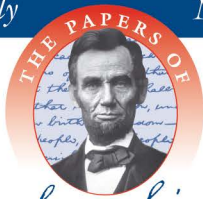


LINCOLN EDITOR

The Quarterly

Newsletter of



January - March 2014

Volume 14 Number 1

Abraham Lincoln

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

THE HEART OF THE PROJECT RETIRES

How do you say thank you and goodbye to someone who has been a vital part of your life for eighteen years? Carmen Morgan has been our unflappable office manager since 1996, first with the Lincoln Legal Papers, then the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. She has worked for this project for a few months longer than Director Daniel Stowell and Assistant Director Stacy McDermott. She is truly the veteran among us.

For nearly two decades, Carmen has "managed" us, covered for us, kept track of us, and nurtured us. She has been a constant, when funding and staff and institutional support varied, sometimes wildly. She has smoothed all of our rough edges, allowing us to function together as a team. Perhaps more importantly, Carmen has been the first contact with this project for thousands of people. She has cheerfully answered the phone, responded to e-mails, greeted visitors, and listened patiently to those sincere individuals who are certain they have an original copy of the Gettysburg Address. Because of Carmen, all of these people have had a positive first impression of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln.

She has managed the details of the office, tracking down fugitive chairs and computers at inventory time, making certain we have all the supplies we need, and magically working a series of fax machines no one else could seemingly conquer. She has kept our files organized and been able to retrieve things we need, despite her nearly overwhelming desire to pitch all that old paper. She has scanned thousands of documents at the Illinois State Archives and processed even more sitting at her desk.



But most important of all, she has been our beloved sister, aunt, or mother. She has remembered our birthdays, encouraged the frustrated, soothed the offended, and generally kept us all working together harmoniously. When we began a volunteer program two years ago, revitalized our intern program, and then took on the challenges of the Center for Digital Initiatives, the number of people under her care grew threefold. Retirees who volunteer for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln know her as a cheerful sister who listens to their stories and shares their excitement for the work we do.



Our interns and Center for Digital Initiatives technicians see her as a wise aunt who knows where everything is and quickly puts them at ease in a new environment. She adopts them one by one and teaches them what it's like to work in a pleasant office environment.

For the staff of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, she is a mother figure, though she's not old enough to be mother to most of us. She listens to our stories, always interested, always attentive. She encourages us when we are weary, cheers us when we are sad, rejoices

with us in each accomplishment, resolves each misunderstanding, explains us to each other, feeds us desserts too often, and cares for us throughout.

So, thank you, Carmen, for all of your care and devotion. The Papers of Abraham Lincoln will never be the same without you.

FORMER PROJECT DIRECTOR MAKES ANOTHER GENEROUS GIFT

Cullom Davis, former Director of the Lincoln Legal Papers and long-time advisor and friend of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, has made a \$100,000 gift to the project. This is the second such gift from Dr. Davis. As a member of the board of the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, he is able to provide targeted grants on behalf of causes that are important to him. The project is once again honored that the Papers of Abraham Lincoln is one such cause.

From 1988 to 1999, Dr. Davis led the Lincoln Legal Papers, which culminated in the ground-breaking

electronic publication of *The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln: Complete Documentary Edition*. Since his retirement shortly thereafter, Dr. Davis has been an important advisor to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln and its individual staff members, weighing in on editorial, fiscal, and other matters. He remains an important supporter and a great personal friend to us all. His generosity comes at a particularly important time, as the project is struggling to fill a funding gap. Dr. Davis's gift will help support salaries of editors in Springfield working on Series II: Illinois Papers.

PROJECT RECEIVES LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL FOUNDATION GRANT

The board of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation decided in February to award the Papers of Abraham Lincoln a grant of \$20,000 to support the project's search for documents at the National Archives. The search at the National Archives is the single largest source both of documents within the project's scope and of previously unknown documents written by Abraham Lincoln. The records of the National Archives have

already yielded more than 61,000 documents, primarily from Lincoln's Congressional term and his Presidency.

