Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield
(1834-1860)

East Side of the Public Square: Circa 1860.
Cook’s Hall is the third building from the right.

After the February 13, 1858 fire, the east side was rebuilt with four, three-story brick buildings. One of them housed a large public hall on the second floor. It came to be known as Cook’s Hall and was a popular place for public gatherings, theatrical performances, balls and parties, and drills of the Springfield Grays.

Spring Creek Series

Richard E. Hart

The Abraham Lincoln Association
I hope that readers will find this interesting, fun, and helpful in filling in the details of the environment that Abraham Lincoln experienced in his 24-year Springfield residency. I have enjoyed preparing this glimpse and as always have been amazed at what I find in Lincoln’s Springfield when examined. I am a strong believer that the minutiae of local history matters, particularly in helping us understand the world around those who acted on the larger stage of history.

Postponed: Grand Balloon Ascension, at Springfield, Ill., on Monday, June 21, by Mr. E. Godard. The celebrated French balloon with its organ, Leviathan, containing 20,000 cubic feet, will be inflated after a new process, in the short space of fifteen minutes.

Grand Parachute Attachment, operated by Mr. E. Godard, aeronaut and magician, who will give three magical entertainments at concert hall on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night during which he will perform a series of curiosity new experiments, with his magnificent balloon, its organ, and his most wonderful balloon tent. Admission to balloon tent, 50 cts. Admission to magical performances, 30 cts.

Journal, Thursday, June 17, 1858.
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Introduction

The public entertainments within a community are a good barometer of how its residents use their free time and what type of entertainments draw them together. In early Springfield on long winter nights, the folks not only enjoyed the entertainment, but they also welcomed an opportunity to get out of a cooped-up winter house and pass some time with other Springfieldians in a night out of “entertainment.”

The population of Springfield in 1830 was less than 1,000. During that decade much of the “entertainment” was in the form of lectures by local residents. In step with a national phenomenon—the creation of local lyceums—two lyceums were formed and provided a platform for Springfield men to learn and debate topics of current interest. Some lectures were free and open to the public. Others were open only to “members,” and sometimes in the early days women were excluded. There were occasions when women were invited to attend, but they were never invited to lecture. That honor was reserved for men. During the 1830s, the locals lectured, debated, sang songs, participated in choirs and performed popular theatrical pieces.

By 1840, Springfield’s population had grown to 2,579. During that decade as well as the preceding decade, there was no “place” dedicated to indoor performances. Entertainments were held in churches and other public places. The hall of the House of Representatives and the chamber of the Senate in the State Capitol were favorite venues after about 1844.

The Springfield population in 1850 had grown to 4,533. That decade saw the coming of the railroad and about 1853 specific places were dedicated to the commercial performing arts. These were not public places, but rather private entrepreneurial businesses. They were usually on the upper floor of a three-story building around the Public Square. There were a number of these: the Concert Hall on the north side of the Public Square and Cook’s Hall on the East Side of the Square and the Masonic Hall at Fifth and Monroe. When the Metropolitan Hall opened in early 1856, it was the largest amusement hall in Illinois with 1,200 seats.

Springfield was fortunate to be on the tour route of many traveling entertainments as they moved between Chicago and St. Louis, often stopping in Springfield for a “gig.” These “entertainments” were more of a commercial venture requiring the purchase of tickets to be entertained by traveling artists in an astounding variety of performing arts: singers, family bell ringers, opera singers, minstrel singers, magicians, pantomimes, lecturers, violin and flute concerts, holiday celebrations and balls, readers of plays and performers of plays from Shakespeare to Irish farce, band concerts, and balloon ascensions, Fourth of July celebrations, and celebrations of the birthdays of Washington, Franklin and Burns.1

Many of the names of those “entertaining” in Springfield are familiar to us even today. Horace Mann would be surprised to know that 150 years after his 1859 lecture in Springfield, one of its principal businesses is Horace Mann Insurance. Titans in mid - 19th century America’s political and intellectual life lectured, and among them were Albert T. Bledsoe in 1842, Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1853, Bayard Taylor in 1854, Henry Ward Beecher in 1855, Theodore Parker in 1856, Park Benjamin in 1857, and Joshua A. Giddings in 1860.

The names of most entertainers, however, are not recognized by today’s reader, but Google provides biographical information in an instant, unveiling the shadows of the past. One minstrel is said to have been Mark Twain’s model for his descriptions of minstrel shows. Another, a French

---

1 There were other forms of entertainment: circuses, the annual state fair when it was held in Springfield, and a slew of dancing classes. None of these are covered in this study See the authors Circuses in Lincoln’s Springfield (2013).
ascensionist, is said to have been the aeronaut for Emperor Napoleon III in the Franco-Austrian War, a year after his appearance in Springfield.

Some of the itinerant entertainers were scoundrels, leaving unpaid advertising bills from their local stay. One soprano had been the former wife of the King of Bavaria and the mistress of many European notables. When she lectured on “fashion,” William Herndon did not like that at all. He lectured the night following her appearance, scolding those who had attended about their wayward standards and the decline in community standards.

But, the most interesting salacious tidbit from all of the entertainments involved a pianist, Sigismund Thalberg, who had been decorated by every European potentate. While touring Illinois, the mother of a young member of Thalberg’s troupe shot at him for “fiddling” with her daughter. The report is that Thalberg quietly left Illinois and headed back to Europe on the sly and in disgrace.

The saddest story involves a young boy named Nicholas Goodall, a flute player genius. Nicholas appeared at the Masonic Hall in Springfield on February 21, 1855. He was wildly popular and extended his Springfield stay and was invited to parties in private homes. There is no evidence to put Abraham Lincoln at any of his concerts, but he was in Springfield during this time and may have attended.

On the evening of April 14, 1865, Nicholas was said to have been present at Ford’s Theatre where his father was first violinist in the orchestra that evening. It is said that young Nicholas witnessed the assassination of Lincoln and thereafter fell into a hopeless depression. His father placed Nicholas in an institution for the insane and there and in the local almshouse, Nicholas lived until his death at age 32 in 1881.

No doubt Abraham Lincoln attended some of these entertainments during his residency in Springfield from 1837 to 1861. He loved the Shakespeare and the theater and there were a number of performances of that sort that he may have enjoyed. Entertainments that Lincoln may have attended are noted: Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield. Those days were determined by reference to Day By Day.

I hope that readers will find this interesting, fun, and helpful in filling in the details of the environment that Abraham Lincoln experienced in his 24-year Springfield residency. I have enjoyed preparing this glimpse and as always have been amazed at what I find in Lincoln’s Springfield when closely examined. I am a strong believer that the minutiae of local history matters, particularly in helping us understand the world around those who acted on the larger stage of history. I am certain that I missed a few entertainments and I welcome any additions.

I thank my good friend and Lincoln scholar James Cornelius for his review and edits. I am greatly indebted to the master programmers who put GenBank.com together and those who have provided it to the public at a modest charge. Without this quick and easy way to review the Springfield newspapers during the period 1834 to 1860, I would not have been able to assemble these newspaper advertisements and announcements. I am thankful that this technology was available to me during the later part of my life. It has been a great substitute for golf.

Richard E. Hart
Springfield, Illinois
Entertainment Venues

This is an alphabetical listing of the names of the Springfield entertainment venues between 1834 and 1860 and their locations where known. The dates below each are the dates of the first and last newspaper advertisements for the particular venue. The total entertainments in each venue during that period are given. The picture or drawing below an entry is a symbol for that particular venue that will appear throughout in the descriptions of all advertisements for an entertainment that took place at that venue.

American House
Southeast corner of 6th and Adams Streets
January 18, 1850-August 29, 1851
Number of entertainments: 4

Assembly Room
1839
Number of entertainments: 1

American House
November 11, 1836-June 6, 1859
Number of entertainments: 4

Baptist Church
Number of entertainments: 24

Brick Church
1837?
Number of entertainments: 1

Capitol House
May 1850
Number of entertainments: 1

Mr. Chase’s School Room
1836
Number of entertainments: 2

Chatterton’s Hall
Third and Jefferson Streets
December 22, 1852 – December 16, 1853
Number of entertainments: 4

City Hotel
May 27, 1852

City Hall
Number of entertainments: 3

Clinton’s Hall
North Side of Public Square
October 12, 1853-February 3, 1855
Number of entertainments: 8

Concert Hall (Myer’s)
North side of Public Square, second floor
December 22, 1856- December 3, 1860
Number of entertainments: 32

Cook’s Hall
East side of Sixth Street between Adams and Washington Streets
December 23, 1858-August 10, 1860
Number of entertainments: 31

[First] Presbyterian Meeting House
East side of Third Street between Adams and Washington Streets
November 1830-1843
Number of entertainments: 3

First Presbyterian Church
Southeast corner of Washington and Third Streets
1843-1860
Number of entertainments: 15

Gray’s Saloon—Gray’s
South side of Public Square opposite south door of Capitol
February 1851
Number of entertainments: 7
House of Representatives Hall
(See State House)
1843

Masonic Hall
Northeast corner of Fifth and Monroe Streets
October 16, 1854-September 17, 1856
Number of entertainments: 27

Mechanic’s Hall
18
Number of entertainments: 1

Mechanics’ Institute Hall
July 22, 1844
Number of entertainments: 4

Methodist Church
Number of entertainments: 1

Metropolitan Hall
East side of Third Street, between Washington and
Jefferson Streets
1855 seating capacity 1,200 was largest in state
Number of entertainments: 34

Odd Fellows Hall
December 21, 1853
Bunn Building, southeast corner
of Fifth and Adams Streets
Number of entertainments: 1

Republican Wigwam
1860
Southeast corner of 6th and Monroe Streets
Number of entertainments: 1

Court Room
1837
Number of entertainments: 1

Sangamon County Court House
1830-1837
In the center of the Public Square
November 7, 1836-
Number of entertainments: 1

Sangamon County Court House
18__-18__ (Includes the Court Room.)
Southeast Corner of Sixth and
Washington Streets
Number of entertainments: 30

Second Presbyterian Church
West Side of Fourth Street between Monroe
and Adams Streets
September 24, 1842-1860
Number of entertainments: 7

Senary
Number of entertainments: 1

Senate Chamber
(See State House.)

State House
(Includes the Senate Chamber and the Hall of
the House of Representatives.)
Center of the Public Square
September 23, 1842
Number of entertainments: 16

Washington Ballroom
Number of entertainments: 1
The following is a list of the venues that were identified in the newspaper advertisements and the number of entertainments held in each venue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Entertainments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American House</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baptist Church</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brick Church</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capitol House</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chase's School Room</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatterton’s Hall</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Church</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Hall</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark’s Mill</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton’s Hall</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert Hall (Myer’s)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook’s Hall</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[First] Presbyterian Meeting House</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gray’s Saloon—Gray’s</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masonic Hall</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanic’s Hall</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist Church</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Metropolitan Hall</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Odd Fellows Hall</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican Wigwam</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sangamon County Court House</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Presbyterian Church</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State House</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Ballroom</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>299</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Lyceum Movement

The Lyceum Movement was named for the place where Aristotle lectured to the youth of ancient Greece. From 1826 until after the Civil War, hundreds of informal associations were established in the Northeastern and Midwestern United States for the purpose of improving the social, intellectual, and moral fabric of society.

The first American lyceum, “Millbury Branch Number 1 of the American Lyceum,” was founded in 1826 in Millbury, Massachusetts, by Josiah Holbrook, a teacher and lecturer. Holbrook was a traveling lecturer and teacher who believed that education was a lifelong experience, and intended to create a National American Lyceum organization that would oversee this method of teaching. As conceived by Holbrook, each lyceum was to contribute to the spread of learning, especially of the natural sciences. A major topic in early years was the establishment of public schools.

The lyceum movement was led by voluntary local associations, including lyceums, mechanics’ institutes, and agriculture organizations. At first the lyceums were local ventures with local citizens lecturing and debating. Prominent local men—and those who hoped to be prominent—were invited as speakers. Topics included science, culture, health, history, and politics. Participants discussed such questions as whether to abolish the death penalty, whether newspapers could be trusted, and whether married people were happier than single people.

Promoters hoped their Lyceums would disseminate knowledge and encourage civic responsibility. Townspeople hoped attendance would help them climb the ladder of middle-class respectability. Aspiring local leaders used them as forums for honing their oratorical and analytic skills. Springfield had two Lyceums—the Sangamon County Lyceum, founded in 1833, followed a few years later by the Young Men’s Lyceum. A few weeks before his 29th birthday, Abraham Lincoln addressed the Young Men’s Lyceum. He responded to the question, “Do the signs of the present times indicate the downfall of this Government.” His remarks—known as the “Lyceum Speech”—are an important Lincoln text, containing clues about the developing mind of the future president.

At the Lyceum, young men like Abraham Lincoln could simultaneously pursue their professional and social advancement. They gave people an opportunity to hear debates and lectures on topics of current interest. They multiplied rapidly and by 1834 numbered 3,000.

By 1840 they had become professionalized institutions with outside lecturers to whom fees were paid. Noted lecturers, entertainers and readers would travel the “lyceum circuit,” going from town to town or state to state to entertain, speak, or debate in a variety of locations. Among the well-known speakers who traveled from state to state were Ralph Waldo Emerson, Frederick Douglass, Henry David Thoreau, Daniel Webster, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Susan B. Anthony. Many of Emerson’s essays were originally written as lyceum lectures. This contributed significantly to the education of the adult American in the 19th century.

The Lyceum Movement reached the peak of its popularity before the Civil War. After the Civil War, it blended indistinguishably into the Chautauqua movement, which had begun in the 1870s.
1834

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Discussion

The earliest advertisement for what can be considered as “entertainment” in Springfield was for the Sangamon County Lyceum. The ad appeared in the Sangamo Journal and is dated January 4, 1834. The entertainment was to be held on Thursday evening, January 9, at the Presbyterian Meeting House and the question for discussion was “Ought the General Government appropriate funds in aid of the Colonization Society?” Thereafter, on most succeeding Thursday evenings during January and February 1834, the Sangamon County Lyceum met for discussions, lectures, and debates. The meetings were open to the public and no membership was required. This was the standard fare for entertainment during the 1830s.

Journal, Saturday, January 4, 1834.

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Henry E. Dummer

Henry E. Dummer was born on April 9, 1808, in Hallowell, Maine. He moved west in 1832 and eventually settled in Springfield, Illinois. He formed a law partnership with John T. Stuart in 1833. The partnership lasted until 1837, when Abraham Lincoln became Stuart’s partner. Dummer then lived in Jacksonville and in Beardstown where he maintained a successful law practice. He was active in Whig politics, serving as a Beardstown alderman and as a state senator. After the dissolution of the Whig party, he joined the Republican Party. In 1864, he was elected as a delegate at large for Illinois at the Baltimore convention that renominated President Lincoln. That same year, Dummer returned to Jacksonville and joined the law firm of Dummer, Brown, and Kirby and continued practicing law until 1878. Due to failing health, he moved to Mackinac, Michigan, where he died on August 12, 1878.

Journal, Saturday, January 11, 1834.

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
J. W. Clark, Secretary
Entertainment: Discussion: Ought the General Government to appropriate funds, in aid of the Colonization Society?
Venue: Presbyterian Meeting House
Date: Thursday, January 9, 1834
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
J. W. Clark, Secretary
Entertainment: Lecture: Henry E. Dummer
The waste of Intellect.
Venue: Presbyterian Meeting House
Date: Thursday, January 16, 1834
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Journal, Saturday, January 11, 1834.

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
J. W. Clark, Secretary
Entertainment: Lecture: Henry E. Dummer
The waste of Intellect.
Venue: Presbyterian Meeting House
Date: Thursday, January 16, 1834
Time: 6:00 p.m.

2 Journal, Saturday, January 4, 1834, p. 3.
3 Journal, Saturday, January 11, 1834, p. 3.
The Sangamon County Lyceum: Debate

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
J. W. Clark, Secretary
Entertainment: Debate: Would it not be wise to dispense with the study of the dead languages in our Schools and Colleges?
Affirmative: D. Dickinson and Anson G. Henry
Negative: Henry E. Dummer and J. W. Taylor
Venue: Presbyterian Meeting House
Date: Thursday, January 23, 1834
Time: Evening

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by E. Phillips

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
J. W. Clark, Secretary
Entertainment: Lecture: E. Phillips
The Laws regulating the use of money
Venue: Presbyterian Meeting House
Date: Thursday, January 30, 1834
Time: 6:30 p.m.

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Rev. John G. Bergen

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
J. W. Clark, Secretary
Entertainment: Lecture: Rev. John G. Bergen
The importance of Primary Schools
Venue: Presbyterian Meeting House
Date: Thursday, February 13, 1834
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Rev. John G. Bergen, D. D. was born on November 27, 1790, at Hightstown, Middlesex County, New Jersey. He attended Baskingridge Academy and graduated from Princeton College at age 17. He studied theology and at 20 was licensed to preach. From 1810 until September 1812, he was a tutor at Princeton College. In October 1812, he accepted a call as pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Madison, New Jersey. He married on November 10, 1812, at Freehold, New Jersey, to Margaretta M. Henderson, who was born in 1793 in that city. Her father, Dr. Thomas Henderson, was a Judge, member of Congress, and a ruling Elder in the old Tennent church at Freehold. They had five children born at Madison. Bergen was pastor of the church at Madison for about 16 years. His father, George I. Bergen, was a merchant, and sustained losses during the War of 1812. George, in company with a married son and daughter and the an in-law, Major Conover, six persons in all, set out to explore Indiana, and camped near where Indianapolis now stands.

The family moved to Illinois and settled in Jersey prairie, twelve miles north of Jacksonville, in Morgan, now Cass, County, Illinois. George I. Bergen died in 1825, and his widow married Rev. Kenner in 1827, and they visited Mrs. Kenner's old home in New Jersey. While there her son, Rev. John G. Bergen, resigned his pastorate of the church at Madison on September 10, 1828, and accompanied his mother back to Illinois. They started on September 22, 1828, and after a journey of nearly 1,500 miles, they arrived at Springfield in November 1828, bringing their five children. From 1828 to 1848, Rev. Bergen was the minister at First Presbyterian Church. After his resignation in 1848, he devoted much of his time to writing for the religious press, over the signature of “Old Man of the Prairies.” When he came to Springfield, he was the eighth Presbyterian minister in Illinois, the 8 serving 25 churches. Bergen lived to see 600 ministers and 800 churches in Illinois. Margaretta M. Bergen died on October 18, 1853, near Springfield. Dr. Bergen was married at Springfield on November 9, 1857, to Mrs. Susan A. Vanhoff. He died on January 17, 1872.
The Sangamon County Lyceum: Debate

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
J. W. Clark, Secretary
Entertainment: Debate: Ought a Representative in all cases to be controlled by the known will of his constituents?
Affirmative: A. W. Manning, J. B. Watson
Negative: G. Forquer, J. W. Taylor
Venue: Presbyterian Meeting House
Date: Thursday, February 20, 1834
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Journal, Saturday, February 15, 1834.

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Debate

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
J. W. Clark, Secretary
Entertainment: Debate: Is the manual labor system of high schools preferable to the old and most commonly received system?
Affirmative: Stuart and Moffett
Negative: Dummer and Phillips
Venue: Presbyterian Meeting House
Date: Thursday, November 20, 1834
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Journal, Saturday, November 15, 1834.

1834 Venues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian Meeting House</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1835

The 1835 type of entertainments were about the same as those for 1834 with the addition of a July 4th celebration.

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Knapp

**Journal, Saturday, January 24, 1835.**

**The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Knapp**

*J. W. Clark, Secretary*

**Journal, Saturday, January 31, 1835.**

**The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Knapp**

*J. W. Clark, Secretary*

**Journal, Saturday, February 7, 1835.**

**The Juvenile Temperance Society: Address by Rev. John G. Bergen**

**Journal, Saturday, February 7, 1835.**

**The Springfield Chess Club**

**Journal, Saturday, February 7, 1835.**

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10 **Journal, Saturday, January 24, 1835, p. 3.**

11 **Journal, Saturday, January 31, 1835, p. 3.**

12 **Journal, Saturday, February 7, 1835, p. 3.**

13 **Journal, Saturday, February 7, 1835, p. 3.**
Anson G. Henry was a close friend and personal doctor of Abraham Lincoln. He completed his medical training in Cincinnati in 1826 and then practiced in Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee until 1828, when he decided to make his fortune mining in the Michigan Territory. When luck failed him, he went back to practicing medicine in Louisville, Kentucky.

During his life, he split his time between politics and medicine. His medical practice was based in Springfield, but he visited other locales afflicted by cholera epidemics and was sought as an expert in its treatment. “My acquaintance with Mr. Lincoln began in 1834 in Springfield Ills. and I was in almost daily intercourse with him from that time up to 1852, when I emigrated to Oregon,” wrote Dr. Anson G. Henry two months after President Lincoln’s murder.

When Henry was a candidate for probate justice in 1837, Lincoln wrote a scathing, anonymous criticism of Henry’s opponent under the pseudonym “Sampson’s Ghost.” The attacks backfired and Henry lost.

Henry served as fellow editor with Lincoln of a Whig paper called The Old Soldier in 1840—it was one of several newspapers with which Henry was involved during his life as a writer and editor. In the late 1830s and early 1840s, he was the effective head of the Whig organization in Illinois. In 1841, Lincoln fell into a depression after his broken engagement and the departure of friend Joshua Speed for Kentucky and Henry attended to Lincoln during his post-engagement depression. Henry aided and abetted Lincoln and Mary Todd during their troubled courtship. He was active in political affairs and held or sought a variety of political and governmental posts—including State House Commissioner. Lincoln unsuccessfully promoted him for Postmaster of Springfield in 1841 to keep him from leaving town—again unsuccessfully. In 1852, he went to Oregon in search of greater opportunity. As in Illinois, he combined his medical practice with the pursuit of political positions, and as in Illinois, he gained both political friends and political enemies.

Although they didn’t see each for the next decade, throughout Mr. Lincoln’s long friendship with Anson G. Henry, the two men remained frequent correspondents. Lincoln once described Henry to a new Oregon congressman: “What a great, big-hearted man he is. Henry is one of the best men I have ever known. He sometimes commits an error of judgment, but I never knew him to be guilty of a falsehood or of an act beneath a gentleman. He is the soul of truth and honor.”

Henry was a frequent guest at the White House. He visited in March and April 1863 to try to prevent the dismissal of a friend from his job as superintendent of the San Francisco mint and to try to obtain the dismissal of a political rival, Victor Smith, from his job in Oregon. Henry was unsuccessful on the first mission and successful on the second.

When Dr. Henry attempted to depart back to Oregon, President Lincoln “ordered [him] to take up [his] headquarters at the White House” until he could go accompany President Lincoln on a visit to the Army of the Potomac front from April 5 to April 10 aboard the steamer Carrie Martin. According to journalist Noah Brooks: “Though the trip had been postponed for several days on account of unfavorable weather, it was snowing furiously soon after the special steamer left Washington Navy Yard, and before night the wind blew a gale, so that we were obliged to come to anchor in a little cove on the Potomac, opposite Indian Head, where we remained quiet until the morning of 5th instant.” The unarmed and unescorted group which included Attorney General Edward Bates rode at anchor while Henry, Brooks and President Lincoln talked until after midnight. Brooks reported that “the Chief Magistrate of this mighty nation was seated familiarly chatting with his undistinguished party, telling stories, or discussing matters military and political, in just such a free and easy way as might be expected of a President who was out on a trip of relaxation from care and toil.” Their relaxation was short-lived. Within a month, the three men were depressed by news from the Army of the Potomac. Dr. Henry had stayed on at the White House as a guest after the visit to the front.

Dr. Henry was also invited to return to Washington, where he was anxious to take up residence if appointed to a high-ranking position in the Interior Department. “On his arrival at the Capitol, Doctor Henry escorted Mrs. Lincoln to the Hall of Congress for the official counting of electoral votes.” wrote Harry Blair in a monograph on Dr. Henry’s life. Mrs. Lincoln, who shared Dr. Henry’s belief in spiritualism, sought to help him gain appointment as Commissioner of Indian Affairs. In addition to Mrs. Lincoln, Dr. Henry had a friend and ally in Noah Brooks. Brooks and Dr. Henry apparently had forged a firm friendship during the 1863 visit which they renewed as they maneuvered to get a new patronage position for Dr. Henry in Washington and the job of presidential secretary for Brooks – an appointment which Mrs. Lincoln also desired. Brooks reported in a dispatch to

14 Journal, Saturday, February 7, 1835, p. 3.
the Sacramento Daily Union on March 12 that “the name of A.G. Henry, Surveyor General of Washington Territory, has been secondarily presented to the President as the candidate of our Pacific delegation for a Bureau in the Interior Department – that of Indian Affairs or Land being preferred. Dr. Henry is an old-time friend of the President’s and his chances of success are thought to be good.”

After President Lincoln’s assassination, Dr. Henry’s medical rather than political skills were required to help Mrs. Lincoln through her grief after Lincoln’s assassination. Prior to his departure, Dr. Henry had ministered to Mrs. Lincoln, who had been bed-ridden after her husband’s murder. He wrote his wife: “I could not realize he was dead until I saw him lying in the guest chamber, cold and still in the embrace of death. After recovering my composure I sought the presence of poor, heart-broken Mrs. Lincoln.” He then accompanied her by train from Washington to Chicago in late May before he returned to Washington.

A few months later, both Brooks and Henry returned to California via Panama. Henry was killed when his ship sank off the California coast. With Henry’s death disappeared the “many letters” from Mr. Lincoln that Henry said he retained. 15

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Resolution Regarding Temperaments

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lectures by Dr. Knapp and Dr. Merryman


“Here I Have Lived”: A History of Lincoln’s Springfield, Paul Angle, Abraham Lincoln Association, 1935, p. 65. (Hereafter referred to as Here I Have Lived.)

The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln, Michael Burlingame, p. 151.


Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and the War Years, Carl Sandburg, pp. 70 and 487.

Noah Brooks, Lincoln Observed: The Civil War Dispatches of Noah Brooks, Michael Burlingame, editor, pp. 171, 237, 36 (Letter of Anson Henry to his wife, April 12, 1863).


Lincoln Looks West: From the Mississippi to the Pacific, Richard W. Etulain, editor, pp. 166, 181, 185

Dr. Anson G. Henry (1804-1865): Lincoln’s Junkyard Dog, Paul M. Zall.

(Edward A. Tansel, “The Tribe of Abraham”).


Dr. Anson G. Henry, Lincoln’s Physician and Friend, Harry E. Pratt, Lincoln Herald, Volume 45, No. 3, October 1943, pp. 34, 38. 16

The Abraham Lincoln Quarterly, pp. 10-12. (Letter from Anson G, Henry to his wife, April 12, 1863.)


Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin P. Thomas, pp. 457-458, 479.

Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage, Ruth Painter Randall, p. 331.

Concerning Mr. Lincoln, Harry E. Pratt, editor, pp. 117-118.

The Lincolns: Portrait of a Marriage, Daniel Mark Epstein, p. 21.

16 Journal, Saturday, February 14, 1835, p. 3.

17 Journal, Saturday, March 21, 1835, p. 3.
The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Matheny

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
E. Wright, Secretary
Entertainment: Lecture by Dr. Matheny on Phrenology
Date: Thursday, April 9, 1835
Time: Evening.

Journal, Saturday, April 4, 1835.

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Discussion Regarding Phrenology

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
E. Wright, Secretary
Entertainment: Discussion of Doctrine of Phrenology
Date: Thursday, April 23, 1835
Time: Evening.

Journal, Saturday, April 18, 1835.

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture on the Heart and Botany

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
Entertainment: Lecture on the Heart and Botany
Date: Thursday, May 9, 1835
Time: Evening.

Journal, Saturday, May 9, 1835.

