

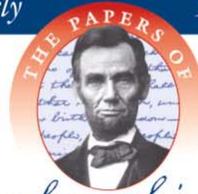
LINCOLN EDITOR

The Quarterly

Newsletter of

April - June 2003

Volume 3 Number 2



Abraham Lincoln

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

MAIL SURVEY UPDATE

On April 9, 2003, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln mailed information letters and response forms to most of the 5,258 repositories known, suspected, or hoped to have Lincoln documents (either by or to Lincoln) in their collections. The first response, a negative one, arrived by email from Canada on April 11.

Other respondents replied by regular email, using the form on our website, phone calls, letters, or filling out and mailing our form. The project has received a steady stream of responses, climaxing on April 21 and 22 when 451 replies arrived over the course of those two days. As of June 15, the project had received at least 1,440 responses, of which at least 184 repositories believe that they have something relevant.

Richard Schuldt and his staff at the Survey Research Office at the University of Illinois at Springfield, conducted follow-up telephone calls May 6-June 6 with many repositories that had not responded to the survey by May 6. The callers spoke with more than 2,215 people, determining that well over 1,250 of

those remaining repositories do not have any Lincoln documents. Most people responded to the survey pleasantly and helpfully. We received many compliments on our path-breaking, ambitious project, and many respondents wished us good luck. Several respondents thanked us for thinking of asking them. A few, however, refused to cooperate. Interestingly, one of those was the First White House of the Confederacy.

So far, the search has uncovered many commissions, appointments, and correspondence, which are no longer at the locations where Roy P. Basler found them for *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* in the 1950s, and some interesting letters to Lincoln, including one from a Hawaiian missionary, written in Hawaiian. A number of small repositories unexpectedly have a document or two, while several repositories have rather substantial collections.

The project thanks all respondents for their help and hopes to hear from others.

PROJECT MOVES FORWARD DESPITE BUDGET CUTS

This Spring, Governor Rod Blagojevich and the Illinois state legislature approved deep cuts to the state budget for the 2004 fiscal year to offset a major shortfall in revenues. These reductions have forced both the project's sponsor, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and its cosponsor, the University of Illinois at Springfield, to trim their financial support for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. Happily, both remain committed to the long-term success of the project.

The immediate impact of these cuts is a reduction in the size of the editorial staff. The loss of funding has forced the lay-offs of Dr. Glenna R. Schroeder-Lein and Dr. Dennis K. Boman. Schroeder-Lein has been with the

project for more than two years and has aided the project in many ways, including gaining intellectual control over the thousands of documents published in *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* and in other sources by refining our document control database. She has also been instrumental in organizing and implementing a national mail survey to locate Lincoln documents. Boman has been with the project for six months. He has been heavily involved in database management and in assisting with the mail survey. He will return to Michigan, where his wife is a member of the faculty at Wayne State University.

See **BUDGET CUTS** (on page 3)

YOUNG NAPOLEON VERSUS OLD ABE

Harmonious would not describe the correspondence between General George B. McClellan and President Lincoln after the Union's victory at Antietam on September 17, 1862. The battle not only led to Lincoln's preliminary Emancipation Proclamation five days later, it also brought a flood of correspondence between the Union army commander and the commander-in-chief. Lincoln prodded the "Young Napoleon" to pursue Lee's forces across the Potomac River, but Little Mac proffered many reasons why his army could not cross the river. McClellan's lethargic attitude, as Lincoln saw it, about giving chase to the Army of Northern Virginia culminated in the general's relief from command and from military service.

In a letter to his wife Mary three days after the battle, McClellan expressed his belief that his victory at Antietam cleared his military reputation and that he hoped to supplant General-in-Chief Henry W. Halleck, who McClellan called an "incompetent fool." Lincoln arrived at the battlefield on October 1 and stayed five days. During the visit, McClellan again wrote Mary: "These people don't know what an army requires & therefore act stupidly." The president stressed to McClellan the need to press an attack upon Lee, but McClellan retorted that he did not have the horses to safely follow Lee, who, McClellan believed, had superior numbers in mounted men. On October 6, Lincoln strongly recommended that McClellan's army ford the Potomac. Lincoln's frustration became overt in an October 24 letter in which he mocked McClellan's assertion that his horses, among other ailments, were "sore tongued." The president inquired, "Will you pardon

me for asking what the horses of your army have done since the battle of Antietam that fatigue anything?" The general responded with several reasons for the weariness. McClellan admitted to his wife that Lincoln's letter left him "mad as a march hare." Lincoln again responded to McClellan's reasoning, by implying that Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry "outmarched" the Union's. This obviously offended McClellan. Lincoln followed with the October 27 letter shown here. It clearly points out Lincoln's frustration with McClellan's case of the "slows." The general wrote Mary on October 29 that Lincoln's and Halleck's correspondence was "mean and dirty in character." Though the Army of the Potomac did begin crossing into Virginia on October 26, it took another eight days to complete the task. Finally, Lincoln fired McClellan on November 9 out of frustration and, astutely, just a few days after the completion of the midterm elections.