This funding will be particularly valuable in increasing the project staff presence, which shrank in 2013 from five to two full-time researchers, at the National Archives. The project thanks the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation for its generous support of this indispensable research.

TWO EMINENT LINCOLN SCHOLARS JOIN PAL EDITORIAL BOARD

The project is delighted to welcome Richard Carwardine and Kenneth J. Winkle as the latest members of the Editorial Board.

Dr. Carwardine (*pictured below*) is currently the president of Corpus Christi College at the University of Oxford. After teaching for more than thirty years at the University of Sheffield, he became the Rhodes Professor of American History at Oxford in 2002. Elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2006, Carwardine became president of Corpus Christi College in 2010. He is the author of several books on American politics and religion in the nineteenth century, including

Evangelicals and Politics in Antebellum America (1993).

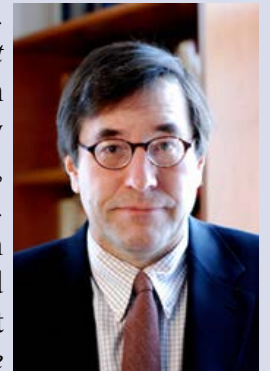
His 2003 biography of Abraham Lincoln won the Lincoln Prize in 2004 and was republished in the United States as *Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power* (2006). He also hosted an international conference on

Lincoln in 2009, which led to the publication of *The*

Global Lincoln (2011), a volume he co-edited with colleague Jay Sexton. He is currently working on a study of Lincoln's sense of humor.

Dr. Winkle (*pictured at right*) is the Thomas C. Sorenson Professor of American History at the University of Nebraska, where he has taught since 1987. Winkle received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and is the author or editor of eight books. His *The Young Eagle: The Rise of Abraham Lincoln* won the Abraham Lincoln Institute's book award for the best book on Lincoln published in 2001. He wrote a volume on Abraham and Mary Lincoln (2011) for the Concise Lincoln Library series, and his most recent volume is *Lincoln's Citadel: The Civil War in Washington, DC* (2013).

Winkle is also the co-director of "Civil War Washington," a digital project of the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska.



PROJECT AND STAFF NEWS

The project received images from three manuscript dealers. Thanks go to Joe Rubinfine of Joe Rubinfine American Historical Autographs, David Lowenherz of Lion Heart Autographs Inc., and the staff of James D. Julia Inc. for providing images of documents. The project also thanks Kelly Langley for providing access to the Lincoln document he owns.

Tim Connelly, the project's long-time program officer at the National Historical Publications and Records Commission has retired. In appreciation for his service, the project presented him with a copy of the four-volume book edition *Papers of Abraham Lincoln: Legal Documents and Cases*. We wish him all the best.

Assistant Editor Christian McWhirter published an article entitled "Fight Songs" in the Spring edition of *Civil War Monitor*. He also published an online article entitled "Bluegrass or Bust: *Divided & United* and Historical Authenticity in Civil War Music" for the University of North Carolina Press's Civil War Blog (<http://uncpresscivilwar150.com/2014/02/christian-mcwhirter-bluegrass-or-bust/>).

In February, the *Chicago Tribune* ran a story about the project's volunteer transcription program (http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-02-16/news/ct-lincoln-letters-met-20140216_1_lincoln-papers-letters-abraham-lincoln-presidential-library). Nancy Slattery

(pictured below), a retired teacher from Bloomington, Illinois, read the story and contacted the project for more information.



In March, she became the newest member of the volunteer transcription team. She says, "during my teaching career at Lincoln School in Highland Park, Illinois, I guided enthusiastic fourth graders towards an appreciation of their school's namesake." She adds, "coming to Springfield to work on this special project in

this special place with these special people is an amazing and fulfilling opportunity." The project is thrilled to have her aboard.

In March, Assistant Editor David Gerleman presented a paper entitled "Bring Our Glorious Flag Triumphantly Back into Texas": Anthony M. Dignowity, Abraham Lincoln, and the Restoration of the Lone Star State" at the Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting, in San Antonio, Texas.

