

July 26, 1927

Mr. V. H. Biddison
605 Mayo Building
Tulsa, Okla.

My dear Mr. Biddison:

You have a right to think me a very discourteous person. Last February you wrote me, making a Lincoln inquiry which interested me thoroughly. I was not in New York when it was received, returned to some heavy work, had a little illness - everything seems to have prevented my taking up the point you wanted settled.

It was a new point to me. I think I never heard of a star showing at the time of Lincoln's inauguration; or, if I ever did hear of it, the fact has passed entirely out of my mind. I have been making a little search, but as yet have found nothing to verify the story.

Secretary Wells, whose Diary records many matters of that nature, says of the weather on March 4, 1865: "The morning was rainy. Soon after noon the clouds disappeared, and the day was beautiful, the streets dreadful."

I went yesterday to the Metropolitan Library to consult the files of the New York papers, which I have learned have the fullest Washington news of that time - The Evening Post, The Tribune and The Herald. To my indignation, I found that some vandal had cut from all three of the files of these papers the reports of the inaugural ceremony.

I consulted Harpers' Weekly and Frank Leslie's Weekly, but found no mention of a star. Frank Leslie's Weekly says that it began to clear by eight in the morning and that the rain had ceased by eleven o'clock. He adds that it was estimated that more than 30,000 persons were present notwithstanding the depth of the mud in which they were obliged to stand.

If you have access at any time to the files of newspapers of that date it would certainly be worth while to see if they mention that star. The first time I am in Washington I will consult the files there.

I regret sincerely, my dear Mr. Biddison, that I have neglected this matter so long. It really interested me. I will keep it in mind, and if I come across anybody that was present at the inauguration - I think of no one now - or if I find any reference in periodicals of the day, I will let you know.

With thanks for your letter and renewed apologies for its neglect, believe me

Very sincerely yours