Elias H. Merriman was born on January 20, 1802, in Baltimore, Maryland. He graduated at William and Mary College about 1820, and at the Baltimore Medical University soon after. He was married in Baltimore on August 16, 1822, to Susan H. Lavely, a sister of William Lavely. After practicing for a time in the vicinity of Baltimore, Dr. Merriman moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and from there to Springfield, Illinois, arriving in March 1830.

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Elias H. Merryman

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
W. M. Cowgill, Secretary
Entertainment: Lecture: Dr. Merryman on Chemistry
Venue: Presbyterian Meeting House
Date: Thursday, May 21, 1835
Time: Evening.

Journal, Saturday, May 16, 1835.

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Anson G. Henry

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
W. M. Cowgill, Secretary
Entertainment: Lecture: Dr. Anson G. Henry on Circulation and Nutrition
Date: Thursday, May 28, 1835
Time: Evening.

Journal, Saturday, May 23, 1835.
The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lectures by Doctors Knapp and Merryman

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
W. M. Cowgill, Secretary
Entertainment: Lecture: Doctors Knapp and Merryman
Date: Thursday, June 11, 1835
Time: Evening.

July 4th Celebration Planning

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
First Springfield Artillery
Entertainment: Planning for July 4th Celebration: committees appointed
Date: June 1835

Garrett Elkin, Marshall
Oration: Dan Stone
Read Declaration of Independence: E. J. Phillip
Clergy: Bergen and Edmundson
Dinner
Court House
Early firing of artillery
Methodist Church

Dan Stone was born March 13, 1800, in Monkton, Addison County, Vermont. He graduated at Middlebury College in 1818 and went to Cincinnati and studied law with his uncle, Ethan Stone, and practiced law there for a few years. And was married in that city in 1824 to Augusta M. Farnsworth, who was born on March 8, 1808, in Vermont, also.

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Matheny

Stone moved to Springfield, Illinois, in 1834, and in 1836 and was elected one of the Representatives of Sangamon County to the Illinois Legislature. He was one of the “Long Nine.” While a member of the Legislature, he was appointed a Circuit Court Judge assigned to a district in the extreme northwestern part of Illinois, and he moved to Galena. In 1838, he rendered a decision that was distasteful to the Democratic Party—he being a Whig. The decision led to a reorganization of the Illinois judiciary system with the number of Supreme Court judges increased from four to nine. The nine judges also acted as Circuit Judges, thus legislating Stone out of office. Stone soon left Illinois, and a few years later died in Essex County, New Jersey.

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Matheny

In Support of the Doctrines of Phrenology

Venue: Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, October 8, 1835
Time: Evening
The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Merryman

Journal, Saturday, October 24, 1835.28

The Lyceum will meet as usual—Lecture from Dr. Merryman, in support of Phrenology.

Journal, Saturday, October 31, 1835.29

The postponed meeting of the Lyceum, will take place on Thursday Evening next, if it don’t rain. Lecture from Dr. Merryman.

Journal, Saturday, November 7, 1835.30

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture on Illinois Twenty Years Hence

Journal, Saturday, November 21, 1835.31

The Lyceum will meet on Thursday evening next; when a Lecture may be expected, entitled, “Illinois Twenty years hence.”

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Publication of Lecture by Dr. Anson G. Henry

Journal, Saturday, December 5, 1835.32

LECTURE delivered before the Sangamon County Lyceum, by Dr. A. G. Henry.
[Published by request of the Lyceum.]

1835 Venues

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28 Journal, Saturday, October 24, 1835, p. 2.
29 Journal, Saturday, October 31, 1835, p. 3.
30 Journal, Saturday, November 7, 1835, p. 3.
31 Journal, Saturday, November 21, 1835, p. 3.
32 Journal, Saturday, December 5, 1835, p. 1.
1836

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture by Milton Hay

On February 6, 1836, The Young Men’s Lyceum first appeared in an advertisement in the Sangamo Journal. Unlike the Sangamon Lyceum, it was initially open only to members.

Milton Hay was born in Fayette County, Kentucky, on July 3, 1817. He spent his boyhood there, attending the public schools. In the fall of 1832 at about age 15, he accompanied his father’s family on their move to Springfield, Illinois. Six years later, in 1838, he began preparation for the bar, becoming a student in the law office of John T. Stuart and Abraham Lincoln. He was admitted to the bar after two years of study.

Hay then moved to Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, where he practiced law in partnership with Edward D. Baker. Hay built up an extensive practice, and his ability was soon recognized. He was also a journalist for a time. During the first session of the legislature after the move of the capital to Springfield he became a reporter for the Sangamo Journal, the leading Whig paper of that day, and reported the proceedings of the general assembly. As soon as that session ended, he returned to Pittsfield, and resumed his law practice. He then opened an office in Springfield where he entered a partnership with Stephen T. Logan, recognized as one of the foremost lawyers of Illinois. The partnership was maintained until 1861, when Judge Logan retired due to age. Hay then became a partner with Shelby M. Cullom, for many years United States senator, and Antrim Campbell, but after a year or two Campbell withdrew and the firm remained Hay & Cullom until 1866. Hay then formed a new partnership with John M. Palmer, which continued until Palmer was elected governor in 1868. Hay became senior member of the firm of Hay, Green & Littler until December 31, 1879, when he retired from practice.

Hay was married to Catherine, daughter of James Forbes, of Pittsfield, Illinois. She died in 1857, and in 1861, he wedded Mary Logan, the eldest daughter of his law partner, Judge Logan. She died in 1874, leaving two children: Mrs. Stuart Brown and Logan Hay, both of Springfield. Hay spent his retirement years devoted to supervision of his private personal interests and investments.

None was ever more respected and no man ever more fully enjoyed the confidence of the people or more richly deserved the esteem in which he was held. In his lifetime the people of the state, recognizing his merit, rejoiced in his advancement and in the honors to which he attained, and since his death they have cherished his memory. He was one of the great lawyers of the Illinois bar who lives in the memories of his contemporaries as a man of gracious presence, profound legal wisdom, and purity of public and private life and the quiet dignity of an ideal follower of his calling. He died on September 16, 1893.

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Elias H. Merryman

Name: The Sangamon County Lyceum
Anson G. Henry, Secretary, pro tem
Entertainment: Lecture: Dr. Elias H. Merryman
Venue: Unknown
Date: Thursday, February 11, 1836
Time: Evening

Journal, Saturday, February 6, 1836.
The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture by Rev. H. Crews

Entertainment: Lecture: Rev. H. Crews
Debate: Which has been most effectual in establishing the Christian religion, precept or example?
Affirmative: J. C. Maxcy, J. F. Amos and James Maxcy.
Negative: A. M. Kline, W. Craig and G. May
Venue: Mr. Chase’s school room
Date: Saturday, March 5 or 12, 1836
Time: Evening

Journal, Saturday, March 5, 1836.36

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Winter Planning Meeting

Entertainment: Reorganizing for winter
Venue: First Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, September 1, 1836
Time: Evening-early candle lighting

Journal, Saturday, August 27, 1836.37

Springfield Thespian Society: Meeting of Supporters

Entertainment: Meeting of those favorable to Thespian Corps
Venue: Court House
Date: Monday, November 7, 1836
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Journal, Monday, November 7, 1836.38

The Sangamon County Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Anson G. Henry

This is the last advertisement by The Sangamon County Lyceum.

Entertainment: Lecture: Dr. Anson G. Henry on longevity or the art of prolonging life.
Venue: First Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, November 10, 1836
Time: Evening-ringing of bell

Journal, Monday, November 7, 1836.39

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36 Journal, Saturday, March 5, 1836, p. 3.
37 Journal, Saturday, August 27, 1836, p. 2.
38 Journal, Monday, November 7, 1836, p. 2.
The Young Men’s Lyceum: Discussion

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
N. W. Matheny, Secretary
Entertainment: Discussion: Do the signs of the present times indicate the downfall of this Government?
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, November 12, 1836
Time: Evening
Attendees: Members

Journal, Saturday, November 12, 1836.40

Springfield Thespian Society: Plays

Name: Springfield Thespian Society
Entertainment: Plays: The Charcoal Burner and Race for a Dinner
Venue: Unknown
Date: Wednesday, December 7, 1836
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Price: 50 cents; Children half price

Journal, Saturday, December 3, 1836.41

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture by Dr. Anson G. Henry

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
W. M. Cowgill, Secretary
Entertainment: Lecture: Dr. Anson G. Henry Habits, and Food natural to man
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Thursday, December 8, 1836
Time: evening at ringing of the bell

Journal, Saturday, December 3, 1836.42

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40 Journal, Saturday, November 12, 1836, p. 2.
41 Journal, Saturday, December 3, 1836, p. 2.
42 Journal, Saturday, December 3, 1836, p. 2.
Springfield Thespian Society: Plays

Name: Springfield Thespian Society
Entertainment: Melo Drama, Songs, Recitations, Plays:
- *The Fire Raiser*, or
- *The Prophet of the Moor*
Venue: Unknown
Date: Monday, December 26, 1836
Time: Evening
Price: 50 cents

Name: Springfield Thespian Society
Entertainment: Plays:
- *Two Thompsons*
- *The Charcoal Burner*
Venue: Unknown
Date: Tuesday, December 13, 1836

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**1836 Venues**

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43 *Journal, Saturday, December 17, 1836*, p. 2.
44 *Journal, Saturday, December 24, 1836*, p. 3.
1837

Springfield Thespian Society: Comedic Play

Name: Springfield Thespian Society
Entertainment: Comedy Play: Poor Gentleman
Venue: Unknown
Date: Saturday, January 14, 1837
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Journal, Saturday, January 14, 1837.45

Springfield Thespian Society: Domestic Drama Plays

Name: Springfield Thespian Society
Entertainment: Domestic Drama: Pizarro or the Death of Rolla
Venue: Unknown
Date: Monday and Tuesday, January 22 and 23, 1837
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Journal, Saturday, January 21, 1837.46

Springfield Thespian Society: Domestic Drama Play

Name: Springfield Thespian Society
Entertainment: Domestic Drama: Rent Day
Date: Saturday, February 4, 1837
Venue: Unknown
Time: evening

Journal, Saturday, January 28, 1837.47

Springfield Thespian Society: Play

Name: Springfield Thespian Society
Entertainment: Plays: Rent Day and Frightened to Death
Venue: Unknown
Date: Friday, February 10, 1837
Time: Evening

Journal, Saturday, February 11, 1837.48

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45 Journal, Saturday, January 14, 1837, p. 3.
46 Journal, Saturday, January 21, 1837, p. 3.
47 Journal, Saturday, January 28, 1837, p. 3.
48 Journal, Saturday, February 11, 1837, p. 3.
The Mechanics Institute: Meeting to Establish Lyceum

Journal, Saturday, October 7, 1837.

Springfield Public Meetings Concerning Slavery

In the fall of 1837, there were a number of public meetings in Springfield concerning the issue of slavery. While the meetings were not “entertainment,” they were an important public discussion and consideration of the issue of American slavery. It gave rise to other entertainments at The Young Mens Lyceum.

Annual Meeting of Illinois Synod of Presbyterian Church at Springfield

Resolution on Sin of Slavery:

Elijah Lovejoy Present

In mid October of 1837, the Illinois Synod of the Presbyterian Church held its annual meeting in the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, on the southeast corner of Washington and Third Streets. A sermon on slavery was to be given by the Reverend Jeremiah Porter on Monday morning, October 21, 1837, at 9 o clock.

Before 9 o'clock at the ringing of a bell, a party of men collected in what was then the court house square and is now the square occupied by Old State Capitol. It was proposed to deal violently with the preacher. At this moment a young man stepped out before the crowd and began to speak. He appealed to their manhood and called on them to hear what the preacher had to say before they assailed him. Edward D. Baker finally persuaded them to allow the speaker to talk, and the leaders came to the church to hear the sermon which dealt fearlessly with the great evil.

When Reverend Jeremiah Porter spoke, he condemned slavery. While the Reverend was denouncing slavery, members of the audience abruptly interrupted him, contesting his antislavery views. Potter was able to finish his sermon only after Edward Beecher, President of Illinois College at Jacksonville and a member of the Presbyterian Synod, rose to castigate slavery and those who would defend it. He pointed to the men in the back seats and said, “And those men have dared to come into the House of God to intimidate a Christian minister speaking the truth.” He induced the angry citizens to permit Porter to leave town unharmed. The men in the back seats slunk out.

The Reverend Elijah P. Lovejoy was a member of this Synod. Three weeks afterwards he fell a martyr to an infuriated mob at Alton.49

Synod are also deeply convinced that no one cause is now contributing so much to uphold this iniquitous and bloodstained system as the fact that it finds refuge in the bosom of the Christian church, and its ablest and most successful defenders among her ministers. In view therefore, of this state of things, resolved,

That it is the duty of all Christians in this country, in all places, and at all proper times, to bear testimony, both public and private, against the sin of slavery.

That this Synod do now bear its solemn testimony against the system of American Slavery, and declare it to be, in their opinion, a heinous sin in the sight of God; and a cruel outrage upon those of our fellow men who are reduced to involuntary servitude.

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Discussion

Journal, Saturday, November 11, 1837.

49 Journal, Saturday, October 7, 1837, p. 2.
50 Journal, Saturday, November 11, 1837, p. 3.
Springfield Thespian Society: Winter Planning Meeting

Journal, Saturday, November 11, 1837. Named Springfield Thespian Society
Entertainment: Meeting to organize for winter
Venue: Court Room
Date: Monday, November 13, 1837
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Debate

Journal, Saturday, November 25, 1837. Named The Young Men’s Lyceum
J. H. Matheny, Secretary
Entertainment: Question: Ought Texas to be admitted into the Union
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, November 25, 1837
Time: Evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Debate

Journal, Saturday, December 2, 1837. Named The Young Men’s Lyceum
J. H. Matheny, Secretary
Entertainment: Question: Would it be expedient to abolish the Banking system in the U. States
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, December 2, 1837
Time: Evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Discussion

Journal, Saturday, December 23, 1837. Named The Young Men’s Lyceum
James Matheny, Secretary
Entertainment: Discussion: Do the signs of the times indicate the downfall of this Government?
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, December 23, 1837
Time: Evening
Attendees: Ladies invited.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

1837 Venues

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51 Journal, Saturday, November 11, 1837, p. 3.
52 Journal, Saturday, November 25, 1837, p. 3.
53 Journal, Saturday, December 2, 1837, p. 2.
54 Journal, Saturday, December 23, 1837, p. 3.
1838 Springfield was treated to a number of orators in January 1838. Among them were Major Edward Dickinson Baker, who spoke on the 13th and Abraham Lincoln who spoke on the 27th. Both spoke in the Baptist Church on Saturday evening.

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture by Maj. Edward Dickinson Baker

Edward Dickinson Baker was born in London, England, on February 24, 1811, to schoolteacher parents, poor but educated Quakers. Edward and his family left England and immigrated to the United States in 1815. They arrived and settled in Philadelphia, where Baker’s father established a school. Edward attended his father’s school before quitting to apprentice as a loom operator in a weaving factory. In 1825, the family left Philadelphia and traveled to New Harmony, Indiana, a utopian community, and sought to follow communitarian ideals.

The family left New Harmony in 1826 and moved to Belleville in the Illinois Territory, a town near St. Louis. Baker and his father bought a horse and cart and started a drayage business that young Edward operated in St. Louis. Baker met Governor Ninian Edwards, who allowed Baker access to his private law library. Later Baker moved to Carrollton, Illinois, where he was admitted to the bar in 1830.

On April 27, 1831, Baker married Mary Ann Foss and they had five children. Shortly after his marriage, Baker affiliated with the Disciples of Christ and engaged in part-time preaching. This spread awareness of his skill in public oratory, an activity that eventually made him famous. A year after his marriage, Baker participated in the Black Hawk War but did not engage in hostilities. Around 1835, he became acquainted with Abraham Lincoln and soon became involved in local politics, being elected to the Illinois House of Representatives on July 1, 1837. He served in the Illinois Senate from 1840 to 1844. In 1844, while living in Springfield, he defeated Lincoln for the nomination for the 7th U.S. congressional seat and was elected as a Whig. Baker and Lincoln became fast friends, an association which lent credibility to a claim that Baker baptized Lincoln. However, this claim is denied as apocryphal by some.

In September 1844, Baker was involved in an incident arising out of the murder of Joseph Smith, the founder of the Latter Day Saint movement, by a mob in a jail near Nauvoo, Illinois. As a colonel in the local militia, Baker was part of a group pursuing the mob leaders, who had fled across the Mississippi River into Missouri. Rather than wait for others to join him, Baker crossed the river and apprehended the fugitives.

Baker was elected as a Whig to the Twenty-ninth Congress and served from March 4, 1845, until his resignation on December 24, 1846, to take effect on January 15, 1847, in a dispute over the legality of his serving in Congress and the army.

Lincoln and Baker were close friends, with Lincoln naming one of his sons Edward Baker Lincoln, affectionately called “Eddie.” Lincoln and Baker occasionally competed in Fives, a form of handball.

During the Mexican-American War, Baker briefly dropped out of politics and was commissioned as a Colonel of the Fourth Regiment of the Illinois Volunteer Infantry, on July 4, 1846, and served until he was honorably mustered out on May 29, 1847. In the Battle of Cerro Gordo, the regiment was assigned to General James Shields’s Illinois brigade. When Shields was badly wounded in an artillery barrage, Baker boldly led the brigade against the entrenched artillery battery, resulting in the capture of the guns. Baker was discharged on May 25, and returned to Springfield in 1848, but, rather than run against Lincoln again for nomination to Congress, Baker moved to Galena, where he was nominated and elected as a Whig to the 31st Congress (March 4, 1849 - March 4, 1851). He was not a candidate for renomination in 1850.

After Baker did not get a Cabinet position under President Zachary Taylor, he moved to San Francisco in 1852. He operated a successful law practice.

55 Journal, Saturday, January 13, 1838, p. 3.
California had been admitted to the United States in 1850 as a free state, but by the later part of the 1850s, the state was being pulled in different directions over the issue of slavery, and Baker became a leader in the movement to keep California in the Union. In 1855, he ran for a seat in the state senate as a Whig on the Free Soil Party party ticket but lost because the Whig party had collapsed. It was in those days that Baker picked up the name “Gray Eagle” because of his gray hair.

Frustrated by his failure to win a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1859, Baker looked to greener political pastures to the north. Oregon held special interest for people who had once lived in Illinois, including men he had known in Springfield. He had become interested in Oregon politics in 1857, when Dr. Anson Henry, a friend from Springfield who had moved to Oregon, told Baker he could win the Senate election there. After statehood was achieved on February 14, 1859, Oregon Republicans asked Baker to come to their state to run for the Senate and counter the Democratic strength there.

By the end of February 1860, the Baker family had moved into a house in Salem on what is now the campus of Willamette University. Baker opened a law office and started campaigning for Republicans around the state. In Salem on July 4, he acknowledged the rumbles of secession threats and proclaimed his willingness to die for his country: “If it be reserved for me to lay my unworthy life upon the altar of my country in defending it from internal assailants, I declare here today that I aspire to no higher glory than that the sun of my life may go down beneath the shadow of freedom’s temple and baptize the emblem of the nation’s greatness, the Stars and Stripes, that float so proudly before us today, in my heart’s warmest blood.”

The Douglas Democrats supported Baker because of his sincerity and support of popular sovereignty and he was elected. He took his seat in the Senate on December 5, 1860. On December 31, Senator Judah Benjamin of Louisiana argued that Southern states had a constitutional right to secede and that other states would soon join South Carolina, which had seceded on December 20. Baker refuted Benjamin’s argument in a three-hour speech a day later. He acknowledged that he was opposed to interference with slave owners in slave states, but he was also opposed to secession and the extension of slavery into new territories and states. In March 1861, he indicated a willingness to compromise on some issues to prevent the breakup of the country.

Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated on March 4, 1861. Baker and Senator James A. Pearce of Maryland faced backward in the presidential carriage as they rode from the White House to the Capitol, and Lincoln and outgoing President James Buchanan faced forward. On horseback Baker introduced Lincoln to the audience gathered on the east portico of the Capitol: “Fellow citizens, I introduce to you, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States.”

Lincoln did not name Baker to his cabinet because his support in the Senate was so critical. If Baker had resigned his Senate seat, Oregon’s pro-slavery Democratic governor, John Whiteaker, would have appointed a pro-slavery Democrat to take his place.

Baker was killed in the Battle of Balls Bluff, Virginia, on October 21, 1861, and was interred in San Francisco National Cemetery, San Francisco, California.56

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Meeting

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
J. H. Matheny, Secretary
Entertainment: Meeting
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, January 20, 1838
Time: Evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.


57 Journal, Saturday, January 20, 1838, p. 2.
As one of Abraham Lincoln’s earliest published speeches, this address has been much scrutinized and debated by historians, who see broad implications for his later public policies. Lincoln was 28 years old at the time he gave this speech and had recently moved from a rough pioneer village to Springfield, Illinois. William Herndon, who would become Lincoln’s law partner in 1844, describes the event this way: “we had a society in Springfield, which contained and commanded all the culture and talent of the place. Unlike the other one [The Sangamon County Lyceum] its meetings were public, and reflected great credit on the community ... The speech was brought out by the burning in St. Louis a few weeks before, by a mob, of a negro. Lincoln took this incident as a sort of text for his remarks ... The address was published in the Sangamon Journal and created for the young orator a reputation which soon extended beyond the limits of the locality in which he lived.

**Springfield Artillery: Meeting to Plan Washington’s Birthday**

Name: Springfield Artillery  
E. H. Merryman, O.S.  
Entertainment: Planning meeting for February 22 celebration of Washington’s Birthday  
Venue: Court House  
Date: Monday, February 5, 1838

**The Young Men’s Lyceum: Address by Antrim Campbell**

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum  
R. S. Thomas, Secretary  
Entertainment: Address: Antrim Campbell  
Venue: Baptist Church  
Date: Saturday, February 17, 1838  
Time: Evening  
Attendees: Ladies and gentlemen. Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
The Young Men’s Lyceum: Publication of Antrim Campbell’s Address

Antrim Campbell, born on August 5, 1814, in New Jersey, came to Springfield in 1838 and began the practice of law. On January 24, 1849, he was appointed Master in Chancery for the Sangamon County Circuit Court. Campbell resigned this position on October 28, 1861, when he received an appointment as Master in Chancery for the United States Circuit Court for the Southern District of Illinois, a position he held until his death on August 11, 1868, in Springfield, Illinois.

Springfield Artillery Salute for Washington’s Birthday

Messers Isherwood & Mackenzie Theatre

This I believe was the first theatrical performance in Springfield.

Theater Controversy

Moralists had not seriously challenged the amateur dramatics of the Thespian Society, but when professionals made their appearance there was consternation among them. Isherwood and MacKenzie, the experienced producers who fitted up the dining room of Major Iles’ new American House for a series of plays to commence in February, 1838, must have had a plan to attract a different audience.

63 Journal, Saturday, March 3, 1838, p. 3.
65 Journal, Saturday, February 17, 1838, p. 2.
66 Journal, Saturday, February 17, 1838, p. 2.
67 Journal, Saturday, February 24, 1838, p. 2.
been aware of the criticism they would encounter, and doubtless had something to do with the newspaper puffs which began to appear—brief items calling attention to the way in which the theatrical company emphasized “the beauties of virtue and the hatefulness of vice.”

To one such comment, signed “Philo Drama,” a writer in the Illinois Republican replied with an intemperate screed in which all the prejudices of the rigid moralists found expression. “I challenge Philo Drama to point to the spot where Christianity has looked with a tolerating eye upon the stage,” he proclaimed . . . . . it is a school of vice, a hotbed of iniquity, a pander to pollution and death. . . . Does Philo Drama wish Springfield to become what some of the eastern cities are—a sink of pollution, a hole of every foul spirit? The stage has always flourished in proportion to the increase of corruption and depravity in society. . . . The theatre, above all other places, is the spot where the bonds of virtue are first loosened, and finally dissolved.”

On October 17, 1837, Alexander Mackenzie and Harry Isherwood gave the first theatrical performance in the history of Chicago. The scene was the dining room of the deserted Sauanash Hotel which stood on the east side of Market Street about one hundred feet south of Lake Street. The play was The Idiot Witness or A Tale of Blood a melodrama by J. T. Haines which was extremely popular in those days. Chicago was then seven months old and its population had grown to 4,179 inhabitants The spot on which this first performance was given possesses a double significance for all patriotic Americans for in after years a wooden structure was erected on the same site and called The Wigwam.

In May 1838 Alexander Mackenzie and his brother in law opened a theatre on the second floor at 8 and 10 Dearborn Street [Chicago]. They called it The Rialto. On October 18, 1838, Chicago saw its first performance of The Lady of Lyons which was given as a benefit Mr. Mackenzie at the request of fifty-one prominent citizens being the first theatrical benefit ever given in Chicago.

Sangamon Temperance Society: Lecture

Journal, Saturday, February 24, 1838.

The Young Men's Lyceum: Lecture

Journal, Saturday, February 24, 1838.

The Young Men's Lyceum: Meeting

Journal, Saturday, March 31, 1838.

68 Here I Have Lived, p. 80.
71 Journal, Saturday, February 24, 1838, p. 2.
72 Journal, Saturday, February 24, 1838, p. 2.
73 Journal, Saturday, March 31, 1838, p. 2.
The Union Harmonic Society of Springfield: Meeting

Journal, Saturday, April 14, 1838.

Report on July Fourth Independence Ball

Journal, Saturday, July 7, 1838.

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture

Journal, Saturday, November 10, 1838.

1838 Venues

<table>
<thead>
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<td>American House</td>
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</table>

Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

1838

Name: Union Harmonic Society of Springfield
Entertainment: Meeting
Venue: First Presbyterian Church
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 1838
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Report: Independence Ball
Entertainment: Fourth of July Celebration
Venue: front of Methodist meeting house;
Springfield House
Date: July 4, 1838
Time: night.

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Saturday, April 14, 1838, p. 2.
Journal, Saturday, July 7, 1838, p. 2.
Journal, Saturday, November 10, 1838, p. 3.
1839

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture by James C. Conkling

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Lecture: James C. Conkling
Venue: Unknown
Date: Saturday, January 5, 1839
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Ladies and gentlemen invited

Journal, Saturday, January 5, 1839.77

James Cook Conkling was born in New York City on October 13, 1816. He attended Princeton College and graduated in 1835. He then studied law and was admitted to the bar of New Jersey. He moved to Springfield, Illinois in 1838, where he formed a law partnership with Cyrus Walker. He later partnered with future United States Senator James Shields. In 1844, Conkling was elected Mayor of Springfield as a Whig. He was appointed to the Illinois House of Representatives during the 1850–52 term to replace Ninian Wirt Edwards.

Conkling was one of four delegates, including Abraham Lincoln, from Sangamon County, Illinois, at the 1856 Bloomington Convention. This was the first official organization of the Republican Party in Illinois. He was named to its State Central Committee, responsible for overseeing the campaign in the state that year. He was a presidential elector for the Republicans in 1860 and 1864, casting votes for Lincoln. He delivered the dedication address at the opening of the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. During the Civil War, Governor Richard Yates appointed Conkling a State Agent, responsible for settling claims of the state against the U.S. government for equipping volunteers. In 1863, he read what would become known as the “Conkling Letter,” an address written by Lincoln, at a mass gathering in Springfield.

Conkling was elected to the Illinois House for two-year term in 1866. He authored the bill that would authorize the construction of a new Illinois State Capitol building. Soon after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, Conkling was named one of the first fourteen members of the Lincoln Monument Association, where he served for over thirty years. He was elected a trustee of the University of Illinois for the years 1879 to 1880. In 1890, President Benjamin Harrison named Conkling the Postmaster of Springfield. He served the office for four years.

Conkling married Mercie A. Levering on September 21, 1841. They had five children: Clinton Levering, James, Charles, Annie V., and Alice. Conkling attended the Second Presbyterian Church of Springfield and was a longtime elder there. He died on March 1, 1899, in Springfield, and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.78

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Ought Aliens be permitted to hold civil office?