The project appreciates the generosity of the following donors: Anthony J. Leone Jr. and William K. Miller.

A DOCUMENT MYSTERY UNRAVELED

This quarter, David Lowenherz of Lion Heart Autographs in New York City sent the project images of a document with a mysterious gap. The document is a note scrawled in Abraham Lincoln's distinctive hand and carries his signature, but little else is clear. It reads:

My dear Sir:

I thank you for the copy of [clipped section] If you can keep up a correspondence with him, without much effort, it will be well enough. I like to know his views occasionally.

Yours in haste
A Lincoln

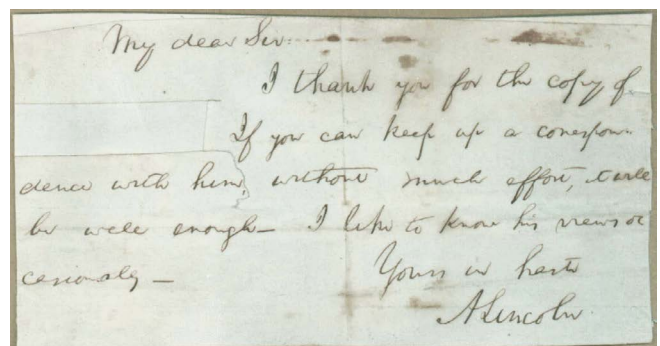
When was it written and to whom? What are the views that Lincoln wants to know more about? And, above all, why was key text cut out of the note?

Editors at the Papers of Abraham Lincoln are confident they have solved the riddle of this new Lincoln document. It was a note asking one of Lincoln's allies to maintain a secret relationship with a notorious political

insider during the election of 1860. Learning more about the note required a close look at its language. The most distinct phrase is "keep up a correspondence." A quick search of the database created by the Papers of Abraham Lincoln yielded a handful of documents with this phrase, not all written by Abraham Lincoln. One was from fellow attorney and Republican Leonard Swett of Bloomington, Illinois, in June 1860.

Swett shared the details of a letter he had gotten from "our friend T W of Albany." Swett ended by telling

Continued on page 8...



JOHN NELSON AND THE U.S.C.T.

In addition to freeing slaves in states and parts of states in rebellion against the Union, the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, also stated that “such persons, of suitable condition, will be received in to the armed service of the United States, to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.” In May 1863, General Order No. 143 established a Bureau for Colored Troops (B.C.T.) to enlist black men into Union service. By the end of October, according to a report by B.C.T. head Charles W. Foster, there were fifty-eight United States Colored Troops (U.S.C.T.) regiments.¹

Foster’s report the following year boasted 140 U.S.C.T. regiments, with a total strength of 101,950 men. Not surprisingly, the ground-breaking nature of the U.S.C.T. meant close scrutiny of officers who led its regiments. Indeed, the case of one John A. Nelson not only caught the attention of Abraham Lincoln, but has led Papers of Abraham Lincoln staff at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., to find a previously undiscovered Lincoln letter.

John A. Nelson’s biography is somewhat sketchy. He was born in Ireland around 1834, and sometime prior to the Civil War, he immigrated to Hartford, Connecticut. His Civil War service began in the fall of 1861 with the 30th Massachusetts Volunteers. Following captaincies in the 9th Connecticut Volunteers and the E.B.S. regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteers, he was appointed provost marshal of Ship Island, Mississippi, in March 1862. Then he earned promotions in the autumn 1862 to a lieutenant colonelcy in the 1st Louisiana Native Guards (afterwards the 73rd U.S.C.T.) and a colonelcy in the 3rd Louisiana Native Guards (afterwards the 75th U.S.C.T.).²

