

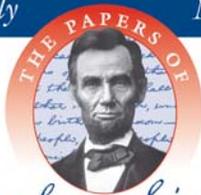
LINCOLN EDITOR

The Quarterly

Newsletter of

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Volume 8 Number 4



Abraham Lincoln

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

RESEARCH BEGINS AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING

In October, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln began one of its most challenging research tasks—searching through the records at the National Archives Building in downtown Washington, D.C. (Archives I, below) for documents written



or signed by and written to Abraham Lincoln. The project expects to locate tens of thousands of documents in the voluminous records of the

War and Navy Departments, military records, and the records of the United States Congress, as well as smaller

collections of records for the United States Supreme Court, the government of the District of Columbia, and other parts of the federal government. Archives I houses fifty-three record groups that researchers must examine. Veteran researcher David Gerleman and new editorial staff member Daniel Worthington are conducting the initial phase of research at Archives I.

Since June 2006, researchers have been examining the records of the State, Interior, Treasury, and Justice Departments housed in twenty-seven record groups at the National Archives building in College Park, Maryland (Archives II). Ed Bradley, who began the search at Archives II, continues to lead the effort there, joined by new researchers Andrew Roling and Chandler Lighty. When they complete the search for documents at Archives II, they will join Gerleman and Worthington at Archives I.

PROMOTIONS AND NEW STAFF FOR D.C. AREA

During the summer, both Dr. A.J. Aiséirithe and Dr. David Gerleman were promoted from Research Associates to Assistant Editors with the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. Aiséirithe is working with the staff of the Library of Congress to prepare high-resolution color digital images of more than 22,000 documents within the project's scope there. Gerleman has been searching for documents at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, and recently began research at the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. In addition, Dr. Ed Bradley, who helped to inaugurate the search for documents at the National Archives in College Park, was transferred from a temporary visiting position to a permanent position as Assistant Editor with the project.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Shelby Cullom Davis family, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln has also been able to expand substantially its staff at work in Washington, D.C. Assistant Editor Daniel E. Worthington is conducting research with David Gerleman at the National Archives in

downtown Washington. Research Associates Andrew Roling and S. Chandler Lighty have joined Bradley in College Park to complete the search for documents among the remaining record groups there.

Daniel Worthington earned his B.S. and M.A. in History at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro and his Ph.D. in American History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). While at UIUC, Worthington wrote a history of the University of Illinois Graduate College, in addition to his dissertation on war-related research at American universities during World War I. For 13 years, he worked at HarpWeek, rising from the position of indexer to that of managing editor.

Andrew Roling earned his B.A. in History from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, and his M.A. in American History from Eastern Illinois University in

Continued on page 2 ...

Charleston. Since earning his graduate degree, Andrew has taught at community colleges in the quad cities area.

S. Chandler Lighty earned his B.A. in History from Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois, and his M.A. in American History from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Since his graduation, Lighty has worked for the Papers of Lew and Susan Wallace and taught at a community college in Lafayette, Indiana. More recently, he has worked at the Indiana Historical Bureau in Indianapolis.

The new staff began work in October. Roling and Lighty joined Bradley at Archives II in College Park, Maryland, to complete the search of the remaining record groups and series there. Worthington joined Research Associate David Gerleman at Archives I in downtown Washington.

PROJECT AND STAFF NEWS

The project has continued to digitize Lincoln documents in private collections and repositories. Guy Fraker of Bloomington, IL, brought three documents to our offices in Springfield for scanning. The project thanks Fraker and is appreciative of his long-time support. Mary Jo Nead of Cincinnati, OH, also visited Springfield, bringing her Lincoln document with her for scanning.

Edward Bomsey of Annandale, VA, gave editors access to his document, and the project is grateful. Dozens of private collectors have been gracious in notifying the project of their Lincoln documents and allowing digitization of them. We are also always appreciative of auction galleries and manuscript dealers who keep us informed about Lincoln documents that come available. Special thanks to Rebecca Weiss of Swann Auction Galleries in New York, NY, for providing an image of a commission offered for sale in September.

