

September 17, 1941

My dear Mr. Boyd:

I am just back to my desk after a little enforced vacation and in my mail I find the letter you wrote me in August. Forgive the delay. It really was unavoidable.

This letter doesn't sound like that of an amateur hobbyist as you say you are. It sounds as if you are going at your Lincoln work with serious intent. I am particularly pleased with your interest in the New Jersey Lincolns. I spent considerable time nearly twenty years ago now trying to straighten out that branch of Lincolns. It seemed to be a matter of surprise to New Jersey historians that Lincoln had ever crossed the State, let alone carry on a business there, and I have never been able to settle the point which interests you. That is, the location of the Mordecai and Lincoln Gaps. My authority for naming them is the printed orders given by the Commander of the local militia taking care Monmouth County. He orders that in case of suspicious characters appearing beacons be flared from Mordecai and Lincoln Gaps. I found these orders in the Historical Museum in New York City, at least I think it was in that Museum. My notes are not clear. It's quite possible that it was in the local State records in the Public Library of New York. I was never able to interest any New Jersey Historical Society in locating these points. A few years ago the Superintendent of Schools in Trenton set one of his classes studying local history on the problem. If anything ever resulted he did not notify me. I think he would have done so if he had had any success.

the family

The most likely source outside of the Monmouth County Museum and Library and I think perhaps a little surer than that is a

Mr. J. Owen Grundy
54 Park Street
Jersey City, N. J.

I have been in correspondence with Mr. Grundy off and on for several years. He's done more intelligent work on this problem than anybody I know.

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And I think he would be glad to talk with you, show you what he has found, if you would make an appointment on your coming visit to New Jersey.

I am writing Mr. Grundy today telling him how pleased I am with what he's turned up and asking him if he would be willing to talk with you. Mr. Grundy and the Monmouth County Museum are the two best sources as I now see the problem.

I'll be grateful if you'll let me know what you turn up there provided it's anything satisfactory. I should say that one of your first steps would be to locate the records, and have a photostat made of the orders for beacons at these two Gaps.

It was a pleasure to have your letter. When one is obliged to have to give up active field work as I have been, it is a gratification to know that others are working on problems which have puzzled me.

Thanking you for your letter, and hoping you'll have success in your New Jersey quest, believe me

Very sincerely yours,