

3-11-1934

Letter, Chester E. Shuler to Henry E. Luhrs, March 11, 1934

Chester Shuler

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/fvw-manuscripts-original-manuscripts>

Recommended Citation

Letter, Chester E. Shuler to Henry E. Luhrs, March 11, 1934, Original Manuscript Collection, Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana, Mississippi State University Libraries.

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Lincolniana Manuscripts Collections at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in Lincolniana Original Manuscript Collection by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com.

CHESTER E. SHULER

NEWPORT
PENNSYLVANIA

March 11, 1934

Mr. Henry E. Luhrs,
"Liebes-Heim",
Shippensburg, Penn'a.

Dear Mr. Luhrs:

Your letter of March 5, directed to my father, Zachary Taylor Shuler, has reached me--due to the fact that on February 13, father was summoned from this life. I am very sorry that he could not have received your letter because he never tired of telling about his experiences "with Lincoln at Gettysburg" November 19, 1863. Although he had reached almost 86 years of age, he had never met any person who was present on that occasion; and it was one of his great desires to talk with someone who had heard Lincoln's famous address, that they might compare notes.

Since father cannot give you first-hand information--and I appreciate that that is what you desire--I will do the best I can to furnish you with what I believe is substantially the same information which he would have given in person. A few years ago, when his mind was still clear and his recollections accurate, I asked him to relate to me in his own words the story of his experiences when as a 15-year-old lad he chanced to visit Gettysburg and heard Lincoln. Being a shorthand reporter, I recorded in shorthand his story, which was later published in a newspaper. I have only one clipping in my possession which, unfortunately, is glued into my scrap book; but I have located a carbon of my original manuscript, which I am going to send to you, and which I trust may be of some interest. After it has served your needs, I would be glad to have it returned to me.

On Page 2 of this manuscript you will find a very definite reply to your question about hand-clapping after the address. I recollect that father told me many times that the crowd seemed mildly interested in the ceremonies; that the speaker of the day (Edward Everett??) tired everybody by his lengthy oration; that folks "wanted to see and hear Lincoln", and that father himself, being a boy of 15 and not yet having been in the army, did not remember anything "Abe" said. He used to tell, with considerable gusto, how he used most of his funds to purchase the "little book" (see Page 3) in order that when he arrived home his father, who was well educated and would demand a full account of the event, could "read for himself something about it." I had this book for years but unfortunately cannot find it now.

The autograph, of course, I cannot supply. I had hoped to locate one which I could paste on the card, but in vain.

I wonder whether you can furnish me with a bit of information concerning the Gettysburg event. Some time ago, Dr. Charles Calvert Ellis, President of Juniata College, asked me whether father could "cast a vote" in the controversy as to just on which words Lincoln cast the emphasis when he closed his address, ".....and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the the earth." Everyone I have ever heard repeat or read this address placed the emphasis on the words "of"... "by" and "for"; whereas Doctor Ellis has heard that he emphasized "people" in each instance. Unfortunately, my father stated he didn't remember anything Lincoln said--though he did remember how he talked. No doubt you have investigated this "controversy", and if so I should be most appreciative if you could tell me something about it.

Father served in the Civil War when only about 16 years of age, and as his experiances (personally related to me) were somewhat thrilling, I am taking the liberty to send you also a manuscript dealing with his war service.

Should the book you mention in last paragraph be prepared, I would be most happy to possess a copy--as anything relating to this Lincoln incident naturally carries with it a personal interest for me.

If I can furnish you with additional data, please advise.

Yours very truly,



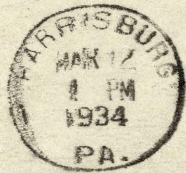
Chester E. Shuler

*Enclosed clipping shows a good likeness of father
& is the best picture I can supply. It was taken
about 2 years ago.*

CES

Chester E. Shuler
Newport, Penn'a.

Postage due 3 cents



HENRY E. LUHRS

"LIEBES-HEIM"

SHIPPENSBURG,

PENNA., U.S.A.

