

333 East 42^d St.

Chicago, Feb'y 3^d 1896

Miss Ida M. Tarbell.

Care of Editor of W. C. Linn's Magazine
30 La Fayette Place.

New York, N.Y.

Dear Madam,

In view of the scrupulous
care and accuracy with which
you have scanned every de-
tail in your "Abraham Lincoln,"
it has occurred to me that
certain facts relative to his
unfortunate experience with
General Shields, might be of
interest to you and perhaps
to the general public.

My wife's father, Elijah Lott, who died last March in his 89th year at the home of his son, Mr. W. Lott, who resides at Irving Park, this City, was Postmaster and Justice of the Peace at Whitehall, Greene County Illinois at the time referred to, and may be said to be instrumental in preventing the duel.

Lincoln and a Dr. Merrifield of Springfield, passed through Whitehall on their way to Missouri or some islands in the Mississippi river in order to reach dueling grounds outside of Illinois. They stopped for dinner at the hotel or tavern opposite the residence of Mr. Lott, who,

being well acquainted with Dr. Murifield, was informed by the latter of the object of the journey. Mr. Lott was unacquainted with Lincoln and of course could not interfere; but it occurred to him that John H. Hardin and other personal friends of Lincoln, were at Carrollton, the County seat of Greene County, where court was then in session. As soon as Lincoln and the Doctor left the hotel, Mr. Lott mounted a fleet horse and rode to Carrollton where he met Hardin and told his story. Hardin and others immediately pursued Lincoln and Murifield and arrived upon the dueling ground just in time to prevent

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what might have been serious
consequences.

Mr. Lott's son, W^m W. Lott, tells
me that as a boy, he distinctly
remembers seeing Lincoln at the
hotel in Whitehall and the
old dilapidated buggy in
the street, in the bottom of
which lay several broadswords.

The late Mr. Lott moved from
Urbana Ohio to Whitehall Ill.
in 1835, where he lived until
1846, when he removed to Mount
Morris Ills. During eight years
of his residence in Whitehall
he was Postmaster and Justice
of the Peace - holding the former
office a part of the time under
the appointment of Andrew Jack-
son - although Mr. Lott was a whig.

His commission is signed by Amos Kendall - Jackson's Postmaster General.

Although I have none of the papers at hand I have seen his commissions for that and other offices. I think they are in the possession of Mr. W^m W. Lott, from whom, I have no doubt other corroborative facts may be obtained.

Hon. Shelby M. Cullom is acquainted with Mr. W. W. Lott and knew the late Eli'ah Lott during his lifetime. He, as well as others, will vouch for the truthfulness of both.

Should it interest you to pursue the matter further, I shall be pleased to procure and place at your disposal all obtainable data which you may desire.

Very sincerely yours,
D. H. Fletcher.