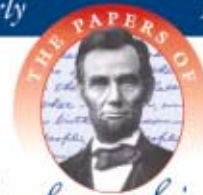


LINCOLN EDITOR

The Quarterly Newsletter of

January - March 2004

Volume 4 Number 1



Abraham Lincoln

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

ALA SUPPORTS ENHANCEMENTS OF *THE LINCOLN LOG*

At their meeting on February 12, the directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association voted to give the Papers of Abraham Lincoln a grant of \$10,000 to support enhancements of *The Lincoln Log: A Daily Chronology of the Life of Abraham Lincoln*. The grant will support the creation of several thousand links between this online resource and specific documents in the online version of *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, published by the Abraham Lincoln Association, and other enhancements. *The Lincoln Log* is available through the Reference page of the project website at www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org/reference.htm.

The foundation for *The Lincoln Log* is *Lincoln Day by Day*, which was published by the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission in 1960, with support from the Abraham Lincoln Association. The Papers of Abraham Lincoln will correct, revise, and add individual entries as new information and documents become available.

The Abraham Lincoln Association has been a cosponsor of the Lincoln Legal Papers since the project began in 1985. This grant broadens the Association's support to the new initiative, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln.

THE PAPERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN DESIGNATED A PRIORITY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

In December 2003, noted presidential historian Richard Norton Smith became the founding director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. By early February, he developed an organizational chart for the entire complex. The Papers

of Abraham Lincoln is a unit within the Presidential Library Research and Collections Division under the direction of Dr. Thomas F. Schwartz, the State Historian. The division also includes the Lincoln Collection, Special Collections, and the Research and Acquisition unit for the library. Dr. Schwartz reports directly to Director Smith, while continuing to serve as State Historian for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Reflecting on the importance of the project to the success of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Smith said, "I regard the Papers of Abraham Lincoln as one of our highest institutional priorities. It is hard to imagine a more valuable or enduring contribution to Lincoln studies than a new, comprehensive, scholarly and widely accessible edition of his papers."



THE GROWING RANKS OF LINCOLN'S "ORIGINAL" FRIENDS

In 1860, the Republican Party was looking for a candidate that could not only hold the states that the party had won in the 1856 presidential election, but also garner votes in at least one additional state, especially in Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, or New Jersey. William H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, Edward Bates, and Simon Cameron were all possibilities for the nomination. Republican leaders in Indiana and Pennsylvania, like



Congressman Schuyler Colfax¹ of Indiana, believed that Seward could not hold their states.

Many Republican operatives argued that Chase was too radical on the slavery question, that Bates was not committed enough to the party's antislavery platform, and that Cameron was corrupt.²

In Illinois, supporters of Abraham Lincoln worked behind the scenes to make Lincoln each delegate's second choice. In May 1860, the Republican National Convention met in Chicago. On May 18, on the third ballot, the delegates nominated Abraham Lincoln as their candidate for president. On that same day, Schuyler Colfax wrote a letter to Lincoln congratulating him on his nomination. Colfax had been a supporter of Edward Bates, but wrote Lincoln that he "heartily" joined with Lincoln's "original friends...although not entitled to be numbered in that special rank." Lincoln wrote back to Colfax the next week.³

Stacy Pratt McDermott, Assistant Editor

¹Schuyler Colfax, b. 23 March 1823, in New York, New York; d. 13 January 1885, in Mankato, Minnesota. Colfax settled in Indiana with his parents in 1836. He developed an interest in journalism, spent two winters working as a legislative correspondent for the *Indiana State Journal*, and became the editor and proprietor of the *St. Joseph Valley Register*, a Whig newspaper, in 1845. In 1854, he won election to Congress as a Republican and served seven consecutive terms (1855-69), three as Speaker of the House (1863-69). Abraham Lincoln considered nominating Colfax as Postmaster General but decided on Montgomery Blair instead. From 1869-73, Colfax was Vice President under Ulysses S. Grant. He was implicated in the Credit Mobilier scandal, one of many scandals that plagued

Abraham Lincoln to Schuyler Colfax

Private.

Springfield, Ills. May 26. 1860

Hon. Schuyler Colfax

My dear Sir:

Your very kind, and acceptable letter of the 18th was received two or three days since.

You distinguish between yourself and my original friends—a distinction which, by your leave, I propose to forget.

I have acted upon your suggestion, and also upon my own impulse, in relation to our old friend R. W. T.⁴

Yours very truly

A. Lincoln

Grant's administration. Although Colfax was acquitted of wrongdoing, the charges haunted him throughout his life. In his later years, he earned a living on the lecture circuit, and he died while attending one of those events. John A. Garraty and Mark C. Carnes, eds. *American National Biography*, 24 vols. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 5:230-31; *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, 62 vols. (New York: James T. White & Co., 1897), 4:12-13; Willard H. Smith, *Schuyler Colfax: The Changing Fortunes of a Political Idol* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1952).

²Mark E. Neely Jr., *The Abraham Lincoln Encyclopedia* (New York: Da Capo Press, 1982), 97.

³Schuyler Colfax to Abraham Lincoln, 18 May 1860, Abraham Lincoln Papers, DLC; Neely, *Lincoln Encyclopedia*, 97.