It was in the last position that Nelson first stirred controversy. A February 1863 letter from Robert H. Isabelle, a lieutenant in the 2nd Louisiana Native Guards, notes the resignation of seventeen black officers of the 3rd Louisiana Native Guards due to “some disagreement between them and Col. Nelson.” According to Isabelle, Nelson and other Union officers and soldiers “think that all the colored population in New Orleans are contrabands. They have not been made aware that several thousands of this class are free-born, well educated property-holders, who have always enjoyed all the respect and privileges, with the exception of voting, of other citizens.” This tension between Nelson and black residents of New Orleans may have led to the former’s resignation in August 1863.³

Despite Nelson’s troubles in New Orleans, his service clearly made a favorable impression on Abraham Lincoln. On September 29, 1863, the president wrote the following letter, recently discovered by the project, to Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton:

Abraham Lincoln to Edwin M. Stanton⁴ 29 September 1863

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Sep. 29, 1863

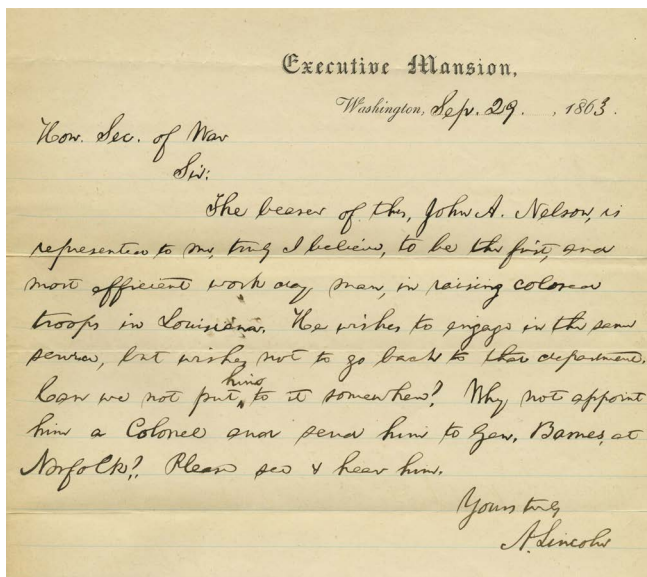
Hon. Sec. of War,
Sir:

The bearer of this, John A. Nelson, is represented to me, truly I believe, to be the first, and most efficient work day man, in raising colored troops in Louisiana. He wishes to engage in the same service, but wishes not to go back to that department. Can we not put ^{him} to it somewhere? Why not appoint him a Colonel and send him to Gen. Barnes,⁵ at Norfolk? Please see & hear him.

Yours truly
A. Lincoln

Exactly one week after this letter was written, Nelson was appointed colonel of the 10th U.S.C.T. based within the Division of Virginia and North Carolina.

The revival of Nelson’s military career was brief, for on January 9, 1864, General Benjamin F. Butler dismissed Nelson from service in the 10th U.S.C.T. for “having authorized and permitted the impressment of negro recruits into his regiment.” A distressed Nelson appealed to Lincoln, noting that he “enter[ed] the negro service the earliest of any, when it was not deemed any



great honor to command them, I was yet so devoted to their cause.”⁶ On January 14, 1864, the president wrote the following on the back of a copy of Butler’s January dismissal order:

**Abraham Lincoln to Benjamin F. Butler⁷
14 January 1864**

Executive Mansion
Washington, Jan. 14, 1864.

Major General Butler:

Col^l Nelson insists so earnestly that he has not, at any time, authorized, or knowingly permitted the impressment of negro recruits into his regiment, and is so well sustained in his character generally, that I have thought it possible there is some mistake in the matter of fact, and therefore have, with entire respect for you, disapproved his dismissal, and ordered him to report to you, to have a fuller investigation of the facts, or to join his regiment, in your discretion.

Yours truly
A. Lincoln.