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Discussion: Ought Aliens be permitted to hold civil office?
Venue: Unknown
Date: Saturday, February 16, 1839
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Public invited

Journal, Saturday, February 9, 1839.79

Washington’s Birth Night Military and Citizens’ Ball

Entertainment: Washington’s Birth Night Military and Citizen’s Ball
Venue: Assembly Room
Date: Friday, February 22, 1839
Time: Evening

Journal, Saturday, February 16, 1839.80

77 Journal, Saturday, January 5, 1839, p. 2.
79 Journal, Saturday, February 9, 1839, p. 3.
80 Journal, Saturday, February 16, 1839
The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture by James Rucker - Abolitionist

Rev. James Rucker was a Methodist minister born in Woodford County, Kentucky on January 6, 1817. His father, also a Methodist minister, was born in Virginia. James was educated in schools at Harrodsburg, Kentucky. At the age of seventeen, he came to Illinois with his parents, who located in Sangamon County. He went to Winchester, where he taught school and was in the law office of Stephen A. Douglas as a student. He remained there two years, was admitted to the bar and practiced law for four years. About a year before he quit the practice, he was converted under the preaching of Rev. Peter Aken. His preaching career began in Paris, Edgar County, Illinois and continued in various places for a period of thirty-three years. He was a Republican and during the Civil War, he boldly advocated the abolition of slavery. In a speech made upon the victory at Vicksburg, he said: “God Almighty has written on the broad face of the sky; in letters of burning light; that all men are created free; and that slavery shall be destroyed,” at the time a bold utterance.

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture by J. C. Doremus, Esq.

July Fourth Celebration

Abraham Lincoln was one of the assistants in the formation of the parade.
The Young Men’s Lyceum: Winter Organizational Meeting

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Organizing for winter
Venue: Baptist Church
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Date: Saturday, September 14, 1839

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Discussion

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Discussion: *Does education contribute more to constitute true greatness of character than nature.*
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, September 21, 1839
Time: evening
Attendees: Public

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Meeting

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: meeting
Venue: Usual place: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, October 12, 1839
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield

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85 Journal, Friday, June 28, 1839, p. 2.
86 Journal, Friday, September 13, 1839, p. 2.
87 Journal, Friday, September 20, 1839, p. 2.
88 Journal, Friday, October 11, 1839, p. 3.
The Young Men’s Lyceum: Business Meeting

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Business meeting
Venue: Usual place: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, October 26, 1839
Time: evening

Journal, Friday, October 25, 1839.89

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Discussion

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Discussion: Ought the Representatives in all cases to obey the will of his constituents?
Venue: Usual place: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, November 2, 1839
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Attendees: Public
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield

Journal, Friday, November 1, 1839.90

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Discussion

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Discussion: Were the Allied Powers justifiable in banishing Bonaparte?
Venue: Usual place: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, November 16, 1839
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield

Journal, Friday, November 15, 1839.91

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture by Rev. Comstock

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Lecture: Rev. Comstock
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, November 23, 1839
Time: Evening
Attendees: Ladies and gentlemen
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, November 22, 1839.92

1839 Venues

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
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1840

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Business Meeting

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Business meeting
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, February 8, 1840
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, February 7, 184093

Other than an advertisement for a July 4th event, I was not able to find an entertainment advertisement for the year 1840 in either the Journal or Register. This seems quite strange and I am unable to explain why.

Springfield Mechanics’ Union July Fourth Celebration

Name: Springfield Mechanics’ Union
R. H. Beach, Secretary
Entertainment: Fourth of July Celebration
Venue: Methodist Church
Date: July 4, 1840
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, June 26, 184094

1840 Venues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methodist Church</td>
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</table>

93 Journal, Friday, February 7, 1840, p. 3.
94 Journal, Friday, June 26, 1840, p. 3.
1841

July Fourth Celebration

Entertainment: Fourth of July Celebration
Venue: 6th and Washington and parade to the Grove for reading of Declaration of Independence and a speech after dinner
Venue: Grove
Date: July 4, 1841
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
This celebration did not occur.

Journal, Friday, July 2, 1841.95

July Fourth Celebration at Clark’s Mill (Grove) on South Fork

Entertainment: Fourth of July Celebration
Venue: Clark’s Mill on South Fork
Date: July 4, 1841
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, July 2, 1841.96

Springfield Sacred Music Society: Choir Concert

Name: The Springfield Sacred Music Society
Entertainment: Choir Concert
Venue: 2nd Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, September 30, 1841
Time: 7:15 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

Journal, Friday, September 24, 1841.98

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95 Journal, Friday, July 2, 1841, p. 3.
96 Journal, Friday, July 2, 1841, p. 2.
97 Journal, Friday, July 9, 1841, p. 2.
98 Journal, Friday, September 24, 1841, p. 3.
The Young Men’s Lyceum: Meeting

The Young Men’s Lyceum will meet at the Journal Reading Room, on Monday evening next, at 7 o’clock. The public are invited to attend. Sept. 24.

Journal, Friday, September 27, 1841.99

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: meeting
Venue: Journal Reading Room
Date: Monday, September 30, 1841
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Public invited

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture by Mr. Woodworth

The LYCEUM will meet at the Seminary on Monday evening next. A lecture may be expected from Mr. Woodworth. Dec. 8.

Journal, Friday, December 10, 1841.100

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Lecture: Mr. Woodworth
Venue: Seminary
Date: Monday, December 13, 1841
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

1841 Venues

<table>
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<td>Seminary</td>
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99 Journal, Friday, September 27, 1841, p. 3.
100 Journal, Friday, December 10, 1841, p. 3.
1842

The Washington Society (Washingtonians): Meeting and Lectures

Name: The Washington Society (Washingtonians)
Entertainment: Lecture: Mr. Lamborn and Col. Henderson
Venue: 2nd Presbyterian Church
Date: Tuesday, January 4, 1842
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture by Mr. Watson

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Lecture: Mr. Watson
Venue: Usual place: Baptist Church
Date: Monday, January 10, 1842
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Washington Temperance Society
Washington’s Birthday Celebration: Abraham Lincoln Speaks
Temperance Address

Name: The Washington Society
Entertainment: Birthday Celebration: parade, choir and address by Abraham Lincoln
Venue: 2nd Presbyterian Church
Date: Tuesday, February 22, 1842
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

At noon, in the Second Presbyterian Church, Lincoln addressed the Washington Temperance Society and declared that the recent progress of the temperance movement was due to the efforts of the “reformed drunkard” and not to the “warfare” of “denunciation” waged by “preachers, lawyers, and hired agents.”
Albert Taylor Bledsoe, born in Kentucky on November 9, 1809, was the eldest son of Moses Ousley Bledsoe and Sophia Childress Taylor, a relation of Zachary Taylor. Bledsoe studied at the United States Military Academy, where he was a fellow student of Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee, and graduated in 1830. His first posting was as a lieutenant in the 7th Infantry stationed along the western frontier. Resigning his post in 1832, he headed east to study law, theology, and philosophy at Kenyon College in Ohio, where from 1833 to 1834 he held the posts of Professor of Mathematics and Instructor of French. In 1835, he became Professor of Mathematics at Miami University and an Episcopal minister. He resigned from the ministry in 1839 and spent most of the next nine years in Springfield, Illinois, where he practiced law as a partner of Edward D. Baker, a friend of Lincoln.

Bledsoe left Springfield to become a professor of mathematics at the University of Mississippi (1848-54), later moving to a similar post at the University of Virginia (1854-61). While at Virginia, he wrote "An Essay on Liberty and Slavery" (1856), in which he justified secession as a constitutional right and slavery as a moral right sanctioned by the Bible. At the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, he resigned his chair and joined the Confederate Army at the rank of colonel. Bledsoe was appointed Assistant Secretary of War by Jefferson Davis and saw little action on the battlefield. He was sent to London to research various historical problems relating to the North-South conflict, as well as to guide British public opinion in favor of the Confederate.

After the Civil War, Bledsoe published materials in books and periodicals in defense of the Southern cause. In 1867, he founded the Southern Review, which he edited until his death. In 1873, Bledsoe reviewed Ward Hill Lamon’s Life of Abraham Lincoln in the Southern Review and, calling upon his past experiences with the former president, he was highly critical of Lincoln the politician and the public figure. He published articles and reviews in justification of the old, unreconstructed Southern attitudes. In an editorial on the question of abandoning the Southern cause, he said “[w]e would rather die.” He died at Alexandria, Virginia on December 8, 1877.

The volume that resulted from his research, Is Davis a Traitor? Or Was Secession a Constitutional Right Previous to the War of 1861? (1866) formed the basis of much of the case for the defense in Davis’s trial immediately after the war.
**The Young Men’s Lyceum: Meeting at Watson’s Saloon**

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum  
J. A. Hay, Secretary  
Entertainment: meeting  
Venue: Watson’s Saloon  
Date: Monday, March 21, 1842  
Time: evening  
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

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**The Young Men’s Lyceum: Lecture by Mr. Workman**

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum  
Entertainment: Mr. Workman’s lecture on  
Importance of Acquiring the German and French Languages  
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 1842  
Time: night  
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

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109 *Journal*, Friday, March 18, 1842, p. 3.  
110 Haerting. It is interesting to note that Benjamin A. Watson of W. W. Watson & Son confectioners on the South Side of the Square, Watson was the grandfather of James Dewey Watson, the molecular biologist, geneticist and zoologist, best known as one of the co-discoverers of the structure of DNA in 1953 with Francis Crick and Rosalind Franklin. In 1972, Watson was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.  
111 *Journal*, Friday, March 25, 1842, p. 2.
Juvenile Scholars Choir and Springfield Music Society Concert:
Mr. Munson Professor of Music

Name: Juvenile Scholars
Entertainment: Choir Concert
Mr. Munson, Professor of Music, Monticello Academy, Juvenile Scholars
Venue: 2nd Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, September 22, 1842 and Saturday, September 24, 1842
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield on the 24th.

Journal, Friday, September 30, 1842.\(^{\text{112}}\)

Military Guards Parade

Name: Guards
G. H. Huntington, O. S.
Entertainment: Parade
Venue: State House
Date: Friday, September 23, 1842
Time: 3:00 p.m.

Journal, Friday, September 23, 1842.\(^{\text{113}}\)

Springfield Sacred Music Society: Choir Concert

Name: Springfield Sacred Music Society
Director: Professor H. D. Munson
Entertainment: Choir Concert
Venue: 2nd Presbyterian Church
Date: Saturday, September 24, 1842
Time: Evening
Price: 25 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, September 23, 1842.\(^{\text{114}}\)

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Meeting

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
S. P. Lalumiere, Secretary
Entertainment: meeting
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Tuesday, October 4, 1842
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, September 30, 1842.\(^{\text{115}}\)

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\(^{\text{112}}\) Journal, Friday, September 30, 1842, p. 2.
\(^{\text{113}}\) Journal, Friday, September 23, 1842, p. 2.
\(^{\text{114}}\) Journal, Friday, September 23, 1842, p. 2.
\(^{\text{115}}\) Journal, Friday, September 30, 1842, p. 2.
The Young Men’s Lyceum: Discussion About Abolition of Sewing Societies

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
B. A. Watson, Secretary
Entertainment: Debate: Resolved, That sewing societies in general are a nuisance, and should be abolished.
Venue: Watson’s Saloon
Date: Saturday, November 19, 1842
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was probably in Springfield.

The Young Men’s Lyceum: Ought Our Next Legislature to Pass a Stay Law?

Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Question: Ought our next legislature to pass a stay law?
Venue: Watson’s Saloon
Date: Saturday, November 26, 1842
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

This is the last advertisement for The Young Men’s Lyceum.

1842 Venues

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<td>State House</td>
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| Total                         | 12    

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116 Journal, Friday, November 18, 1842, p. 2.
117 Journal, Friday, November 25, 1842, p. 3.
1843

Springfield Band Request to Use the Hall of Representatives

Proposal to allow the Springfield Band to use the Hall of the House of Representatives.

Journal, Thursday, January 5, 1843.118

Springfield Band Concert

Name: Springfield Band
Entertainment: Soiree Musicale; Band Concert
Money raised will be used to purchase instruments
Venue: Hall of Representatives
Date: Tuesday, January 10, 1843
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Thursday, January 5, 1843.119

Lecture by Professor Whitney

Name: Professor Whitney’s Popular Lectures
Entertainment: nine lectures on oratory, illustrative of the harmony of oratorical action; imitation of great speakers
Venue: Representatives’ Hall
Date: Monday, January 23, 1843
Time: evening
Price: 25 cents; single tickets for the course, $1.50; lady and gentleman $2.00; family of five $4.00
Abraham Lincoln was probably in Springfield.

Journal, Thursday, January 26, 1843.120

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118 Journal, Thursday, January 5, 1843, p. 2.
119 Journal, Thursday, January 5, 1843, p. 3.
120 Journal, Thursday, January 26, 1843, p. 3.
Washington Birthday Celebration

Entertainment: Washington Birthday Celebration; addresses: A. Jonas, John Dougherty, Anson G. Henry (Marshal), G. A. Smith, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements
Venue: Parade from 2nd Presbyterian Church to Hall of House of Representatives
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 1843
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

1843 Venues

| Hall of House of Representatives (State House) | 3 |

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121 Journal, Thursday, February 16, 1843, p. 3.
1844

William H. Keith Concert

Name: William H. Keith
Entertainment: vocalist and French accordion concerts
Venue: Mechanics’ Institute Hall
Date: Monday and Tuesday, July 22 and 23, 1844
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Thursday, July 25, 1844.\textsuperscript{122}

Sauvinet’s Cotillion Band for Balls

Name: G. C. Sauvinet Cotillion Band for Balls
Entertainment: Balls, dancing lessons
Venue: City Hotel
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 1844
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Thursday, January 9, 1845.\textsuperscript{123}

1844 Venues

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\textsuperscript{122} Journal, Thursday, July 25, 1844, p. 2.
\textsuperscript{123} Journal, Thursday, January 9, 1845, p. 1.
1845

Mechanics’ Union: Scientific Lectures

Name: Mechanics’ Union
Entertainment: Scientific Lectures
Venue: Mechanics’ Hall
Date: During Present Winter
Time: To come
Price: free

Report on Amusements of the Season

Name: Report on Amusements of the Season
Entertainment:
- Sauvinet & Co’s. Promenade Concert
- Mr. Munson’s Juvenile Concert
- Congo Serenaders
- The Exhibitions of West’s Painting of Death on the Pale Horse
- The Exhibition of the painting of Christ Healing the Sick
- Copy of West’s painting by a citizen of Adams County
- Mr. Highby’s exhibition of his Gallery of Paintings
- Discussions in the Lobby on subjects of great interest to our State

Lectures on Scientific subjects, Col. Edward Dickinson Baker, Dr. C. Goudy and Professor Post of Jacksonville College

Public balls and private parties
- Wednesday, January 8, 1845 party at the State House

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124 Journal, Thursday, January 2, 1845, p. 2.
125 Journal, Thursday, January 9, 1845, p. 3.
The Lobby

Name: The Lobby
Entertainment: Discussion: Should the People of Illinois be taxed immediately to pay the State debt?
Presenters: J. Lambourn and W. H. Stickney
Date: Monday, January 6, 1845
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Thursday, January 9, 1845.126

Juvenile Choir Concert

Name: Juvenile Choir
Entertainment: Choir Concert
Mr. Munson, Professor of Music, Juvenile Scholars
Venue: First Presbyterian Church
Date: Wednesday, June 11, 1845
Time: evening
Price: 25 cents

Journal, Thursday, June 5, 1845.127

Herr Alexander: Magician

Name: Herr Alexander
Entertainment: European Magician
Date: after July 15, 1845

Journal, Thursday, July 17, 1845.128

Grand Zoological Exhibition

Name: Grand Zoological Exhibition
Entertainment: Animals
Date: Thursday, August 7, 1845
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Admission: 50 cents
Children under 10: 25 cents

Journal, Thursday, July 31, 1845.129

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126 Journal, Thursday, January 9, 1845, p. 3.
127 Journal, Thursday, June 5, 1845, p. 3.
128 Journal, Thursday, July 17, 1845, p. 3.
129 Journal, Thursday, July 31, 1845, p. 2.
Philology is commonly defined as the study of literary texts and written records, the establishment of their authenticity and their original form, and the determination of their meaning. A person who pursues this kind of study is known as a philologist.

1845 Venues

<table>
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<tr>
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130 Journal, Thursday, October 16, 1845, p. 2.
131 Journal, Thursday, October 16, 1845, p. 2.
132 Journal, Thursday, December 18, 1845, p. 2.
1846

First Presbyterian Church: Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music

Name: First Presbyterian Church
Entertainment: Choir concert and instrumental music
Benefit: Professor Balling
J. A. Hough, instrumental conductor
H. Munson, choir conductor
William Balling will preside at the Organ and Piano Forte
Venue: First Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, April 2, 1846
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 25 cents
Abraham Lincoln may have been in Springfield.

Juvenile Choir Concert

Name: Juvenile Choir Concert
Mr. Balling at the organ
Entertainment: Choir Concert
Venue: First Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, April 30, 1846
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

133 Journal, Thursday, March 26, 1846, p. 2.
134 Journal, Thursday, April 2, 1846, p. 3.
135 Journal, Thursday, April 30, 1846, p. 2.
Juvenile Choir Concert

Name: Juvenile Choir Concert
Director: Mr. Munson
Proceeds to compensate teachers of juvenile choir
Entertainment: Choir Concert
Venue: First Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, May 7, 1846
Time: evening

Journal, Thursday, April 30, 1846.\textsuperscript{136}

\textbf{1846 Venues}

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Venue</th>
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<td>First Presbyterian Church</td>
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</table>

\textsuperscript{136} Journal, Thursday, April 30, 1846, p. 2.
1847

**Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield**

**Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music**

*Journal, Thursday, January 21, 1847.*

A concert was advertised in the First Presbyterian Church on the evening of January 20th. The concert was described as a splendid affair, and the public was invited to attend.

**Juvenile Choir Concert**

*Journal, Thursday, February 4, 1847.*

A Juvenile Choir Concert was advertised to take place at the First Presbyterian Church on February 4th. The concert was directed by Mr. Munson and admission was priced at 25 cents.

**Governor William Slade Lectures**

On February 7, 1847, William Slade, former governor of Vermont, lectured on Popular Education. Slade was an American Whig and Anti-Masonic politician. He served as a U.S. Representative from Vermont and as the seventeenth Governor of Vermont. After leaving office, Slade was corresponding secretary of the Board of National Popular Education from 1846 to 1859, which he co-founded with Catharine Beecher. The Board worked to place female teachers in schools in western United States.

**July 4th Activity Report**

*Journal, Tuesday, July 6, 1847.*

A report of the activities on July 3, 1847, includes a procession, Declaration of Independence reading, Col. Baker’s speech, dinner, and dancing. The report notes the presence of 800 in the House of Representatives and a concert by Mrs. Browne and her daughters.

1847 Venues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
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137 *Journal, Thursday, January 21, 1847,* p. 3.
139 *Journal, Tuesday, July 6, 1847,* p. 2.
1848

Sons of Temperance: Washington’s Birthday Celebration Report

The “Sons of Temperance” celebrated the Birth-Day of Washington, in this city, by a procession, address and other proceedings at the First Presbyterian Church. We should judge that there were one hundred and fifty of the “Sons” in procession,—making a fine appearance. The address by W. J. Ferguson, Esq. was excellent.

In the evening, G. S. Cranmer, Esq. delivered a Lecture in the same church, “On the true greatness and moral grandeur of Man’s character.” The Lecture was highly interesting—the style fine—and many passages most beautiful.

Journal, Thursday, March 2, 1848.

1848 Venues

First Presbyterian Church 1

Name: Sons of Temperance
Entertainment: Report on Washington’s Birthday celebration; Addresses: W. J. Ferguson and G. S. Cranmer on the true greatness and moral grandeur of Man’s character.
Venue: First Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, February 22, 1848
Time: evening
Price: 25 cents

140 Journal, Thursday, March 2, 1848, p. 2
1849

Mr. Wait: Lecture

Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Name: Public Lecture
Entertainment: Lecture by Mr. Wait on Rights and Duties of American Citizens
Venue: Senate Chamber
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 1849
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Evening Lectures in State House During Legislative Session

Name: First of Evening Lectures
Entertainment: Lecture: Col. Edward Dickinson Baker
Venue: Representatives’ Hall
Date: Thursday, January 11, 1849
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Col. Edward Dickinson Baker: Lecture

Name: Lecture in Representatives’ Hall
Venue: Representatives’ Hall
Date: Thursday, January 11, 1849
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

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141 Journal, Wednesday, January 10, 1849, p. 3.
143 Journal, Thursday, January 11, 1849, p. 3.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Col. Edward D. Baker’s Lecture: Proposal to Publish

Journal, Friday, January 12, 1849.

Rev. S. Y. McMasters: Lecture on Geology

Journal, Thursday, January 11, 1849.

Journal, Thursday, January 11, 1849.

Journal, Friday, January 12, 1849.

Journal, Friday, January 12, 1849.

Rev. Dr. Sterling Yancey McMasters, D. D., LL. D. was born at Guilford Court House, North Carolina, on December 9, 1813. He graduated from the University of North Carolina and then studied medicine. His religious convictions led him to abandon that for the ministry. He changed his religious faith, from Methodism to Episcopalianism and explained the change in a volume entitled, A Methodist in Search of the Church. In 1846, he became rector of St. Paul’s Church, at Alton, Illinois. In 1851 he accepted a professorship in the Western Military Institute of Kentucky and resigned at the end of a year. He returned to Alton where he remained until 1858, when he became president of St. Paul’s College, Palmyra, Missouri. McMasters held this college position at the outbreak of the Civil War. He opposed the policy of secession, contrary to the position of the rebels of Northern Missouri. His life was publicly threatened, and his house was placed under constant surveillance. He eluded his enemies and escaped, resigned the presidency of St. Paul’s, moved to Illinois, and offered his services to the Illinois governor. He was appointed chaplain of the 27th Illinois Infantry where he remained until his failing health caused him to resign. Through the sickly camps and crowded hospitals of the southwest, his medical skill and priestly presence were a boon and a benediction. In 1863, McMasters became rector of Christ Church at St. Paul, Minnesota, where he remained until his death on November 5, 1875.
Rev. S. Y. McMasters Lecture: Science of Geology

The Rev. S. Y. McMasters will lecture this evening, in the Senate Chamber, on the Science of Geology. The lecture will include the subject of Cosmogony and the igneous origin of unstratified rocks. Jan. 15.


The Alleghanians

The Alleghanians are on their way to this city; they may arrive by the middle of the coming week, when the lovers of music may expect a rare treat.

Journal, Thursday, January 11, 1849.

H. B. Packer Lecture: Human Magnetism or Mental Electricity

B. PACKER, of Pittsburgh, Pa., proposes to demonstrate the above science by lecture and experiment, in this city. Also to apply it as a remedial agent for the removal of diseases, on the plan taught and practised by Mr. J. J. Kegly with such remarkable success in St. Louis and elsewhere. He may be consulted at the lecture room or at the City Hotel. First lecture THIS EVENING at the Mechanics Hall, back of the First Church, commences at 7 o'clock. Admission 25 cents.

Journal, Wednesday, January 17, 1849.

Name: Rev. S. Y. McMasters
Entertainment: Lecture: Science of Geology
Venue: Senate Chamber
Date: Monday, January 15, 1849
Time: evening

Name: The Alleghanians
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Senate Chamber
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 1849
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

Name: H. B. Packer
Entertainment: Lecture: Human Magnetism or Mental Electricity
Venue: Mechanics Hall
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 1849
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Price: 25 cents
Cotillion Party

At the City Hotel on Thursday evening, 25th instant. Gentlemen can procure tickets of invitation for the Ladies by calling on the Managers. Tickets of admission for Gentlemen can be had at the Bar. Jan. 23.

Managers:
B. C. Webster, S. Snowdon Hayes,
Virgil Hickox, J. D. Fry,
Jacob Bunn, Thomas H. Doyle,
John C. Lamb.

Journal, Wednesday, January 17, 1849.154

1849 Venues

<table>
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<td>City Hotel</td>
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<td>Mechanic’s Hall</td>
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<td>Representatives Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate Chamber</td>
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</table>

Name: Cotillion Party
Entertainment: Dance Party
Venue: City Hotel
Date: Thursday, January 25, 1849
Time: Evening

154 Journal, Wednesday, January 17, 1849, p. 3.
1850

The Kilmiste Family: Vocal Concert

Name: The Kilmiste Family
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: American House
Date: Friday, Saturday and Monday, January 18, 19 and 21, 1850
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, January 18, 1850.

Journal, Monday, January 21, 1850.

The Storm Brothers: Grand Concert

Name: The Storm Brothers
Entertainment: musical entertainment:
- Rudolph Storm on 24 string banjo,
- Eolian Harp, and guitar
Date: May 1850
Price: 50 cents. Children: 25 cents

Register, Monday, April 29, 1850.
Journal, Saturday, April 27, 1850.

Capitol House Opens: also known as Gray’s Saloon

Name: Capitol House
Location: South Side of Square opposite south door to Capitol
Description: A special hall has been fitted up for the accommodation of Concerts, Parties, and public assemblies.
Owner: John W. Gray

Journal, Monday, May 20, 1850.

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155 Journal, Friday, January 18, 1850, p. 3.
156 Journal Friday, January 18, 1850, p. 3.
157 Journal, Monday, January 21, 1850, p. 3.
158 Register, Monday, April 29, 1850, p. 3. Journal, Saturday, April 27, 1850, p. 3.
159 Journal, Monday, May 20, 1850, p. 3.
Mr. H. Walther: Concert

Name: H. Walther St. Louis
Entertainment: Violin and Piano Concert
Venue: Capitol House, John W. Gray
Date: Sunday, May 26, 1850

Journal, Sunday, May 26, 1850.160

Lyceum: Hon. David Lawrence Gregg: Lecture on the Press

Name: Lyceum
Entertainment: Lecture:
Hon. David Lawrence Gregg
Venue:
Date: Tuesday, September 3, 1850
Time: evening

David Lawrence Gregg was born in Pennsylvania on July 21, 1819. He moved west and settled in Joliet, Illinois, to practice law. He edited the Joliet Courier, the first paper in Will County, Illinois. He was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1842, serving two two-year terms. He then accepted an appointment by President James K. Polk as United States Attorney for the District of Illinois. He was a delegate to the Illinois Constitutional Convention of 1847, representing Cook County. In 1850, he was named the Illinois Secretary of State as a Democrat, filling the unexpired term of the deceased Horace S. Cooley. Gregg was then re-elected to a two-year term. He then was a presidential elector for the 1852 election. He was a leading candidate in 1852 for the Democratic nomination as Governor of Illinois, but was defeated by Joel Aldrich Matteson.

President Franklin Pierce then appointed Gregg the Commissioner to the Kingdom of Hawaii. He was involved with unsuccessful annexation discussions with the Hawaiian monarchy. In 1857, he left the office to become Hawaiian finance minister. Gregg returned to the United States, settling in Carson City, Nevada.

Gregg died in Carson City on December 23, 1868 and was buried in Lone Mountain Cemetery.

Register, Wednesday, September 4, 1850.163

1850 Venues

<table>
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160 Journal, Sunday, May 26, 1850, p. 3.
161 Journal, Friday, May 24, 1850, p. 3.
162 Journal, Wednesday, September 4, 1850, p. 3.
163 Register, Wednesday, September 4, 1850, p. 2.
1851

The Excelsiors Concert

Journal, Thursday, January 9, 1851.164

The Excelsiors intend giving another concert in this city—perhaps on Saturday night.