In September, Director/Editor Daniel Stowell visited several repositories in Indianapolis and obtained images of their Lincoln documents. The project appreciates the assistance of Mark Vopelak at the Indiana State Library; State Archivist Jim Corridan, Alan F. January, and Michael Vetman at the Indiana State Archives; and Jennifer E. Capps at the President Benjamin Harrison Home. Among the interesting documents at these repositories are a series of telegrams exchanged between President Lincoln and Indiana governor Oliver P. Morton, and the commission of future president Benjamin Harrison as a brigadier general, signed by Abraham Lincoln in March 1865.

In October, Associate Director John Lupton traveled to Ohio and New York and scanned 86 documents in ten repositories and private collections. The project thanks



Andrew Roling, Chandler Lighty, & Daniel Worthington

Elizabeth Butler and Janet Stuckey at the Special Collections Department at Miami University at Oxford, OH; James O'Brien at the McClurg Museum in Westfield, NY; Dr. Ronald Patkus and Dean Rogers at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY; Bradford Kendall, Bryan Cranna, Andee Fountain, and Sue Marino at the Dutchess County clerk's office in Poughkeepsie, NY; Elizabeth Call and Chela Scott Webster at the Brooklyn Historical Society in Brooklyn, NY; Brian D. Caplan of New York City; Arthur Talanksy of Great Neck, NY, and Kalman Talansky of Floral Park, NY; Brian Knight at Hildene in Manchester, VT; Susan Lintelmann, Deborah McKeon-Pogue, and Casey Madrick at the U.S. Military Academy Library Special Collections in West Point, NY; and Gary Hood at the U. S. Military Academy Museum also at West Point.

In October, Daniel Stowell traveled to Washington, DC, to train new staff at the National Archives. During the trip, he also visited Stratford Hall Plantation, the birthplace of Robert E. Lee, to scan a telegram from Andrew Johnson and others to Abraham Lincoln with an endorsement by Abraham Lincoln. The project thanks Judith S. Hynson for her assistance. While attending a conference at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, KY, Stowell also scanned two documents that had been on loan when another team visited there in 2006. Thanks to Glenn Crothers and Jim Holmberg at the Filson for their assistance.

In December, Daniel Stowell and John Lupton visited four repositories in Naperville and Chicago, IL, to locate and scan images. The project appreciates the assistance of Emily Prather at North Central College, Glenn E. Humphreys at the Chicago Public Library, Kathryn A. Young at Loyola University of Chicago, and Daniel Weinberg at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop. Project editors had previously scanned several dozen documents at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop. On this trip, Stowell scanned two more documents, acquired since the last visit six months ago.

In the past several months, the project has obtained images from several repositories, including the Kentucky

Historical Society, the New York State Archives, and the Archives of Michigan. The staff of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln appreciates the assistance of Lynne Hollingsworth and Charlene Smith in Kentucky, Kathleen Roe and Monica Gray in New York, and Mark E. Harvey and Julie K. Meyerle in Michigan.

The Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, OK, and Texas Tech University in Lubbock, have also provided images of their Lincoln documents. Special thanks to April Miller at the Gilcrease Museum and James Brink and Bruce Cammack at the Special Collections Library at Texas Tech.

This quarter, staff members have been busy attending historical conferences and making paper presentations.

In October, John Lupton attended the annual Association for Documentary Editing conference in Tucson, Arizona. Lupton serves as the organization's treasurer and is involved with the association's plans to hold the 2009 conference in Springfield, Illinois, to celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth.

Assistant Editor Christopher Schnell presented "Lincoln and the Kentuckians: Placing Abraham Lincoln in Context with Lawyers and Clients from his Native State" at the Salmon P. Chase College of Law, "Lincoln: The Lawyer," Symposium, Covington, Kentucky, on October 4.