Combined with his letter to Stanton, this endorsement evinces both Lincoln’s dedication to raising black troops and his tendency to see the good in people despite evidence to the contrary.⁸

Butler decided to convene a board of examination to hear Nelson’s case. Held at Fortress Monroe in February 1864, the hearing did not go well for the Irishman. Among those who testified was a black farmer named John Banks. According to Banks, several of Nelson’s men seized him (despite a sick wife and

mother) and put him on a tug for Craney Island, Virginia. When Banks saw Nelson on the tug and protested his impressment, the latter replied that “if they [black men] ain’t willing [to serve], I am going to get them [any way] I can.” Banks also testified that black men who refused to enlist were made to carry a ball and chains eleven hours a day. The testimony of Banks and other witnesses led the board to uphold Nelson’s dismissal on March 18, 1864. The War Department approved the finding four days later.⁹

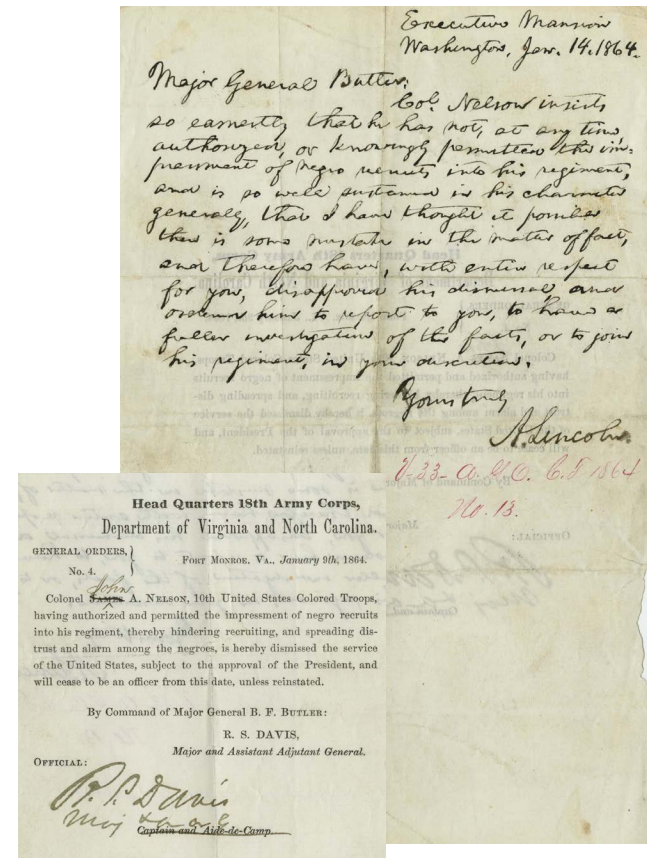
Notes:

¹ Emancipation Proclamation, 1 January 1863, Lincoln Collection, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, IL; Dudley Taylor Cornish, *The Sable Arm: Black Troops in the Union Army, 1861-1865* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1987), 130, 247, 257.

² John A. Nelson to Lorenzo Thomas, 30 September 1863; Fred C. Ainsworth to Julius Kahn, 5 February 1901, both in box 29, RG 94, Entry 360: Colored Troops Division, 1763-1889, Letters Received, 1863-1888, National Archives Building, Washington, DC.

³ Robert H. Isabelle to Unknown, 25 February 1863, *Weekly Anglo-African*, 14 March 1863, in Edwin S. Redkey, ed., *A Grand Army of Black Men: Letters from African-American Soldiers in the Union Army, 1861-1865* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992), 251.

⁴ Abraham Lincoln to Edwin M. Stanton, 29 September 1863, box 29, RG 94, Entry 360.



By Ed Bradley, Assistant Editor

⁵ General James Barnes (b. 28 December 1801; d. 12 February 1869) was military governor of Norfolk at the time. Nelson T. Strobert, *Daniel Alexander Payne: The Venerable Preceptor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2012), 82.

⁶ General Orders No. 4 of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, 9 January 1864; John A. Nelson to Abraham Lincoln, 27 January 1864, both in box 29, RG 94, Entry 360.

⁷ General Orders No. 4 of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, 9 January 1864, with endorsement of Abraham Lincoln to Benjamin F. Butler.

