

Burlington, New Jersey

GRANT'S LETTER TO LINCOLN AUTHENTIC

Some Doubt As to Burling- ton Document When Seen in Movies

GENERAL HAD TO COME TO THIS CITY

Dearborn Independent Has Article Quoting From Grant's Memoirs

Some time ago when the great film production, "Abraham Lincoln," was thrown on the screen at the Fox Auditorium, High and Broad streets, a letter from General Ulysses S. Grant to President Lincoln was shown in which the General told the President that he couldn't be his guest at the Ford Theatre, Washington, on the night when the assassination occurred.

Many who saw the letter doubted its authenticity. They thought it was a case of moving picture license and accepted it as such. Nevertheless the letter, which put Burlington in a famous place in history, was absolutely correct. It was written by Grant and the trip he made to Burlington on the night of the tragedy prevented him from being in the theatre when the President was shot.

Recently the Dearborn Independent published an article entitled, "How Lincoln Met Death." The following is taken from the story:—

'General and Mrs. Grant did not attend the theatre with the Lincolns that evening, the following reason being given by General Grant in his personal memoirs:—

"While in Washington I was very busy for a time in preparing the necessary orders for the new state of affairs; communicating with my different commanders of separate departments, bodies of troops, and so on.

"But by the 14th I was pretty well through with this work, so as to be able to visit my children, who were then in Burlington, New Jersey, attending school. Mrs. Grant was with me in Washington at the time, and we were invited by President and Mrs. Lincoln to accompany them to the theatre on the evening of that day.

"I replied to the President's verbal invitation to the effect that if we were in the city we would take great pleasure in accompanying them; but that I was very anxious to get away and visit my children, and if I could get through my work during the day I should do so.

"I did get through and started by the evening train on the 14th, sending Mr. Lincoln word, of course, that I would not be at the theatre."