On October 20, Assistant Editor Stacy McDermott talked with a group at the University of Illinois in Urbana as part of a series entitled "Living with Lincoln." She was one of six presenters, all holding Illinois Ph.D.s, who talked about their work in Lincoln studies.

On October 24 and 25, Daniel Stowell, Assistant Editor A.J. Aiséirithe, and Assistant Editor David Gerleman attended "Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis: Two Visions of America," a conference sponsored by the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, Kentucky. All three delivered papers at the conference. Stowell presented "Patronage as a Weapon: Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and the Contest for Kentucky"; Aiséirithe presented "German Americans, Abraham Lincoln, and Civil War Radicalism"; and Gerleman presented "Men on Horseback: Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and the Equestrian Image of the Commander-in-Chief."

On October 30 and 31, Stacy McDermott, Research Associate Kelley Clausing, Research Associate Erika Holst, and Graduate Assistant Robert Crosby presented papers at the Conference on Illinois History in Springfield. McDermott presented "Base Balls and Ballots: The Nation's Pastime, Politics, and Nationalism in Illinois on the Eve of the Civil War" and served as a moderator of a session about sex radicals in Chicago. Holst's paper was entitled "'One of the Best Women I Ever Knew': Abraham Lincoln and Rebecca K. Pomeroy." Clausing and Crosby were part of the same panel. Clausing presented "Abraham Lincoln and the Mexican War," and Crosby presented " Wooing Mr. Lincoln: The Courtship of Mr. Lincoln into the Republican Party and His Quandary of 1855."

In December, Daniel Stowell and John Lupton spoke at a special session of the Illinois Judges Association meeting in Chicago. Stowell spoke about Lincoln's philosophy of law derived from speeches and correspondence. Lupton talked about the quality of Lincoln's legal writing. Stowell and Lupton also participated in the filming of two episodes of the Chicago cable access program *Illinois Law*, in which they discussed the Lincoln-Douglas debates and Lincoln the lawyer.

John Lupton, Christopher Schnell, and Erika Holst wrote entries for *The Political Lincoln: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Paul Finkelman and Martin J. Hershock (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2008). Lupton wrote "Circuit Courts" and "Lincoln, Legal and Early Political Career." Schnell wrote "Lincoln, Young Manhood to Eve of Political Career," and Holst wrote "Todd Family."



**Panel of the "Lincoln the Prairie Lawyer" Presentation
Mt. Vernon, IL, September 18, 2008**

(from left to right: Director Daniel Stowell; Jack C. Carey, President of the Illinois State Bar Association; former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar; Associate Director John Lupton; and Assistant Editor Stacy McDermott.)

Image courtesy of the Illinois State Bar Association, Springfield, IL.



TEACHING WITH *THE LINCOLN LOG*

While *The Lincoln Log: A Daily Chronology of the Life of Abraham Lincoln* (www.thelincolnlog.org) is considered one of the best reference sources for Lincoln scholars, it also has great value in the classroom. I teach an undergraduate history course at the University of Richmond on Abraham Lincoln's life that requires my students to interpret primary sources. *The Lincoln Log* provides an essential means for my students to do just that.

For their term paper my students select a week of Lincoln's presidency by first going to *The Lincoln Log* to gain a sense of the events of the week they are examining. *The Lincoln Log*'s invaluable day-to-day listing of Lincoln's recorded activities features links to *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* that, with a simple click, allow my students to read the actual documents for that date. In addition, *The Lincoln Log* notes how other primary sources, such as the diary of Secretary of Navy Gideon Welles, reveal clues about Lincoln's day. Further, with the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* as well as the Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress now available online, it is relatively easy for students to find documents that complement those accessed through *The Lincoln Log*.

In addition to gaining a sense of Lincoln's day-to-day activities for their week, my students must combine discussion of those events that are similar or related. In doing so they need to identify aspects of the week that would have been typical for any president, those unique to Lincoln's presidency but not necessarily exceptional, and those unique to Lincoln's presidency of critical importance. Finally, they must place their week's events in their full historical context by making references to their textbook, David Herbert Donald's *Lincoln*.

