

exclusively Civil appointments, otherwise I would like something of that description; And Recruit ing Service I fear is out of the question except as a matter of special favor, so that I hardly know what duty to ask. But this I do know that any position will be gratefully accepted.

May I ask the favor of a reply when convenient?

I am, General,
Very Sincerely Yours
Wm. H. Fitch.



F. S. W. 1. 1869

Hagerstown Md.
Oct. 1st 1869.

General,

Your kind offer to assist me in obtaining an assignment to duty is my excuse for addressing you at this time. I desired very much to have an interview with you before I left Washington but failed owing to your absence. Trusting that it may not meet your disapprobation, I wish to state frankly my circumstances.

I am at present entirely dependant for the support of myself and family upon my pay as an officer of the Army.

My health failed in 1865 & until the fall of 1867, I was off duty. When my health commenced

to improve, I entered into a
business arrangement with a
person in Hartford, Ct., and in-
vested all my capital, (some \$300).

This man, who was recommended
to me as possessing a knowledge
of the business, (Insurance) and
being otherwise suitable, managed
in the course of a year not only
to absorb all my funds but to
involve me in debt. Being thus
broken up, I applied for duty &
was sent to the Second Mil. District.

I have remained on duty ever since
until relieved Sept. 13th. By prudence &
Economy I have managed to discharge
over 800 Dolls. of my indebtedness; About
500 Dollars yet remain to be paid.

My wife has been seriously ill
ever since reaching here in July
last and I have a heavy bill of
expense on this account.

I mention all this General

because I am fond of publishing
my private troubles but because
I desire to be candid and to show
you how necessary it is that I should not
be idle. I have used every means in my power
to obtain some business but without suc-
cess; I therefore appeal to your kindness
of heart and ask that you will use
your influence with Genl. Sherman
to the end that I may receive an early
assignment.

I have endeavoured to give, and
believe that I have generally succeeded
in giving, satisfaction to those under
whom I have had the honor to
serve, and I do not think I am now
the less capable of performing my
duty. The will, at all events, remains.

You did me the favor, General, to ask
me what kind of duty I would like.

I desire simply to be afforded an op-
portunity to earn as well as draw
my pay. I suppose Revenue Officers are

Seamen's Temperance Union

This new and highly efficient organization is now in successful operation. It originated with a few friends of the seafaring industry. The meetings of the Temperance Union are held on Monday evening of each week at the Sailors' Home, 422 South Front, near Lombard Street. Prayer Meeting every Thursday Evening.

Rev. D. H. HARRISON, residence 808 North Twenty-first Street, Corresponding Secretary of the Pennsylvania Seamen's Friend Society, is the President of the Temperance Union. Capt. J. T. HARRISON, Superintendent of the Home, is Treasurer and Librarian. The remaining officers include many earnest Christian and temperance workers both male and female in all departments of labor, and in every section of the city.

THE OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY.

Our object is to render aid to the inmates of the Sailors' Home and other seamen engaged in our mercantile service; in the formation and continuance of habits of temperance, morality and religion.

SICK, DESTITUTE AND SHIPWRECKED MARINERS.

All money received from initiation fees, dues by donation or otherwise, are applied to relieve sick, destitute and shipwrecked mariners; to advance the interests of the Temperance Union and to co-operate with the Pennsylvania Seamen's Friend Society. It is proposed shortly to give an attractive public entertainment at one of our up-town churches, for the benefit of the Temperance Union, due notice of which will be given in the daily papers.

The motto of the Pennsylvania Seamen's Friend Society is as follows: "We aim to Christianize the Commerce of the Country and the World," and it is the purpose of this temperance organization to add an important link to the chain of influences that are at work for the accomplishment of this desirable end.

It is proposed, among other efficient agencies adopted by this society, to supply the sailor with an attractive temperance literature. A Bible, with a pledge, in which the owner's name is inscribed, will be furnished members of our navy, merchant and marine service. This has been known, in many instances, to save its possessor from the assaults of temptation and sin. A temperance pledge card also furnished free to all who sign the pledge.

Persons desiring of contributing to this cause, or for additional information on the subject, will please address Rev. D. H. HARRISON, 808 North Twenty-first Street; Capt. J. T. HARRISON, Superintendent of Sailors' Home, 422 South Front Street; or, A. H. HARRISON, M. D., 615 North Seventeenth Street.



Phil. Oct 1/69
(H. 176 - Vol. 1 - 1869)

Gen. B. Howard, Dear Sir. We beg leave to call your attention to an effort being made in this city to do honor to Miss Ida Lewis of Newport R.I.

