

## Spent Youth In Far West, Recalled Seeing Body Of Abraham Lincoln

Requiem mass will be offered at 10 o'clock Friday morning in St. James' Episcopal Church, Hackettstown, for William Foster Redding, who died Tuesday evening, February 26, 1957, in his 97th year. He had resided at 183 Main Street.

The Rev. Clarence W. Sickles, vicar of St. James, will celebrate the mass and the burial office will be said by the Rev. George W. Palmer, rector of Grace Church, Westwood, who formerly served as vicar at St. James'. Burial will be in Pleasant Grove Cemetery under the direction of the Cochran Funeral Home.

Very active until recent months, Mr. Redding was a member of the executive committee at St. James', where he had served many years, formerly as clerk. He was a native of Boston, born on October 26, 1860, one of three children to William and Amelia Carthouse Redding. His father was a major in the Union Army.

### Saw Lincoln's Body

He was a baby when the family moved to New York, and one of his earliest recollections was when his father took him to City Hall in 1865 and lifted him up



**William Foster Redding**

to see the body of Abraham Lincoln lying in state.

At the age of 19 Mr. Redding and a partner named Charley Watson headed west in a caravan of 31 wagons. He stopped in Kansas, Idaho and eventually to Montana and Oregon, doing some cow punching, freighting wool, food and cattle and even prospecting for silver, gold and lead. Those were the days when the West was still wild, and he saw a share of gun duels, Indian fights and horse thieves.

Returning to New York in 1890, he took up the electrotyping trade, which he followed later in Newark. He operated a hotel on Staten Island for 12 years before moving to Schooley's Mountain in 1920 to engage in chicken farming. He retired and moved to Hackettstown in 1940 at the age of 80.

Surviving is his widow, the former Gertrude Lucy Hopwood, whom he married in 1909. He also leaves some nieces and nephews.

The Hackettstown Gazette: February 28, 1957

NAME: William Foster Redding

DATE OF DEATH: February 26, 1957