As an indication of what my students learn, a student who recently wrote on July 10-16, 1864, began by observing

that from a Civil War perspective that week's highlight was Confederate General Jubal Early's attempted raid on Washington, D.C. While *The Lincoln Log* clearly indicated how this event consumed much of Lincoln's attention early that week, the student discovered that once the raid's threat diminished, Lincoln quickly returned to the more mundane public and private activities that took up much of his time: thanking a pair of tailors who donated a suit to him after obtaining his measurements, giving an inscribed book to the Dakota Territorial Representative, and attending a Marine band concert at the White House. By far the other historically significant event of the week was Lincoln's correspondence with *New York Tribune* editor Horace Greeley who encouraged the President to meet with a Confederate diplomatic party currently waiting in Canada. Further, as always, there was the cabinet, whose two meetings this week focused on Early's raid. Finally, as the week drew to a close, the student noted that Lincoln's correspondence largely turned to the topic of the upcoming election in November.

The Lincoln Log clearly offers my students a window not only for viewing the daily activities of the 16th President, but a starting point for identifying the interrelationships and context of these activities. Further, it reveals the difficult task all scholars face when trying to make sense of what surely is a very complicated past.

Robert C. Kenzer
William Binford Vest Professor of History
University of Richmond

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCURACY IN TRANSCRIPTION

Occasionally, a particular document reminds the editors of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln of the importance of getting the details correct. On a recent visit to Loyola University of Chicago, Associate Editor John Lupton and I scanned a telegram written by Abraham Lincoln. The telegram, written shortly after the 1864 presidential election to Illinois State Auditor Jesse K. Dubois, acknowledges DuBois's recent telegram and asks how the election went in Illinois and whom the state elected to Congress.

Roy Basler and his editorial colleagues who compiled *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* had to rely for their text of this telegram on a copy in the Presidential Telegrams book at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

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

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Lincoln Land Community College Elderhostel
John A. Lupton
Madison County Bar Association
PhotoAssist, Inc.
Daniel W. Stowell
William L. Wheeler

In a note, Basler acknowledges that “Lincoln’s original autograph telegram has been removed from the file and a copy substituted.” Furthermore, “the date as given by the copy is open to question.” Lincoln’s telegram refers to “Yours of to-day,” but Basler reported that “No telegram of November 15 from Dubois has been found.” Instead, Basler’s researchers found a telegram from Dubois, received at 11 p.m. on November 14. Basler concluded, “In view of the implication of Lincoln’s telegram, it would seem either that the date of the copy is in error or that Lincoln had not seen Dubois’ telegram of November 14.” Basler was correct; the date on the copy is erroneous. Below are the transcriptions of the copy and the original:

Copy in National Archives:

Hon J K. Dubois, Washn., Nov. 15, 1864.
Springfield Ills.

Yours of today asking that (530) five hundred and thirty men may be assigned to the 32d. Illinois shall be attended to.

You say “State gone twenty five thousand.” Which way did it go? How stand the members of congress and the other officers

A. LINCOLN.¹

Original at Loyola University of Chicago:

Time _____ Office U. S. Military Telegraph,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., Nov. 12, 1864.

Hon. J. K. Dubois
Springfield, Ills.

Yours of to-day, asking that 350 men may be assigned to the 33rd Illinois shall be attended to.

You say “State gone over twentyfive thousand.” Which way did it go? How stand the members of congress? What their names?

A. Lincoln²

In addition to mis-copying the date, the clerk also changed “350 men” to “(530) five hundred and thirty men” and associated them with the 32nd rather than 33rd Illinois regiment. In addition, the copy fails to convey Lincoln’s emphasis in underlining “way” and misreads or garbles Lincoln’s final ungrammatical question.