The Reception will take place at the Academy of Music Oct 22. We combine with this testimonial an effort to aid the Sailors Cause, The Soldier, Sailors Orphan will assist. The demand of the Programme will be of a Miscellaneous Character. Will it suit your convenience please to appear, As early Answer will oblige. Yrs. J. H. Houghton, for Committee

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THE IDA LEWIS MEMORIAL.

The Ida Lewis Memorial to the Widows and Orphans, Soldiers and Sailors of the Grand Army of the Republic, and in aid of the Sailors' Home, 422 South Front Street, under the direction of "The Pennsylvania Seamen's Friend Society," which is to take place at the Academy of Music the last of this month, will be a commendable affair. The programme will consist of a marine fair, reception, grand public entertainment and a regatta.

The Committee of Arrangements are in correspondence with distinguished gentlemen and ladies at home and abroad, and everything will be done to render the demonstration successful, and an expression worthy the fair and fearless Ida, and honorable to the citizens of Philadelphia. Miss Lewis brings with her the beautiful boat, "The Rescue," presented by the citizens of Newport, on Fourth of July last.

This boat is truly beautiful. It is fourteen feet long, painted white outside, with a gold stripe or border, and two gold stars at the bow. The inside is finished with graining; trimmings of crimson and blue; the neck of the rudder is graced by a silver medal, inscribed and presented by the Narragansett Boat Club of Providence, R. I. Miss Lewis handles the oars as skillfully as an experienced horseman holds the ribbons. Due notice of particulars in reference to the Ida Lewis Memorial will be given in the daily papers.

"OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, R. I., Aug. 27, 1869.—It affords me much pleasure to state that Miss Ida Lewis, of our city, is, in my opinion, justly entitled to the various testimonials presented her in honor of her heroic exploits. I heartily endorse the movement in relation to the establishment of a Snug Harbor and Marine Hospital in Philadelphia, and am gratified to understand that the work has Miss Lewis's unqualified approbation and co-operation.

"JAS. ATKINSON, Mayor."

To Rev. D. H. Emerson, D. D., President of the Marine Missionary Society and Seamen's Temperance Union of the Sailors' Home, 422 South Front Street, under the direction of "The Pennsylvania Seamen's Friend Society."

Chandler, Printer, 306 & 308 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

IDA LEWIS,

THE NEWPORT HEROINE.

The Newport "Grace Darling" was born in the city of Newport, Rhode Island, in the year 1842. Her father, Capt. Hosea Lewis, was appointed keeper of the Lime Rock Light in 1854. It is located upon a rock covering a few hundred square feet of space, at the southern entrance of Newport harbor, and is entirely surrounded by water. Hence the only means of communication with the land is by a boat. Soon after the appointment of Mr. Lewis, a small dwelling house was erected on the rock, and his family took possession thereof in 1858. Mr. Lewis was paralyzed about eight years ago, and since that time has been almost a helpless cripple. His wife has since been obliged to give most of her time to caring for the light and keeping it in order, while Ida, the eldest of four children, has looked after the family, transported her brothers and sisters to and from Newport, almost daily, for the purpose of attending school, and aided in gaining subsistence for the family by hard and exhausting toil.

She first distinguished herself as a rescuer of human life in the same year that she went with the family to reside in the Light House. Four lads, who were in a small boat, were upset, and were in imminent danger of perishing, when Ida, discovering their situation, put off in her boat, and succeeded in picking all of them up and restoring them to consciousness.

1869

In the winter of 1866, on one of the coldest days ever known in this latitude, Ida rescued a soldier who had endeavored to have a sail in a frail skiff. It was a most daring feat and required courage and perseverance, such as few of the male sex, even, are possessed of. Yet the only satisfaction that our heroine received for thus risking her own health and life to save another human being from perishing, was in the approval of her own conscience.

During the prevalence of a gale in the fall of 1868, two men, who had lost a valuable sheep overboard, while searching for the animal, found themselves in imminent danger of being swamped. Ida saw their peril from the Light House, and, with her accustomed promptitude, jumped into her boat and went to their rescue. After landing them safely on shore, she returned and saved the sheep also.

Soon after the above, on one stormy, cold night, a boatman whose craft was disabled, took refuge upon an isolated rock half a mile distant from Ida's dwelling. Finding himself in danger of perishing from cold, he shouted for help, and, his cries being heard, Ida started out promptly and added to her previous bright record by the rescue of another imperilled life.