Journal, Saturday, January 11, 1851.165

Dr. Jonathan Blanchard: Lecture on Education-Abolitionist

Journal, Wednesday, January 15, 1851.166

1851

The Excelsiors Concert

Name: The Excelsiors
Entertainment: Concert
Venue: Court House
Date: Saturday, January 11, 1851
Time: Evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Dr. Jonathan Blanchard: Lecture on Education-Abolitionist

Name: Dr. Jonathan Blanchard
Entertainment: Lecture: Education
Venue: Representatives’ Hall
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 1851
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Jonathan Blanchard was an American pastor, educator, social reformer, and abolitionist. Born in Rockingham, Vermont on January 19, 1811, he attended Middlebury College before accepting a teaching position in New York. In 1834, he began study at Andover Theological Seminary. He left in 1836 after the college denounced the American Anti-Slavery Society (AASS) and demanded that students reject abolitionist views. Blanchard joined the AASS and preached in favor of abolition in southern Pennsylvania. In 1837, he was stoned in the streets by citizens in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He was considered one of the most effective agents of the AASS and is credited with converting Thaddeus Stevens to the abolitionist cause.

Blanchard married Mary Avery Bent on September 19, 1838. Bent left her family home of Middlebury, Vermont in 1835 for Pennsylvania, where she became principal of the Girls’ High School in Harrisburg. She met Blanchard in that city when he was with the AASS. They had twelve children.

In 1837, Blanchard moved to Cincinnati, Ohio to attend Lane Seminary, where he graduated in 1838 and was soon ordained to preach in that city at Sixth Presbyterian Church, a New School congregation. The church provided Blanchard with an opportunity to spread abolitionist ideals without eschewing mainstream Christianity. There, he helped publish the abolitionist newspaper The Philanthropist until it was forced to close in the aftermath of the Cincinnati riots of 1836.

In 1841, Blanchard founded the Presbyterian of the West, later known as the Herald and Presbyter, a radical Presbyterian weekly journal. He represented the Ohio State Anti-Slavery Society as a delegate to the 1843 World Anti-Slavery Convention in London, England and was elected its American vice president. In early October 1845 in Cincinnati, Blanchard debated the morality of slavery with fellow Presbyterian minister Nathan Lewis Rice. This debate was recorded in full, and later published as A Debate on Slavery Held in the City of Cincinnati (Cincinnati: William H. Moore & Co., 1846).

164 Journal, Thursday, January 9, 1851, p. 3.
165 Journal, Saturday, January 11, 1851, p. 3.
166 Journal, Wednesday, January 15, 1851, p. 2.
Blanchard’s first opposition to Freemasonry came in 1845, when he condemned a Covington, Kentucky lodge that refused aid to a widow of a long-time member. A mob of over fifty men attacked him over the article. The next Sunday, Blanchard preached against secret societies, a position that he would hold for the rest of his life. In 1845, he accepted the presidency of Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. The school had recently been opened by anti-slavery social reformers who sought a Christian utopia. The school was deeply in debt, but Blanchard was able to secure financial stability. The Old Main building, now recognized as a National Historic Landmark, was constructed during his tenure. When Senator Stephen A. Douglas assisted with the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Blanchard harshly criticized him in a newspaper article. He would do the same after Douglas’ support for the Kansas–Nebraska Act. In 1855, Blanchard went on a lecture circuit of Kentucky with fellow abolitionists Cassius Marcellus Clay and John Gregg Fee.

Shortly after his arrival in Galesburg, Blanchard became associated with the Congregational Church, leaving the Presbyterian Church because of their uncertain stance on slavery. Knox College founder George Washington Gale was a devout Presbyterian. Uncertainties surrounding the school’s ties to either church led to controversy among the faculty. Furthermore, Blanchard supported the Liberty Party (later the Free Soil Party), a political threat to Gale’s Whig Party. Blanchard served as a presidential elector for the Free Soilers in 1848. In 1857, the Knox College board requested that both Blanchard and Gale resign their positions, and both agreed. However, the decision proved controversial, as local civic leaders such as Edward Beecher protested the ruling. A school committee then re-admitted Blanchard as president, and he served until the board elected a new President the next year.

Blanchard lectured in the region for the next two years. In 1860, Blanchard was named president of the Illinois Institute, a small college in Wheaton, Illinois founded a few years earlier by Wesleysans. When Warren L. Wheaton donated his farmland to the college later that year, Blanchard renamed the school after him and it became known as Wheaton College. In 1861, Jonathan Blanchard organized College Church in Wheaton. The church first met on the campus of Wheaton College as “The First Church of Christ in Wheaton.” Blanchard wanted the church to be known for its opposition to slavery, secret societies, and alcohol use.

Under Blanchard’s leadership, Wheaton College was modeled after Oberlin College, a school that was open to all students and that taught both a classic curriculum and radical social ideals. Blanchard would allow African-American students at Wheaton College to board in his house. His anti-Masonry views prohibited the founding of fraternities or sororities on campus. Blanchard saw Wheaton as an ‘arsenal’ and ‘drill camp’ for the hosts of righteousness in the moral warfare of the world . . . a means of training social activists . . . .” He was president until 1882.

In 1884, Blanchard unsuccessfully sought the candidacy of the American Prohibition Party, the successor of the Anti-Masonic Party, for President of the United States.

Blanchard died suddenly at his home in Wheaton on May 14, 1892. He had suffered through influenza the previous week. He was buried in Wheaton Cemetery.

**Dr. E. R. Roe: Lecture on Geology of the State of Illinois**

*... delivered a lecture to the Illinois state legislature on the geology of Illinois which was immediately followed by the establishment of a State Geological Department.*

**Journal, Wednesday, January 29, 1851.**

E. R. Roe was a physician, soldier, author, and publisher. At age 6, he moved with his father to Cincinnati Ohio. He graduated from the Louisville Medical Institute at age 29 and began to practice medicine at Anderson, Indiana but soon removed to Shawneetown, Illinois. In 1850, he moved to Jacksonville, Illinois, where he lectured extensively on natural history, and wrote for the press for two years. He was editor of the Jacksonville Journal and in this period printed *The William J Watson Oregon Trail* pamphlet. Later he edited the *Constitutionalist* for a few months. He lectured on natural science at Shurtleff College and delivered a lecture to the Illinois state legislature on the geology of Illinois which was immediately followed by the establishment of a State Geological Department. In 1852, he moved to Bloomington. Dr. Roe became prominent as an educator. In 1861 at the outbreak of the Civil War, he immediately championed the Union cause and raised three companies of young men, mostly Normal School students. Roe was elected Captain then promoted to Major and Lt Colonel. He was seriously wounded in the assault on Vicksburg on May 22, 1863 and returned home. He was then elected Circuit Clerk by the combined vote of both parties and in 1867 became editor of the *Bloomington Pantograph*. In 1879 he was elected to the Twenty Seventh General Assembly. In 1871 he was appointed Marshall for the southern district of Illinois where he served for nine years. Dr Roe was a prolific author who wrote more than a dozen books.

167 *Journal, Wednesday, January 29, 1851*, p. 3.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Robinson Family

On their way to this place.

Journal, Friday, January 24, 1851

Postponed performance last evening,
Thursday, January 30, 1851, because of
Ladies Supper.

Date: Friday, January 31, 1851

Rev. John Mason Peck: Lecture-Abolitionist

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Name: Rev. John Mason Peck
Entertainment: Lecture: The Elements of
Western Character
Venue: State House
Date: Friday, January 31, 1851
Time: 7:00 p.m.

John Mason Peck was an American Baptist missionary to the western frontier of the United States, especially in Missouri and Illinois. A prominent anti-slavery advocate of his day, Peck also founded many educational institutions and wrote prolifically.

Born on October 31, 1789 in the parish of Litchfield, South Farms, Connecticut to a farming family, John received little formal education. At an 1807 revival at the Congregational Church, eighteen-year-old John joined the Litchfield Congregational Church.

On September 14, 1811, he joined the Baptist Church in New Durham. On the next day, he preached his first sermon and was immediately licensed and subsequently ordained. Peck taught school and soon also served as pastor at the Baptist churches in Catskill and Amenia, New York. He became interested in missionary work and went to Philadelphia to study from 1816-17, while awaiting assignment. There, Peck met James Ely Welch, who became his missionary partner. He was appointed a missionary to work in St. Louis and vicinity. Thus began his Western career.

On July 25, 1817, he his wife and three children set out in a covered wagon on a long journey of 1,200 miles to St. Louis and reached there on December 1. His associate, Rev. James E. Welch, had reached the field before him and together they organized the First Baptist Church, the first Protestant church in St. Louis. By year’s end, they founded the first missionary society in the West-The United Society for the Spread of the Gospel. In 1820, his missionary support was discontinued. Peck refused to move and instead, he continued his itinerant ministry independently and church-planting efforts around St. Louis. Two years later, the Massachusetts Baptist Mission Society employed Peck at $5.00 a week while conducting missions.

Peck became active in establishing Bible societies and Sunday Schools. Distributing bibles “silently undermine[d] the opposition to missions” as well as spread literacy and Christian principles (including temperance and opposition to slavery) among the dispersed rural population.

In 1822, Peck moved to Rock Springs, Illinois to farm. He also arranged a circuit to visit the various societies that he continued to establish. On one trip, Peck visited Daniel Boone, then nearly 80, and later wrote a book about the frontiersman’s life. In 1824 Peck’s preaching helped Illinois Governor Edward Coles defeat efforts to revise Illinois’ constitution to permit slavery.

At Rock Spring, Peck established a seminary for general and theological education. In 1836, the Rock Spring Seminary, after a significant contribution from Benjamin Shurtleff, M.D. of Boston, became united with the seminary at Upper Alton, now Shurtleff College. It became part of the Southern Illinois University system in 1957.

168 Journal, Friday, January 24, 1851, p. 3.
169 Journal, Friday, January 31, 1851, p. 3.
170 Journal, Friday, January 31, 1851, p. 3.
His work in preaching covered the State of Illinois. The American Baptist Home Mission Society was organized in 1832, under Peck’s influence. This society directed its efforts toward the people of the frontier: settlers, Native Americans, and later former Confederate slaves.

Peck also helped establish the Illinois State Baptist Convention in 1834 and became its first president. He wrote prolifically, including work on agriculture, frontier history and Native American matters. Among his works were *A Biography of Father Clark*, *Emigrant’s Guide*, *Gazetteer of Illinois*, and *Annals of the West*. In 1854, Illinois’ legislature commissioned him to write the first history of the state. In 1843 he founded the American Baptist Publication Society. On April 25, 1828, he began the publication of a weekly religious journal — the *Western Pioneer and Baptist*. Peck also founded the Western Baptist Historical Society.

During his 40-year ministry, Peck helped establish 900 Baptist churches, saw 600 pastors ordained and 32,000 were added to the Baptist faith.

Peck died at Rock Spring on March 24, 1857, at age 68. His body was reinterred at Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis. He was a man of many remarkable qualities, robust in intellect, strong in purpose, positive in his opinions, and bold in their advocacy, a born missionary, and a thorough-going Western man.171

**The New York Nightengales: Concert**

*The New York Nightengales* have arrived in our city, and will give a Concert THIS EVENING. Place of holding the concert will be announced in bills during the day.

*Journal, Monday, February 3, 1851.*172

**Grand Complimentary Ball**

*Grand Complimentary Ball* will take place at the Washington Hall Ballroom, on Monday evening, February 3rd, at 8 o’clock. No price will be required to make this one of the first balls of the season. Gentlemen’s tickets to be had at the door. 

*Manager:* Henry M. Mullin, J. B. Curran, Wm. Feney, C. Allen.

ORDER OF THE DANCE: 
1. 1st French dance, 11th polka. 
2. Cupid dance, 10th waltz. 
3. Quadrille, 11th polka. 
4. Volta, 12th polka. 
5. Spanish fancy, 13th polka. 
6. Quadrille, 14th polka. 
7. Quadrille, 15th polka. 
8. La Cagnotte, 16th polka.

Finish the dance with a Knap's Ball. 
Ex-Gentlemen will be allowed to purchase tickets for ladies who will please call on the managers.

*Journal, Monday, February 3, 1851.*173

**Robinson Family: Plays**

The Robinson Family perform to-night the play (written by Mrs. Charles Keen) entitled the “Day After The Wedding,” and conclude with the laughable farce entitled “A Day in Paris,” in which Mrs. Robinson will appear in five characters.

*Journal, Monday, February 3, 1851.*174

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172 *Journal, Monday, February 3, 1851*, p. 3.
173 *Journal, Monday, February 3, 1851*, p. 3.
174 *Journal, Monday, February 3, 1851*, p. 3.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Name: Robinson Family
Entertainment: Play: ‘Married in Spite of Herself’ and farce ‘Family Jars’ and Recitation by Mr. Perry
Venue: Gray’s Saloon
Date: Thursday, February 6, 1851
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Thursday, February 6, 1851. 175

The performances by the ROBINSON FAMILY on Thursday night at the Springfield Journal, were—‘Married in Spite of Herself’ and farce ‘Family Jars’ and Recitation by Mr. Perry.

...
Pupils of Illinois Institution for the Education of the Blind Concert

A concert will be given THIS EVENING, at 24 Presbyterian Church, (Friday) at half past 7 o'clock, by the Pupils of the Illinois Institution for the Education of the Blind. Tickets for sale at Birchall & Owen’s, and Johnson & Bradford’s, and also at the door—at 25 cents each.

Journal, Monday, February 3, 1851.

Citizens Ball

There will be a ball given at the Court House, on Monday evening, the 7th inst., where all Citizens and strangers, are requested to participate in the delightful amusement of dancing.

Managers:

Tickets $1 to be had at Corneau & Diller’s, Ives & Curran’s, Birchall & Owen’s, Geo. Chatterton’s, and of R. Diller, clerk of the House of Representatives, can be had at Corneau & Diller’s.

Journal, Friday, February 7, 1851.

Robinson Family: Plays

The performances by the Robinson Family on Friday night, are—for the first time in this city—the play of “State Secrets,” to be followed by Songs, and a Fancy Dance, and to conclude (by particular request of many citizens, owing to its immense success on its first representation,) with the laughable farce of “A Day in Paris,” in which Mrs. Robinson personate five characters.

Journal, Friday, February 7, 1851.

Register, Friday, February 7, 1851.

Great Attraction at “Gray’s Saloon.”—This (Monday) evening, the Robinson Family give an entire change of performance this evening—“Nature and Philosophy,” or “The Youth who never saw a Woman” to conclude with “Seeing the Elephant.”

Journal, Monday, February 10, 1851.

Name: Pupils of the Illinois Institution for the Education of the Blind
Entertainment: Choir Concert
Venue: 2nd Presbyterian Church
Date: Friday, February 3, 1851
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 25 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Name: Citizens Ball
Entertainment: ball: dancing
Venue: Court House
Date: Monday, February 10, 1851
Time: evening
Price: $2
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Name: Robinson Family
Entertainment: Play, songs, dance
State Secrets, A Day in Paris
Date: Friday, February 7, 1851
Time: night
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Name: Robinson Family
Entertainment: Play, songs, dance:
Nature of Philosophy or The Youth who never saw a Woman; Seeing the Elephant
Venue: Gray’s Saloon
Date: Monday, February 10, 1851
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
Robinson Family: Plays

Name: Robinson Family
Entertainment: Play, songs:

Theresa’s Vow; Loan of a Lover
Venue: Gray’s Saloon
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 1851
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Thursday, February 13, 1851. 182

Prize of a Silver Pitcher is offered by the Robinson Family this evening. Tickets 50 cents. Each person buying a ticket is entitled to a chance for the prize. The Pitcher can be seen at Ives & Curran’s jewelery establishment. The bill offered this evening, is one that promises lots of fun. The plays are “The Green Land Lord,” and “The Two Gregories,” including a farce of a “Wife’s First Lesson.” All who wish to enjoy a good laugh, should not fail to go.

Register, Saturday, February 15, 1851. 184

Name: Robinson Family
Entertainment: Comedian: Mr. L. Harris; Maid of Munster and Hole in the Wall
Venue: Gray’s Saloon
Date: Saturday, February 15, 1851
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Journal, Tuesday, February 18, 1851.

Mr. Young: Exhibitions

Name: Robinson Family
Entertainment: Play, songs, dance:
- State Secrets
- Lottery Ticket
Venue: Gray’s Saloon
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 1851
Time: evening
Prize: 50 cent tickets for a chance at the Pitcher
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Tuesday, February 18, 1851.

Mr. Young’s Exhibitions

Name: Mr. Young’s Exhibitions
Entertainment: Passions, History illustrated in dissolving views; mental faculties distinguishing the sexes
Venue: First Presbyterian Church
Date: Thursday, February 30, 1851
Time: evening
Prize: 25 cents. Children 15 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

185 Journal, Tuesday, February 18, 1851, p. 3.
186 Register, Tuesday, February 18, 1851, p. 3.
Robinson Family: Plays

**A Tale of Blood**

Venue: Gray’s Saloon

Date: Thursday, February 20, 1851

Time: Tonight

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

**Loan of a Lover**

Venue: Gray’s Saloon

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 1851

Time: Tonight

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

**Temperance Drama**

Venue: Gray’s Saloon

Date: Friday, February 21, 1851

Time: Tonight

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Washington’s Birthday Celebration Ball

Name: Washington’s Birthday Ball

Entertainment: Ball

Venue: Washington Hall, over Post Office

Date: Monday, February 24, 1851

Time: 9 o’clock

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

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187 *Journal*, Wednesday, February 19, 1851, p. 3.
188 *Register*, Wednesday, February 19, 1851, p. 2.
189 *Journal*, Thursday, February 20, 1851, p. 3.
190 *Register*, Friday, February 21, 1851, p. 2.
191 *Register*, Friday, February 21, 1851, p. 2.
Minstrelsy was a type of popular entertainment in the United States, principally of the 19th century, which consisted of the theatrical presentation of elements of African-American life in song, dance, and speech. At first this was performed by whites impersonating blacks, and later was participated in by blacks. By the end of the 1820s there had evolved an indigenous and novel American, or blackface, minstrelsy. The performer blackened his face with burnt cork and wore costumes that represented a caricature, to the white audience, of the ‘typical black’ person. The classic age of blackface minstrelsy was from ca. 1840–1870. An important change was the development of minstrel troupes consisting of black performers. Whereas the few that had existed in the early days had not been considered important, black companies attained true significance after the Civil War. Often under the management of whites, but occasionally led by blacks, these troupes provided a showcase for the talents of black musicians. By 1890 African Americans were firmly established in American show business. By the turn of the century most professional troupes had turned from classic minstrelsy to burlesque.
Fanny Raymond Ritter was America’s first female musicologist. She was born sometime between 1830 and 1840, most likely in England, and died in Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1891. Her father was most likely Richard Malone, an Irish entertainer who immigrated to America and toured with his daughters in a family act using the stage name Raymond. Published references to Fanny in magazines and newspapers prior to her marriage in 1865 to Frederic Louis Ritter, often use the names Fanny Malone Raymond and Katharine Frances Malone Raymond.

Fanny excelled as a salon musician, teacher, vocalist, and keyboardist. References to Fanny as a performer in Dwight’s Journal described her as a fine organist and “the mistress of the German language, in the songs of Schubert, Schumann, and Robert Franz.” Fanny was also sought after as a translator, writer, and historian, and, in 1859, her translations, including Wagner’s essays, Ehler’s letters, and a short novel by Elise Polka, began to be published. “[t]he name of Miss Raymond . . . is a sufficient guaranty for the faithfulness, musical adaptability and genuine poetic feeling of the translations.” Her efforts culminated in the translation of the Gesammelte Schriften und Texten of Robert Schumann, published in book form in 1876. Her first original article appears to have been “A Sketch of the Troubadours, Trouveres, and Minstrels” for the New York Weekly Review on August 13, 1870. Fanny did original research as early as 1868 when she is credited with writing explanatory notes for her series of “historical recitals” performed at both Vassar and in New York. Many of these essays were then compiled in a book entitled Lyre, Pen, and Pencil published in 1891.
One of her most significant essays, *Woman as a Musician: An Art-Historical Study* was written in 1876 for the Centennial Congress of the Association for the Advancement of Women. Ritter’s essay was the first specifically musical writing of its kind and as such was a catalyst for dialogue in American musical circles concerning women’s place in music. She was America’s first female musicologist. She distilled the thoughts of her time period into a clear and concise critical essay concerning women in a self-critical manner.

### The Columbians: Song Concert

**Name:** The Columbians  
**Entertainment:** Vocal Concert  
**Venue:** Court House  
**Date:** Saturday, September 13, 1851  
**Time:** 8:00 p.m.  
**Price:** 25 cents

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**Journal, Thursday, September 11, 1851.**

**Register, Thursday, September 11, 1851.**

### Col. Judson: Lecture and Concert

**Name:** Col. Judson  
**Entertainment:** Lecture and concert  
**Venue:** Court House  
**Date:** Tuesday and Wednesday, December 9 and 10, 1851  
**Time:** Evening  
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

### 1851 Venues

<table>
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<td>Court House</td>
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<td>Gray’s Saloon</td>
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<td>Washington Ballroom (Hall)</td>
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202 *Journal*, Thursday, September 11, 1851, p. 3.  
203 *Register*, Thursday, September 11, 1851, p. 2.  
204 *Register*, Wednesday, December 10, 1851, p. 2.  
1852

The Bakers: Vocal Concert

Journal, Tuesday, February 24, 1852.

The Blakely Family

Journal, Tuesday, March 23, 1852.

Springfield Lyceum and Library Association: Lecture by Rev. S. J. P. Anderson

Register, Wednesday, March 24, 1852.

Rev. S. J. P. Anderson, D.D. was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia on December 5th, 1814. The early years of his life were spent in the country, on the farm of his father. At a village school and with the aid of a tutor at home, he prepared for college. In 1831, he went to the University of Ohio at Athens, and afterwards to Hanover College, Indiana, where he graduated in 1835. He studied theology at Union Theological Seminary. His first church was at Danville, Virginia where he remained five years, when he moved to Norfolk, Virginia. He soon was considered one of the ablest and most effective preachers in Virginia. After five years at Norfolk, he moved to St. Louis and in 1851 became the pastor of the Central Presbyterian, a church yet in its infancy, few in numbers, embarrassed with debt, and greatly afflicted by the death of its first pastor. Under his ministry, the church grew steadily and became one of the largest and most influential churches in the city. He was a preacher of marked ability—earnest, evangelical and eloquent. He was a man of fine scholarship, large reading, and almost faultless taste; his mind was richly stored, not only with biblical, but also with historical learning. His sermons were not only sound and able, as expositions of gospel truth, but they were usually finished productions as they came from his hand. At an early age, he became ill. He lost his voice, forcing him to retirement and silence. The latter years of his life were passed under a cloud of despondency and melancholy which never wholly cleared away. He died on September 10, 1873.

205 Journal, Tuesday, February 24, 1852, p. 3.
206 Journal, Tuesday, March 23, 1852, p. 3.
207 Register, Wednesday, March 24, 1852, p. 2.
Springfield Lyceum and Library Association: 
Question For Discussion: Capital Punishment

The next regular meeting of the Springfield Lyceum and Library Association, will be held at the court house on Wednesday evening next at 7 o'clock.

The questions—Ought capital punishment to be abolished?—which has been debated at two previous meetings, will be taken up for final discussion.

The public are respectfully invited to attend.

T. S. MATHER, Secretary.

Journal, Wednesday, March 31, 1852. 209

Springfield Lyceum and Library Association: 
Question for Discussion: Maine Liquor Law

The next regular meeting of the Springfield Lyceum and Library Association, will be held on Wednesday evening, April 14th.

Several amendments to the Constitution will be submitted, and twelve Directors of the Library will be chosen.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION—

1. Is it expedient to adopt the Maine Liquor Law in Illinois?

DISPONENTS:

Affirmative:  
J. D. Bell,  
E. R. Wiley,  
S. W. Robbins.

Negative:  
George L. Luriden,  
F. A. Moore,  
J. Richardson.

The members are requested to meet punctually at 7 o'clock. The discussion will commence at half past 7 o'clock.

The public are invited to attend.

Journal, Wednesday, April 14, 1852.210

Springfield Lyceum and Library Association: 
Question for Discussion: Maine Liquor Law

The next regular meeting of the Springfield Lyceum and Library Association, will be held for the choice of officers at the Court House, on Wednesday evening, May 5, at 7 o'clock.

The question—Is it expedient to pass the Maine Liquor Law in Illinois, which was continued from the last meeting, will be taken up for final discussion.

Journal, Wednesday, May 5, 1852.211

209 Journal, Wednesday, March 31, 1852, p. 3.
210 Journal, Wednesday, April 14, 1852, p. 3.
211 Journal, Wednesday, May 5, 1852, p. 3.
The Kilmistes’ Concert

Name: The Kilmistes
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: City Hotel
Date: Thursday, May 27, 1852
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

Chatterton’s Hall

Name: Chatterton’s Hall
Third and Jefferson Streets

C. W. Chatterton, has fitted up, in handsome style and conveniently arranged, a hall expressly for concerts, parties, exhibitions, etc. The hall is 20 feet in width and 82 in length, and will be known hereafter as Chatterton’s Hall.

1852 Venues

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<td>Chatterton’s Hall</td>
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</table>

212 Register, Thursday, May 27, 1852, p. 2.
213 Journal, Wednesday, December 22, 1852, p. 3.
Horace Mann and Ralph Waldo Emerson May Lecture

**THE DAILY JOURNAL.**

LECTURES.—Horace Mann is lecturing at Chicago, and Ralph Waldo Emerson, the renowned transcendentalist is giving a course of Lectures at St. Louis. Efforts are being made to obtain a part of his lectures in our city during the coming week, with some prospect of success.

**Journal, Tuesday, January 4, 1853.**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson: Gives Three Lectures**

**Journal, Thursday, January 6, 1853.**

**Journal, Saturday, January 8, 1853.**

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**Name:** Ralph Waldo Emerson  
**Entertainment:** Lectures: *Wealth* and *The Anglo-Saxon*  
**Venue:** State House: Senate Chamber  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 1853  
**Time:** evening

*Diary of Orville Hickman Browning*

Monday January 10 At night I attended in the hall of the house, and heard a lecture from Ralph Waldo Emerson on the Anglo Saxon. His language was chase, strong and vigorous—much of his thought just—his voice good—his delivery clear, distinct and deliberate—his action nothing. He limned a good picture of an Englishman, and gave us some hard raps for our apishness of English fashions & manners.

Tuesday, Jany 11 1853 Heard Emerson’s lecture in the hall of the House of Rep; upon power. He is chaste & fascinating, and whilst I cannot approve all his philosophy, I still listen with delight to his discourses. They contain much that is good, and are worth hearing.

Wednesday, Jany 12 1853 Went to Ridgley’s to supper, and attended Miss Julia to the State House to hear Emerson’s third lecture on culture.
Ralph Waldo Emerson (May 25, 1803 – April 27, 1882) was an American essayist, lecturer, and poet who led the transcendentalist movement of the mid-19th century. He was a champion of individualism and a critic of the countervailing pressures of society. He shared his thoughts through dozens of published essays and more than 1,500 public lectures across the United States.

Emerson gradually moved away from the religious and social beliefs of his contemporaries, formulating and expressing the philosophy of transcendentalism in his 1836 essay *Nature*. Following this work, he gave a speech entitled *The American Scholar* in 1837, which Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. considered to be America’s “intellectual Declaration of Independence.”

Emerson wrote most of his important essays as lectures first and then revised them for print. His first two collections of essays, *Essays: First Series* (1841) and *Essays: Second Series* (1844), represent the core of his thinking. They include the well-known essays *Self-Reliance, The Over-Soul, Circles, The Poet and Experience*. Together with *Nature*, these essays made the decade from the mid-1830s to the mid-1840s Emerson’s most fertile period.