Scott L. Stabler
Research and Editing Fellow

George B. McClellan (GBM) to Mary Ellen McClellan (MEM), 20 September 1862, in Stephen W. Sears, ed., *The Civil War Papers of George B. McClellan: Selected Correspondence, 1860-1865* (Cambridge: Da Capo Press, 1991), 473-74; GBM to MEM, 2 October 1862, Sears, 488; Henry W. Halleck to GBM, 6 October 1862, in Roy P. Basler, ed., *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 8 vols. (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1953), 5:452; Abraham Lincoln (AL) to GBM, 24 October 1862, Basler, 5:474; GBM to MEM, 26 October 1862, Sears, 511; AL to GBM, 26 October 1862, Basler, 5:477; AL to GBM, 27 October 1862, Basler, 5:479; GBM to MEM, 29 October 1862, Sears, 514-15.

Abraham Lincoln to George B. McClellan

Executive Mansion,

Washington, Oct 27, 1862

Majr Gen. McClellan,

Yours of yesterday received. Most certainly I intend no injustice to any; and if I have done any, I deeply regret it. To be told after more than five weeks total inaction of the Army, and during which period we had sent to that Army every fresh horse we possibly could, amounting in the whole to 7918 that the cavalry horses were too much fatigued to move, presented a very cheerless, almost hopeless, prospect for the future; and it may have forced something of impatience into my despatches. If not recruited, and rested then, when could they ever be? I suppose the river is rising, and I am glad to believe you are crossing.

A. Lincoln

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Washington, Oct 27, 1862
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A. Lincoln

Images courtesy of the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection,
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

BUDGET CUTS (continued from page 1)

The budget cuts will prevent us from refilling these positions in the immediate future. In spite of the loss of these important personnel, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln will move ahead, processing responses to the mail survey, capturing images of documents at scattered repositories when staffing and funding allow, and continuing our commitment to developing the most comprehensive source for documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln during his entire lifetime.

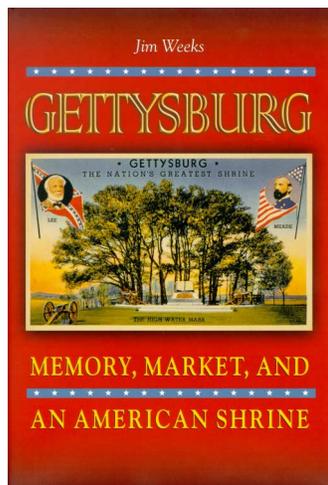
During these difficult financial times, the support of individuals and foundations becomes all the more important. The Papers of Abraham Lincoln will continue to move forward, albeit more slowly, until the economy recovers and the funding crisis has passed.

STAFF & PROJECT NEWS

Princeton University Press has just published Jim Weeks's first book, *Gettysburg: Memory, Market, and an American Shrine*. The book examines the commercial success and potent historical memory of Gettysburg in an effort to understand the battlefield's place in American culture.

In May, the book publisher ABC-CLIO presented Glenna Schroeder-Lein with a plaque acknowledging her twenty-five years of service abstracting historical journals for the company's publications.

Scott Stabler, a doctoral candidate at Arizona State University, was the recipient of several academic awards: the Collegiate Award for the best student paper at the Arizona History Conference in April, the ASU History Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate



DONORS

The project acknowledges with deep appreciation the generosity of the following contributors:

Maria Teresa Holcomb

Michael Nelson

North & South:

The Official Magazine of the Civil War Society

John Corey Qua

Studies, the William T. Hull Memorial Award to a Graduate Student for Excellence in Teaching, and the Arizona Historical Foundation Award for the best paper on Arizona or the Southwest.

Stabler was also the recipient of two research grants: the General and Mrs. Matthew B. Ridgeway Military History Research Grant from the U.S. Army Military History Institute and the Max Millett Family Fund Summer Research Award from ASU's history department. These grants will enable him to travel to institutions in Washington, D.C., Harrogate, Tennessee, and Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to conduct research for his dissertation.

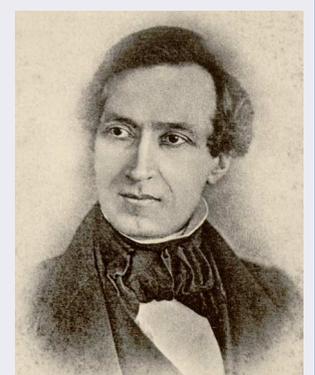
In June, Dennis Boman and Jim Weeks participated in the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents sponsored by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The week-long program took place at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

The project's two research and editing fellows concluded their work in June. Jim Weeks is moving to Madison, Wisconsin, to be with his wife. Scott Stabler will return to Arizona State University in the fall to teach a class on the Civil War and to finish his doctoral degree. The project was pleased to host the six-month fellowships, and the staff wishes both fellows well in their future endeavors.



STUART AND LINCOLN TOGETHER AGAIN

Cori Stuart, a recent graduate of Denison University in Ohio, began volunteering for the project in May. She earned her bachelor's degree in history this spring and will begin graduate work in history at UIS in the fall. She is researching old Lincoln-related journals to find Lincoln documents. Stuart is the great-great-great granddaughter of John Todd Stuart, Lincoln's first law partner.



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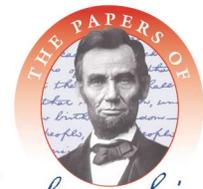
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How You Can Help:

- 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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