President at the middle window. Soon the well known face appeared and his son Tad along with him. The President read his address from manuscript and Tad perched upon an improvised elevation held the light. It was the last utterance of President Lincoln in public. Tad was a great favorite with the people of Washington.

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