Rather than coming inexplicably after Dubois’s telegram of November 14, this telegram was sent on

November 12, in response to one from Dubois earlier that day. Dubois’s telegram of November 14 provided Lincoln with the information he requested in this telegram. “State carried for Lincoln & the Union by upwards of thirty thousand,” Dubois telegraphed, and he went on to name the successful candidates to Congress from Illinois.³

With an image of Lincoln’s handwritten telegram, the editors of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln can correct this error of chronology and provide a much more accurate transcription for use by scholars, students, and others interested in any of the issues addressed in this brief telegram. This document also serves as a reminder that poor transcriptions, whether by a war department clerk in 1864 or an editor working today, confuse more than they clarify the historical record.

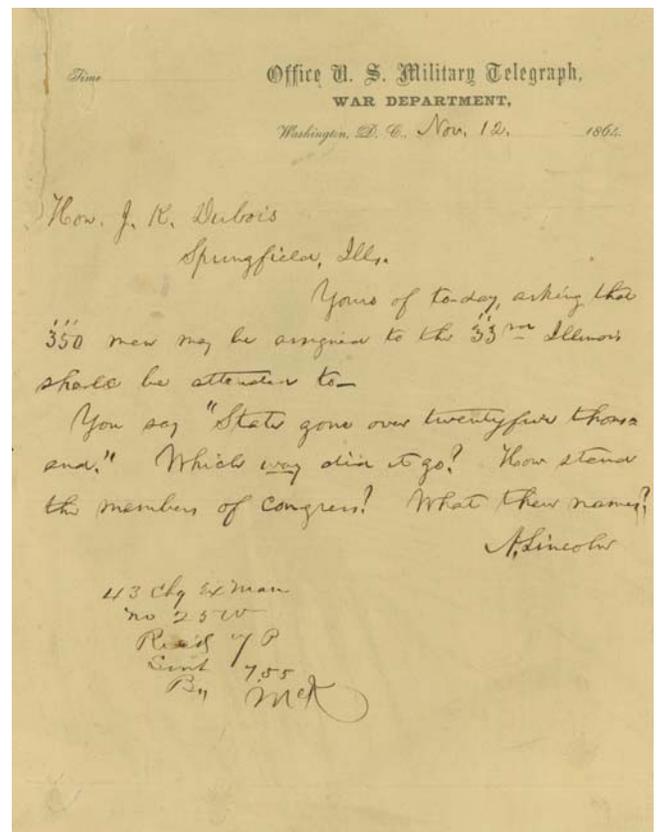
Daniel W. Stowell, Director/Editor

Notes:

¹ Roy P. Basler et al., eds., *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 8 vols. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1953), 8:110. (Text in teal indicates text attributed to Abraham Lincoln).

² Abraham Lincoln to Jesse K. Dubois, 12 November 1864, Halstead Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Loyola University of Chicago.

³ Jesse K. Dubois to Abraham Lincoln, 14 November 1864, Robert Todd Lincoln Collection of Abraham Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.



Telegram in Lincoln’s Handwriting

Image courtesy of Loyola University of Chicago.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, BAR EXAMINER

It is customary for an attorney to display his credentials prominently on an office wall. Law diplomas from Harvard or Yale attract particular attention. How many attorneys, however, can claim that Abraham Lincoln played a key role in their admission to the bar? The Papers of Abraham Lincoln has evidence that links Lincoln to nineteen such individuals.¹ Documents associated with two future lawyers shed light on the early days of Illinois's bar admission process.

On January 31, 1859, a triumphant Henry J. Atkins wrote from Springfield, Illinois, to his brother Howard M. Atkins, of Jacksonville, Illinois, and reported, "I have become a lawyer at last!" He explained, "I was licensed to practice law in all the Courts of this state this P.M. by the Supreme Court of Ills. I passed a thorough examination... before three of the best lawyers in Illinois... Abe Lincoln, B[enjamin]. S. Edwards, & M[ilton]. Hay & only missed one question & that was a trivial mistake. The committee complimented me very highly and said it had been a long time since a student had passed so good an examination before them."² Lincoln and the other attorneys attested that Atkins was "qualified to practice law, and recommend that he be licensed."³