⁸ Special Order No. 4, 18th Army Corps, Division of Virginia and North Carolina, 9 January 1864; John A. Nelson to Abraham Lincoln, 27 January 1864, box 29, RG 94, Entry 360.

⁹ Report of Board of Examination for John A. Nelson, 15 March 1864, box 29, RG 94, Entry 360; *New York Times*, 26 March 1864.

SAY AAAAAABE: LINCOLN'S FIRST WASHINGTON PHYSICIAN

Historians have poured over, dissected, and pondered nearly every conceivable facet of Abraham Lincoln's public and private life, oftentimes using limited or secondhand sources to try to reveal his innermost secrets. Lincoln's medical history is one topic that fascinates many despite the fact that nearly all of the conclusions or speculations about the president's health are ultimately unanswerable without subjecting him to the microscope of modern medicine.

Lincoln's health history was originally scrutinized in 1933 by Milton H. Shutes in *Lincoln and the Doctors: A Medical Narrative of the Life of Abraham Lincoln*, a work that Glenna Schroeder-Lein recently supplanted in her 2012 book *Lincoln and Medicine*.¹ Like so many other historical conceptions, sometimes the smallest tidbit of new information can call into question previously held assumptions, and what better source of reliable new information than Lincoln himself?¹

The instrument shedding new light on Lincoln's medical past involves a mundane letter asking Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton for a female copyist position in the Quartermaster's Department. The letter, penned by Laura Richards, widow of a local Washington doctor, sought a means of supporting her family in the wake of her husband's untimely death. The letter was straightforward in its request:

Laura Richards to Edwin M. Stanton² c. February 1863

To the Hon. E. M. Stanton Sec of War.
Sir

I would respectfully solicit the appointment of Copyist, under the recent law made by Congress in reference to the Q. M. Generals' department. My husband who was Dr. John Richards, died about a year ago, well known in this community, as truly loyal, and in every way devoted to the administration. I ask this place, as a means of assistance in the education of my children.

Very Respectfully
L Richards.

[Endorsement]

D^r Richards was our first physician here; and I would be glad for his widow, the writer of the within, to be obliged.

A. Lincoln
Feb. 16, 1863.

Surprisingly, this was not the only time Lincoln intervened to assist the Widow Richards. The Papers of Abraham Lincoln has found another letter, this one addressed to Mary Lincoln, containing a similar request. Although undated, the missive written on mourning stationery was likely sent in the months shortly after the death of Dr. Richards and in which Laura Richards appealed for a clerkship, not for herself, but for her eldest son.

Laura Richards to Mary Lincoln³ c. 1863

My Dear Madam,

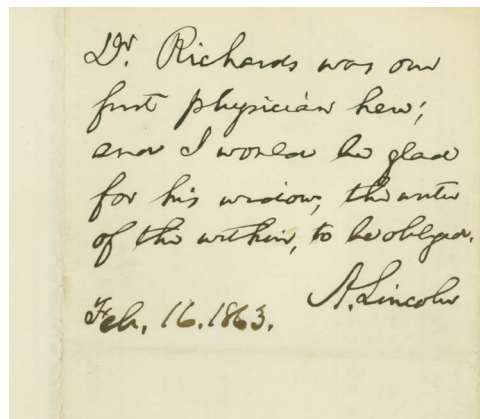
By the death of my husband, myself and children, are in a great measure deprived of support. Knowing the great respect, he entertained for yourself and family, and the kindness and courtesy, which you manifested for him, I am induced to ask from, you, the position of clerk in some one of the departments for my oldest son. He would have sought an appointment in the army, but is of too delicate constitution, for very active employment. He is young but I think fully competent for either department [as?] clerk, a letter from the President or yourself would secure such a place, and I can scarcely express to you how deep will be our gratitude.

With sentiments of highest
Respect for yourself, and family
Laura Richards
274 F Street

[Endorsement]

This is written by the widow of D^r Richards, who was our physician here till his own death. I would be glad for her to be obliged.

