

Ward (Lester Frank).

Washington, June 27, 1883.

The
Washington
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Hutchison: Pardon the

delay in complying with your request about the biography. I hoped to see you again and arrive at a little more definite idea of the nature and object of the data you desire, but have not thus far succeeded.

If the following me moranda are greatly deficient for your purposes please let me know and I may be able to supplement them:

Born June 18, 1841 at Joliet, Ill. — Christened Lester Frank — Parents removed from J. when I was 1 year old — Spent next ten years on my father's farm in Cass township, DuPage Co. Ill., then ~~three~~ ^{four} years at St. Charles, Kane Co. Ill., where much of the time was spent at my father's saw-mill two miles from the village — In 1856 my parents moved to Iowa, pre-empted land in a new prairie region in Buchanan Co. — Lived there in the wildest manner till my father's death in Jan. 1858. — Returned with my mother + brother next older to St. Charles Ill. in the spring of 1858. Worked for a farmer in that vicinity the summer and spent the

winter at the homestead in the village attending the village high school, keeping "bachelor's hall" with my brother, also at school, our mother living with a daughter at Geneva two miles distant., circumstances very straightened. — Left St. Charles in June 1859 with said next older brother for Wysox, Bradford Co. Pa. (near Towanda) where a much older brother (my "big brother" of whom I have spoken) had established himself in the wagon-hub business and promised to give us a chance to go to college in a few years — this business failed at the end of two years leaving us two years older and no nearer college. — Foreseeing the crash six months in advance I withdrew and took a country school to teach. Taught the winter terms of 1860-61 and 61-2, attending the Susquehanna Collegiate Institute at Towanda during the fall and spring terms and working at haying + harvest for farmers during the summer vacation. — Went to war in August, 1862 and was discharged for wounds in Oct. 1864 — Spent the autumn + part of the winter following my discharge in Pennsylvania where I had married, and in May 1865 entered the civil service at Washington (~~Treas. Dept.~~) where I remain still. — Entered the Columbia College of this city in 1867 as a sophomore, attending evening recitations, &c., and graduated in 1869 as A.B. Took the law course in same inst. same year and took B.L. in 1871. — Studied for and rec'd A.M. in 1873. — Commenced studying practical botany in spring of 1872 — Left the Bureau of Statistics for the Geological Survey in March 1881. —

Very sincerely,
Lester F. Ward.