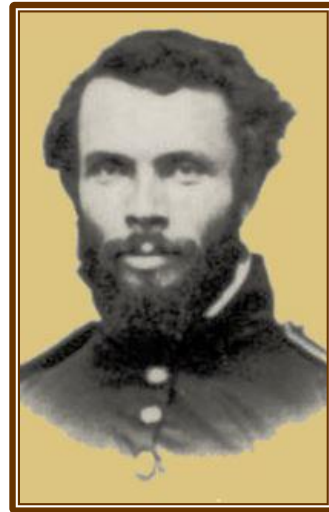


Seaford Native & Abraham Lincoln



The following is adapted from Seaford Historian Jim Bowden's Facebook page Seaford Delaware: A Look Back in Time.

On the next page is a letter to Abraham Lincoln written on the 24th of December 1860 from..... Seaford Delaware.

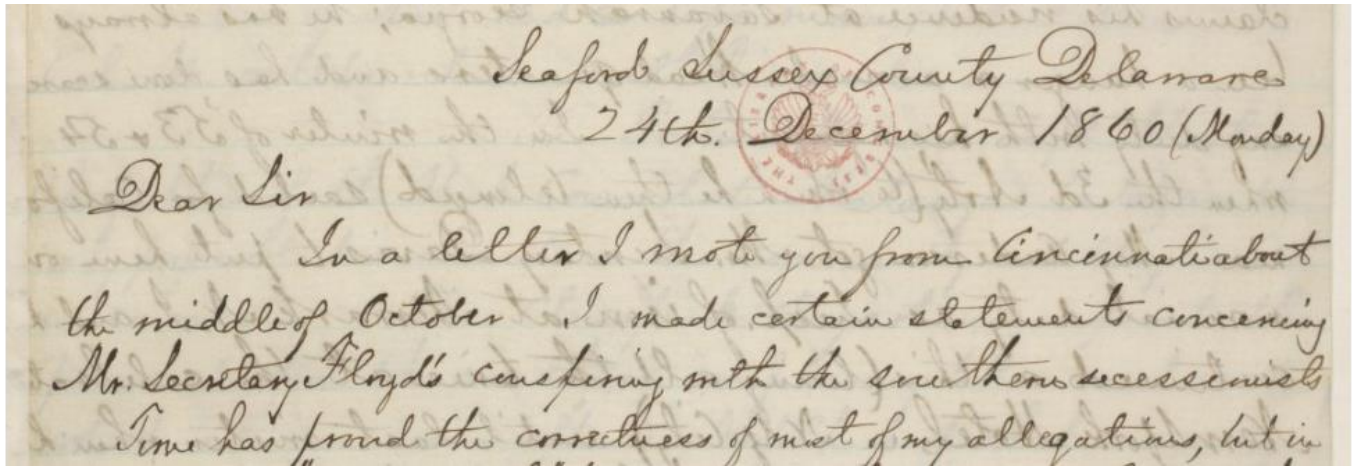
Lincoln had just been elected on November 6th that year but would not be inaugurated until the 4th of March 1861. The 4-page letter was a report on loyalty of Army commanders by Army artillery Captain George Whitfield Hazzard.

Hazzard a graduate of West Point in 1847 was a veteran of the Mexican wars. He was born in Seaford on August 31, 1825 and died in Baltimore August 14, 1862 from a leg wound suffered from a shell fragment.

The Hazzards were early settlers in the Seaford area. Many, but not all, went west to Indiana and settled.

The picture above is George Whitfield Hazzard from the United States Military Academy library.

Here is the opening of Capt. Hazzard's letter to President-Elect Lincoln:



The full text of the letter (with footnotes), as transcribed by the Lincoln Library, begins on the next page. Read through the letter to get a sense of why it was written. Pay special attention to the highlighted paragraph.

Why would Mr. Lincoln be interested in what Capt. Hazzard had to say?

The letter refers to Mr. Buchanan and Secretary Davis. Who are they and how do they add context to this letter?

The paragraph highlighted in grey refers to Seaford and the surrounding area. Summarize Capt. Hazzard's assessment of his home town and the reasons for that assessment.

In the last full paragraph, what does Capt. Hazzard say about people of Baltimore professing sympathy for the south?

Go online and look up the terms "plug uglies" and "dead rabbits," then explain the meaning of Capt. Hazzard's final sentence.

How is the political environment of 2020 like that of Capt. Hazzard's time?

How is the political environment of 2020 different from that of 160 years ago?

