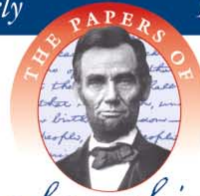


LINCOLN EDITOR

The Quarterly Newsletter of

July - September 2003

Volume 3 Number 3



Abraham Lincoln

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

ROLLING OUT THE LINCOLN LOG

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln is pleased to announce the electronic publication of *The Lincoln Log: A Daily Chronology of the Life of Abraham Lincoln*. This exciting resource is available through the Reference portion of the project’s website. *The Lincoln Log* incorporates all of the material published in 1960 by the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission as *Lincoln Day by Day: A Chronology, 1809-1865*, but this resource is and will become much more.

Staff members worked with the Scholarly Technology Group at Brown University to design a powerful interface for searching and browsing thousands of daily entries from Abraham Lincoln’s life. Users of *The Lincoln Log* can search every word in the text, or they can limit the search to a specific range of dates, the day of the week, or where Lincoln was at the time. Users can also browse

by year (with visual indications of which days have entries), by month, or by day. Finally, users can also find out what Lincoln was doing on today’s date throughout his life. In addition to the text of Lincoln’s activities, each daily entry includes the date, day of the week, Lincoln’s geographic location, and bibliographical references for the entry.

BROWSE
THE LINCOLN LOG
THE PAPERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

TODAY'S DATE IN LINCOLN'S LIFE
THE LINCOLN LOG
THE PAPERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The staff of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln will continue to update and correct the entries as new materials are discovered, and there are plans for several other enhancements as well. Users can preview the “Search by Person” feature by selecting either Mary Todd Lincoln or Edwin M. Stanton. When a user searches for Edwin M. Stanton, for example, the search returns all references to Stanton,

SEARCH
THE LINCOLN LOG
THE PAPERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

See **LINCOLN LOG** (on page 3)

PROJECT WELCOMES A NEW GRADUATE ASSISTANT

This fall, a second graduate assistant joined the project to maintain progress on the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. Marilyn Mueller is a graduate student in history at the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS), where she is in her second semester. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in history from UIS, graduating magna cum laude in 2002. Mueller has been the recipient of several scholarships, including the UIS Award of Excellence Scholarship, recognizing the



campus’s top student in the humanities.

Mueller is a Springfield native, who spent the first eighteen years of her professional life in the travel industry. She is currently interested in the history of music, African American northern migration, the jazz age, and civil rights. She is also interested in Abraham Lincoln and is currently working on a historiographic essay on Lincoln and civil rights.

Mueller will be a great asset to the project’s efforts to continue the search for Lincoln documents. She has prepared a mailing list of manuscript dealers and collectors for an upcoming mail survey. She will prepare the mailing and track and follow-up on responses.

“SLICKY BILL” GREENE ASKS LINCOLN FOR A FAVOR

During his presidency, Abraham Lincoln received letters from thousands of citizens. Some he reviewed himself, others his secretaries directed to the appropriate office in the federal bureaucracy. While Lincoln answered letters from total strangers, he also attended to letters from old friends. In early 1864, William “Slicky Bill” Greene and George Spears, friends from Lincoln’s early Illinois experiences in New Salem, wrote to Lincoln requesting the military discharge of Spears’s son Henry C. Spears.

Greene first became acquainted with Lincoln in 1831, soon after Lincoln’s arrival at New Salem, where they worked together in a general store. A year later, Greene served as a private in Captain Lincoln’s militia company during the Black Hawk War. Greene was a Democrat but claimed later in life that he was a political ally of Lincoln’s. After passage of the Internal Revenue Act in 1862, Lincoln appointed Greene to serve as tax collector for the 9th Illinois congressional district. The following year, Greene went to Washington to see Lincoln in person and deliver a letter of support for beleaguered General John A. McClernand.

In 1824, George Spears, a native of Kentucky, settled in Clary’s Grove near New Salem. He came with his family, his parents, and his parents’ former slaves. Spears also became acquainted with Lincoln while Lincoln was working in Denton Offutt’s New Salem store. Spears eventually owned a large estate, where he farmed and served as a justice of the peace.

