

The Stockton Record

Information Bureau

Frederic J. Haskin, Director

Washington, D. C.

3-26-40

Dear Mr. Beal:

There is no way of ascertaining the first man in the State of Nebraska to vote for Lincoln. Nebraska was admitted to the Union on the last day of October, 1864 and took part in the Presidential Election in November.

Anne Newport Royall was born June 11, 1769 in Maryland. Her father, William Newport, may have been an illegitimate son of one of the Calverts. The only thing known about her mother was that she had relatives in Virginia by the name of Anderson.

Anne spent her childhood in the frontiers of Pennsylvania, and returning to Virginia and entering in menial capacity, the house of William Royall, scholar, gentleman farmer, Revolutionary veteran and ardent Mason. He became interested in her and undertook her education, marrying her in 1797. At his death, 18 years later, he left her the bulk of his property but other heirs succeeded in breaking the will, leaving her penniless at the age of 54.

In 1824 she started to earn her living by traveling over the United States and publishing the account of her journeys. She was an ardent pro-Mason and anti-Evangelical. Her attitude against the President led to her trial and conviction on the trumped-up charge of being common scold in Washington, D. C., in 1829. After this, aided by Mrs. Sarah Stack, she embarked on the proprietorship and editorship of a small independent newspaper. She edited the Paul Pry from December 3, 1831 to November 19, 1836, and the Huntress from December 2, 1836 to July 24, 1858. She advocated veto of the United States bank charter, Sunday mail, transportation, non-partisan tariff, sound money, tolerance for Roman Catholic, no union of church and state, territorial expansion, international importance, and State rights in slavery.

In 1848 she was awarded a pension as a widow of a Revolutionary War veteran but it was so small that she was miserably poor. She died at her home on B Street where the Library of Congress is now located.

The postage mentioned in your letter has no value.

Truly,

Frederic J. Haskin