

June 26, 1935

Dear Miss Davison:

I humbly beg your pardon for my long delay to your letter of April eleventh. I have been having several weeks of rather over-crowded work and worry - illness in my family - and contracts to be filled. At last, however, I am free to take up my accumulated correspondence and one of the first letters I want to answer is yours.

You ask if I can give you any data about your Grandfather Johann Dressler^{relation} and to the founding of the Republican Party. I am sorry but I have never heard his name mentioned in connection with the beginning of the party. It was organized in Jackson, Michigan, in July of 1854 in answer to the call of some ten thousand petitioners who had been more or less closely connected with what was known as the Free Soil Party. It was not until 1856 that the Republicans were launched in Illinois and Mr. Lincoln joined them. It is probable that your Grandfather, if he were living in any one of the Northwest states at that time, would have joined the new party and probably been a leader but I do not find his name.

You say the tradition in your family is that he first mentioned Lincoln as President. I can find no evidence of this. The first mention for Lincoln as President in the Press, as far as I know, was on November 6th, 1858. The newspaper was the Sandusky Register and the nomination was made at a political meeting in Mansfield, Ohio, and the report sent to the Sandusky paper.

The Davisons and their possible relation to John Davison Rockefeller - there again I can give you no ^{help} as I know little or nothing of the ancestry of the Rockefellers.

It was interesting to hear from you through Mrs. Woods whose book on her experiences in Peru I read with a great deal of interest, the more because Mr. Emery from whom they bought the mine was a friend of my family. I knew him from childhood on.

Hoping you will find the information you are after and regretting that I cannot give it to you, believe me

Very sincerely yours

Miss Frances M. Davison
American Consulate General
Lima, Peru