⁴Richard Wigginton Thompson, b. 9 June 1809, near Culpepper Court House, Virginia; d. 9 February 1900, in Terre Haute, Indiana. In 1831, Thompson settled in Bedford, Indiana, where he worked as a store clerk and teacher. In 1833, he began studying law and later gained admission to the bar. During the 1830s, he served in the Indiana House of Representatives and in the Indiana State Senate. In 1841, he won election to Congress and served two terms (1841-43; 1847-49). After his first term, he settled in South Bend, Indiana. During his second term, he joined with fellow congressman Abraham Lincoln in his opposition to the Mexican War. Thompson was a strong anti-Catholic Know Nothing and refused to become a member of the Republican party, instead allying himself with the Constitutional Union Party. In 1860, he endorsed that party's candidate, John Bell, but he worked with Lincoln and the Republicans to ensure the defeat of the Democrats. During the Civil War, he served as Provost Marshal and finally joined the Republican ranks. He served as Secretary of the Navy under Rutherford B. Hayes but resigned before the end of his term to take a lucrative job for a French company lobbying for the construction of a canal across Panama. Garraty and Carnes, *American National Biography*, 21:573-74; Charles Roll, *Colonel Dick Thompson: The Persistent Whig* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1948); Neely, *Lincoln Encyclopedia*, 99.

PROJECT NEWS

Last year's donor premium, a poster entitled "Abraham Lincoln's Cabinet," won a design award for Deana Corbin, the designer whom the project hired to create the poster last year. Corbin received an ADDY Award at an Illinois Advertising Association ceremony in Springfield on January 21. The award-winning poster is available for individuals who make a donation of \$100 or more to the project.



In February, the project presented a framed copy of "Abraham Lincoln's Cabinet" to Dr. Wayne C. Temple in honor of his eightieth birthday.

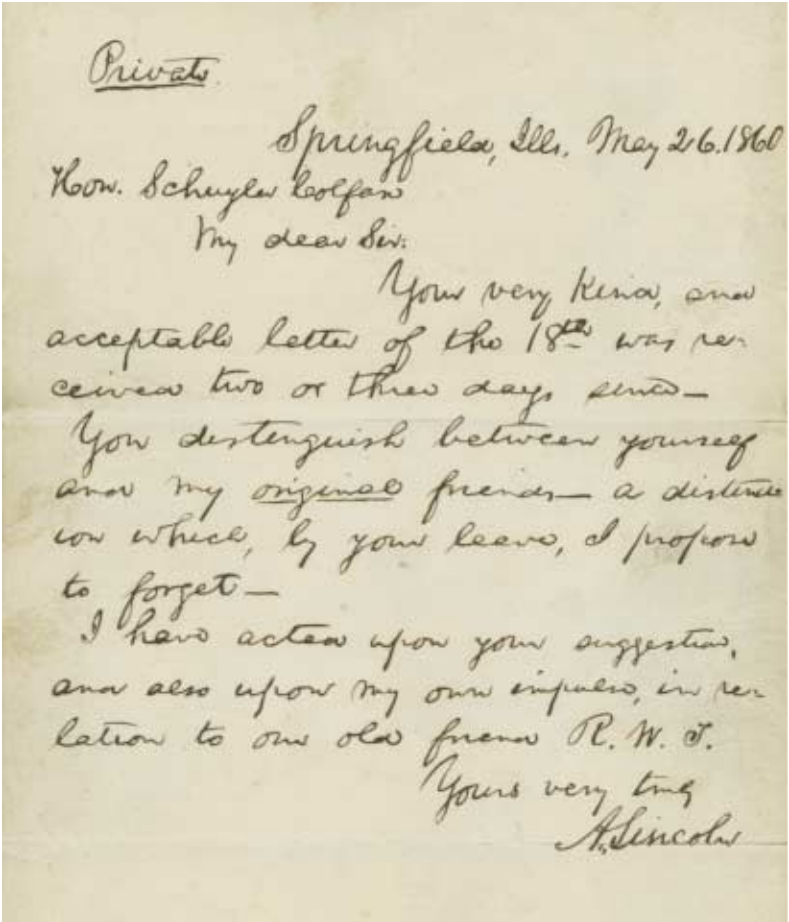
Dr. Temple is a well-known Lincoln scholar and a longtime friend and supporter of the project.

Also in February, the project mailed 1,218 surveys to manuscript dealers and collectors as part of the effort to locate Lincoln documents. Marilyn Mueller, one of the project's graduate assistants, is coordinating the survey, which targeted dealers and collectors throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, Asia, and Australia.

In March, Yoshiji Nishimoto of Office Kei, Inc. interviewed Daniel Stowell for a program to appear on Japanese television. Mr. Nishimoto asked several questions about Grace Bedell's letter to Abraham Lincoln late in the 1860 presidential campaign and her suggestion that he grow a beard. Stowell also discussed the project and the new Presidential Library and Museum.



Yoshiji Nishimoto and Daniel Stowell



Abraham Lincoln to Schuyler Colfax
*Image courtesy of the
 Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.*

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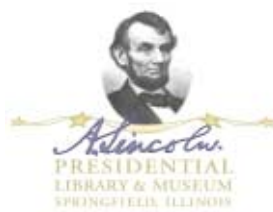
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Project Staff:

Daniel W. Stowell, Director/Editor; John A. Lupton, Assistant Director/Assistant Editor; Susan Krause, Assistant Editor; Stacy Pratt McDermott, Assistant Editor; Christopher A. Schnell, Assistant Editor; Dennis E. Suttles, Assistant Editor; Carmen Morgan, Secretary; Kelley Boston, Research Assistant; Marilyn Mueller, Graduate Assistant.

Please address inquiries and gifts to:

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln
#1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1507
Phone: (217) 785-9130 Fax: (217) 524-6973
Website: <http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org>

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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