(1)

I was borne Oct-23. 1845. I went to learn the Shoemaking trade in Jan 1860 on ~~Aug 22nd~~ 1862 I enlisted in Co K of 139th Pa Vo, and acompanyed the Regt to Washington D C. the Co (K) with two (2) other Cos of the Regt were detailed to go out under a Flage of truce to bury the dedd of the 2nd Bull Run fight and I helpfed to bury 2000 dead of this battle. But the authorities refused to muster me in and I had to come home again. after a great deal of coaxing I finelly got the written consent of my Father and Mother, to enlist. there was a recruiting office here then, and I enlisted in Co. Co. 140th P. V. I. and was sent to the regt, then in Winter Quarters at Falmouth, and went with the Regt into their first fight at Chancellorsville, Va, I contracted the fever shortly after this fight, and when the Army started after Lee into Pa was sent to the Hospitall and landed in Philla Pa about the 6th of July "63" after I recovered I was sent to convalessent camps. near Wash D C to be sent to my Regt while passing through Wash D C I slipped pass the guard and wandered through the city finely landing in the Hall of the White House I saw no one in the hall, and went up stairs, and saw a doore to my left at the top of the first landing. I knocked, and getting no answer I opened the doore, and went in to the room.

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1830-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

as I entered the room. from a door on the opposite side there came, a tall dark complexioned man ~~came~~ in. he seemed to look me clear through, and asked me what I wanted; I told him I would like to see the President. I am the President my boy. said this tall dark man what can I do for you. I told him I had been in the Hospital, and wanted to go home before I went to my Regt: he asked me the name of the Officer who had enlisted me. I had forgotten his name then. and told him so. he told me it was an outrage to enlist a boy like me. that I ought be at home with my Mother. and that if I knew the officers name and Regt he would have him dismissed from the service. he then told me he could not send me home himself but would write me a few lines to the Sec of War and for me to take it to him. after writing a minute or two on a smal card he handed it to me and directing me where I would find the Sec of War ~~hand me the card~~. take this my boy I think you will soon get to see your Mother. he then opened the door shook me by the hand and bade me good morning. after I got out of the White House I looked at the card he had given me. And this is what was on it: word for word I now copy it for you from the Original which I have in my possession

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1947. Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

- Sec of War please see the Pittsburg boy He is very young. and I shall be satisfied with what-ever you do for him
Aug. 21. 1863 A. Lincoln.

(3)

I took this card over to the War department and after waiting for a long time on my turn I was ushered into Sec Stanton's office. What-do you want was the words that greeted me. I handed him the card and told him my errand. after thinking and looking at the card for a moment he said go back to your Regt and after the summer Campaign is over write to me and I will see what I can do for you we are not issuing any passes now, not even to Officers I went out feeling pretty blue I tell you, when I got into the hall a Gentleman to whom I had showen the card while awaiting my turn. Says well what success? I told him what the Sec of War had said to me. did you keep the card? said the Gent: no. the Sec of War threw it into the waste basket; get that card it will be something you will prize when the war is over if you live to get home. I went back opening the door myself with out Knocking. well what-do you want now? said the Sec. I would like to have Mr Lincoln's card. he called to one of his clerks and told him to get me the card he did so. and I left, went back to my Regt and when we went into winter Quarters. I sent home for the card (I had sent it Home) and when I got it I wrote to the Sec of War reminding him of his

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

Digital Images, 2011. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

promise to me. and requesting him that if he could not give me the furlough to send me back the Card as I prized it highly. in about three weeks. I received notice to come to the Col's tent. when I went up to see him he told me that he had recieved from the Sec of War a leave of absence for me. but that if he had any thing say in the Matter I could not go home as their were Officers and Men in the Regt who were more entitled to go home than I, and could not get passes. I told the Col I guessed he would have to let me go. as the Sec of War was higher in althourity than he was. he sent the paper to Gen Hancock who

sent the paper to Gen Hancock who endorsed on his letter, the Man will be given his pass at once, and it was done. I got Home after a good deal of trouble not having any Money and having an Officers leave of Absence instead of a furlough, and could not get transportation on it; I have this card now and money enough not byy it. I have a cut ~~taken~~ made from a photo taken after I was sent back from the hospittal. if you wish I can send it to you I send you an impression taken from it

Yours truly
A. B. Post