Emerson wrote on a number of subjects, never espousing fixed philosophical tenets but developing certain ideas such as individuality, freedom, the ability for mankind to realize almost anything, and the relationship between the soul and the surrounding world. Emerson’s “nature” was more philosophical than naturalistic: “Philosophically considered, the universe is composed of Nature and the Soul.”

He remains among the linchpins of the American Romantic Movement, and his work has greatly influenced the thinkers, writers and poets that followed him. When asked to sum up his work, he said his central doctrine was “the infinitude of the private man.” Emerson is also well known as a mentor and friend of Henry David Thoreau, a fellow transcendentalist.

### The Newhall Family: Concert

*Journal, Wednesday, January 5, 1853.*

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**Name:** The Newhall Family  
**Entertainment:** Concert  
**Venue:** State House: Senate Chamber  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 4, 1853  
**Time:** evening  
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

### Springfield Musical Association: Groerflo Flute Concert

*Journal, Saturday, January 15, 1853.*

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**Name:** The Springfield Musical Association  
**Mr. Groerflo (Gorenflo) (blind)**  
**Entertainment:** Flute Concert  
**Venue:** State House  
**Date:** Week of January 16, 1853  
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Springfield Musical Association: Groerflo Flute Concert

Journal, Monday, January 17, 1853.

Temperance Lecture by Rev. James Smith D. D.


Brooklyn Sax Horn Band

Register, Tuesday, January 25, 1853.

The saxhorn is a family of valved brass instruments that have conical bores and deep cup-shaped mouthpieces. The saxhorn family was developed by Adolphe Sax, who is also known for creating the saxophone family. The sound of the saxhorn has a characteristic mellow tone quality and blends well with other brass.

By 1835, brass bands began to supplant other forms of wind bands in the United States. A conglomeration of brass instruments--including keyed bugles, ophicleides, natural French horns, trumpets, post horns, and trombones--comprised the instrumentation of many of these bands, and quality undoubtedly suffered from lack of intonation, balance, and blend produced by the wide variety of horn lengths and timbre. The curious mixture, while inevitable during this time, was no doubt frustrating to any serious bandmaster trying to lead a band of high quality.

In an effort to address this problem, during the 1840s a number of instrument makers in Europe began making sets of chromatic valved bugles designed for all possible voices from bass to soprano. One of these makers, Adolph Sax, had the promotional and business savvy to make his newly manufactured saxhorn the instrument of choice for brass bands. The saxhorn (the universal name for this class of instrument) had much to offer: more consistent tone quality in all registers, better intonation, greater technical facility, and the ability to create a homogeneous sound from the bass to soprano register. The conical design, like that of the cornet, created a warm, mellow sound especially pleasing to the listener.

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219 Journal, Monday, January 17, 1853, p. 3.
220 Collected Works, vol. II, p. 188.
221 Register, Tuesday, January 25, 1853, p. 2.
222 https://www.lipscomb.edu/windbandhistory/rhodeswindband_06_19thcenturyamerican.htm#saxhorn
The Newhall Family: Concert

Name: Newhall Family
Entertainment: music concert
Date: Monday, April 25, 1853
Time: evening

Journal, Tuesday, April 26, 1853.\textsuperscript{223}

Winchell’s Drolleries

Name: Winchell’s Drolleries
Entertainment: comic
Venue: Chatterton’s Hall, 3\textsuperscript{rd} and Jefferson
Date: Wednesday and Thursday, June 1 and 2, 1853
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

Journal, Wednesday, June 1, 1853.\textsuperscript{224}

Masonic Hall: Solicitation for Construction Bids

Name: Masonic Hall
Northeast corner of Fifth and Monroe Streets
Event: taking of bids for construction of hall
Date: June 15, 1853
To be finished by November 1, 1853

Journal, Wednesday, June 1, 1853.\textsuperscript{225}

Blakely Family: Musical Concert

Name: The Blakely Family
Violin Concert, J. M. Hubbard
Entertainment: Musical, violin, vocal, orchestra
Venue: Court House
Date: Thursday, June 2, 1853
Time: 8 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

Journal, Thursday, June 2, 1853.\textsuperscript{226}

\textsuperscript{223} Journal, Tuesday, April 26, 1853, p. 3.
\textsuperscript{224} Journal, Wednesday, June 1, 1853, p. 3.
\textsuperscript{225} Journal, Wednesday, June 1, 1853, p. 3.
\textsuperscript{226} Journal, Thursday, June 2, 1853, p. 3.
London Crystal Palace Panorama

Register, Wednesday, July 20, 1853.  

**Swiss Bell Ringers**

Journal, Wednesday, September 22, 1853.  

Prof. Daggy and Doctor Fuller: Astronomy Lectures

Journal, Tuesday, September 20, 1853.  

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227 Register, Wednesday, July 20, 1853, p. 2.
228 Journal, Wednesday, September 21, 1853, p. 3.
229 Journal, Tuesday, September 20, 1853, p. 3.

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Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Journal, Wednesday, September 21, 1853

Herr Alexander

Name: Herr Alexander
Entertainment: new and astounding wonders
Venue: Clinton Hall
Date: Wednesday, October 12, 1853
Time: 7:45 p.m.

Christy’s Nightingale Serenaders

Name: Christy’s Nightingale Serenaders
Entertainment: Musical concert
Venue: Chatterton’s Hall, 3rd and Jefferson Streets
Date: Friday, December 16, 1853
Time: evening

Failed to pay bill for printers in a Missouri town

Register, Friday, December 23, 1853

It was customary for Tambo to be slim and Bones to be fat. A character called Mr. Interlocutor sat in the middle of the group, acting as the master of ceremonies. As the interlocutor took his place in the middle of the semicircle he uttered the time-honored phrase: “Gentlemen, be seated. We will commence with the overture.” During the performance he conducted himself in a dignified manner that contrasted well with the behavior of the rowdy endmen.

Part two (the “olio”) was the variety section, a precursor to vaudeville. It included singers, dancers, comedians and other novelty acts, as well as parodies of legitimate theater. A preposterous stump speech served as the highlight of this act, during which a performer spoke in outrageous malapropisms as he lectured. The performer’s demeanor was meant to be reminiscent of the hilarious pomposity of Zip Coon; he aspired to great wisdom and intelligence, but his hilarious mangling of language always made him appear foolish and ignorant.

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230 Journal, Wednesday, September 21, 1853, p. 3.
231 Journal, Wednesday, October 12, 1853, p. 3.
232 Register, Friday, December 16, 1853, p. 3.
233 Register, Friday, December 23, 1853, p. 3.
Part three ended the show with a one-act play, typically a vignette of carefree life on the plantation. After *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* was published in 1852 and the play became famous, minstrel shows appropriated the major characters for sketches that changed the abolitionist themes in the original into an argument for the supposedly benign character of slavery.

In 1846 they first performed in Polner’s Opera House in New York City. From March 1847 until July 1854, they ran for a seven-year stint at New York City’s Mechanics’ Hall. After performing at a benefit performance for Stephen Foster in Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 25, 1847, the group specialized in performances of Foster’s works. Foster sold his song, *Old Folks at Home*, to Christy for $15,000 for his exclusive use. The troupe’s commercial success was phenomenal.

Besides Christy himself, the troupe originally included Christy’s stepson George Christy, often considered the greatest blackface comic of the era. When by September 1855 George and Edwin Christy had retired from the group, the company continued under the name of ‘Christy’s Minstrels’, until Edwin Christy took out an injunction to prevent them. Christy was emotionally affected by the American Civil War, and committed suicide in 1862.234

The Orpheans Concert

**Review:**
Name: The Orpheans
Entertainment: Vocalist, pianist
Venue: Odd Fellows Hall
Date: Wednesday, December 21, 1853
Time: evening
Lincoln was in Springfield.

*Journal, Friday, December 23, 1853.*235

Adele Hosmer formerly known as Orpheans: Vocal and Instrumental Music

**Review:**
Name: Adele Hosmer
Formerly known as the Orpheans
Entertainment: Vocalist, pianist
Venue: Court House
Date: Monday, December 26, 1853
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 25 cents. Children half price

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

**1853 Venues**

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234 The New Christy Minstrels, a folk group from the 1960s, were named with reference to this group, but they did not perform in blackface. Lott, 1993, 267 According to the *New York Times* report, Edwin Christy took out an injunction against the troupe calling themselves ‘Christy’s Minstrels’ “though there was no person among them by the name of Christy.” The troupe, then headed by a Joseph Murphy, did perform on September 10th as ‘Christy’s Minstrels’ and were sued for contempt of court. The judge, Mr. Justice Clerke, dismissed the contempt charge after the defendants claimed they had announced to the audience prior to the performance that they were not now ‘Christy’s Minstrels’ and had expressed an intention of continuing under a different name. *New York Times*, September 14, 1855: *LAW INTELLIGENCE: MINSTRELS IN COURT.* Article by Michael Walters, citing Andrews, Frank, *Talking Machine Review*, November 1977 issue

235 *Journal, Friday, December 23, 1853,* p. 3.

236 *Register, Monday, December 26, 1853,* p. 2.
1854

Blakely Family: Orchestral and Chorus Company

Name: The Blakely Family
Entertainment: orchestra and chorus
Musical entertainment
Venue: Clinton’s Hall
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 1854
Time: 7:00 p.m. doors open
One gentleman and two ladies: $1

Bayard Taylor: Lectures on Arabs

Name: Bayard Taylor
Entertainment: Lecture: Arabs
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Friday, April 14, 1854
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Price: 25 cents
"Unquestionably the most delightful and popular lecture ever given to a Springfield audience. Lincoln’s Herndon, p. 61.

The Blind Vocalists

Name: The Blind Vocalists
Entertainment: Musical, violin, vocal, orchestra
Venue: Clinton’s Hall
Date: Tuesday, May 2, 1854
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

The Riley Family

Name: The Riley Family
Entertainment: concert, musical, poetry
Venue: Clinton’s Hall
Date: Saturday, May 6, 1854
May Day Party

Name: May Day Party
Entertainment: music, speeches, refreshments, decorations and May queen crowned with flowers
Venue: Clinton’s Hall
Date: Friday, May 12, 1854
Time: evening


Masonic Hall Construction Report and Opening

Name: Masonic Hall
Event: construction report: near completion
Will have Concert Hall
Date: June 27, 1854

The Masonic Hall was built in 1853 and early 1854. It was listed as a venue for the first time in October 1854. The public hall was on the second floor. The building was destroyed by fire in 1871. It had been located at the northeast corner of Fifth and Monroe, where the Lincoln Square Apartments were built in the 1990s.

Journal, Tuesday, June 27, 1854

Masonic Hall at the northeast corner of Fifth and Monroe Streets

Senator Shields Speech at Masonic Hall

Name: Senator James Shields
Entertainment: Address
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Monday, October 16, 1854
Time: evening
At the same hour, Lincoln was giving his longest known speech in Peoria, Illinois.

Register, Tuesday, October 17, 1854.

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242 Journal, Monday, May 8, 1854, p. 3.
243 Journal, Tuesday, June 27, 1854, p. 3.
244 Marcel A. Duboce’s stereoview of fire at the Northeast Corner of Fifth and Monroe Streets, February 22, 1871.
245 Register, Tuesday, October 17, 1854, p. 2.
The Campbell Minstrels

Name: The Campbells  
Entertainment: Minstrels  
Venue: Masonic Hall  
Date: Friday and Saturday, October 27 and 28, 1854  
Price: 50 cents  
Time: 8 p.m.

Journal, Thursday, October 19, 1854.  
Journal, Saturday, October 28, 1854.

Madame Rosa DeVries: Vocal Concert

Name: Madame Rosa DeVries  
Entertainment: Vocal Concert: 4 men and 2 ladies; opera troupe  
Venue: Masonic Hall  
Date: Monday, November 13, 1854  
Time: night  
Price: $1.00

Register, Saturday, November 11, 1854.

The De Vries family, of Dutch descent, performed as operatic singers for three generations. They were mainly active in France, Belgium, and the United States in the second half of the 19th and the early 20th centuries. Rosa De Vries van Os (April 12, 1828 in The Hague - March 30, 1889 in Rome) was a soprano who made her debut in The Hague, and sang at the Théâtre d’Orléans in New Orleans, as well as in Canada and Italy.
Masonic Hall: Madame Rosa DeVries: Vocal Concert

Review:
Name: Masonic Hall
Event: Opening
Date: November 13, 1854

Mrs. Dr. L. P. Britt: Spiritual Lectures

Name: Spiritual Lectures
Entertainment: Dr. L. P. Britt Lecture:
  Agitation of Thought: The Law of Affinity
Venue: Clinton’s Hall
Date: Wednesday, November 22, 1854
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Price: 25 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
J. F. Holland Dancing School and Cotillion Party

Name: J. F. Holland
Entertainment: Dancing School and Cotillion Party
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Fall and Winter 1854-1855
Cotillion Party
Date: Thursday, November 23, 1854
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Price: $1.50
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Paul Julien: Violin Concert

Name: Paul Julien
Entertainment: Violin Concert
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Saturday, December 2, 1854
Time: tonight
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Paul Julien was born in Crest, France in 1841. His father had little money for education. At the age of five, Paul displayed an ear for music. His father, who was a clarinetist and violinist, belonged to an amateur band and frequently took Paul with him to rehearsal where Paul beat time and showed a remarkable understanding and enjoyment of the music. He sang ballads in a pleasing manner and in a short time he became skilled in playing a little hunting horn which his father had given him as a toy. He delighted in collecting the children of the neighborhood and making them march to lively airs which he at the head of the troop played upon his horn.

His father wanted to give Paul regular violin lessons and found an old fiddler of the neighborhood and borrowed a violin which he altered by reducing its size so that his son could use it. Lessons began and all leisure moments of day and evening were spent on lessons. Paul progressed rapidly beyond belief. The practicing irritated the neighbors, and Paul was once frightened when one of them threatened to break his violin over his head. At length the owner of the violin came to claim his property. When he saw what the father had done to reduce it in size, his anger was changed at once into affectionate admiration. Paul was six.
The father now became anxious to obtain better instruction than he could give to his son. He took the boy to Marseilles confident that he would find some professor willing to assist the development of so promising a genius without charge. Julien was unable to procure employment and he soon found himself in that city without friends and without a sou in his purse. Agonized to see his little son shivering with cold and pinched with hunger, the father went as a last resort to the proprietor of a large café nearby and obtained permission to bring the boy in the evening to play to the company. The anxious father ran back to his lodgings and spent the rest of the day in hearing Paul rehearse over and over again the pieces he was to perform at the café. In the evening they found a large company assembled and among them several musicians of eminence. Paul took his position and began to play. Every eye was fixed upon his pale engaging countenance and every ear was soon astonished and charmed at the power, correctness, and sweetness of his playing. At the conclusion of the piece, he was overwhelmed with applause. The musicians gathered round and enthusiastically congratulated both father and son. Late in the evening, the father and son returned to their residence with their pockets and their hearts overflowing.

Paul now found instructors and occasional opportunities for the public display of his talents. He played at grand concerts in many of the large towns in the south of France and always with marked success. However, his father was not satisfied till he had Paul admitted to the Conservatoire National at Paris. He remained a member for some years during which his father struggled to survive until in July 1850 the boy gained the first prize against seventeen competitors. He was nine years old and the instrument that he played at the final examination was one of the commonest qualities, having cost but twelve francs. Paul now appeared frequently at concerts in Paris and London where his playing excited unbounded astonishment and applause.

**Dr. Smith: Lectures on the Scriptures**

Name: Lecture to Young Men
Entertainment: Dr. James Smith: Lecture:
  Credibility and Inspiration of the Scriptures
Venue: First Presbyterian Church
Date: Sunday, December 10, 1854
Time: night
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

**The Baker Family: Vocal Concert**

Name: The Baker Family
Entertainment: Vocal Concert: 4 men and 2 ladies
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Monday, December 11, 1854
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Price: 25 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
New England Supper

Name: New England Supper -- Sons of New England
Entertainment: supper; anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Friday, December 22, 1854
Time: tonight
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, December 22, 1854.259

University Supper

Name: University Supper
Entertainment: supper
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Wednesday, December 27, 1854
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, December 22, 1854.260
New England Supper Review

Journal, Saturday, December 23, 1854. 261

Bullard’s Great Panoramic Mirror

1854 Venues

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<td>First Presbyterian Church</td>
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261 Journal, Saturday, December 23, 1854, p. 3.
262 Journal, Tuesday, December 26, 1854, p. 2.
1855

Bullard’s Great Panoramic Mirror

Name: Bullard’s Great Panoramic Mirror
Entertainment: Panorama: series of paintings exhibited
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, January 4, 5, and 6, 1855
Time: evening
Friday, January 5, 1855, 2:00 p.m. children and schools
Price: 10 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Monday, January 1, 1855. 263

Printers’ Festival Celebrating Benjamin Franklin’s Birthday

Name: Springfield Typographical Union
Entertainment: Printers’ Festival: Anniversary of Benjamin Franklin’s Birthday; Brass Band
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 1855
Time: supper at 9:00 p.m.
Price: $2.00
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Wednesday, January 10, 1855. 264

The Young Men’s Association: Lecture by Dr. Rice

Letter: Mary Stuart to Bettie Stuart, January 11, 1855
Dr. Rice delivered the opening lecture before the young men’s association this week. His subject – the signs of the times. Attended, and was much interested.265

Name: The Young Men’s Association
Entertainment: Lectures: Dr. Rice The signs of the times
Date: January 11, 1855 week

Maddern Family: Musical Entertainment

Name: Maddern Family
Entertainment: Female Brass Band, vocal and instrumental entertainment; females
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, January 24, 25, 26, and 27, 1855
Time: evenings
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Thursday, January 25, 1855. 266

263 Register, Monday, January 1, 1855, p. 2.
264 Register, Wednesday, January 10, 1855, p. 2.
266 Journal, Thursday, January 25, 1855, p. 2.
Mr. Emmett: Reading Shakespeare

Name: Mr. Emmett
Entertainment: Reading Shakespeare: *Othello*
Venue: Clinton Hall
Date: Saturday, January 27, 1855
Time: evening

Venue: Masonic Hall
Entertainment: Reading Shakespeare: *Richard III*
Date: Monday, January 29, 1855
Time: night
Price: collection

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

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Clinton Hall

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Mr. Copway, Chippeway Indian: Lecture

Name: Mr. Copway, Chippeway Indian
Entertainment: Lecture
Venue: Unknown

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267 *Journal*, Monday, January 29, 1855, p. 3.
268 Francis Clinton, a confectioner and baker, operated a store on the north side of the public square in 1858. He bought the west half of the east half of Lot 7 in Block 11 on September 9, 1843. His 3-story building would have been the sixth one west from the corner of Washington and Sixth. *Research by Curtis Mann, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.*
269 *Journal*, Tuesday, January 30, 1855, p. 3.
Mr. Boothroyd: Reading Shakespeare

Name: Mr. Boothroyd
Entertainment: Reading Shakespeare
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Monday and Tuesday, January 29 and 30, 1855
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Tuesday, January 30, 1855.

Julius A. LaBarthe Dancing and Waltzing Academy

Name: Monsieur Julius A. LaBarthe
Entertainment: Dancing Classes
Venue: Metropolitan New Hall

Register, Tuesday, April 17, 1855.

Miss O. S. Wait: Lectures

Name: Miss O. S. Wait
Entertainment: Lecture: The Womanly Influence of Education
Venue: Clinton Hall
Date: Saturday, February 3, 1855
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Price: Gentlemen 10 cents. Ladies free.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, February 2, 1855.

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270 Journal, Tuesday, January 30, 1855, p. 3.
271 Register, Tuesday, April 17, 1855, p. 3.
272 Journal, Friday, February 2, 1855, p. 3.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

President Francis Springer: Lecture

Name: President Francis Springer of Illinois State University
Entertainment: Series of lectures on Paul the Apostle
Venue: Court House
Date: Sunday, February 4, 1855
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, February 2, 1855.

Rev. Springer was the first Lutheran pastor in Springfield, Illinois. He arrived in May 1839 and the first Lutheran worship service was held on Sunday, September 19, 1841, when eight Springfield citizens met at his home at the corner of Eighth and Jackson. Rev. Springer and Abraham Lincoln were neighbors from 1844-1847.

Francis Springer was born in Roxbury, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1810. Orphaned at age five, he was raised by a Lutheran minister until age 14 when he was indentured to a carriage and ornamental painter for four years. Although his opportunities for education were limited, he entered Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, immediately following his indenture. While in college, he supported himself with teaching jobs and working as a painter. He continued his studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, also in Gettysburg. He traveled to Otego and Schohaire, New York, to learn from well-known ministers there. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland licensed him to preach on October 18, 1836. Six months later, on April 11, 1837, he married Mary Kreigh at Clear Spring, Maryland, and was ordained by the Maryland Synod on October 17, 1837.

The Springers traveled west to work with Rev. Daniel Scherer, who is credited with bringing the Lutheran religion to Illinois. After working in Hillsboro for a few months, the Springers moved to Springfield. A few weeks after his arrival, Rev. Springer placed an advertisement in the Sangamo Journal for his English and Classical School. After six months in Springfield, the Springers purchased a lot at the corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets, in a new subdivision being developed by Elijah Iles. A few months later, in early 1840, an Episcopal minister, Rev. Charles Dresser, and his family moved into a new home across Jackson Street, now known as the Lincoln Home.

In 1840, State Representative Abraham Lincoln wrote and sponsored legislation to incorporate the “Mechanics Union,” a group of laborers concerned about the educational needs of their children. The charter gave the following purposes for the Union: “Relief to the sick and disabled members thereof, and to the widows and orphans of deceased members; for the establishment of a common school and a public library, and for the promotion of literature, science, and the mechanic arts.” In December 1842, the Mechanics Union purchased the former First Presbyterian Church building at the corner of Third and Washington Streets and began conducting classes soon thereafter. In 1844, Rev. Springer was hired as a teacher for the School. This was the beginning of a good public school system.

Rev. Charles Dresser sold his home to Abraham Lincoln in 1844, and the Lincolns became the Springer’s new neighbors. While there is no documentation of their daily encounters, it is safe to assume that their children probably played together and that the wives, both of whom had husbands who traveled on circuits, became well-acquainted. Lincoln’s only known comments about his neighbor were written on April 13, 1864 in a letter in which Lincoln described Rev Springer as “one of my best friends, than whom there is no more dependable man.”

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the West named Rev. Springer their president in 1846. In 1847 the Synod started a school in Hillsboro called the “Literary and Theological Institute of the Evangelical Institute of the Far West,” (commonly called Hillsboro College or Lutheran College). Rev. Springer became its first president. At the same time, he received a call to be pastor of Hillsboro’s Zion Lutheran Church. The Springers sold their Springfield home and moved to Hillsboro. Although the School was well-received and attracted students from most of the surrounding states, it was sometimes necessary to raise funds to keep it going. The financial support of the College by Springfield residents convinced the founders that moving the School to Springfield might increase its opportunities for growth. The name of the School was changed to Illinois State University, and in early 1852, it moved to temporary Springfield quarters at Washington and Third Streets. Originally the Presbyterian Church, the building had also housed the Lutheran congregation. Eight acres of land approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the statehouse was donated by the Pascal Enos

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273 Journal, Friday, February 2, 1855, p. 3.
family in July 1852. Springfield Mayor James Conkling gave the address at the cornerstone laying ceremony, and the citizens of Springfield provided a great deal of monetary support. Students began attending classes in their new quarters in 1854. Many prominent citizens, including most of the patriarchs of Springfield, served on the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University. Abraham Lincoln was elected to the Board in June 1860. Robert Todd Lincoln and John Hay attended the school in the late 1850s. In 1855, Rev. Springer resigned from his post as president of the University, possibly in response to criticisms about the poor financial status of the institution.

Rev. Springer continued his educational career in Springfield, first as principal of the Ward 1 School, and later as Superintendent of the Springfield public school district. He left that post in 1861 to enlist in the army. When he was refused due to his age, he offered his services as chaplain to the 10th Illinois Cavalry. His regiment eventually ended up in Fort Smith, Arkansas, an old military post, and Rev. Springer was named chaplain of the post. He was also made superintendent of the Freedman’s Bureau while at Fort Smith.

His experiences with the people of the south, made homeless and often traumatized by the war, convinced him that at least some of them would have a better life in the north. He explained his ideas to Elijah Iles and James Lamb, and the three of them purchased property at 1308 South Seventh and built the “Home for the Friendless.” Widows and orphans then began to arrive on trains from the south.

He retained both titles until he resigned in August 1867. Upon his return to Springfield he resumed his preaching and teaching careers. In 1874, Rev. Springer moved to Hillsboro and served as the Montgomery County Superintendent of Schools for the next four years. While in Hillsboro, he kept in close contact with his family and friends in Springfield. He died in October 1892.  

### Status of Metropolitan Hall

| Name: Metropolitan Hall | Entertainment: status and opening |
| Date: Tuesday, February 6, 1855 | Information: 83’ x 79’ |
| Lighted with gas | 32 side burners |
| Chandelier in center |

### David Kraft: Brass Band

| Name: David Kraft Band | Entertainment: Brass Band and Caller |
| Venue: Unknown | |

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275 Register, Wednesday, February 7, 1855, p. 3.
276 Register, Wednesday, February 7, 1855, p. 3.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield 1855

Chess Club Formation

Name: Chess Club
Entertainment: formation of chess club
Venue: Masonic Hall, gentlemen’s dressing room
Date: Thursday, February 9, 1855
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Monday, February 5, 1855.277

Nicholas Goodall: Violin Concert

Name: Master Nicholas Goodall – 12 years old
Entertainment: Violin Concert
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Wednesday and Thursday, February 7 and 8, 1855
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Thursday, February 8, 1855.278

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277 Journal, Monday, February 5, 1855, p. 3.
278 Journal, Thursday, February 8, 1855, p. 3.
Nick was the son of a man who was the first violinist in the orchestra of Ford’s Theatre in Washington when Lincoln was assassinated. When Nick was eight, he toured the country as a prodigy. In 1865 he was 16 -- pale, slim, and silent. Nick’s nervous system broke down as did many others whose poise was greater than Nick’s after they had seen the blinding swiftness with which the great President, “the sprig of lilac,” was snatched from the loveliest garden in the world.

Nicholas Goodall (a.k.a. Julian Nicholas Goodall) was born in Shropshire, England, about 1840. He was the son of a music teacher and dancing master J.K. Goodall with whom he immigrated to the United States in 1851. It was advertised that he was 11 years old in 1853 when he appeared in Philadelphia in concert. A child prodigy, he was billed as the “Le Petit Ole Bull,” a reference to a famous Norwegian violinist of the day, Ole Bull. He played the familiar but ever sweet Last Rose of Summer as I never heard it before and followed it by such a rendering of Rock Me to Sleep Mother as brought tears to the eyes of his listeners. All this time we the invisible audience were perfectly silent and Goodall entirely self-absorbed. We ventured no applause and he sought none. Forgetful of everything but his music hour after hour he delighted our ears with such a concert as it is seldom one’s fortune to hear under like conditions. The dimly outlined figure in the chair seemed to us not a half-witted vagabond fiddler but a being inspired with an unearthly genius.

... the next evening Thursday there was a very large party at Mrs. Ridgeley’s a perfect squeeze. The House was brilliantly lighted with gas - The company very gaily dressed - the supper very good and upon the whole everything very pleasant. Master Goodall and his father who having been giving concerts here were present and entertained the company with some fine music on the violin. The little fellow plays very finely - he is about as large as John.