Miss Lewis's last and crowning act of heroism was the rescue from drowning of two soldiers on Monday, the 29th of March, 1869. She was quite unwell at the time, suffering from a severe cold. The soldiers had started from Newport for Fort Adams in a small boat under the guidance of a boy who professed to be capable of managing it. They had proceeded about half the distance when the boat was swamped, and the boy perished almost immediately. Miss Lewis's mother discovered the position of the soldiers, who were clinging to the boat in an almost exhausted condition. She immediately reported the fact to her daughter, and the latter rushed out without covering either on her head or feet, save a pair of stockings, and jumping into the boat she called to her younger brother to go with and aid her. A fearful gale was raging at the time, and the management of a boat was extremely difficult, even to an experienced oarsman like Ida. Nevertheless, the feat was accomplished, the men were dragged into the boat and taken to the Light House, one of them being so much exhausted as to require much hard work before he could be restored to consciousness.

Ida has since received a very handsome gold watch from the two young soldiers whom she thus rescued from a watery grave; but she

is deserving of a far more extended recognition than has yet been accorded to her. In any other country but this, she would long ago have received ample testimonials from the Government for such distinguished services as she has rendered. Her deeds are without parallel. Not even the feat of Grace Darling, so celebrated in history, can compare with it. Only once did the English heroine venture out to give succor to drowning men, and then she was accompanied by her father, but Miss Lewis has approached the scene of danger five times, unaccompanied by any one, save the last time. She has saved altogether ten lives by her intrepidity and daring.

[From the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, Sept. 1869.]

Ida Lewis, the daughter of the keeper of the Lime Rock Lighthouse, Newport, Rhode Island, is called the "Grace Darling" of America. The rescue of human life in the case of the English heroine was the result of a single brave impulse, but in the case of Miss Lewis it has been an important feature of her daily life and experience for the last twelve years. During that period she has saved ten lives, at infinite peril and utterly regardless of self, single-handed, amid pelting storms and intense cold, without adequate clothing to protect her. She has battled with the elements in a mere shell of a boat, and snatched ten human beings from a watery grave.

[From Philadelphia Evening Star, September, 1869.]

The Ida Lewis Memorial at the Academy will be an event long remembered by Philadelphians. Addresses, recitations, music, vocal and instrumental, will make up the programme. The Sailors' Home and Marine Hospital, for whose benefit Miss Lewis comes to Philadelphia, is one of our leading charities, and deserves a hearty response.



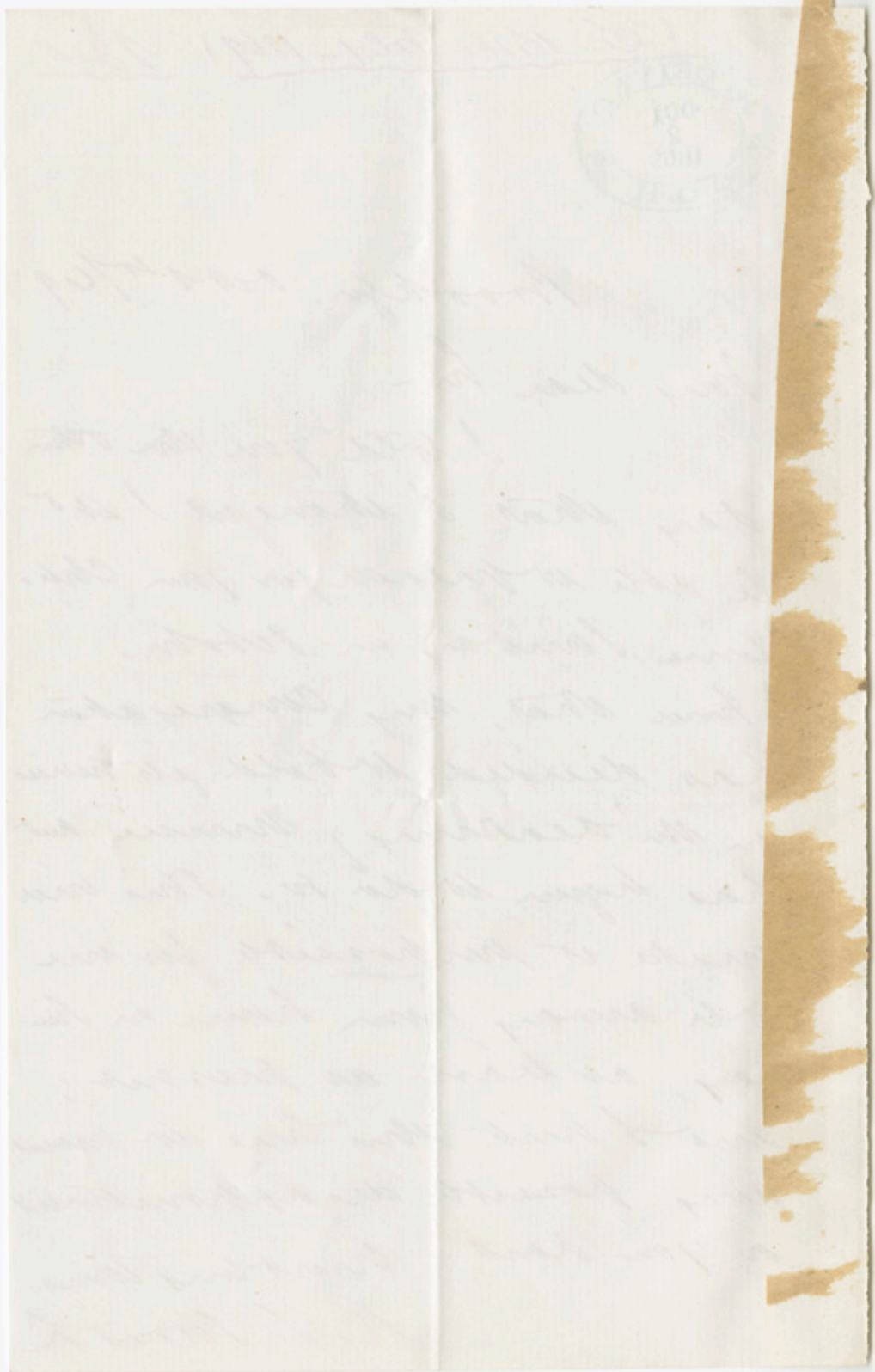
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Brooklyn, Oct 15/69

