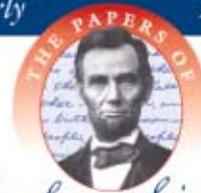


LINCOLN EDITOR

The Quarterly Newsletter of

October - December 2003

Volume 3 Number 4



Abraham Lincoln

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

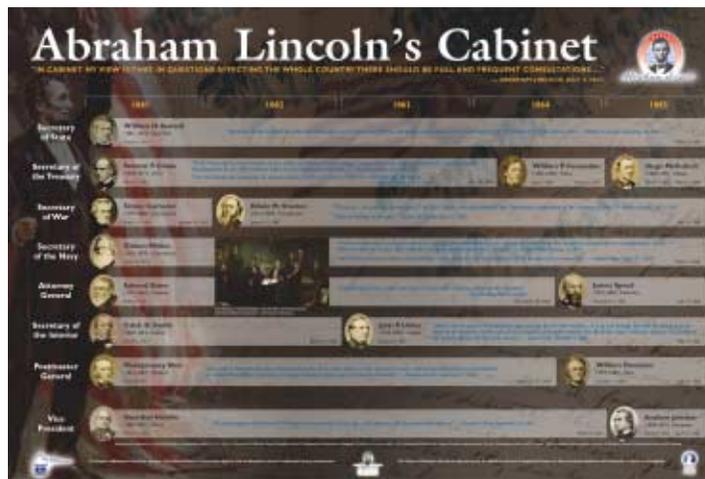
AWARD-WINNING DONOR PREMIUM NOW AVAILABLE

This year's donor premium is now available. Donors of \$100 or more to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln (or the Lincoln Legal Papers) will receive a handsome poster *Abraham Lincoln's Cabinet*. This 24" x 36" poster, suitable for framing, includes photographs of each of the thirteen men who held one of seven cabinet positions and the two men who served as Lincoln's vice president.

Organized in a useful timeline format, the poster provides the name, position, dates in office, birth and death dates, and state for each cabinet member. In addition, the poster provides revealing quotations by Lincoln about the cabinet member or by the cabinet member about Lincoln.

The donor premium has already won an award for its graphic designer, Deana Corbin, of Corbin Design. Ms. Corbin entered the poster into consideration for the Master Communicator Awards. *Abraham Lincoln's Cabinet* won an award of merit in the competition. This event is the most distinguished annual awards program for recognizing and acknowledging excellence among professional communicators in central Illinois. Local chapters of the Association for Women in Communications and the Public Relations Society of America sponsored the event. Congratulations to Ms.

Corbin. Friends of the project who wish to receive a copy of the poster can send a donation of \$100 or more to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln.



MAIL SURVEY CONTINUES TO YIELD RESULTS

In April 2003, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln mailed more than 5,200 surveys to libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other repositories throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico that might hold Lincoln documents. Thus far, the project has received more than 3,300 responses, a remarkable 63 percent response rate. Although the majority of responses indicated that the institution had no Lincoln documents, 226 have thus far responded that they hold documents written to or by Abraham Lincoln. These repositories are located in forty-one states across the nation. Project

staff continue to conduct follow-up correspondence with repositories that have not yet responded but are believed to have Lincoln documents.

Early in 2004, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln will issue another mail survey to more than one thousand manuscript dealers and private collectors who may own Lincoln documents. If you own a Lincoln document or know someone who does, please let us know about it by e-mail or through our website form at www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org.

ILLINOIS REPUBLICANS IN 1858

1858 was a busy year for Illinois Republicans. The relatively new party was gearing up for the fall elections and struggling to counter the popular Democrat, Stephen A. Douglas, in his bid for reelection to the United States Senate. During the spring, ninety-five county Republican conventions endorsed Abraham Lincoln as their candidate to face Douglas in the election.¹

One issue fueling the upcoming senatorial campaign was the question about whether Kansas would enter the Union as a free or slave state. The state's Lecompton Constitution, which authorized slavery, had created a political uproar. Douglas, perhaps capitalizing on popular sentiment against Lecompton, publicly opposed it as a violation of his popular sovereignty doctrine. His opposition went against President James

Buchanan's endorsement of Lecompton, but it met the hearty applause of Republicans and some Democrats.²

Illinois Republicans were faced with how to challenge the popularity of Douglas's opposition to Lecompton when their party agreed with him on this issue. The Republicans began working to show that Douglas was no different than the incumbent Democratic president. It was also necessary for the Republican Party to maintain the support of the former Whigs and Democrats of which it consisted.³

In June 1858, Stephen A. Hurlbut, a lawyer and former Whig and current Republican politician and party organizer, wrote to Lincoln about the upcoming Illinois State Republican Convention, scheduled for June 16 in Springfield.⁴ Hurlbut was one of many Republican

Abraham Lincoln to Stephen A. Hurlbut

Springfield, May June 1. 1858.