Lincoln also participated in the bar exam of Henry S. Greene, whose story is particularly intriguing to scholars in search of long-lost Lincoln documents. In an 1899 obituary for Greene, a Springfield newspaper recapped his long and distinguished career. The paper traced Greene's rise from humble beginnings when he emigrated with his widowed mother from Ireland to Canada, until his death, which



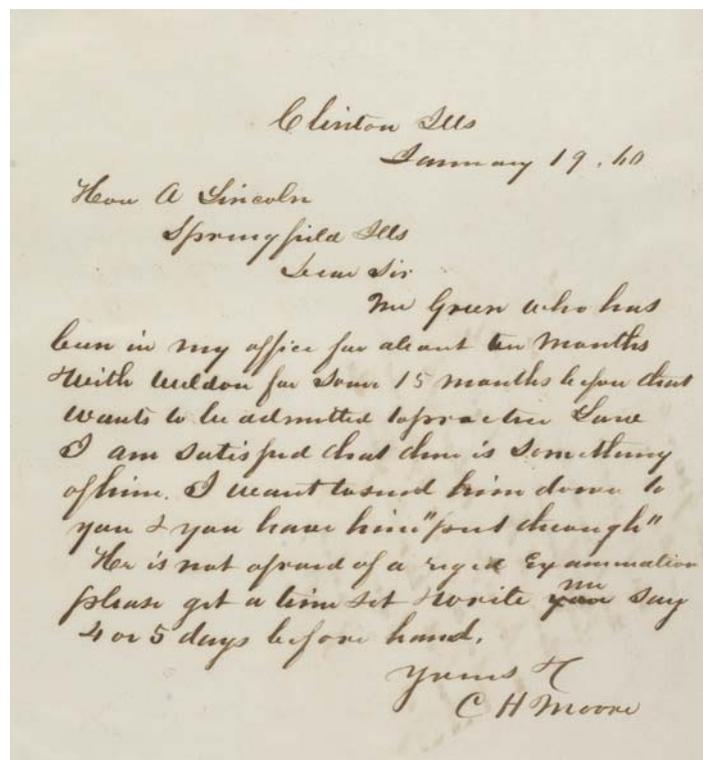
Henry S. Greene

Image courtesy of E. R. Pritchard, ed., Illinois of To-Day and Its Progressive Cities (Chicago: First National Bank, 1897), 159.

prompted an admirer to remark, "He was a great lawyer and one of the best men that ever lived. I have never met his superior as a lawyer."⁴

On January 19, 1860, attorney Clifton H. Moore, of Clinton, Illinois, wrote to Lincoln and explained that Greene had completed more than two years of study with Moore and another lawyer. Moore wrote, "I am

satisfied that there is something of him. I want to send him down to you & you have him 'put through' He is not afraid of a rigid Examination please get a time set & write ^{me} say 4 or 5 days before hand."⁵



**Clifton H. Moore to Abraham Lincoln
January 19, 1860**

Image courtesy of Robert Todd Lincoln Collection of Abraham Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

Lincoln received Moore's letter, as he endorsed the envelope with a brief file note, but his response to Moore has not surfaced. However, Greene's obituary referenced the letter's contents. The obituary noted, "Mr. Moore wrote to Mr. Lincoln that young Greene was ready for examination, and asked that he be notified when his presence would be required. Mr. Lincoln replied that the young man might come to Springfield any day after the following Tuesday, and that he (Lincoln) 'would get him through.' This letter, after being lost for over twenty years, is now framed in Judge Greene's office."⁶

Indeed, Greene was prepared. On January 28, 1860, Lincoln wrote, "We, the undersigned, report that we have examined Mr. Henry S. Greene and find him well qualified to practice as an attorney and counselor at law. We therefore recommend that he be licensed as such."⁷ Lincoln, Lewis W. Ross, and Orville H. Browning signed the note. When the location of this examiners' report was last documented

around 1900, George E. Walker, the son of Judge Pinckney H. Walker, of Rushville, Illinois, owned it, as well as those for two other attorneys (including Atkins).⁸