George and Maria Spears had five children together, including Henry C. Spears, who was born in Kentucky in 1833. Henry Spears enlisted in the Union Army as a corporal on August 11, 1862, at Tallula, Illinois. When the 114th Illinois Infantry organized at Camp Butler, near Springfield, Illinois, a few weeks later,

William G. Greene and George Spears to Abraham Lincoln¹

Collector’s Office,
Petersburg, Ill., Jan^y 29th 1864

His Excellency A. Lincoln

Dear Sir

At the request of my Neighbour George Spears I join him (he having recently returned from Memphis to see his Son Henry C. Spears) who belongs to Co. F 114 Reg. Ills. Vol. From the representations of Esqr Spears (whose veracity is a bove suspicion as you are well a ware) I can cheerfully join him in requesting you to have Henry Discharged as he is wholly unfit for active duties as a soldier it is with great delicacy that we make this request; but from a knowledge of your just & generous Heart we hope that you will greant this request and gladden ^the^ hearts of his aged parents as from phisical causes his servises are nolonger valuable to his Countries glorious cause

Verry Truly yrs
WG Greene
George Spears

[Endorsement]

Let Henry C. Spears, named within, be discharged.
A. Lincoln

Feb. 17. 1864

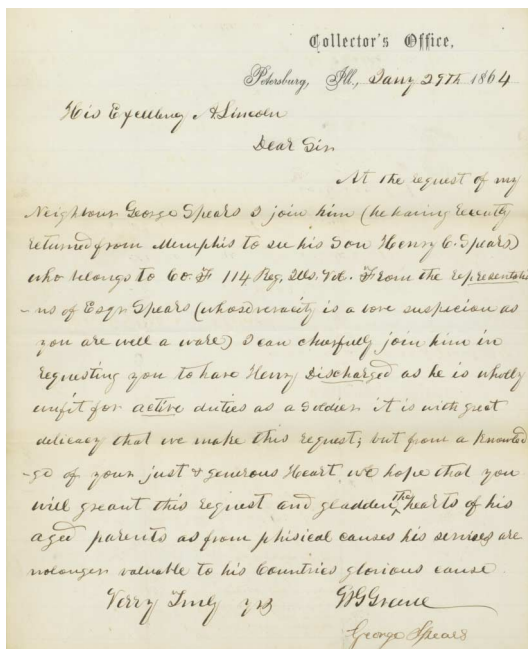
[Endorsement]

Respectfully referred to the Adjutant General,
who will issue the necessary orders.

By order of the Secretary of War,

War Dep’t., } Edw Canby
Feb. 17. 1864. } Brig. Gen^l A[ssistant]. A[djutant].
G[eneral].

Note on Transcription: Blue text is in Lincoln’s hand, green text is written to Lincoln, red text is in other hands, and gray text is printed material. All black text (title, endorsement labels, brackets) is supplied by the editors.



Document courtesy of the National Archives.

¹ALS, RG 94: Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, Series 409: Letters Received Adjutant General’s Office, Enlisted Branch, Box 196, DNA.

Company F was composed entirely of men from Menard County. During 1863, the regiment participated in battles in Mississippi, including the siege of Vicksburg. The regiment spent the winter on Provost duty in Memphis, Tennessee, where Henry may have become ill. Despite having obtained a discharge from the President, Henry must have stayed on with the regiment, as William Colby of Company F reported on May 11, 1864, that “Henry Spears is able for duty again.” After the war, Henry Spears returned to Menard County and farmed near Tallula, but died sometime prior to 1879.