A. Lincoln



Dr. Richards was our
first physician here;
and I would be glad
for his widow, the writer
of the within, to be obliged.
Feb. 16. 1863. A. Lincoln

But just who was this Dr. Richards whom the president repeatedly called his first Washington physician? John Richards was born on October 15, 1815, in County Antrim, Ireland, the son of Samuel Richards and Rosanna Brown, who resided near

Belfast, and whose ancestors had migrated to the Emerald Isle from Scotland in the sixteenth century. The Richards family was prosperous enough to provide John with a classical education and he even attended medical schools in Edinburgh and in Paris. It was an uncle of Richards who had already crossed the Atlantic and was practicing medicine in Alexandria, Virginia, who convinced him to immigrate to the United States. After arriving on American shores in the early 1830s, Richards resumed his education, receiving a medical degree from the University of Maryland in 1834. Six years later the young doctor married Laura Peyton, daughter of the former mayor of Alexandria, Virginia, Colonel Francis Peyton; and in 1852, he moved his family and practice to Washington, D.C., becoming an active member of the district's Medical Association.⁴

How or when exactly Richards became acquainted with Abraham Lincoln remains unknown, yet news of Richards's connection to the Illinois rail-splitter was established enough to filter through Confederate lines. As war clouds gathered in the summer of 1861, Richards, apparently concerned for his teenage son Francis attending the University of Virginia, personally endeavored to retrieve him only to run afoul of rebel authorities. On June 12, 1861, General Pierre G. T. Beauregard reported to Richmond from Manassas Junction the capture of four federal prisoners in Fairfax County, one of whom was "a certain Dr. John Richards of Washington who arrived here this morning on the plea of meeting herewith his

son, at school in Charlottesville but more probably for the purpose of obtaining all the information he could relative to our position and forces, to communicate to his friend, Mr. Lincoln, whose family physician I am informed he is. I would respectfully advise that he should be kept a prisoner until after the war for by the enclosed papers, it will be seen that his sympathies appear to be entirely with our enemies."⁵

Despite his apparent Union sympathies, the doctor gained his release from the Confederates without extensive delay and was able to return home with his son. It was in Washington that Dr. Richards, having treated so many others in their time of sickness, was himself carried off by pneumonia on January 19, 1862. It was the doctor's premature death that prompted his widow's appeal for federal jobs to support and educate her children, although there is no current record that she actually received or accepted any such employment bolstered by the president's endorsement. Sadly, Dr. Richards took to the grave with him any of the Lincoln family medical secrets that he might have shared with later posterity, but his legacy did live on; his oldest son, Francis P. Richards, subject of his mother's appeal, followed in his father's footsteps and received a medical degree from Georgetown University in 1863 and became a practicing Washington physician.⁶

By David J. Gerleman, Assistant Editor

Notes:

¹ Milton H. Shutes, *Lincoln and the Doctors: A Medical Narrative of the Life of Abraham Lincoln* (New York: Pioneer Press, 1933); Glenna Schroeder-Lein, *Lincoln and Medicine* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2012).

² Laura Richards to Edwin M. Stanton, February 1863, box 886, RG 92, Entry 225: Records of the Quartermaster General, Consolidated Correspondence, National Archives Building, Washington, DC.

³ Laura Richards to Mary Lincoln, c. 1863, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

⁴ In the 1860 census, John Richards, 43, was listed with his wife and three sons; Francis, listed as at college, aged 18; George, 15; and John, 11. U.S. Census Office, Eighth Census of the United States (1860), Ward 3, Washington, DC, 30; Joan M. Dixon, *National Intelligencer Newspaper Abstracts, 1850* (Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, Inc., 2007), 169; Daniel Smith Lamb et al., *History of the Medical Society of*

the District of Columbia: 1817-1909 (Washington: Medical Society of the District of Columbia, 1909), 248.