Letter: John Stuart to Bettie Stuart, 11 February 1855
expressing in music as much and more than others express in words. At length he gently glided into Schubert’s Serenade. I had heard it often but now it seemed new [to] me. Why had no one before this strange man discovered and brought forth the wealth of feeling in that most exquisite composition? He played it through twice and when the last note died away dropped his violin across his knees. I looked at my watch. It indicated one o’clock. You will agree with me that in the death of the friendless vagabond in the Watertown Asylum the other day a great artist passed away who at least from a professional point of view was worthy to rank with the greatest violinists of other days and to shake hands in the shadowy world with Ole Bull and Paganini.282

At 2 o’clock in the morning of January 19, 1881, there died in the Jefferson County almshouse on the outskirts of Watertown, New York, a man wrapped in a dark veil of mystery... Penniless, a veritable vagabond who wandered from place to place, pitied, admired, a man without friends, he would long since have been completely forgotten if that were all. But it was not, for he was a human paradox. Unkempt, personally unattractive, he was misfortunely a victim of a peculiar mental complex which rendered him so moody and, taciturn to such an inarticulate degree that he disclosed nothing as to the identity of his parents, the place of his birth and only contradictory fragments of his early life. Yet it is said that he could speak several languages fluently. Despite the cheap and slovenly clothing which covered his body his marvelous talent, antithetically, stands forever illumined and lustrous in the white samite of musical genius which ranked him with Paganini, Ole Bull and others of the world’s greatest violin virtuosi. This man was Nick Goodall, whose fame America’s noted novelist Irving Bacheller helped to revive posthumously in that best-seller of 1900, Ben Holden, a Tale of the North Country. And because of that Nick Goodall’s ashes today repose in a modestly marked grave in Watertown’s old Arsenal Street cemetery, while his plain, unembellished but fine-toned violin is a prized relic in the museum of the Jefferson County Historical Society in Watertown.

Dead at 32, Nick Goodall who, with his magic bow, had charmed audiences in Boston, New York, Salem, Elmira and in Washington, D.C., was even believed by Mr. Bacheller to have been in Ford’s Theatre that tragic night of April 14, 1865, when John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln as he and Mrs. Lincoln sat in their box awaiting the final act of Our American Cousin. "... for in the orchestra conducted by William Withers, Nick’s father was first violinist. Nick, a lad of 16 at the time, naturally would have attended the performance for that reason as well as for the reason that President and Mrs. Lincoln, before whom he had played and captivated with his wonderful music, were to attend the performance, Mr. Bacheller theorized. He further theorized that the tragedy so shocked the two sensitive Goodalls that the father died not long afterward but, before death, placed Nick in sane nearby asylum only to ultimately be released to roam the country mentally disturbed, but with mind never divested of that miraculous ability to enchant with music of such beauteous quality as to be beyond adequate description.

Yet this was the man who appeared to love the natural beauties of the North Country wandering for years among the communities of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties, always welcomed by the tavern keepers who fed him because he always drew a crowd of patrons to them when he suddenly turned up at their hostelries in the warm months. In the winter months he may have sought haven in some poorhouse. Many stories circulated regarding the cause of his mental condition. One was that his father shut him in a room and compelled him to practice ten to twelve hours a day without food or rest. Another was that his father “beat his brains out.” The meager information obtained from him about himself and his family was that when he played as a boy the women used to kiss him. One thing is certain. He must have been born with a great talent for music which, through the exhaustive practicing in his youth developed an unsurpassed technique bringing out an incomparable sense of interpretation of the great works of Schubert, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Brahms, Bach, Paganini, Liszt and the other great masters which were so indelibly engraved upon his brain that he never forgot them and subconsciously played them with perfection throughout the balance of his short life.283

But his mastery was not confined to the violin. He could play a piano as well and it is recounted that one afternoon when he was scheduled to play a program he saw a piano in the room, laid his violin on the floor, turned to the pianoforte and completely overwhelmed his audience. Said The Watertown Times the morning that Nick Goodall died: “The eccentric and wonderful violinist known throughout the United States as Nick Goodall, breathed his last and his soul fled from this world of trouble and woe.” "... "He was a great artist.” * * * "No one can imagine the delight with which lovers of good music have sat listening." * * * “We think he deserved a place among the list of great violinists who have passed away.” Nick Goodall, unkempt artist with the red flannel rag around his neck and his feet encased in leather laced walking shoes, whom strangers often took for a tramp.

In a commercial way, he was a flop. He used to be late for his concerts. When he would finally arrive, he might or might not play like a master. The tempo would change from a brilliant pace to heavier tones whose immensity seemed to light the countenance of the artists with an inner fire. One little note might waver into silence. Nick might stop before his great audience and shout an oath, the impact of which was like a drunkard’s reel before a Communion altar. Churchmen and ladies would leave, drawing their skirts and holy robes about them.

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Female Brass Band Concert

Journal, Monday, February 12, 1855.

Maddern Family

Journal, Tuesday, February 13, 1855.

Female Brass Band Concert

Journal, Wednesday, February 14, 1855.

Journal, Thursday, February 15, 1855.

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

284 Journal, Monday, February 12, 1855, p. 2.
285 Journal, Tuesday, February 13, 1855, p. 3.
286 Journal, Wednesday, February 14, 1855, p. 3.
287 Journal, Thursday, February 15, 1855, p. 2.
Dr. Loomis: Clairvoyance Lecture

Journal, Wednesday, February 14, 1855.288  Journal, Thursday, February 15, 1855.289

Maddern Family: Female Brass Vocal and Concert Band

Register, Saturday, February 17, 1855.290

The Young Men’s Christian Association:
Lecture by Dr. Samuel Hanson Cox, D.D., Abolitionist

Register, Saturday, February 17, 1855.291

Samuel Hanson Cox was an American Presbyterian minister and a leading abolitionist. Cox was born on August 25, 1793, in Rahway, New Jersey to a Quaker family. After renouncing his religion and serving in the War of 1812, he studied law before entering the ministry. He was pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Mendham, New Jersey from 1817 to 1821. He then moved to New York City, where he was pastor of two churches from 1821 to 1834. In 1832, he helped found the University of the City of New York, now New York University, teaching classes in theology and contributing the college’s motto, *Perstare et praestare* (“To persevere and to excel”). Due to his anti-slavery stance, he was mobbed, and his house and church were sacked in the Anti-abolitionist riots of 1834, and he was burned in effigy by another mob in Charleston, South

288 Journal, Wednesday, February 14, 1855, p. 3.
289 Journal, Thursday, February 15, 1855, p. 2.
290 Register, Saturday, February 17, 1855, p. 2
291 Register, Saturday, February 17, 1855, p. 2
Carolina. After the riots he moved out of the city, and from 1834 to 1837 was professor of pastoral theology in Auburn, New York.

He was known beyond the church for his skills as an orator, despite or perhaps because he was described as “eccentric” and would sometimes lapse from English into Latin. One speech he made in 1833, in which he put the responsibility for slavery in America on the British government, made such a great impression that it was widely republished. Cox has been described as “one of the most famous celebrities in the Presbyterian Church... famous for his linguistic attainments, for his wit and occasional eccentricities, and very famous for his bursts of eloquence on great occasions.” When awarded the Doctor of Divinity by the College of New Jersey, which later became Princeton University, he derided it as a couple of “semi-lunar fardels.”

For seventeen years, Cox was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn Heights, while also serving as Professor of Ecclesiastical History at the Union Theological Seminary and as a leader of the “New School” Presbyterians. In 1854, owing to a throat infection and loss of his voice, he moved to Owego, New York. He died at Bronxville, New York, on October 2, 1880.292

Female Brass Band Concert

Name: Female Brass Band
Entertainment: Brass Band Concert
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Saturday, February 17, 1855
Time: tonight
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Nicholas Goodall: Violin Concert

Name: Master Nicholas Goodall
Entertainment: Complimentary Benefit Concert
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 1855
Time: evening
Price: 50 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

293 Journal, Saturday, February 17, 1855, p. 3.
294 Register, Wednesday, February 21, 1855, p. 6.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Washington Birthday Celebration: Military and Civic Ball

Register, Saturday, February 17, 1855.295

Register, Wednesday, February 21, 1855.296

Metropolitan Hall

When Metropolitan Hall was finished in 1855 its seating capacity of 1,200 was the largest in the state…

Stock Company Plays in Metropolitan Hall

In February and March 1855, a traveling stock company played in Metropolitan Hall to good crowds.297

The Young Men’s Christian Association: Lecture by Dr. Achilli, Italian Lecturer

Register, Wednesday, February 21, 1855.298

295 Register, Saturday, February 17, 1855, p. 2
296 Register, Wednesday, February 21, 1855, p. 6.
297 Here I Have Lived, p. 189.
298 Register, Wednesday, February 21, 1855, p. 6.
Theatre

Review
Name: Theatre
Entertainment: Plays: Charles II, Merry Cobler, and Box and Cox; singing by Mr. Boyle and violin by Mr. Bailey; Lost Son and Loan of a Lover
Venue: moved from Metropolitan Hall to Masonic Hall
Date: Wednesday, March 7, 1855
Time: also tonight
Price: 25 cents

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Wednesday, March 7, 1855.

The Young Men’s Christian Association: Three Lectures by Bayard Taylor

Taylor arrived in a driving rain and found the town a quagmire. Wisely he kept his impressions to himself until he published the first volume of At Home and Abroad in 1859. There, in addition to a few remarks about the mud, he wrote: I must do Springfield the justice to say that it has its sunshine side, when the mud dries up with magical rapidity and its level streets become fair to look upon. The clouds cleared away on the morning after my arrival, and when my friend, Captain Diller, took me to the cupola of the State House and showed me the wide ring of cultivated prairie, dotted with groves of hickory, sugar-maple, and oak, which in spheres the capital of Suckerdom, I confesses that it was a sight to be proud of. The young green of the woods and the promising wheat fields melted away gradually into blue, and the fronts of distant farm-houses shown in the morning sun like the sails of vessels in the offing. The wet soil of the cornfields resembled patches of black velvet—recalling to my mind the dark, prolific loam of the Nile Valley. Bayard Taylor

299 Journal, Wednesday, March 7, 1855, p. 2.

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Bayard Taylor (1825-1878) was an American poet, translator, and travel author. He wrote Eldorado or Adventures in the Path of Empire (1850). Bayard was born at Kennett Square, Chester County, Pennsylvania, on January 11, 1825, the son of Quaker farmers. He attended school at West Chester, and later at Unionville. At 17 he was apprenticed to a printer in West Chester. He studied languages and literature and started to write poetry, his first published in Philadelphia’s Saturday Evening Post in 1841. Taylor was a voracious reader. While apprenticing with a printer, he became acquainted with Rufus Griswold, editor of Graham’s Magazine and by his encouragement and support, Ximena; or The Battle of the Sierra Morena and Other Poems (1844) was published. With a cousin and friend, he set sail for Liverpool in 1844 for a tour of Europe. He travelled through England, Germany, and Italy, purportedly living on six cents a day and sent accounts to The New York Tribune, The Saturday Evening Post, and The United States Gazette. Views Afoot or Europe seen with a Knapsack and Staff (1846) is a compilation of all the articles he wrote during the two years.

Upon returning to Kennett Square, Taylor and Mary S. Agnew became engaged. Looking to secure an income so as to be marriage-worthy in the eyes of Mary’s parents, Taylor moved to New York in 1847 and obtained an editing position with the New York Tribune that would turn out to be a life-long association with the newspaper. Rhymes of Travel, Ballads, and Poems was published in 1848 and further entrenched his reputation as a poet.

Taylor now found himself a recognized man of letters; moreover, Horace Greeley, then editor of the Tribune, placed Taylor on the Tribune staff in 1848. His next journey, made when the gold-fever was at its height, was to California, as correspondent for the Tribune. He returned by way of Mexico and published in 1850 a highly successful book of travels, entitled El Dorado or Adventures in the Path of Empire. Ten thousand copies were said to have been sold in America, and thirty thousand in Great Britain, within a few weeks of publication. A Book of Romances, Lyrics, and Songs (1851) turned out to be one of Bayard’s most popular compilations. Bayard’s popularity generated by his Tribune articles and his books launched him into the spotlight and invitations for appearance as lecturer poured in, and his stage presence and exciting adventures did not disappoint.

In 1851, he set sail for Europe, visiting England, Austria, Egypt, and China. From England, towards the end of 1852, he sailed for Calcutta, proceeding from there to China, where he joined the expedition of Commodore Perry to Japan. In 1854 he published his travels and some poetry in A Journey to Central Africa; or, Life and Landscapes from Egypt to the Negro Kingdoms of the White Nile (New York, 1854); The Lands of the Saracen; or, Pictures of Palestine, Asia Minor, Sicily and Spain (1854); and A Visit to India, China and Japan in the Year 1853 (1855). On December 20, 1853, he returned from these journeys and became a successful public lecturer, delivering addresses in every town of importance from Maine to Wisconsin. After two years of lecturing, he traveled in northern Europe, Sweden and the Arctic, Germany and England to study Swedish life, language and literature, including a visit with Lord Alfred Tennyson. Northern Travel: Summer and Winter Pictures of Sweden, Denmark, and Lapland was published in 1857.

His next travel adventure was sailing to California to report on the Gold Rush for his friend Horace Greeley’s New York Tribune. Eldorado or, Adventures in the Path of Empire (1850) was the result and became a best-seller.

The most noteworthy result was the long narrative poem "Lars," but his “Swedish Letters” to the Tribune were also republished in 1857, under the title Northern Travel: Summer and Winter Pictures.

In 1859 Taylor received an invitation to lecture at San Francisco and he again traversed the whole extent of the western American gold region.

Soon after settling, Taylor started plans to build “Cedarcroft,” his estate just outside of Kennett Square. Ralph Waldo Emerson and Horace Greeley were among the illustrious guests who were invited to its opening in 1860. Taylor continued his lecture tours, wrote poetry and articles for the Tribune, especially as Washington correspondent during the Civil War.

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300 Journal, Friday, March 9, 1855. p. 2.
In 1862, he entered the diplomatic service as Chargé d’Affaires under the American minister to Russia at St. Petersburg at St. Petersburg, and the following year (1863) became chargé d’affaires at the Russian capital. The American president Abraham Lincoln attended one of his lectures on Russia in 1863.

*Hannah Thurston*, the first of his four novels, was published in 1863. This book had a moderate success, but neither in it nor in its successors did Bayard Taylor show any special talent as a novelist.

In 1864 he returned to the United States and resumed his active literary labors. *Hannah Thurston: A Story of American Life* (1864), a novel which Nathaniel Hawthorne especially liked, was Taylor’s first, followed by *John Godfrey’s Fortunes; Related by Himself* (1864) and *The Story of Kennett* (1866). *Colorado, a summer trip* (1867) was based on one of the last travels Taylor was becoming more and more settled at Cedarcroft, which afforded him much relaxation and focus for his writing, though it was financially a stretch to maintain at times. He was steadily working on one of his most respected works, a translation in original meters of Goethe’s *Faust* (2 vols., 1870-71).

In 1869 he accepted a professorship with Cornell University, lecturing on such German literary notables as Goethe, Lessing, and Schiller. *Joseph and his Friend; a story of Pennsylvania* (1870) was his last published novel, and not a success.

In 1874, he went to Iceland to report for the *Tribune* the one thousandth anniversary of the first settlement there. In June 1878 he was accredited United States minister at Berlin. He travelled to Berlin in 1878, aboard the same ship Mark Twain was on, who had developed a friendly affection for Taylor. He never quite revived his spirit of adventure and travel in Germany however, and a liver condition was sapping his spirit.

Notwithstanding the resistless passion for travel that had always possessed him, Bayard Taylor was (when not actually en route) sedentary in his habits, especially in the later years of his life. He died on December 19, 1878 only a few months after his arrival in Berlin. His remains were sent back to New York to lie in state in the Governor’s Room of City Hall, and then sent on by train to Kennett Square, where he lies buried in the Longwood Cemetery, Pennsylvania.

Taylor’s most ambitious productions in poetry -- his “Masque of the Gods” (Boston, 1872), “Prince Deukalion” a lyrical drama (Boston, 1878), “The Picture of St. John” (Boston, 1886), “Lars; a Pastoral of Norway” (Boston, 1873), and “The Prophet;” a tragedy (Boston, 1874) -- are marred by a ceaseless effort to overstrain his power. However, he will be remembered by his poetic and excellent translation of Goethe’s *Faust* (2 vols., Boston, 1870-71) in the original metres.

His best short poems are “The Metempsychosis of the Pine” and the well-known Bedouin love-song. The most valuable of these prose dissertations are the Studies in German Literature (New York, 1879). Collected editions of his Poetical Works and his *Dramatic Works* were published at Boston in 1888; his *Life and Letters* (Boston, 2 vols., 1884) were edited by his wife and Horace E. Scudder.301

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**Rev. Joseph Parish Thompson: Lecture on Constantinople-Abolitionist**

*Journal, Monday, April 16, 1855.*302

Joseph Parish Thompson, an abolitionist and Congregationalist minister, was born in Philadelphia on August 7, 1819. He studied theology at Andover Seminary and continued his studies at Yale Divinity School. He became the pastor of the Chapel Street Congregational Church (now the Church of the Redeemer) in New Haven. During his years at New Haven, he was one of the originators of *The New Englander*, a Congregational quarterly review, later renamed the *Yale Review*. Thompson was pastor at the St. David AME Zion Church in Sag Harbor in 1839. He worked with the Quaker community and others to help slaves escape. They were hidden beneath the pews via a trap door under the main sanctuary. St. David’s became a stop on the Underground Railroad.

From 1845 to 1871, he was the first pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle Church in New York. During those years, he preached the church’s anti-slavery beliefs, which included supporting women’s suffrage (voting) and promoting the abolition of alcoholic drinks. He frequently preached to a congregation of 2,500 parishioners. Black pastors were invited as guest preachers. William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, and Sojourner Truth spoke at the church. Rioters tried to burn the church and Dr. Thompson’s home in 1863, but they were stopped by members of the congregation.

A Confederate sympathizer attempted to shoot Thompson during a worship service because of his deep loyalty to the Union. During his time at the Broadway Tabernacle, he also played a major role in the development of 20 Congregational churches in Manhattan.

301 http://www.online-literature.com/bayard-taylor/ Biography written by C.D. Merriman for Jalic Inc
302 *Journal, Monday, April 16, 1855*, p. 3.
and Brooklyn. He convened the first national meeting of Congregational churches in Albany in 1852. About 500 ministers and delegates from 17 different states attended this historical gathering. Thompson supported mission activities around the world. The church carried out educational and religious activities in poor neighborhoods of New York City. He often traveled to Washington, D.C., where he spoke with President Lincoln about issues related to the Civil War. At one Sunday service, when a serious shortage of regiments was plaguing the Union Army, he convinced the congregation to contribute the $30,000 needed to finance a new regiment.

Thompson collaborated further with President Lincoln through his work as president of the Christian Union Commission (also known as the American Union Commission).

One of the most notable achievements of Thompson’s pastorate was the impetus he generated in the growth of congregationalism, not only in and about New York City but also throughout the country. In his era, Thompson’s Tabernacle played a major role in the development of nearly 20 Congregational churches in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

He published some twenty volumes and acted as editor-in-chief of The Independent, a weekly newspaper, from its beginning in 1848 until 1862. He was a superintendent of the Underground Railroad, the founder of The Independent, an anti-slavery religious weekly started in 1848, served as president of the American Union Commission, was a member of the committee to create the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, and assisted the Treaty of Berlin with the religious liberty clause.

After President Lincoln’s assassination, Mary Lincoln gave Dr. Thompson one of the president’s canes. This walking cane had been the property of Henry Clay of Kentucky. Mary gave it to Thompson, “as a friend whom her husband greatly honored.”

Exhausted by the tremendous energies he had extended on behalf of the war effort, the abolition of slavery and his ministries in the Tabernacle, he resigned in late 1871. He moved to Germany in 1873 where he lived until his death in 1879. He was especially absorbed in studies in Egyptology, and also contributed largely to the proceedings of numerous international congresses on the law of nations, geographical research, the regulation of trade, peace, education, and other subjects. He was, moreover, very active with his pen in explaining the history and polity of the United States to European minds. He died in Berlin on September 20, 1879, aged 60 years.

The Campbell Minstrels

Name: Campbell Minstrels
Entertainment: Minstrels
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 8, 9, and 10, 1855
Time: evenings

Register, Saturday, May 5, 1855.303

Journal, Tuesday, May 8, 1855.304
The Cantabours: Vocal and Instrumental Music

Name: The Cantabours
Entertainment: Vocal and Instrumental Music
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Monday, May 14, 1855
Time: evening.

Journal, Monday, May 14, 1855.305

Rev. J. L. Crane: Temperance Lecture

Name: Rev. J. L. Crane
Entertainment: Temperance lecture
Venue: Methodist Church
Date: Wednesday, May 16, 1855
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Journal, Monday, May 14, 1855.306

Blakely Family: Musical Concert

Name: Blakelys Orchestral Chorus Company
Entertainment: Vocal and instrumental concert
Venue: Masonic Hall/Odd Fellow’s Hall
Date: Saturday, June 2, 1855
Time: tonight

Journal, Saturday, June 2, 1855.307

305 Journal, Monday, May 14, 1855, p. 3.
306 Journal, Monday, May 14, 1855, p. 3.
307 Journal, Saturday, June 2, 1855, p. 3.
Godfrey Frankenstein’s Niagara Falls Panoramas

Godfrey Nicolas Frankenstein was an American painter. He came from a family of painters who migrated from Germany to New York City when Godfrey was 11. Already a prodigy, Godfrey began designing signs for money, which turned into his own full-fledged sign-making business at the age of 13. At 19, he opened a portrait studio in Cincinnati. Two years later he was the first president of that city’s Academy of Fine Arts.

In 1844 at age 24, he visited Niagara Falls. Plenty of artisans found the vastness of the Falls a great challenge. They would sit for hours and attempt to recreate its beauty either on canvas, paper or wood engravings. Many realized a single rectangle was too confining. They tried long strip paintings, panoramas, curved cycloramas and three-dimensional dioramas, anything to replicate what it was like to see the Falls in person.

The trip changed Godfrey. Now he had a purpose as an artist to create a lasting legacy. He would paint murals, perhaps hundreds, and then show them to audiences one at a time, like a moving picture, telling a story in the process.

Year after year, for nearly nine years, he went back to the Falls. He went during the changing of the seasons making small sketches of one angle the first year followed by another angle the next. He bravely stood in all kinds of weather from the heat of the summer to the sub-zero chills of the winter. He drew the Falls in contrasting and opposite ways: by moonlight and in bright sunshine; before and after a rainstorm; and during a snowfall followed by a thaw. Each time, Frankenstein would set up his easel and produce scene after glorious scene. He sketched the Falls and its surroundings from the top and from the bottom, close-up and far away, from one side to the other, nearly 200 subjects in all.

Frankenstein then began a five-year process to transfer the sketches to canvas. He picked 80 to 100 good drawings and copied each one to single panels that stood at least eight-foot high. The end-product was a roll of canvas that unfurled was nearly 1000 feet long. When it was displayed, one panel would be viewed followed by the next, creating a seamless spectacle of broad landscapes and augmented perspectives. In addition, the audience would get a geology lesson. Frankenstein cleverly juxtaposed scenes from different years to show the changes, including the rock slide that dropped the overhang known as Table Rock into the churning waters below.

“Frankenstein’s Panorama” as it was called, was a huge hit. In 1853, thousands flocked to the Broadway Amusement Center in New York to sit in the dark and watch the scenery unfold. Live music played and commentary by Frankenstein himself completed the entertainment. And all this for only 50 cents.

Reviewers were just as enthralled: “We see Niagara above the Falls and far below…We have sideways and lengthways; we look down upon it; we are before it, behind it, in it….into its spray on the deck of the Maid of the Mist; tempting its rapids among the eddies; skimming its whirlpool below…”

Legerdemain: Master John Wyman, Wizard

Name: Legerdemain, Master Wyman
Entertainment: Wizard
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Monday, July 16, 1855
Time: 8:15 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

Register, Tuesday, July 17, 1855.
Journal, Saturday, July 14, 1855.310

John Wyman Jr. (1816-1881), was born in Albany, New York, in 1816. He was a successful magician and ventriloquist, billed as “Wyman the Wizard.” His career as an entertainer began simply enough as a mimic. He could reproduce the sound of people’s voices as well as animal sounds to such a degree people thought they were listening to the real thing. How this transferred to magic is not known, but before long he became a full-fledged magician, and mimicry was only a small part of his show. He entertained several U.S. Presidents, including Martin Van Buren, Millard Fillmore and four times for Abraham Lincoln. For a time, Wyman was under the management of P. T. Barnum. Houdini called Wyman “one of the most honest men of our profession.” He was one of the most financially prosperous entertainers of his time.

Wyman was one of the first performers to present “Gift Shows.” These were performances where the performer gave gifts or prizes like gold and silver watches at the end of his shows. He was known for giving quality prizes.


During his career, he lived in Baltimore and Washington D.C. and made Philadelphia his home where he continued to live after he retired. He later moved to New Jersey, where he owned real estate, and died in Burlington in 1881.

310 Register, Tuesday, July 17, 1855, p. 3. Journal, Saturday, July 14, 1855, p. 2.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Grand Balloon Ascension: Prof. O. K. Harrison

Name: Prof. O. K. Harrison
Entertainment: Balloon Ascension
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Saturday, August 11, 1855
Time: 1 for inflation and 2 and 5 p.m. for ascension
Evening fireworks
Price: 25 cents Children and servants: 15 cents
Brass Band throughout the day

Journal, Wednesday, August 8, 1855,

Military Parade and Ball

Name: Springfield Artillery Capt. Hopkins
Entertainment: Parade and Ball.
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Thursday, September 27, 1855
Time: morning and evening.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Thursday, September 27, 1855,

311 Journal, Wednesday, August 8, 1855, p. 2.
312 Journal, Thursday, September 27, 1855, p. 4.
Henry Ward Beecher (June 24, 1813 – March 8, 1887) was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, the eighth of thirteen children of Lyman Beecher, a Calvinist Presbyterian preacher from Boston. His siblings included author Harriet Beecher Stowe, who achieved worldwide fame with her abolitionist novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, educators Catharine Beecher and Thomas K. Beecher, and activists Charles Beecher and Isabella Beecher Hooker. Lyman would later become known as “the father of more brains than any man in America.” Beecher’s mother, Roxana Foote, died when Henry was three and Lyman remarried to Harriet Porter, whom Henry later remembered as “severe” and subject to bouts of depression.

The Beecher household was, one of the children later recalled, “the strangest and most interesting combination of fun and seriousness.” The family was poor, and Lyman Beecher assigned his children “a heavy schedule of prayer meetings, lectures, and religious services” while banning the theater, dancing, most fiction, and the celebration of birthdays or Christmas. The family’s pastimes included story-telling and listening to Lyman play the fiddle. Henry had a childhood stammer and was considered slow-witted and one of the less promising of the brilliant Beecher children. His less-than-stellar performance earned him punishments such as being forced to sit for hours in the girls corner wearing a dunce cap. At age 14, he began his oratorical training at Mount Pleasant Classical Institution, a boarding school in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Beecher attended Amherst where he had his first taste of public speaking and, setting aside his early dream of going to sea, resolved to join the ministry. During his Amherst years, he also developed an interest in the new pseudoscience of phrenology—an attempt to link personality traits with features of the human skull—and befriended Orson Squire Fowler, who later became the theory’s best-known American exponent. Beecher graduated from Amherst College in 1834 and then attended and graduated in 1837 from Lane Theological Seminary outside Cincinnati, Ohio. Lane was headed by Beecher’s father, who had by this time become “America’s most famous preacher.” Lane’s student body was riven in these years by the slavery question: whether to support a form of gradual emancipation, as Lyman Beecher did, or to stand by principle and demand immediate emancipation. Henry stayed largely clear of the controversy, sympathetic to the radical students but unwilling to defy his father.

Beecher met his future wife, Eunice Bullard, the daughter of a well-known physician, and on August 3, 1837, married Eunice. Their marriage was not a happy one. Henry was gone from his home for prolonged absences. The couple also suffered the deaths of four of their eight children.