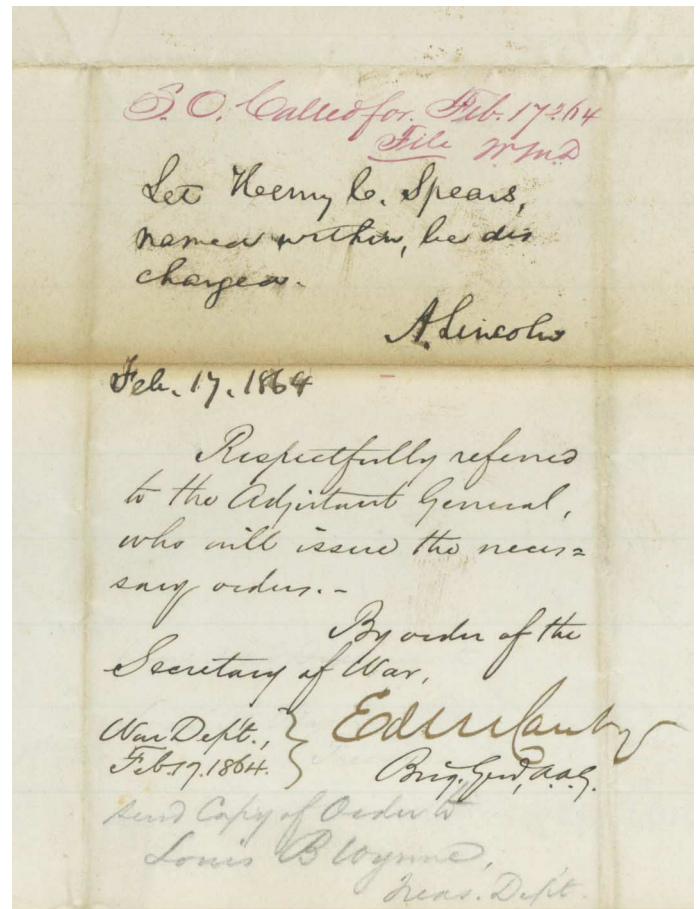
Christopher A. Schnell
Assistant Editor

STAFF AND PROJECT NEWS

Daniel Stowell and Kelley Boston spent more than two weeks in June and July capturing images of Abraham Lincoln documents at the John Hay Library at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Named for John Hay, one of Lincoln’s presidential secretaries and a Brown University alumnus, the library contains 1,140 Lincoln documents, making it one of the three largest collections of Lincoln manuscripts outside of Washington, DC. Daniel and Kelley captured high-resolution images of seven hundred of these documents, and the project is planning for a return trip to capture images of the other documents. Dr. Mary-Jo Kline, the American History Specialist at the John Hay Library and a member of this project’s Editorial Board, helped to arrange access to the collection. Mr. Samuel Streit, the Director of the Library, and his staff also provided valuable assistance in this effort.

In August, Daniel Stowell and Christopher Schnell spent two weeks in Washington, DC, on an exploratory trip to the National Archives. There, they met with several representatives and conducted initial research in several record groups to gain a better sense of the nature of their records. They have begun to formulate a more detailed search plan for systematically searching hundreds of series at the National Archives for thousands of documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln. While in Washington, they also met with representatives of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

The project acknowledges with deep appreciation the generosity of Wallace C. Sieh, who made a contribution to the project this quarter.



Document courtesy of the National Archives.

LINCOLN LOG (continued from page 1)

whether he is mentioned by name or as the Secretary of War after January 15, 1862. The key to this functionality is the underlying encoding that identifies these two individuals by an alphanumeric ID. In the future, users will be able to search for many more people in Lincoln’s life in this comprehensive manner. Another enhancement will be links from bibliographic references directly to the text of the *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* or to an image of the source document itself.

The Lincoln Log will be a dynamic resource to which the staff of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln will add on a regular basis as new information and new documents come to light. It will be a valuable reference tool for students and scholars alike.

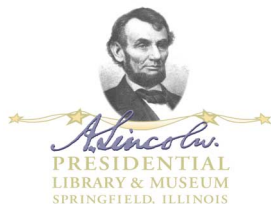
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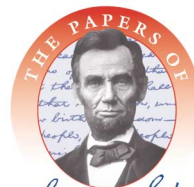
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How You Can Help:

- 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.



Abraham Lincoln

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