Colonel Francis Peyton (b. 1764; d. 26 August 1836). Peyton was a Revolutionary War soldier and mayor of Alexandria, Virginia, from 1797-1800. He married Sarah West in 1786 and fathered ten children. Peyton had owned a large brick house on six acres at the head of King Street. Horace Edwin Hayden, "Peyton" in *Virginia Genealogies* (Wilkes-Barre, PA: E. B. Yordy, 1891), 500-501.

⁵ George D. Smith, *Abraham Lincoln Books, Pamphlets, Broad-sides, Medals, Busts, Personal Relics, Autograph Letters, Documents, Unique Life Portraits* (New York: G. D. Smith, 1910), 12.

⁶ In 1870, Francis P. Richards lived with his widowed mother Laura. Lamb, *History of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia*, 248, 265; U.S. Census Office, Ninth Census of the United States (1870), Ward 4, Washington, DC, 158.

Continued from page 3...

Lincoln, “I shall answer the above soon, and if you approve, try to keep up a correspondence during the Campaign. It may be questionable propriety sending this to you yet I can see no harm in it. I would however request you not to show it.”

“T W of Albany” refers to Thurlow Weed, the Republican newspaper editor and political boss of New York state. Less than a month earlier, Lincoln had won the Republican presidential nomination, stunning Weed’s candidate, front-runner William H. Seward.

Lincoln wanted—and ultimately got—Weed’s support in New York (and Seward got the job of secretary of state under Lincoln). But Lincoln could not afford to be seen as close to Weed during the presidential campaign. Swett solved the problem by offering to play the intermediary to the East Coast insider, letting Lincoln receive political intelligence from the critical state of New York without having an open correspondence with Weed. This political intrigue likely explains why Swett referred to Weed as “T W” and clipped Weed’s name from Lincoln’s letter.

The phrase “keep up a correspondence” was the key to linking these two letters and providing the approximate date, recipient, and subject of Lincoln’s note. It likely was written in the third week of June 1860 in response to Swett’s letter of June 13. Lincoln’s reply

merely echoed Swett’s phrase about corresponding with Weed.

Why was Lincoln “in haste”? A quick review of *The Lincoln Log: A Daily Chronology of the Life of Abraham Lincoln* (www.thelincolnlog.org), also maintained and updated by the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, provides the answer. In the third week of June 1860, Lincoln received hundreds of visitors at his temporary office in the Illinois State Capitol and thousands of pieces of mail providing advice and asking for jobs and favors. That Lincoln took the time, even “in haste,” to respond to Swett’s letter suggests the importance he placed on Weed’s political news from New York.

“This linkage once again demonstrates the value of the careful work of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln,” director Daniel Stowell said. “To be able to identify the date, recipient, and subject of such a brief letter is a remarkable achievement.”

“It was only through the active, generous, and committed efforts of the editors at the Papers of Abraham Lincoln that the mysteries of this unpublished Abraham Lincoln letter were solved,” said David Lowenherz, president of Lion Heart Autographs. “Without their assistance, my research would have wound up at a dead end.”

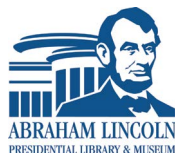
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Project Staff:

Daniel W. Stowell, Director/Editor; Stacy Pratt McDermott, Assistant Director/Associate Editor; Ed Bradley, Assistant Editor; David Gerleman, Assistant Editor; Christian L. McWhirter, Assistant Editor; R. Boyd Murphree, Assistant Editor; Daniel E. Worthington, Assistant Editor; Kelley B. Clausing, Research Associate; Marilyn Mueller, Research Associate; Greg Hapke, Research Assistant; Carmen Morgan, Administrative Assistant; StaLynn Davis, Graduate Assistant.

Please address inquiries and gifts to:

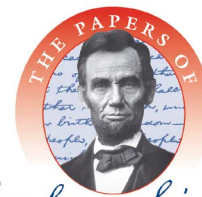
The Papers of Abraham Lincoln
112 North Sixth Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1512
Phone: (217) 785-9130 Fax: (217) 524-6973
Website: <http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org>

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- **Fund Lincoln:** 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

This project has been supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.