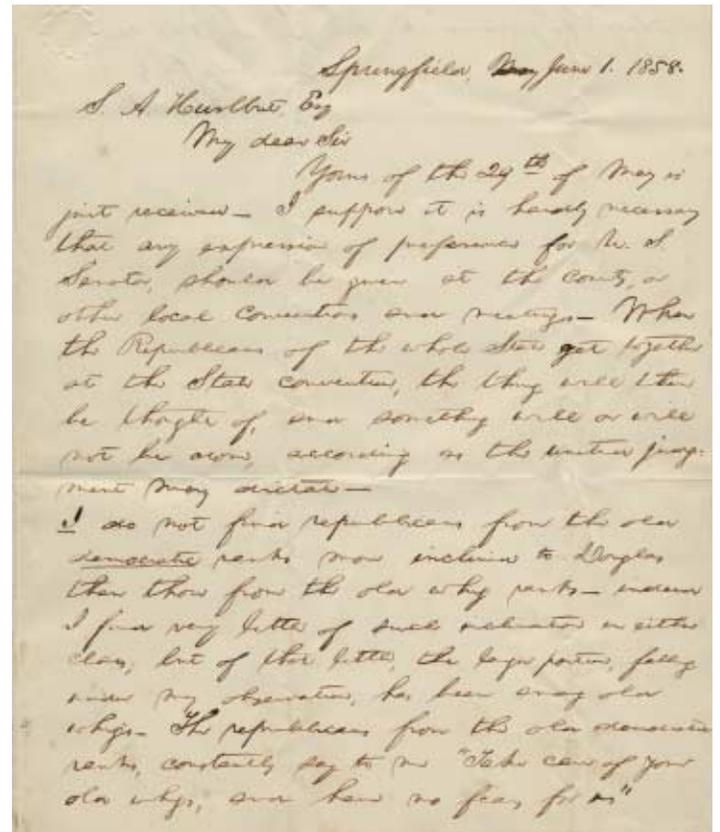
S. A. Hurlbut, Esq
My dear Sir

Yours of the 29th of May is just received. I suppose it is hardly necessary that any expression of preference for U.S. Senator, should be given at the county, or other local conventions and meetings. When the Republicans of the whole State get together at the State convention, the thing will then be thought of, and something will or will not be done, according as the united judgment may dictate.

I do not find republicans from the old democratic ranks more inclined to Douglas than those from the old whig ranks—indeed I find very little of such inclination in either class; but of that little, the larger portion, falling under my observation, has been among old whigs. The republicans from the old democratic ranks, constantly say to me "Take care of your old whigs, and have no fears for us"

I am much obliged to you for your letter; and shall be pleased to see you at the convention.

Yours very truly
A. Lincoln.



Springfield, June 1. 1858.
S. A. Hurlbut Esq
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Image courtesy of Brown University.



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Yours very truly
A. Lincoln.

Verso of Lincoln's letter to Hurlbut.

political operatives working behind the scenes across the state. A former Whig, Hurlbut had been a lawyer and politician since his arrival in Illinois in 1845. He became a Republican when the party was formed in Illinois in 1856. In 1858, he was seeking a bid for the Illinois General Assembly.⁵

After Lincoln's nomination as the Republican candidate for the United States Senate in Springfield on June 16, Hurlbut supported Lincoln's campaign and the campaign of other Republicans. During Lincoln's presidential campaign two years later, Hurlbut delivered speeches in Sangamon County, and Lincoln told Hurlbut's wife that Hurlbut was "rendering us very efficient service."⁶

