

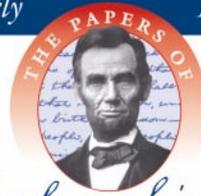
# LINCOLN EDITOR

The Quarterly

Newsletter of

October - December 2001

Volume 1 Number 2



Abraham Lincoln

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*"a great honor and a great labor"* A. Lincoln, October 26, 1863

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## PROJECT RECEIVES \$46,000 GRANT TO FILM AND DIGITIZE LINCOLN DOCUMENTS

The Illinois State Library has awarded the Illinois State Historical Library (ISHL), in partnership with the Papers of Abraham Lincoln and three other Illinois libraries, a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Dream Grant of \$46,000. Project Director Daniel W. Stowell worked closely with ISHL Director Kathryn M. Harris and Curator Kim Bauer to develop the grant application, one of only fifty-six that were successful among more than two hundred submitted. The grant will permit the purchase of a color microfilm camera and fund the microfilming and digitization of approximately 2,500 Lincoln documents from the collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, and the libraries of Illinois College in Jacksonville, Lincoln College in Lincoln, and Bradley University in Peoria. The grant also includes funding for the cataloging of each item to provide library patrons with access to digital images of the documents.

The LSTA award makes possible an important first step in the process of collecting document images for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln and also makes Lincoln documents in these four libraries more accessible to scholars and the public. This grant application was based on the Papers of Abraham Lincoln's plan to capture color images of historical documents on microfilm and then to have a vendor create high-quality color digital images directly from the microfilm. Using microfilm to capture the images ensures that preservation is a central component of the process from the beginning.

In the future, staff members of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln will prepare authoritative transcriptions of each of the documents. Thus, this generous grant makes possible the collection of the first several thousand images of what will likely be hundreds of thousands of images over the life of the entire project.

## FEDERAL JUDGE FILIPPINE DONATES LINCOLN DOCUMENT TO PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

On November 28, Senior United States District Judge Edward L. Filippine of St. Louis donated the Lincoln pardon and related document detailed in our last *Lincoln Editor* to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The documents will become a part of the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection.

Filippine received the documents from a colleague on the court, the late Judge Roy Harper. He presented the document to Illinois First Lady Lura Lynn Ryan, pictured at right with the judge. Ryan accepted the document on behalf of the State of Illinois. Both the judge and the First Lady spoke briefly about the importance of bringing the document to Springfield, the site of the presidential library and museum, which is now under construction.



Photo courtesy of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

# LINCOLN'S CHRISTMAS PARDON

## Abraham Lincoln to Whom It May Concern

Executive Mansion,  
Washington, Dec. 23, 1863.

Whom it may concern

The bearer, William Henry Craft, a corporal in Co. C. in the 82<sup>nd</sup> N. Y. Volunteers, comes to me voluntarily, under apprehension that he may be arrested, convicted, and punished as a deserter; and I hereby direct him to report forthwith to his regiment for duty, and, upon condition that he does this, and faithfully serves out his term, or until he shall be honorably discharged for any cause, he is fully pardoned for any supposed desertion heretofore committed.

A. Lincoln

[Endorsement]

Transportation by rail from Maryland Avenue Depot to the front—  
Army of the Potomac will be given to Corporal W<sup>m</sup> Henry Craft—[in Citizens clothing]

This paper must not be taken up by the Conductors

DC M<sup>c</sup>Callum

Col MD & Supt RR US

per W. H. Whiton

Dec 23/ 1863

[Endorsement]

Show the above to John H Devereux Supt Gov<sup>t</sup> RRs [at?] Alexandria Va

WHW

[Endorsement]

Respectfully referred to the Adj<sup>t</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> for execution of the orders of the  
Pres<sup>dt</sup>.

By order of the Sec<sup>y</sup> of War

Jas. A. Hardie  
A.A.G

War dept  
Dec 23/63

**Note on Transcription:** This transcription demonstrates the flexibility of textual markup for displaying and searching specific portions of document text. Blue text is in Lincoln's hand, red text is in other hands, and gray text is printed. All black text (title, endorsement labels, brackets) is supplied by the editors.

William Henry Craft, born December 31, 1840, in Connecticut, enlisted in New York City as a private in the 82<sup>nd</sup> New York Infantry Regiment on June 14, 1861. His regiment went to Virginia and fought at the First Battle of Bull Run, Yorktown, Fair Oaks, and in several of the Seven Days battles during the Peninsular Campaign. Craft had become a corporal of Company C by the time he was captured at the battle of Malvern Hill, the last of the Seven Days battles, on July 1, 1862.