Harry and Eunice proceeded to the small, impoverished town of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, where Beecher had been offered a post as a minister of the First Presbyterian Church. He received his first national publicity when he became involved in the break between “New School” and “Old School” Presbyterianism, which were split over questions of original sin and the slavery issue; Henry’s father Lyman was a leading proponent of the New School. Lyman’s Old School enemies blocked Henry’s official confirmation as minister in Lawrenceburg after Henry refused to swear an oath of allegiance to their views, and the resulting controversy split the western Presbyterian Church into rival synods.

Henry’s Lawrenceburg church declared its independence from the Synod in order to retain him as its pastor, but the poverty that followed the Panic of 1837 caused him to look for a new position. He was invited to visit Indianapolis in 1839, and he was offered the ministry of the Second Presbyterian Church there on May 13, 1839. Uncommon for a speaker of his era, Beecher would use humor and informal language including dialect and slang as he preached. His preaching was a major success, building Second Presbyterian into the largest church in Indianapolis, and he also led a successful revival meeting in nearby Terre Haute. However, mounting debt led Beecher to again seek a new position in 1847, and he accepted the invitation to become the first pastor of the Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, New York. Beecher’s national fame continued to grow, and he took to the lecture circuit, becoming one of the most popular speakers in the country and charging correspondingly high fees. He soon acquired fame on the lecture circuit for his novel oratorical style, in which he employed humor, dialect, and slang.
Henry developed a theology emphasizing God’s love above all else. He also grew interested in social reform, particularly the abolitionist movement. Though Beecher hated slavery as early as his seminary days, his views were generally more moderate than those of abolitionists like William Lloyd Garrison, who advocated the breakup of the Union if it would also mean the end of slavery. In the years leading up to the Civil War, he raised money to purchase slaves from captivity and to send rifles—nicknamed “Beecher’s Bibles”—to abolitionists fighting in Kansas and Nebraska. He toured Europe during the Civil War speaking in support of the Union.

A personal turning point for Beecher came in October 1848 when he learned of two escaped young female slaves who had been recaptured; their father had been offered the chance to ransom them from captivity, and appealed to Beecher to help raise funds. Beecher raised over two thousand dollars to secure the girls’ freedom. On June 1, 1856, he held another mock slave auction to purchase the freedom of a young woman named Sarah.

In his widely reprinted piece “Shall We Compromise,” Beecher assailed the Compromise of 1850, a compromise between anti-slavery and pro-slavery forces brokered by Whig Senator Henry Clay. The compromise banned slavery from California and slave-trading from Washington, D.C. at the cost of a stronger Fugitive Slave Act; Beecher objected to the last provision in particular, arguing that it was a Christian’s duty to feed and shelter escaped slaves. Slavery and liberty were fundamentally incompatible, Beecher argued, making compromise impossible: “One or the other must die.”

In 1856, Beecher campaigned for abolitionist John C. Frémont, the first presidential candidate of the Republican Party; despite Beecher’s aid, Frémont lost to Democrat James Buchanan. During the pre-Civil War conflict in the Kansas Territory, known as “Bloody Kansas,” Beecher raised funds to send Sharps rifles to abolitionist forces, stating that the weapons would do more good than “a hundred Bibles.” The press subsequently nicknamed the weapons “Beecher’s Bibles.” Beecher became widely hated in the American South for his abolitionist actions and received numerous death threats.

In 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln sent Beecher on a speaking tour of Europe to build support for the Union cause. Beecher’s speeches helped turn European popular sentiment against the rebel Confederate States of America and prevent its recognition by foreign powers. At the close of the war in April 1865, Beecher was invited to speak at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, where the first shots of the war had been fired; Lincoln had again personally selected him, stating, “We had better send Beecher down to deliver the address on the occasion of raising the flag because if it had not been for Beecher there would have been no flag to raise.”

After the war, Beecher supported social reform causes such as women’s suffrage and temperance. He also championed Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution, stating that it was not incompatible with Christian beliefs. Influenced by British author Herbert Spencer, Beecher embraced Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution in the 1880s, identifying as a “cordial Christian evolutionist.” He argued that the theory was in keeping with what Applegate called “the inevitability of progress,” seeing a steady march toward perfection as a part of God’s plan. In 1885, he wrote Evolution and Religion to expound these views. His sermons and writings helped to gain acceptance for the theory in America.

In 1867, he campaigned unsuccessfully to become a delegate to the New York Constitutional Convention of 1867-1868 on a suffrage platform, and in 1869, was elected unanimously as the first president of the American Woman Suffrage Association.

In the Reconstruction Era, Beecher sided with President Andrew Johnson’s plan for swift restoration of Southern states to the Union. He believed that captains of industry should be the leaders of society and supported Social Darwinist ideas. During the Great Railroad Strike of 1877, he preached strongly against the strikers whose wages had been cut, stating, “Man cannot live by bread alone but the man who cannot live on bread and water is not fit to live,” and “If you are being reduced, go down boldly into poverty.” His remarks were so unpopular that cries of “Hang Beecher!” became common at labor rallies, and plainclothes detectives protected his church.

Beecher was a prominent advocate for allowing Chinese immigration to continue to the US, helping to delay passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act until 1882. He argued that as other American peoples, such as the Irish, had seen a gradual increase in their social standing, a new people was required to do “what we call the mental work,” and that the Chinese, “by reason of their training, by the habits of a thousand years, are adapted to do that work.”

Beecher enjoyed the company of women, and rumors of extramarital affairs circulated as early as his Indiana days, when he was believed to have had an affair with a young member of his congregation. In 1858, the Brooklyn Eagle wrote a story accusing him of an affair with another young church member who had later become a prostitute.

Several members of Beecher’s circle reported that Beecher had had an affair with Edna Dean Proctor, an author with whom he was collaborating on a book of his sermons. Beecher and Proctor allegedly carried on their affair for more than a year. According to historian Barry Werth, “it was standard gossip that ‘Beecher preaches to seven or eight of his mistresses every Sunday evening.’”

In a highly publicized scandal, Beecher was tried on charges that he had committed adultery with a friend’s wife, Elizabeth Tilton. Henry had publicly denounced Victoria Woodhull’s advocacy of free love. Outraged at what she saw as his hypocrisy, she published a story titled “The Beecher-Tilton Scandal Case” in the paper Woodhull and Claffin’s Weekly on November 2,
1872. The article made detailed allegations that America’s most renowned clergyman was secretly practicing the free-love doctrines that he denounced from the pulpit. The story created a national sensation. At Beecher’s urging, Woodhull was arrested in New York City and imprisoned for sending obscene material through the mail. The scandal split the Beecher siblings; Harriet and others supported Henry, while Isabella publicly supported Woodhull. The subsequent trial “drove Reconstruction off the front pages for two and a half years” and resulted in a hung jury. It was one of the most widely reported U.S trials of the century. Beecher’s long career in the public spotlight led biographer Debby Applegate to call him “The Most Famous Man in America.”

After the heavy expenses of the trial, Beecher embarked on a lecture tour of the West that returned him to solvency. In 1884, he angered many of his Republican allies when he endorsed Democratic candidate Grover Cleveland for the presidency, arguing that Cleveland should be forgiven for having fathered an illegitimate child. He made another lecture tour of England in 1886.

On March 6, 1887, Beecher suffered a stroke and died in his sleep on March 8. Still a widely popular figure, he was mourned in newspapers and sermons across the country. Henry Ward Beecher is interred at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

**Paul Julien and Adelina Patti, and Gockel and Barrili: Vocal Concert**

Paul Julien and Adelina Patti appeared at Metropolitan Hall on November 3, 1855, and played a return engagement on the 12th.

**FAREWELL TO AMERICA**

The management of

**Paul Julien & Adelina Patti**

request the pleasure of announcing theirhaving decided to conclude their American tour and to return to England, where they hope to spend some months in study and practice, and the public is invited to hear them at Metropolitan Hall, for the last time, on Saturday, November 3, 1855, at 7:30 p.m. Price: $1.00

**JOURNAL, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1855**

Adelina Juana Maria Patti was born in Madrid, of Italian parents who were working in Madrid, tenor Salvatore Patti and soprano Caterina Barilli. In her childhood, the family moved to New York City where Adelina grew up in the Bronx. She sang professionally from childhood and developed into a coloratura soprano with perfectly equalized vocal registers and a surprisingly warm, satiny tone. Adelina made her operatic debut at age 16 on November 24, 1859 in the title role of Donizetti’s Lucia di Lammermoor at the Academy of Music, New York. Her career was one of success after success. She sang not only in England and the United States, but also as far afield as mainland Europe, Russia, and South America, inspiring and critical superlatives wherever she went. Her girlish good looks gave her an appealing stage presence, which added to her celebrity status.

During an 1862 American tour, she sang John Howard Payne’s Home, Sweet Home at the White House for the President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, and his wife, Mary Lincoln. The Lincolns were mourning their son Willie, who had died of typhoid. Moved to tears, the Lincolns requested an encore of the song. Henceforth, it would become associated with Adelina Patti, and she performed it many times as a bonus item at the end of recitals and concerts.

**Journal, Saturday, November 3, 1855**

**Name:** Paul Julien and Adelina Patti; Gockel and Barrili

**Venue:** Metropolitan Hall

**Date:** Saturday, November 3, 1855

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Price:** $1.00

Adelina Juan Maria Patti was born in Madrid, of Italian parents who were working in Madrid, tenor Salvatore Patti and soprano Caterina Barilli. In her childhood, the family moved to New York City where Adelina grew up in the Bronx. She sang professionally from childhood and developed into a coloratura soprano with perfectly equalized vocal registers and a surprisingly warm, satiny tone.

Adelina made her operatic debut at age 16 on November 24, 1859 in the title role of Donizetti’s Lucia di Lammermoor at the Academy of Music, New York. On August 24, 1860, she was a soloist in the world premiere of Charles Wugk Sabatier’s Cantata in Montreal which was performed in honor of the visit of the Prince of Wales. In 1861, at the age of 18, she was invited to Covent Garden to execute the role of Amina in Bellini’s La sonnambula. She had such remarkable success at Covent Garden that season that she bought a house and used London as a base. Her career was one of success after success. She sang not only in England and the United States, but also as far afield as mainland Europe, Russia, and South America, inspiring and critical superlatives wherever she went. Her girlish good looks gave her an appealing stage presence, which added to her celebrity status.

314 Journal, Saturday, November 3, 1855, p. 3.
Adelina enjoyed the trappings of fame and wealth, but she was not profligate with her earnings, especially after losing a large proportion of her assets as a result of the breakup of her first marriage. She invested wisely large sums of money and she saw out her days amid luxurious surroundings. In her retirement, Adelina, now officially Baroness Cederström, settled in the Swansea Valley in south Wales.

Regarding her technique, critic Rodolfo Celletti said, "Her voice was a technical marvel. The staccatos were marvels of accuracy, even in the trickiest intervals, her legato was impressively smooth and pure; she connects the voice from note to note, phrase to phrase, lifting and gliding with an exceptional virtuosity. Her chromatic scale was deliciously sweet, and her trill was wonderful and solid."

Adelina cut more than 30 gramophone recordings of songs and operatic arias. By then she was aged in her 60s, with her voice well past its prime after a busy operatic career stretching all the way back to 1859. Thirty-two Patti recordings were reissued on CD in 1998 by Marston Records (catalogue number 52011-2).

Journal, Wednesday, November 7, 1855.

Adelina Patti came to Chicago in 1853 when she was ten years old and sang in the dancing hall of the Tremont House. She was described as "a somewhat delicate, pale-faced, dark-browed child, with thick glossy black hair hanging in two long braids down her back, dressed in rose-colored silk, pink stockings, and pantalettes. She is perfectly at ease and glances around confidently, with a mischievous smile lurking about her mouth, but reserving her special radiance for rows of young girls in the front chairs, with some of whom she has made a hotel acquaintance. She was an imperious little creature also. She hated encores.

On this tour with Adelina began her series of farewells in 1855, when she was twelve years old, and continued them in various cities for fifty-two years thereafter.

Mr. William R. Dempster: Ballad Entertainment

"'Tis sweet to die for our country." The verses appeared in "Mr. Dempster’s Ballad Soirées" (?1839, 1844). The composer, William Richardson Dempster (1809?-71) was born in Scotland and died in London. A naturalized citizen of the United States, he was a successful composer and singer. His specialty was music set for the songs of Tennyson’s longer poems.

Journal, Wednesday, November 7, 1855.
John B. Gough: Temperance Lecture

John Bartholomew Gough (August 22, 1817 - February 18, 1886) was an American temperance orator. He was born at Sandgate, Kent, in England, and was educated by his mother, a schoolmistress. At the age of twelve, after his father died, he was sent to the United States to seek his fortune. He arrived in New York City in August 1829, and went to live for two years with family friends on a farm in Oneida County, New York. He then entered a book-bindery in New York City to learn the trade.

There in 1833 his mother and sister joined him. After his mother’s death in 1835, he fell in with dissolute companions and became a confirmed drunkard. He lost his position, and for several years supported himself as a ballad singer and story-teller in the cheap theatres and concert-halls of New York and other eastern cities. He had always had a passion for the stage and made one or two efforts to become an actor, but owing to his habits gained little favor.

He married in 1839 and became a bookbinder on his own account. The effort to do his work without giving up his nightly dissipations so affected him that he was on the verge of delirium tremens. He lost his wife and child and was reduced to the utmost misery.

Even this means of livelihood was being closed to him, when in Worcester, Massachusetts, in October 1842, a little kindness shown him by a Quaker induced him to attend a temperance meeting and to sign a temperance pledge. After several lapses and a terrific struggle, he determined to devote his life to lecturing in behalf of temperance reform.

He set forth, carpet-bag in hand, to tramp through the New England states, glad to obtain even seventy-five cents for a temperance lecture, and soon became famous for his eloquence. An intense earnestness derived from experience, and his power of imitation and expression, enabled him to work on the sensibilities of his audiences. He was accustomed to mingling the pathetic and humorous in such a way as to attract thousands to hear him who had no purpose but to be interested and amused. In the first year of his travels, he spoke 386 times, and thenceforward for seventeen years he dealt only with temperance. During that period he addressed over 5,000 audiences. He visited England in 1853, by invitation of the London Temperance League, was entertained by George Cruikshank, the veteran artist and total abstainer, and his first address, delivered at Exeter Hall, produced a great sensation. He intended to stay but six months, but was kept busy for two years. In 1854 he had undertaken to speak at Oxford, and the students had determined to prevent him. He was greeted with hisses, cat calls, and yells. But Gough had a disciplined temper and the courage of his convictions, and an appeal to the Briton’s proverbial love of fair play ended in his obtaining a hearing. On a subsequent visit, in 1878, he was received with distinguished attention by the Oxonians. He returned to the United States in 1855 and took up his old work with unabated success.

In 1857 he made another journey to England and lectured for three years. In his temperance efforts, Gough always kept aloof from politics or any organized effort to accomplish results through legislation, relying entirely on moral influences and on the total abstinence pledge. He died on February 18, 1886.

Dancing Party

Name: Dancing Party
Entertainment: Dancing
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Monday, December 31, 1855
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Monday, December 31, 1855.
New Year’s Eve Soiree

Name: New Year’s Eve Soiree
Entertainment: Ball; Mr. Silvernail’s Quadrille Band
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Monday, December 31, 1855
Time: evening
Price: $3.00
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Saturday, December 29, 1855\(^\text{319}\)

1855 Venues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Clinton Hall</td>
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<td>Court House</td>
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<td>14</td>
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</table>

\(^{319}\) Journal, Saturday, December 29, 1855, p. 3.
1856

Grand Annual Masonic Festival

Name: Grand Annual Masonic Festival
Entertainment: Ball
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Monday, January 8, 1856
Time: evening
Price: $3.00
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Saturday, December 29, 1855.

Metropolitan Hall: Largest in the State of Illinois

Name: Metropolitan Hall
Entertainment: 1,200 seat amusement hall—largest in state
Venue: Third St. between Washington and Jefferson
Description of facility

Journal, Thursday, January 17, 1856.

The Hutchinson Family, Abolitionists

Name: Hutchinson Family
Entertainment: Vocal Farewell Concert
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Thursday, Wednesday and Thursday, January 9, 16 and 17, 1856
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Saturday, December 29, 1855.

Journal, Thursday, January 17, 1856.
The Hutchinson Family Singers were an American family singing group who became the most popular American entertainers of the 1840s. The group sang in four-part harmony a repertoire of political, social, comic, sentimental and dramatic works, and was considered by many to be the first uniquely American popular music performers. The group formed in the wake of a string of successful tours by Austrian singing groups such as the Tyrolese Minstrels when American newspapers were demanding the cultivation of native talent. John Hutchinson orchestrated the group’s formation with his brothers Asa, Jesse, and Judson Hutchinson in 1840. The Hutchinsons gave their first performance on November 6 of that same year. Jesse Hutchinson quit the main group to write songs and manage their affairs. He was replaced by sister Abby Hutchinson. The Hutchinsons were a hit with both audiences and critics, and they toured the United States. They popularized four-part close harmony. The group’s material included controversial material promoting abolitionism, workers’ rights, temperance, and women’s rights.

**J. S. France: Lecture on Geology**

Name: J. S. France
Entertainment: Lecture: Geology
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Monday, January 28, 1856
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

**Journal, Monday, January 28, 1856.**

March, 14, 1855, from “Ladd’s building, immediately north of the Court House, Pontiac, Illinois.” The *Livingston County News*, published and edited by J. S. France was “independent in everything.” It was a twenty-four column paper, well printed for the times, having only two columns of advertisements. Just how many subscribers it had is hard to state, but a reasonable guess could hardly place the number above two hundred.

**The Euphonians: Vocal Concert**

Name: The Euphonians: Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rainey, Mr. J. H. and Mrs. Eva Stillman
Entertainment: musical entertainment: songs, glees, duets, quartettes
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Monday and Tuesday, February 4 and 5, 1856
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 50 cents. Gentleman and 2 ladies, $1.00.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

**Journal, Friday, February 1, 1856.**

**Journal, Monday, February 4, 1856.**
The Euphonians: Review

Name: The Euphonians
Mrs. Rainey and Mrs. Stillman
Entertainment: Songs, Glees, Duets, Quartettes
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Tuesday, February 5, 1856
Time: evening

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Tuesday, February 5, 1856.328

Dr. C. H. Burrows: Lectures

Name: Dr. C. H. Burrows
Entertainment: Lectures: Anatomy, Physiology, Hygiene, and Phrenology
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Friday, February 8, 1856
Time: evening
Price: free

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, February 8, 1856.329

Macallister The Wizard

Journal, Saturday, March 1, 1856.331

Macallister, the Celebrated Wizard and Magician
Issued 1851, New York, by Gleason’s Pictorial Drawing Room Companion.

Register, Tuesday, February 19, 1856.330

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328 Journal, Tuesday, February 5, 1856, p. 3.
329 Journal, Friday, February 8, 1856, p. 3.
330 Register, Tuesday, February 19, 1856, p. 2.
331 Journal, Saturday, March 1, 1856, p. 3.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

1856


John Stuart to Bettie Stuart, March 2, 1856  
Letter: Last night they John Ginnie and Frank went to the Metropolitan Hall to see McCallister practice magic

Mary Stuart to Bettie Stuart, March 6, 1856  
Letter: John and Ginnie were all in a fever to go see the performances of Macallister the magician last evening, but father thought best not, and so they were disappointed.

The Alleghanians: Vocal Concert

Journal, Wednesday, March 12, 1856.

Name: Macallister
Entertainment: Wizard
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Wednesday, March 5, 1856
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Andrew MacAllister, the Celebrated Wizard and Scottish magician.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.


332 Journal, Monday, March 3, 1856, p. 3.
333 Journal, Wednesday, March 12, 1856, p. 3.
The Campbells: Vocal Concert

Name: The Campbells
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Wednesday, March 26, 1856
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 50 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Mons Adrien: Grand Magical Entertainment

Mons Adrien was French born. He was a magician, ventriloquist and plate spinner who was popular in mid-1800s America. He was part of a performing family that included his father, Adrien de Lille, his son Adrian de Lille and his daughter Louise de Lille. He played Philadelphia in 1836. He had an especially enthusiastic following in upstate New York. From 1841 through the mid-1850s, newspapers in Fulton County New York printed numerous stories about his wonderful shows. Mons. Adrien was one of the most successful 19th century travelling magicians. In the May 10, 1851 issue of the Peoples Press (Salem, North Carolina), a reporter noted, “The following is a list of what each [magician] made ... Mons. Adrien, the French magician, $20,000.” That’s $588,200 in today’s money! Real Name: Victor de Lille.
Ox Horn Players and Little Jamie Concert

Name: Ox Horn Players and Little Jamie
Entertainment: Druid Band: vocal and instrumental concert
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Saturday, May 31, 1856
Time: 8:15 p.m.
Price: 25 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

The Varieties Theatre

Name: The Varieties Theatre,
J. B. Carpenter, proprietor
Entertainment: plays Wm. Tell and the Limerick Boy.
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Monday, June 2, 1856
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
The Varieties Theatre

Name: The Varieties Theatre
Entertainment: Plays: Wm. Tell and Benefit for Miss Carpenter
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Monday, June 16, 1856
Time: 8:30 p.m.
Price: 50 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

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Springfield Library Association (Union): Lecture by Elihu Burritt, Abolitionist

Name: Springfield Library Association (Union)
Entertainment: Elihu Burritt, the learned blacksmith: Lecture: The Value and Perpetuity of the American Union and Peace
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Friday and Saturday, June 20 and 21, 1856
Time: evening
Price: 25 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
Elihu Burritt was an American diplomat, philanthropist and social activist. He was born on December 8, 1810, in New Britain, Connecticut. As an adult he was active in many causes: opposing slavery, working for temperance, and trying to achieve world peace. He first trained as a blacksmith and had “Learned Blacksmith” as a nickname.

During a trip abroad in 1846–47, he was touched by the suffering of the Irish peasantry. He founded the peace organization the League of Universal Brotherhood in 1846. He organized the first international congress of the Friends of Peace, which convened in Brussels in September 1848. Burritt attended the “Peace Congresses” at Frankfurt in 1850, London in 1851, Manchester in 1852 and Edinburgh in 1853. The outbreak of the Crimean War and the American Civil War jolted his views.

In 1864, Abraham Lincoln appointed Burritt United States consul in Birmingham, England, a role that required him to report regularly on “facts bearing upon the productive capacities, industrial character and natural resources of communities embraced in their Consulate Districts.” As a result, he travelled widely from his home in Harborne, largely on foot, to explore the local area. Burritt’s association with Birmingham dated back 20 years, and he was highly sympathetic to the industrial and political culture of the town as well as being a friend of many of its leading citizens, so his portrait of the surrounding area was largely positive.

Elihu Burritt died on March 6, 1879 in New Britain, Connecticut.

Burritt published at least 37 books and articles, including Sparks from the Anvil and Ten Minute Talks. In 1847, his pamphlet A Journal of a Visit of Three Days to Skibbereen made residents of the United States more aware of the potato famine in Ireland. He recorded his thoughts on the industrialization of communities in the Black Country in his book Walks in the Black Country, which brought the term “the Black Country” into widespread common usage. It was “black by day and red by night,” adding appreciatively that it “cannot be matched, for vast and varied production, by any other space of equal radius on the surface of the globe.”

The third, longest, and most important of the travel books he wrote about Britain for American readers, was his 1868 work Walks in The Black Country and its Green Borderland

Mrs. Macready’s Readings

Name: Mrs. Macready
Entertainment: Readings
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Friday, July 23, 1856.
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield, but did not attend.

Journal, Wednesday, July 23, 1856.\textsuperscript{345}

\textsuperscript{345} \textit{Journal}, Wednesday, July 23, 1856, p. 3.
African Minstrels: Perform to Emancipate Relatives

Name: African Minstrels -- 9 minstrels
Entertainment: Performance for purpose of emancipating relatives from a state of slavery in the south
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Friday and Saturday, July 25 and 26, 1856
Time: 8:30 p.m.
Price: 50 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield in the evening.

Mrs. Macready: Dramatic and Musical Soirees

Name: Mrs. Macready, Clara Kean, and Mr. Cameons
Entertainment: Dramatic reader, musical soirees
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Monday, July 28, 1856
Time: 8:30 p.m.
Price: 50 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Tuesday, July 29, 1856. 348
Ole Bull: Violin Concert in Metropolitan Hall

On August 18, 1856, Ole Bull gave a concert at the Metropolitan Hall.\(^{349}\)

Ole Bornemann Bull was a Norwegian virtuoso violinist and composer. Robert Schumann once wrote that Bull was among “the greatest of all,” and that he was on a level with Niccolò Paganini for the speed and clarity of his playing. Bull was also a friend of Franz Liszt and played with him on several occasions.

Bull was born in February 1810 in Bergen, Norway. He was the eldest of ten children. His father wanted him to become a minister, but he desired a musical career. At the age of four or five, he could play all of the songs he had heard his mother play on the violin. At age nine, he played first violin in the orchestra of Bergen’s theatre and was a soloist with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra. After living for a while in Germany, where he pretended to study law, he went to Paris but fared badly for a year or two. He was eventually successful in becoming a high-level virtuoso, giving thousands of concerts. In England alone these included 274 in 1837, during which visit he also travelled to some of the more remote parts of Britain. Bull became very famous and made a huge fortune. He is believed to have composed more than 70 works, but only about 10 are known today. He was the owner of one of the finest violins of the world, made by Gasparo da Salò about 1574 for Ferdinand II, Archduke of Austria. A commercial signature line of Ole Bull violins was manufactured in Germany.

Bull was caught up in a rising tide of Norwegian romantic nationalism, and acclaimed the idea of Norway as a sovereign state, separate from Sweden—which became a reality in 1905.

Bull visited the United States several times and was met with great success. In 1852, he obtained a large tract of land in Pennsylvania and founded a colony he called New Norway, but that is commonly referred to as Ole Bull Colony. He soon gave up on this venture, as there was scarcely any land to till, and went back to giving concerts. Today the site is the location of the Ole Bull State Park, in Stewardson Township, Potter County, Pennsylvania.

Bull died from cancer in his home on Lysoen on August 17, 1880. He had held his last concert in Chicago the same year, despite his illness. A testament to his fame was his funeral procession, perhaps the most spectacular in Norway’s history. The ship transporting his body was guided by 15 steamers and a large number of smaller vessels.

In 2006, director Aslak Aarhus released a motion picture titled *Ole Bull—The Titan*, the story of Bull’s exploits and the impact it had on his French wife and children, who remained neglected in Bergen. In 2010 the Norwegian record label 2L released world premiere recordings of Ole Bull’s violin concertos.

Daughters of Springfield: Madam Chapman Concert

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### Daughters of Springfield: Madam Chapman Concert

**Name:** Daughters of Springfield

**Entertainment:** Madam Chapman: vocal and instrumental music; 60 scholars

**Venue:** Metropolitan Hall

**Date:** Thursday and Friday, September 4 and 5, 1856

**Time:** 8:00 p.m.

**Price:** 25 cents

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*Journal, Wednesday, September 3, 1856.*\(^{350}\)

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\(^{349}\) *Here I Have Lived,* p. 187, fn. 3.

\(^{350}\) *Journal, Wednesday, September 3, 1856,* p. 2.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

1856

Journal, Monday, September 8, 1856. 351

Bohemian Amateur Association Grand Ball

Register, Monday, September 15, 1856. 353

Springfield Library Association: Lecture by Rev. Theodore Parker - Abolitionist

Journal, Thursday, October 23, 1856. 354

Register, Monday, October 27, 1856. 356

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351 Journal, Monday, September 8, 1856, p. 3.
352 Journal, Tuesday, September 16, 1856, p. 4.
353 Register, Monday, September 15, 1856, p. 2.
354 Journal, Thursday, October 23, 1856, p. 3.
355 Register, Monday, October 27, 1856, p. 3.
356 Journal, Monday, October 27, 1856, p. 2.
Theodore Parker was an American preacher, lecturer, and writer, a public intellectual, and a religious and social reformer and abolitionist. He was an American Transcendentalist and reforming minister of the Unitarian church. His words and popular quotations would later inspire speeches by Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. He played a major role in moving Unitarianism away from being a Bible-based faith, and he established a precedent for clerical activism that has inspired generations of liberal religious leaders. Although ranked with William Ellery Channing as the most important and influential Unitarian minister of the nineteenth century, he was an extremely controversial figure in his own day, and his legacy to Unitarian Universalism remains contested.