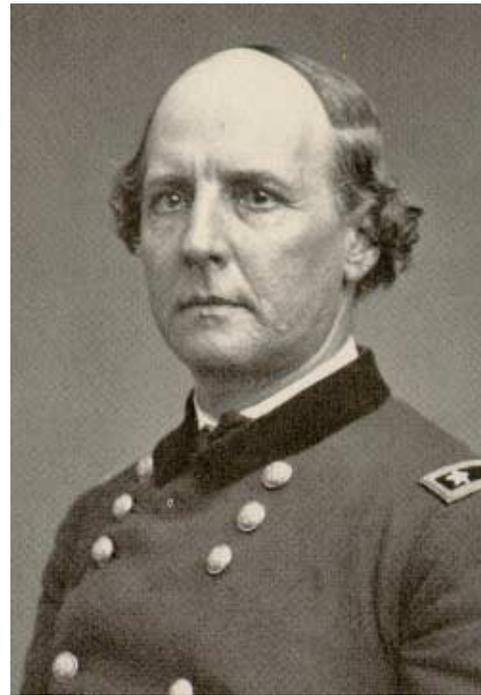
Stacy Pratt McDermott
Assistant Editor

¹Arthur Charles Cole, *The Era of the Civil War, 1848-1870* (Springfield: Illinois Centennial Commission, 1919), 163.

²Robert P. Howard, *Illinois: A History of the Prairie State* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmann Publishing, 1972), 292; Cole, *Era of the Civil War*, 157-59.

³Cole, *Era of the Civil War*, 159-63; Mildred C. Stoler, "The Democratic Element in the New Republican Party," in *Papers in Illinois History and Transactions for the Year 1942* (Springfield: Illinois State Historical Society, 1944), 50-53.

⁴Stephen Augustus Hurlbut, b. 29 November 1815, in Charleston, South Carolina; d. 27 March 1882, in Lima, Peru. Hurlbut gained admission to the bar in South Carolina in 1837. Following some questionable business dealings there, he moved to Belvidere, Illinois. He practiced law and was a staunch Whig and later Republican. He was a delegate from Boone County to the Illinois Constitutional Convention in 1848. In 1858, he won election to the Illinois General Assembly. During the Civil War, he raised troops in Illinois, was brigadier general of volunteers, was the commander of a division in Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee, and won promotion to major general. He fought at Shiloh and the Corinth Campaign and participated in William T. Sherman's raid on Meridian, Mississippi. Sherman dismissed him, and Hurlbut faced accusations of corrupt practices, using his position to make money dishonestly. After facing a court martial, he resigned in June 1865. After the war, Hurlbut continued his involvement in Illinois politics, winning election to Congress in 1872, serving two terms. Throughout this time, he faced charges of



Hurlbut during the Civil War

Photograph at the Library of Congress.

Image from Jeffrey N. Lash, A Politician Turned General: The Civil War Career of Stephen Augustus Hurlbut (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2003), 111.

drunkenness and corruption. In 1881, President James A. Garfield appointed him as U.S. Minister to Peru, a task he performed badly, causing great embarrassment to the president and the country. While there, he faced charges of illegitimate financial dealings. John A. Garraty and Mark C. Carnes, *American National Biography*, 24 vols. (New York: Oxford University Press), 11:560-61; Jeffrey N. Lash, *A Politician Turned General: The Civil War Career of Stephen Augustus Hurlbut* (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2003).

⁵William E. Gienapp, *The Origins of the Republican Party, 1852-1856* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1987), 286.

⁶Abraham Lincoln to Sophronia Hurlbut, 29 October 1860, Hay Library, Brown University.

MEMBER OF EDITORIAL BOARD RECEIVES TEACHING AWARD

Papers of Abraham Lincoln Editorial Board member Edward Ayers, a professor of history at the University of Virginia, was the recipient of a U.S. Professor of the Year award. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching give the award, which is the most prestigious teaching award in the nation. Ayers was one of four winners chosen from a pool of 400 nominees.

Dr. Ayers received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1980 and is the author or editor of several books and articles, including the prize-winning *The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction* (Oxford, 1992). He is the creator and director of the Valley of the Shadow project, whose web publication won the first eLincoln Prize from Gettysburg College. He has served as a member of the project's editorial board since 2000.

THANKS TO A GENEROUS DONOR

The project acknowledges with deep appreciation the generosity of Benjamin Shapell, who has provided a gift to fund the project's continued effort to capture

digital images of Lincoln documents scattered across the country. We are grateful for Mr. Shapell's continued support of the project.

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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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