From George W. Hazzard to Abraham Lincoln, December 24, 1860

Seaford Sussex County Delaware

24th December 1860 (Monday)

Dear Sir

In a letter I wrote you from Cincinnati about the middle of October I made certain statements concerning Mr. Secretary Floyd's¹ conspiring with the southern secessionists. Time has proved the correctness of most of my allegations, but in the letter of "Occasional" published in the Philada Press of Saturday last the statements concerning the commanding officer of Fort Monroe Va. and of Fort Moultrie S. C. are I believe entirely erroneous. The Commandant of the former is not only a native of N. England, but so is his wife and until very recently Mrs. Dimick and the children have resided permanently at Portsmouth N. H. while the Colonel has seized every opportunity to revisit his family. Since the inauguration of Mr. Buchanan, Col. Dimick² has suffered considerably from Mr. Floyd's fondness for providing for his Virginia favorites. Col. Dimick is not a very bold man and will seek no unnecessary occasion to declare his attachment to northern institutions, but if he remains in command of Fort Monroe till your inauguration, the secessionists will get no foothold there.

Major Anderson³ the commander of Fort Moultrie is a native of Kentucky and a brother of Larz Anderson the son in law of Nicholas Longworth of Cin[cinnati]. and of Charles Anderson formerly of a lawyer of Cin. but now a stock raiser of Texas. Maj. Anderson's wife is a daughter of Gen. Clinch formerly of the army, a southern man. Major Anderson claims his residence at Savannah Georgia; he has always been a hanger on around Head Quarters and has done scarcely any duty with his regiment. In the winter of '53 & '54 when the 3d Arty. (to which he then belonged) sailed for California Maj Anderson got Mr Secretary Davis⁴ to put him on nominal duty as Insp. of iron at Newark N. J. and he continued on this (living all the time at the celebrated New York Hotel in N. Y. City) until last winter when he was promoted to the 1st Arty. Mr. Floyd then ordered him to Old Point Comfort (Ft. Monroe) but before he joined this new station the Secretary of War put him on the mixed commission ordered by Congress to inspect the Mily Academy. His friend Jefferson Davis was also on this commission and doubtless recommended Maj Anderson as his colleague. The hue and cry about Col. Gardner's⁵ sympathy with the fire eaters was raised to give the War Dept an excuse for removing him from Ft. Moultrie, and the rumors of Maj Anderson's devotion to the Union and of his wife's appeal to the President for reinforcements at Ft. Moultrie are all raised to blind the public. The only way Fort Moultrie can be retained three months is by the north showing so united a front against secession as to convince Maj Anderson (who is not deficient in powers of discernment) that the union shall remain "one and inseparable."

The commander at Pensacola, Col. Winder⁶ is a rabid disunionist, but he has recently been promoted to a regiment in California, and the officer who ought to succeed to the command of Pensacola (Capt Eddy) is a native of R. I. and a safe man, but I presume Col. W. will be retained at Pensacola.

The Postmaster and Capt Martin (the father of the U. S. Consul to Matanzas Cuba) are the only professed disunionists in this community and they are not in earnest. The Chesapeake Bay not only separates this peninsula from the southern confederacy but a rail road which is to run down opposite Norfolk and which is nearly complete has transferred trade and travel from Baltimore to Philadelphia. At some few points having steamboat connection with Baltimore and no rail road facilities there is a slight display of southern feeling, but I will guarantee to keep the whole peninsula including the two counties of Virginia in the present Union with not exceeding five hundred men. This hundred (township) which contains more slaves than any other in the state gave ninety-nine Lincoln votes at the presidential election and now twice as many can be obtained.

As to the city of Balt. I know it thoroughly and my wife's father is a Breckenridge merchant there. The present noise in favor of joining the south is merely for the sake of trade they having discovered that northern men are comparatively indifferent as to the political sentiments of those they trade with. Baltimore has a trade with Boston and also with Cincinnati and the west that she has not the slightest intention of sacrificing and when Ohio and Indiana announce that the federal union shall be preserved, the Baltimore Sun will cork up its thunder.

If the liberties of this country ever are subverted it will not be by plug uglies and dead rabbits but by our city merchants and manufacturers.

Respectfully yours

George W. Hazzard

Captain U. S. Army

Footnotes

1 John B. Floyd

2 Lieutenant Colonel Justin Dimick of the 2nd U. S. Artillery was a native of Connecticut.

3 ID: Robert Anderson, a native Kentuckian, West Point graduate and career army officer, was commander of Fort Sumter when it was bombarded in 1861. After surrendering the fort, Anderson returned to the north as a great hero and was promoted to brigadier general by Lincoln. During the war, Anderson commanded troops in Kentucky and played an important role in preventing his native state from leaving the Union. Poor health prompted Anderson's resignation in 1863.

4 Jefferson Davis served as Secretary of War in the cabinet of President Franklin Pierce.

5 Colonel John L. Gardner was commander of the U. S. forces at Charleston Harbor until he was relieved by Major Robert Anderson in November 1860.

6 John H. Winder resigned from the U. S. Army in April 1861 and went on to serve in the Confederate Army where he attained the rank of brigadier general.