My dear Sir -

I told you the other day that I thought I should be able to preach for your Chh. some Sunday in October.

Since that, my Congregation has decided to hold its services in the "dearings; nursery", and has begun to do so. This will make it impossible for me to be away from home on Sunday, at least at present; and I wish thus to prevent any possible disappointment on your part. Most truly yours
R. J. Storrs





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Baltimore Oct. 1st 1869
Major Gen. O. Howard
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

You are most respectfully invited
to be present at the Grand State
Emancipation Celebration in Baltimore
city Thursday Nov. 4th. Given under
the auspices of the Colored
Republican State Central Committee
Rooms No. 11 Lexington Str.
Douglass Inst.

H. J. Brown Chairman
Thomas Spriggs Sec.
(Please answer)



Blank No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

The rules of this Company require that all messages received for transmission, shall be written on the message blanks of the Company, under and subject to the conditions printed thereon, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

THOS. T. ECKERT, Gen'l Sup't, }
NEW YORK.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't, } NEW YORK.
O. H. PALMER, Sec'y, }

Dated *Boston Oct 1* 186 *9*

Received at Cor. *432* 14th St. and Penna. Avenue *525*

To *Genl S. S. Howard*

Please have carriage
go meet me -

Saturday evening

Five⁵ o'clock -

E Whittlesay

a.a.a.g

Now 55 collect
30 delivery charge
Du

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Transmitted by this Company's wires and by its land and sea cables, all messages sent by the Company are delivered to the addressee as fast as they can be conveyed by the most direct route.

WILLIAM ORTON, Pres't.
O. H. PALMER, Sec'y.

THOS. T. MCKEY, Gen'l Supt.
New York

Dated October 1, 1887

Received at Gen. L. H. St. and Penn. Avenue 222

Wm. O. H. Palmer

These have come
and are -

within day
of the check -

Whitney
and

in receipt
of the same

Wm. O. H. Palmer

How'd Univ.

E-38. Vol. 1. 1869

OFFICE OF

National Freedman's Savings and Trust Company,

No. 472 Seventh Street, opposite the Post Office,

Washington, D. C. Oct 1 1869

Dear Guild O.O.H.

We have all the notes
here that were given in
the Church subscription
I suppose.

How nice you please
have all the money paid
or reported here. In no
other way can we ever
keep things straight. If
any one comes to you
to pay, if you take his
money let us know: or
else send him to the
Bank.

Yrs ever
D. H. Eaton
Actuary





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War Department
Washington City.

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Oct. 2- 1869

My dear General

I took dinner at Gen. Dunnie with Genl. + Mrs John R. Lewis. I found them both desirous that Gen. Lewis should be detailed to the duty recently performed by Gen. Sewell, that they might live here.

The General was too much of a soldier to express his wish to you, even indirectly. But I promised Mrs Lewis I would let you know how matters stood. You know the General so well that I need say no more.

Yours, affectionately,
Maj Gen. O. T. Howard. Wager Swayne