Craft was a prisoner of war from July to late October 1862. Returned on parole, he "deserted" from Camp Parole in Alexandria, Virginia, on November 1, 1862. Nothing in the available records indicates why Craft left, what motivated his return, or what reasons he gave for his actions when he visited President Lincoln on December 23, 1863. With Lincoln's order in hand, Craft used government rail transportation to rejoin his regiment in Virginia on Christmas Day 1863.

After Craft's return, the 82<sup>nd</sup> New York fought at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor, as well as participating in the siege of Petersburg. Craft mustered out with his regiment on June 14, 1864. In the late 1870s, Craft moved to Chicago with his wife and five children, where he worked as a book finisher. He died on April 27, 1911, in Chicago.

Executive Mansion,  
Washington, Dec. 23, 1863.

Whom it may concern

The bearer, William Henry Craft, a Corporal in Co. C. in the 82<sup>nd</sup> N. Y. Volunteers, comes to me voluntarily, under apprehension that he may be arrested, convicted, and punished as a deserter; and I hereby direct him to report forthwith to his regiment for duty, and, upon condition that he does this, and faithfully serves out his term, or until he shall be honorably discharged for any cause, he is fully pardoned for any supposed desertion heretofore committed.

A. Lincoln

Document courtesy of the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection, Illinois State Historical Library.

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Jas. A. Hardie  
A.A.G

## LINCOLN'S "LAPTOP"

Robert La Bonte of La Bonte Woodworks, New Berlin, Illinois, made a meticulously researched replica of Abraham Lincoln's lap desk for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln this summer. The lap desk or box-desk is a handcrafted replica of the one Lincoln used while traveling the Eighth Judicial Circuit in central Illinois. The rectangular Honduran mahogany box folds open on hand-fabricated brass hinges to reveal a 12½" x 11¾" sheepskin writing surface. The unfolded desk descends, from the top of the box to the base, to give the writing surface a slight incline. Above the writing surface are several compartments to hold writing implements and ink bottles. One compartment has a removable cover with a vegetable ivory knob instead of the ivory one found on the original. Both the top and bottom halves of the writing surface flip up to reveal still more storage space. When folded, the box locks together with a small English-made latch and key. The top of the box bears an unmarked brass nameplate to match the original. The finish includes a coat of shellac and an outer coat of durable lacquer.



Mr. La Bonte created this replica from the original lap desk that is in the collections of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. The Lincoln Home obtained the lap desk in 1953, when it was under state administration, from a descendant of Stephen T. Logan, Lincoln's second law partner. Lincoln was said to have used the lap desk when he traveled the circuit (1837-1860) as part of his law practice, and later, Logan purchased it from Lincoln.



The project acknowledges with deep appreciation the generosity of J. M. Lloyd, Robert J. Wyllie, and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas L. Wilson. They join Benjamin Shapell as the first private contributors of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. Private donations are important to the success of the project. This year, individuals who donate \$100 or more will receive a copy of *Judging Lincoln: The Bench in Lincoln's Illinois*. For information about the booklet, see page one of the *Lincoln Legal Briefs*.



### MEET OUR EDITORIAL BOARD (Second in a series)



**Dr. Mary-Jo Kline** is the American History Specialist for the Brown University Library in Providence, Rhode Island. Dr. Kline received her Ph.D. from Columbia University. She has edited the papers of Aaron Burr, and was one of the editors for two volumes of the *Papers of John Adams*. She is the author of *A Guide to Documentary Editing* (Johns Hopkins, 1987, 1998). Dr. Kline is the current president of the Association for Documentary Editing.

“An edition of The Papers of Abraham Lincoln that meets the standards of modern scholarship and documentary editing is long overdue. Surely the record of Lincoln's public and private life deserves as much care and attention as that of Aaron Burr. And until that record is fully revealed by such a comprehensive project, the history of American politics and government, race relations and reform movements, and even our national literary heritage are the poorer.”—Mary-Jo Kline

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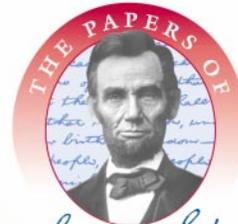
- By advising project staff of known or reported Lincoln documents in your locality. We are seeking copies of any document, letter, or contemporary printed account that relates to Abraham Lincoln's entire life, 1809-1865.
- By making a tax-deductible donation to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln in support of the project. Such gifts provide crucial support in furtherance of the project's objectives.

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*Abraham Lincoln*

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