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New York, Nov. 22, 1895.

Editor Jeffersonian,

Shroudsburg, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Pardon me for troubling you with a question. Is there, do you know, in a cemetery in your town the grave of one J. Somerfield Staples who served in the Union army as a substitute for Abraham Lincoln, and is this fact noted on his tombstone? I am editing for McClure's Magazine a series of articles on Mr. Lincoln, and as I thought that possibly I might make some use of this statement if it were true, I have taken this means of getting the information. I should be very glad to credit you with any statement that you will make in regard to Mr. Staples.

Very truly yours,

Ida M. Tarbell

Nov 25/95

This letter has been referred to me. He was a substitute and about 7 or 8 years ago, quite an article was published about in the Philada Press. Perhaps if you wish to it you can get a copy of it.
J. Somerfield Staples called to see the President several times by invitation - and was introduced into the family circle.

C B Staples
Shroudsburg
Pa

Capt Commd 2nd Penn - 193 Regt
Vol Infantry
2nd Lieut

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