The whereabouts of Lincoln's letter to Moore is unknown. In 1868, Greene moved to Springfield, where he practiced law for over thirty years. During that time, he was associated with several firms. At the time of his death, Greene partnered with J. Otis Humphrey in the firm of Greene and

Humphrey, which was located in the Illinois National Bank Building on the corner of Fifth and Washington streets.⁹ Less than a year after Greene's admission to the bar, Lincoln won the presidential election. That fact, no doubt, added prestige to Greene's "diploma" and arguably put it on par with any ivy-league-issued law degree.

Marilyn Mueller, Research Assistant

Notes:

¹ Martha L. Benner and Cullom Davis et al., eds., *The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln: Complete Documentary Edition* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2000); Howard F. Dyson, "Lincoln in Rushville," *Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society* (Springfield, IL: Phillips Brothers, 1904), 224-25.

² Henry J. Atkins to Howard M. Atkins, 31 January 1859, SC 2661, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL.

³ Dyson, 224-25; Roy P. Basler et al., eds., *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 8 vols. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University, 1953), 3:352.

⁴ "Judge H. S. Greene Dead," *Illinois State Journal* (Springfield), 26 February 1899, 4:1.

⁵ Clifton H. Moore to Abraham Lincoln, 19 January 1860, Robert Todd Lincoln Collection of Abraham Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

⁶ "Judge H. S. Greene Dead," 4:2.

⁷ Dyson, 225; Basler, 3:515.

⁸ Dyson, 224.

⁹ "Judge H. S. Greene Dead," 4:1-2; *Springfield City Directory 1898, Volume 1* (Springfield, IL: R. L. Polk & Co., 1898), 8, 235.

BAD TIMING FOR A DEPOSITION

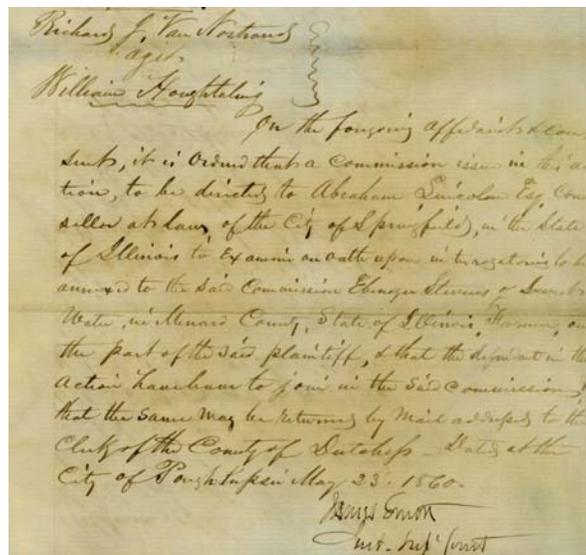
By the late 1850s, Abraham Lincoln was well known across the country politically. He also enjoyed a national reputation as a lawyer, corresponding with fellow attorneys along the east coast regarding debt claims against Illinois residents. In one such exchange, attorneys from Poughkeepsie, New York, asked Lincoln to assist them with a case in New York by taking the deposition of a witness in Illinois.

In 1859, William Houghtaling and Richard Van Nostrand were involved in a legal dispute in the Supreme Court of Dutchess County, New York, over a debt. Van Nostrand's attorneys, William Wilkinson and Joseph H. Jackson of Poughkeepsie, needed the testimony of Ebenezer Stevens of Menard County, Illinois. Wilkinson had met Lincoln during a recent visit to Springfield and recommended to the court in February 1860 that Lincoln take Stevens's deposition. Homer Nelson, the opposing attorney and a Stephen Douglas supporter, agreed that Lincoln, then a Republican candidate for the presidential nomination, should take the deposition. The court "ordered that a commission issue in this action, to

be directed to Abraham Lincoln Esq. Counsellor at Law, of the City of Springfield . . . to examine on oath upon interrogatories to be annexed to the said commission, Ebenezer Stevens of Sweet Water, in Menard County, State of Illinois, farmer, on the part of the said Defendant, & that the Plaintiff in this action have leave to join in the said Commission & that the same may be returned by mail addressed to the clerk of the County of Dutchess." Wilkinson sent Lincoln a letter with the commission and interrogatories on February 18, 1860.¹

