Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

RICHARD P. MORGAN & SON.

RICHARD PRICE MORGAN,
Civil Engineer and Railway Expert.

DWIGHT C. MORGAN,
Civil Engineer.

DWIGHT, ILL. November 27th 189 5

Mr. H. O. Davis,

Bloomington, Ills.

Dear Sir-,

Replying to your favor of the 25th inst inquiring about a letter which I once received from Abraham Lincoln when he was Counsel at Springfield for the Chicago & Mississippi Railroad Company, I will first say, that the letter wihch you enclose and which purports to be a copy of Mr. Lincoln's letter to myself returning his annual pass for renewal, is inaccurate and I believe altogether untrustworthy.

For example the letter is dated nearly two years after my retirement from the management of the road and is addressed to me as Superintendent of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, a corporate name not authorized or known until 1861 about the date of the inauguration of Mr. Lincoln.

The original passed with other records of the affairs of the Company to its successors and finally as I have been informed to the care or possession of A. V. Hartwell, the purchasing agent of the Chicago and Alton Railroad Company at Chicago.

The letter was written in the spirit of a friend enclosing an expiring annual pass for renewal, which Mr. Lincoln was entitled to as Counsel for the Company.

I remember the letter quite distinctly and for such use as

you may desire to make of it, give it below as I believe it to have been worded and dated.

Springfield, Dec. - 1855

Richard P. Morgan Jr.

Supt. Chicago and M Rd.

Dear Sir-,

"Here's your darned old wheel barrow broke; father wants you to mend it so he can borrow it again this afternoon.

Yours truly

A. Lincoln

I think I am safe in saying that the terseness of Mr. Lincoln's style will be better recognized by his personal friends in my recollection of the letter than in the publication you sent me.

I am certain of three things-,

1st; - That the letter was written and that it was received by me.

2nd; - That my wording of the letter as stated is substantially correct

3rd; - That the date of the letter was in 1855 or 1856, most probably in 1855.

It is quite possible that the original letter was destroyed

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DWIGHT, ILL. 189

in the great fire of Chicago, but if not Mr. Hartwell may be able to give you information of it.

If the original letter is not found I feel justified in assuring you of the accuracy for historical purposes, of my remembrance of it

My acquaintance and friendship with Mr. Lincoln began when I was Constructing Engineer of the Bloomington Division of the Chicago and Mississippi Railroad (now C & A R'd.) in 1853

The City was so crowded that he could not find accommodations. I had a bed put up in my room for him and we roomed together during the term of the Circuit Court, about six weeks as I remember.

I hope the information I have given you will be of service to you.

Yours truly

Rich P. Morgan

P. S. I return herewith the letter of Miss Tarbell and also the very inaccurate rendering of Mr. Lincolns letter.

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Springfield, Feb. 13, 1858.

R. P. Morgan, Supt. C. & A. R. R.

Dear Sir: Says Sam to John, "here's your old rotten wheel-barrow. I've broke it usin' on it. I wish you would take it and mend it case I shall want to borrow it this afternoon." Acting on this as a precedent, here's your old "chalked hat." I wish you would take it and send me a new one, case I shall want to use it the first of March.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.

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How Lincoln Got His Pass Renewed

Bloomington (Ill.) Pantagraph.

Here's a souvenir of the great Abraham Lincoln. It is a true copy of a letter on file among the archives of the Chicago and Alton road, at the superintendent's office in Bloomington. It is a modest request for the renewal of a season pass on the Alton road:

SPRINGFIELD, Feb. 13, 1858.

R. P. Morgan, Supt. C. & A. R. R:

DEAR SIR: Says Sam to John, "here's your old rotten wheelbarrow. I've broke it usin' on it. I wish you would take it and mend it, case I shall want to borrow it this afternoon." Acting on this as a precedent, here's your old "chalked hat." I wish you would take it and send me a new one, case I shall want to use it the first of March.

Yours truly,

A. LINCOLN.

Sent by H. W. Bleyer
Milwaukee Sentinel

Trace this up. not in
Keith

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