

The close friendship between Abraham Lincoln and my father (Joseph Gillespie) commenced while they were serving in the Black Hawk war in 1832, and continued harmoniously until Mr. Lincoln's death.

My father's friendship for Mr. ^{Cyrus} Edwards was of longer duration and of a somewhat different character than that with Mr. Lincoln. He considered Mr. Edwards not only a friend, but also a preceptor, and one to whom he owed a life long obligation. Assurances, too, of the warmest regard had always marked the friendship between Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Edwards until the unfortunate circumstance alluded to in Mr. Lincoln's letter, occurred. It was evidently a misunderstanding on the part of both, growing out of the fact that Mr. Lincoln had been misled by the rumor of Mr. Edwards' withdrawal from the contest for Commissioner of the General Land Office,

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

3) and of Mr Edwards probably bring in ignorance ^{of the fact} that such a rumor was in circulation. It can be easily understood that my father was placed in a most delicate position; standing between two of his most devoted, tried and true friends, and knowing so well that neither would be capable of the slightest dishonorable dealing with the other, yet he was unable to satisfactorily explain away the doubt, to their minds. The impulse can be appreciated also, considering the relations between the three men, that led Mr Lincoln to turn with this almost pathetic appeal to their mutual friend, as if seeking some adjustment of the unfortunate affair. That my father had been endeavoring for eleven years to heal the breach is indicated by Mr Edwards' magnanimous assurance in his letter of July 4th 1860. that he would

3^{copy}
bury the hatchet with Lincoln.

The republican ticket of 1860, enclosed, is to show the import of Mr Edwards' letter, where he urges my father to be a candidate, if he is to be; my father for Congress and Mr Edwards for the legislature.

Josephine Gillespie Prickett