The timing was not good for Lincoln. He may have received the letter before he left for New York City to deliver his Cooper Union address, but he did not have time to obtain the deposition. While in New York, Lincoln received another letter from Wilkinson, who had read in the newspaper that

Lincoln was giving a speech there. Wilkinson noted that he had sent a commission to Lincoln in Springfield and hoped that it could be returned to Poughkeepsie by March 9. Lincoln



Part of an order directing Abraham Lincoln to serve as a commissioner.

Image courtesy of Dutchess County Clerk's Office, Poughkeepsie, New York.

Continued on page 8 ...

would not be able to return the commission in time because after his Cooper Union speech, he began a tour of several New England states and did not return to Springfield until March 14.² On March 15, Lincoln wrote to Wilkinson, probably apologizing for being unable to take Stevens's deposition. Lincoln inquired if Wilkinson still wanted Lincoln to take the deposition and suggested that Wilkinson write to Stevens so that he was aware of Lincoln's availability. Wilkinson responded that he did want Lincoln to take the deposition and that he would write to Stevens, as Lincoln suggested.³

Wilkinson and Jackson were able to postpone the case because of the absence of Stevens's testimony. The Supreme Court of Dutchess County issued a second commission to Lincoln on May 23, 1860. However, the timing, once again, was not good for Lincoln. A week earlier, the Republican Convention met in Chicago and nominated

Lincoln to be their candidate for president of the United States. For the next several weeks, Lincoln answered letters of congratulations, wrote an autobiographical sketch, and responded to admirers asking for his autograph. In June, Lincoln resumed his law practice in the federal court in Springfield, handling a few cases. After this court term, Lincoln suspended his law practice and focused on his candidacy.

There was no further correspondence between Wilkinson and Lincoln, and Lincoln was never able to take Stevens's deposition. In July 1860, the case between Houghtaling and Van Nostrand concluded when the court ruled for Houghtaling and awarded \$878.37 in damages, court costs, and interest.⁴

John A. Lupton
Associate Director/Associate Editor

Notes:

¹William Wilkinson to Abraham Lincoln, 18 February 1860, Robert Todd Lincoln Collection of Abraham Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, DC; Order, 14 February 1860, *Houghtaling v. Van Nostrand* case file, box 60, Dutchess County Clerk's Office, Dutchess County Court House, Poughkeepsie, NY.

²Harold Holzer, *Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech that Made Abraham Lincoln President* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004).

³Lincoln's letter to Wilkinson of March 15, 1860, is not extant, but Jackson referred to it in his letter to Lincoln of March 19. William

Wilkinson to Abraham Lincoln, 25 February 1860; Joseph H. Jackson to Abraham Lincoln, 19 March 1860; William Wilkinson to Abraham Lincoln, 29 March 1860, all in Robert Todd Lincoln Collection of Abraham Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

⁴Order, 23 May 1860, *Houghtaling v. Van Nostrand* case file, box 92; Satisfaction of Judgment, 23 July 1860, *Houghtaling v. Van Nostrand* case file, box 60, both in Dutchess County Clerk's Office, Dutchess County Court House, Poughkeepsie, NY.

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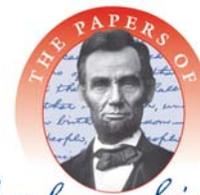
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- By making a tax-deductible donation to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln in support of the project. Such gifts provide crucial support in furtherance of the project's objectives.



Abraham Lincoln

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