Parker was born August 24, 1810 in Lexington, Massachusetts, the youngest child of a large farming family. Growing up, he attended the Lexington church. He quietly became Unitarian when he was a boy. He admired the fervor of the evangelicals, however, and as a young man considered converting to Calvinist Orthodoxy.

His religious sensibility developed partly in response to domestic tragedy. By age 27 he had lost most of his family--his parents and seven of nine siblings--mostly to tuberculosis. His mother had died of the disease when he was 12. In the face of these disasters, Parker developed a strong faith in the immortality of the soul and in a God who would allow no lasting harm to come to any of His children. His firm belief in the benevolence of God led him to reject Calvinist theology as cruel and unreasonable.

Ambition also helped keep Parker a Unitarian. He dreamed of joining the Boston social elite, which was predominantly Unitarian. Intellectually precocious and driven to excel, he became a schoolteacher at 16. At 19, he passed the entrance examinations of Harvard College, but was unable to pay the tuition. He read the entire Harvard curriculum on his own. In 1832, he started an academy in Watertown. While there, he met his future wife, Lydia Dodge Cabot, youngest child of a prominent and wealthy Unitarian family.

Parker had considered a legal career, but decided to become a minister. Largely on his own, he studied Latin, Greek, Hebrew, German, theology, church history, and biblical studies. In 1834, despite his lack of a college degree, Harvard Divinity School admitted him with advanced standing.

At Harvard, Parker read voraciously, became an assistant instructor in Hebrew and, for a time taught himself to read a new language every month. By 1836, he claimed a reading knowledge of “twenty tongues.” Among his many extracurricular activities, he edited the Scriptural Interpreter, a student journal of biblical criticism, and published many small articles in the Unitarian weekly, the Christian Register.

Parker completed his Divinity School courses in the spring of 1836. In April 1837, he married Lydia Cabot. That June, Parker was ordained minister of the West Roxbury Unitarian church, which had only 60 adult members.

Parker found he could fulfill all his duties to his little parish and still devote most of his energy to studying and to building his literary and scholarly reputation. He read thousands of books, wrote scores of short pieces for the Register, as well as major scholarly articles for various journals, including the principal Unitarian periodical, the Christian Examiner. Meanwhile, he won notice around Boston for his intelligent, eloquent, heartfelt sermons. His theology, however, made him an increasingly controversial figure.

Parker’s ideas were consonant with those of the Transcendentalist movement, which emerged among younger Unitarians in the mid-1830s. Parker attended meetings of the so-called “Transcendentalist Club” and contributed many articles and reviews to the most important Transcendental periodical, The Dial (1840-1844). In 1838, he enthusiastically listened to the Transcendentalist Ralph Waldo Emerson deliver the Divinity School Address. Its prophetic tone inspired Parker to begin preaching on church and social reform.

Parker emerged as a major Transcendentalist spokesman in May 1841, when he delivered A Discourse on the Transient and Permanent in Christianity at an ordination. Parker intended the main point of the sermon to be that Jesus preached the Absolute Religion. What made the strongest impression on Parker’s audience, however, was his vehement denial of the factuality of Biblical miracles and of the miraculous authority of both the Bible and Jesus. Particularly outraged were three Trinitarian guests in the audience. They published an attack on the sermon in the newspapers and demanded to know if Unitarians considered Parker a Christian minister. During the resulting uproar, most Unitarian ministers, and a large portion of the Unitarian lay public, concluded that Parker’s theology was not Christian.

Parker found himself denied access to Unitarian pulpits and shut out of the Register and the Examiner. He feared his ministerial career was over. The controversy did in fact cost him friendships and forced him to abandon his early dream of becoming accepted as a member of the Boston elite. Even his wife’s family, he later wrote, treated him as if he had committed a crime.
His West Roxbury congregation stood by him, however, and the outcry against him made him famous. In the fall of 1841, audiences flocked to hear him deliver a course of lectures. Parker systematically laid out his ideas about inspiration, Jesus, the Bible, and the church. Unitarian critics denounced the book as “deistical” and impious.

In the fall of 1842, Parker caused further controversy by defending John Pierpont, minister of the (Unitarian) Hollis Street Church in Boston. Pierpont’s support for temperance legislation had divided his congregation. Parker’s accusation delighted Pierpont’s friends but insulted Parker’s Boston colleagues.

Parker’s conflict grew particularly intense with his colleagues in the (all Unitarian) Boston Association of Congregational Ministers. The Association had a confrontational meeting with him in January 1843 in which they tried to persuade him to resign his membership. He refused.

In January 1845, Parker accepted the invitation of some supporters to preach regularly in Boston. Over the following year, he preached in the morning at the Melodeon and in the afternoon at West Roxbury. In December 1845, Parker’s supporters organized the 28th Congregational Society of Boston. He was installed as its minister in January 1846, his isolation from his colleagues symbolized by his preaching his own installation sermon (The True Idea of a Christian Church). He resigned his West Roxbury pulpit the following month.

The core of Parker’s society consisted of about 300 people who financed the society and managed its affairs. Attendance at Parker’s services grew from 1000 in 1846 to 2000 in 1852, prompting the congregation to move from the Melodeon to the more spacious Boston Music Hall.

With Parker’s move to Boston, he became a nationally prominent intellectual. He lectured all over the North, published books and sermons continuously, edited the Massachusetts Quarterly Review (1848-1851), corresponded extensively, and collected a personal library of 13,000 volumes, every one of which he was reputed to have read.

In theology, Parker’s ongoing biblical research persuaded him that Jesus had not preached the Absolute Religion, but had made serious theological mistakes. His new view was reflected in the revised, 4th edition of the Discourse of Matters Pertaining to Religion (1854). In 1858, he attacked revivals in two sermons that became national best-sellers, A False and True Revival of Religion and The Revival of Religion Which We Need.

Parker developed a new sociological understanding of society. He filled his sermons and lectures with statistics, talked about social “classes,” and became preoccupied with ethnology and “romantic” racial theory. He asserted that the Anglo-Saxon “race” was “more progressive” than all others, European or non-European, and made many condescending and disparaging comments about the potential of “Africans” for progress. Despite such views, he favored the racial integration of Boston schools and churches, and he became a leading abolitionist.

Parker believed that the United States came closer to being an industrial democracy than any other society in the world, but fell far short of the ideal. To bring it closer, he developed a comprehensive program of cultural, social, and political reform.

He criticized what he saw as the “aristocratic” atavisms in American literature and education, and championed better schools and universal education. He supported efforts to alleviate urban poverty, and urged that the criminal justice system reform criminals not punish them. He advocated for the end of the “degradation of women” and endorsed women’s suffrage (notably in his sermon, On the Public Function of Woman [1853]).

Parker saw slavery as the greatest obstacle to achieving industrial democracy. He denounced the Mexican War (1846-1848) as an attempt to expand slavery and led Boston opposition to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. The act established a federal bureaucracy to catch slaves who had escaped to the free states. Most Boston Unitarian ministers either refused to oppose the legislation, or publicly supported it as a constitutional obligation and as a politically necessary concession to the South that would “save the Union” and “settle” the slavery issue. Some argued that catching fugitive slaves was sanctioned by Scripture. Parker pronounced the act a violation of Christian ideals and a threat to free institutions. In his Sermon of Conscience (1850), he openly called for it to be defied.

Parker served as the abolitionists’ Minister at Large to fugitive slaves in Boston. He chaired the executive committee of the Vigilance Committee, the principal Boston organization providing fugitives with material aid, legal assistance, and help in eluding capture. In 1850, when a fugitive in his congregation, Ellen Craft, was threatened with arrest, he hid her in his house until arrangements could be made to send her to Canada. In 1854, his agitation on behalf of another fugitive, Anthony Burns, led to Parker’s indictment by a federal grand jury. He was charged with obstructing a federal marshal. Popular opinion was so much on his side, however, that prosecuting him became a political impossibility. In 1855, the case was dismissed on a technicality.

Parker grew convinced that there could be no wholly political solution to the slavery crisis. During the proto-civil war in Kansas territory, he raised money to buy weapons for the free state militias, and later became a member of the secret committee that helped finance and arm John Brown’s failed attempt, in October 1859, to start a slave insurrection in...
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield 1856

Virginia. When Brown was arrested, Parker wrote a public letter defending Brown’s actions and the right of slaves to kill their masters (John Brown’s Expedition Reviewed).

Parker’s health began to fail in 1857. In January 1859, he suffered a physical collapse, brought about by tuberculosis, which ended his preaching career. In February, he left wintry Boston with his wife and others for the warmth of the Caribbean. While on the island of Santa Cruz in March and April, he wrote a long, autobiographical letter to his congregation that was also a confession of faith. It soon was published as Theodore Parker’s Experience as a Minister. Parker then traveled to England, Switzerland, and Italy. His condition worsened in the winter of 1859, and he died on May 10, 1860, in Florence.357

Masonic Fraternity Winter Lectures

| Name: Masonic Fraternity |
| Entertainment: arrangements for winter lectures |
| Lecture Proposals: |
| Joseph R. Chandler |
| Sidney Breese |
| David Paul Brown |
| William Gillmore Simms |
| Ralph Waldo Emerson |
| Donald G. Mitchell |
| C. B. Huddock |
| G. P. Marsh |
| John Reynolds |
| Henry Giles |
| Rev. Dr. Rice |
| Rev. Francis Vinton |

Review of the Trade and Improvements of Springfield for 1856.

Concert Hall

Two three-story brick stores, with iron fronts, on Washington Street, north side of the Square. Size. 20 by 70 feet; George Pasfield owner; Hannon & Ragsdale, architects and builders; Ford & Kidd, masons, Willard & Zimmerman, painters; cost $10,000. The upper story of these two stores is finished for a hall, to be used for balls, concerts, Etc.


358 Journal, Friday, November 28, 1856, p. 2.
New England Festival

Register, Saturday, December 20, 1856.

Panorama of Overland Trip to California

Journal, Wednesday, December 24, 1856.

 Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

1856

New England Festival

Name: New England Society
Entertainment: band, speakers
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Monday, December 22, 1856
Time: evening
Price: $1.25
Abraham Lincoln present.

Register, Saturday, December 20, 1856.

Panorama of Overland Trip to California

Journal, Wednesday, December 24, 1856.

359 Register, Saturday, December 20, 1856, p. 2.
360 Register, Thursday, December 25, 1856, p. 2.
361 Journal, Wednesday, December 24, 1856, p. 3.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield 1856

Panorama of Overland Trip to California

Name: Overland Trip to California
Entertainment: Panorama of Overland Trip to California
Venue: Concert Hall

Christmas Ball

Name: Christmas Ball
Entertainment: Ball
Venue: Masonic Hall
Date: Thursday, December 25, 1856
Time: evening
Price: $2.00
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Springfield Theatre

Name: Springfield Theatre:
Hough & Myers, Managers
Entertainment: Plays:
All That Glitters is Not Gold and Black-eyed Susan!
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Saturday, December 27, 1856
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Saturday, December 20, 1856, p. 2.
Journal, Thursday, December 25, 1856, p. 3.
Journal, Saturday, December 27, 1856, p. 2.

Register, Saturday, December 20, 1856, p. 2.
Journal, Thursday, December 25, 1856, p. 3.
Journal, Saturday, December 27, 1856, p. 2.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Springfield Theatre

Journal, Monday, December 29, 1856.

Name: Theatre
Entertainment: Plays: *The Lady of Lyons* or *Love and Pride* and *Loan of a Lover*;
national dance by Delia Wright
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Monday, December 29, 1856
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Panorama of Paradise Lost

Journal, Monday, December 29, 1856.

Name: *Paradise Lost*
Entertainment: Panorama of *Paradise Lost*
Venue: Masonic Hall

1856 Venues

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365 Journal, Monday, December 29, 1856, p. 3.
366 Journal, Monday, December 29, 1856, p. 3.
1857

New England Bards: Concerts

Register, Thursday, February 5, 1857. 367

Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln give a large party. Five hundred are invited, but owing to rain and to a bridal party in Jacksonville on the same evening, only three hundred attend. Day By Day, Lincoln in the Year 1857, p. 162.

Journal, Wednesday, February 4, 1857. 368

Mr. Couldock: Reading Shakespeare’s Macbeth

Early in 1857, during the “gay season,” the great actor Charles Walter Couldock played for several weeks. A crowded house, “composed of the beauty and chivalry of the State,” rewarded him when he gave a benefit performance of “Richelieu” on the last night of the season. Paul Angle, Here I Have Lived, p. 189.

Register, Tuesday, February 24, 1857. 369

Name: New England Bards
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Thursday and Friday, February 5 and 6, 1857
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Name: Charles Walter Couldock was born in Long Acre, London, England on April 26, 1815. He first appeared on the stage in 1835, as Othello at Sadler’s Wells Theatre. First appeared in America during the season of 1849-50 at the Broadway Theatre, New York. On the 27th of May, 1850, he appeared in Philadelphia as Fazio, at the Arch.
Entertainment: Shakespeare Reading, Macbeth
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: February 24, 1857
Time: tonight

367 Register, Thursday, February 5, 1857, p. 3.
368 Journal, Wednesday, February 4, 1857, p. 3.
369 Register, Tuesday, February 24, 1857, p. 3.
Dr. Baird: Lectures

Mary Stuart to Bettie Stuart, March 23, 1857

Letter: I attended Dr Baird’s lecture, ‘last evening’ on the state of Christendom, he was interesting, but one who is a constant reader of the Observer, is pretty well posted in all matters which he touched upon last evening. He is to deliver a free lecture this evening, on the Character of the present kings and rulers of the earth. I do not give the title of the lecture, but my impression of the subject after this he will commence a regular course of lectures, time and place to be announced this evening. I wish to go this evening though it is now raining hard. I saw last evening at the lecture, all the girls of your acquaintance each with a beau. Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Thayer Family: Vocal Concert

Register, Saturday, April 25, 1857

Sigismund Thalberg: Concert

Journal, Thursday, May 21, 1857

Sigismund Thalberg was born at Geneva on January 7, 1812. At an early age he visited Vienna where he was taught piano by Sechter’s and Hummel’s and created a great sensation by his wonderful execution. In 1830 he toured Germany, and everywhere met the most flattering receptions. In 1834 he was appointed Court Pianist to the Emperor of Austria. In 1835 he visited Paris for the first time, and from that his fame spread rapidly over the whole civilized world. From Paris he went to London for several months. In 1837 he went to Vienna. In 1841, he toured Italy. In 1842 he visited Lyons and Paris, where he received from the King the order of the Legion of Honor. Next Belgium, where he was decorated with the Leopold Order by the King. He married in 1843. In 1844 he gave concerts during the carnival at Palermo, and afterwards went to Paris to conduct the publication of his Grand Sonate. In 1847, the King of Sweden presented him with the Wasa order, and at this time was worth $150,000. His first concert in America took place at Niblo’s Saloon on November 10, 1856. While on tour of the West, he left his concert troupe in Illinois and departed for Europe secretly and in disgrace. The cause was never publicly stated, but foreign papers, since his return to Paris, intimate that it was the seduction of Mad. D’Angri’s youthful daughter. The angry mother shot him with a pistol. She missed and the rascal escaped that as well as the writs issued for his arrest. The affair was settled by the payment of some $8,000 or $10,000.
Gayeties Theatre

Name: Gayeties Theatre
Entertainment: Plays: Corsican Brothers, or, La Vendetta!
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 1857
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Price: 50 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

The Corsican Brothers; or, the Fatal Duel is a play by Dion Boucicault, first seen in 1852. It is a melodrama based on a French dramatization of the novel by Alexandre Dumas.

From 1850 Dion Boucicault was employed by the actor Charles Kean, who leased the Princess's Theatre, London, as the house dramatist. Boucicault, fluent in French, travelled to France to find plays he could adapt for the English stage; a result of this was The Corsican Brothers, adapted from the 1850 play Les Freres corses by Eugène Grangé and Xavier de Montépin.

The play, directed by Charles Kean, opened at the Princess's Theatre on February 24, 1852. Charles Kean played both of the brothers Fabien dei Franchi and Louis dei Franchi, and Alfred Wigan played Chateau-Renaud.

Register, Friday, June 5, 1857. 375

374 Journal, Wednesday, June 3, 1857, p. 3.
375 Register, Friday, June 5, 1857, p. 2.
Winchell’s Drolleries

**Name:** Winchell’s Drolleries  
**Entertainment:** Comedy  
**Venue:** Concert Hall  
**Date:** Monday, June 29, 1857  
**Time:** evening

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Wood’s Minstrels

**Entertainment:** Wood’s Minstrels  
Henry Wood was manager of a 19th-century New York City minstrel show, best known for creating Wood’s Minstrels. The group performed at Mechanics’ Hall in New York City, among other locales.  
**Venue:** Concert Hall  
**Date:** Saturday, July 25, 1857  
**Time:** evening

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Winchell’s Drolleries

**Name:** Winchell’s Drolleries  
**Entertainment:** Comedy  
**Venue:** Concert Hall  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 24, 1857  
**Time:** 7:45 p.m.

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Campbell Minstrels and Currier’s Brass Band

**Name:** Campbell Minstrels  
**Entertainment:** (12 members) and Currier’s Brass Band (10 musicians)  
**Venue:** Concert Hall  
**Date:** Thursday and Friday, July 30 and 31, 1857  
**Time:** 8:00 p.m.  
**Price:** 50 cents
Winchell’s Drolleries

Name: Winchell’s Drolleries, comedian
Entertainment: Comedy
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Monday, August 24, 1857
Time: evening
Price: 25 cents

“Winchell’s Drolleries—The public will be gratified to learn that the ever-changing funny man, the comedian Winchell, is in the city and will be one of his side-splitting entertainments tonight at Concert Hall. To those who were present at former exhibitions it is not necessary to say a single word, but to those who have not yet witnessed the hilariously funny performances that Winchell gives, we ask that all laugh and if you do not laugh until your sides ache we will laugh at those of his former exhibitions in this city.

Register, Monday, August 24, 1857. 380

Lady of Lyons Play

Name: Dramatic Institution
Entertainment: Plays: Lady of Lyons and Rough Diamond
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 1857
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Price: 25 cents
Front seats reserved for ladies

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Mr. Winchell: Comic

Name: Mr. Winchell
Entertainment: Comedy
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Thursday, September 3, 1857
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

Journal, Tuesday, August 25, 1857. 381
Dramatic Association

Name: Dramatic Association
Entertainment: Plays: Farce: *Who Speaks First?*, *Boots at the Swan*, and the *Dead Shot*
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Saturday, September 5, 1857
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Price: 50 cents
Officer in attendance to keep order.

Auction of Fine Oil Paintings

Name: John C. Maxcy, Auction
Entertainment: Oil paintings auction
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Friday, September 11, 1857
Time: 8:00 p.m.

Springfield Library Association

Name: Springfield Library Association
Entertainment: Meeting; corporate organization and prepare for lectures for the winter season
Venue: Court House
Date: Tuesday, October 20, 1857
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Harry McCarthy: Comic

Harry McCarthy (1834–1888) was a songwriter from Ireland, where he became a variety entertainer and comedian in the mid 19th century. In 1861 he wrote the song “The Bonnie Blue Flag,” about the unofficial first Confederate flag, using the tune from “The Irish Jaunting Car.” The song was extremely popular, rivaling “Dixie” as a Confederate anthem. The song lost some of its popularity when, late in the war, McCarthy left the South for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. McCarthy is portrayed in a cameo role in the 2003 film God and Generals where he is played by actor Damon Kirsch. He stands on an impromptu outdoor stage and sings “The Bonnie Blue Flag” to a gathering of the Army of Northern Virginia high command.

Springfield Library Association: Meeting to Arrange Winter Lecture Series

[Image of concert hall]

**Name:** Springfield Library Association

**Entertainment:** Meeting; organization and prepare for lectures for the season

**Venue:** Court House

**Date:** Tuesday, November 17, 1857

**Time:** evening

**Price:** free

**Register, Thursday, December 3, 1857.**

Attempting to capitalize on this fondness for public addresses, the Library association planned a home-talent lecture course for 1857, and Herndon was asked to present the first lecture at Concert Hall.

**Lincoln’s Herndon, p. 622.**
Park Benjamin Sr. was well known in his time as an American poet, journalist, editor and founder of several newspapers. He was born in British Guiana, on August 14, 1809, but was early sent to New England and graduated from Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut. He practiced law in Boston but abandoned it for editorial work there and later in New York.

On July 8, 1839, he joined with Rufus Wilmot Griswold to produce The Evening Tattler, a journal which promised “the sublimest songs of the great poets—the eloquence of the most renowned orators—the heart-entrancing legends of love and chivalry—the laughter-loving jests of all lands.” In addition to fiction and poetry, it also published foreign news, local gossip, jokes, and New York police reports. In 1840 Benjamin helped to found The New World and after other brief editorial ventures became a lecturer, public reader, and periodical writer. Benjamin died, after a brief illness, on September 12, 1864.

John Godfrey Saxe was an American poet known for his re-telling of the Indian parable “The Blind Men and the Elephant,” which introduced the story to a Western audience. Though a satirist, his poems written during more somber periods remain some of his most beautiful and enduring, including “Little Jerry the Miller” about his father’s mill assistant. Few of the satirical works which made him famous are read today. He also said “Laws, like sausages, cease to inspire respect in proportion as we know how they are made.”
Saxe was born on June 2, 1816 in Highgate, Vermont, at Saxe's Mills, where his settler grandfather, John Saxe (Johannes Sachse), a German immigrant and Loyalist to the Crown, built the area's first gristmill in 1786. Saxe was the son of Peter Saxe, miller, judge, and periodic member of the Vermont General Assembly, and Elizabeth Jewett of Weybridge, Vermont. He was raised in a strict Methodist home. In 1835, Saxe was sent to Wesleyan University for a year, and then to Middlebury College, from which he graduated in 1839.

In 1841 he married Sophia Newell Sollace with whom he had a son. He was admitted to the Vermont bar in 1843 and for some years practiced law successfully in Franklin County. In 1850-51 he became state's attorney for Chittenden County.

Bored by his legal work, Saxe began publishing poems for The Knickerbocker, of which “The Rhyme of the Rail” is his most famous early work. He soon caught the attention of the prominent Boston publishing house Ticknor and Fields. Though he received no royalties for his first volume, it ran to ten reprints and eventually outsold works by Nathaniel Hawthorne and Alfred, Lord Tennyson. His poem “The Puzzled Census-Taker” amused many, and “Rhyme of the Rail” was possibly the most admired poem of the period about rail travel. Saxe was editor of the Sentinel in Burlington, Vermont, from 1850 to 1856. In 1856, he served as attorney-general of Vermont.

Saxe became a sought-after speaker, toured frequently, and stayed prolific throughout the 1850s. In 1859 he ran unsuccessfully for governor of Vermont. As a northern Democrat, he advocated a policy of non-interference on slavery and supported Illinois Senator Douglas's policy of “popular sovereignty,” a position which rendered the poet extremely unpopular in Republican Vermont. After his second electoral defeat, Saxe left his home state in 1860 for neighboring Albany, New York.


Always mercurial, Saxe became more erratic following the death of his oldest brother in 1867. He was not temperamentally suited to assume the role of head of the family. Instead the poet's son, John Theodore Saxe, took the reins of his brother's lumber firm and managed the family's finances. In the 1870s, Saxe was living in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn. There a series of woes afflicted Saxe. His youngest daughter died of tuberculosis. In 1875 he suffered head injuries in a rail accident near Wheeling, West Virginia, from which he never fully recovered. Over the next several years, his two oldest daughters, his eldest son, and his daughter-in-law also died of tuberculosis. A young son died in the 1840s. Saxe buried five of his six children as well as his wife. Saxe sank deep into depression and was moved back to Albany to live with his last surviving child, Charles. His decline from the rollicking poet to grieving recluse earned the sympathy of the people of Albany, and when he died on March 31, 1887, the New York State Assembly ordered his likeness to be chiseled into the “poet’s corner” of the Great Western Staircase in the New York State Capitol.394

The Original Bakers: Vocal Concert

Name: The Original Bakers
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Thursday, December 24, 1857
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

Journal, Tuesday, December 22, 1857.395

Professor Love: Magician and Ventriloquist

Name: Professor Love
Entertainment: Magician and Ventriloquist
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, December 30, 31, 1857, and January 1 and 2, 1858
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield on January 2, 1858.

### 1857 Venues

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Journal, Tuesday, December 29, 1857. 396

PROFESSOR LOVE.—This celebrated magician commenced a course of exhibitions at Concert Hall this evening, to continue for four consecutive nights. From all we have heard of Professor Love we judge him a proficient in his line, and altogether worthy of the patronage of our citizens. We copy the following from the Toledo Blade:

As we anticipated, the exhibition of Professor Love drew out a full house and was well worthy of public attention. His tricks were all admirably performed, and their effect made a deep and unexpected impression upon the audience, and called for three-score and ten and unbounded applause. He is at least equal to the most celebrated performers that have ever visited this country. We have seen the whole rate of magicians from the old Paulk to the Fair of Ava, who met the stage respectable, and made great approach to him. Then came Blitzen and Ambrose, who were worthy of public attention. But his tricks are far inferior to Love. The exhibition last night proved Professor Love to be fully equal to the best, so far as his jugglery is concerned.397

We have seen numerous extracts from the most respectable and influential papers in the country, all speaking in the same high terms of admiration of Professor Love but for the present we make the above suffice.

Register, Wednesday, December 30, 1857. 397

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396 Journal, Tuesday, December 29, 1857, p. 3.
397 Register, Wednesday, December 30, 1857, p 3.
1858

Professor Love: Magician

Name: Professor Love
Entertainment: Magician and Ventriloquist
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Friday and Saturday, January 1 and 2, 1858
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield on January 2, 1858

Register, Friday, January 1, 1858.

D. C. Cady’s Quadrille Parties

Name: D. C. Cady
Entertainment: Quadrille Parties
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 1858
Time: evening
Price: $1.00 per couple
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Friday, January 1, 1858.

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Register, Friday, January 1, 1858.
Register, Friday, January 1, 1858.
Springfield Library Association: Lecture by Addison Dashiell Madeira, Esq.

Name: Springfield Library Association  
Entertainment: Lecture: Addison Dashiell Madeira  
Venue: Concert Hall  
Date: Tuesday, January 5, 1858  
Time: evening  
Price: $1.00 per couple  
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Addison Dashiell Madeira was born on April 21, 1828 at Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated from Shurtleff College at Upper Alton, Illinois. He was admitted to the bar and became the first city attorney at St. Joseph, Missouri. He studied theology at Covington, Kentucky and at age 32 years was ordained a Presbyterian minister. His first assignment was a church at Keokuk, Iowa. Next he went to St. Louis, remaining there for several years.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Rev. Madeira became private secretary to General Grant, although he had a brother in the Confederate Army. He also served as chaplain during the Civil War.

After the war he came to the Central Presbyterian Church at Kansas City. In 1888 he was called to the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church of Independence, Missouri and continued there for fourteen years. He lived in retirement beginning in 1902.

The Lincoln Truman Connection


One day in 1890 the minister of the Presbyterian Church in Independence, Missouri, was walking along a quiet, shady street at the edge of town when he noticed some children he did not know. Dr. Addison Madeira asked for their names and invited the little Trumans to visit his Sunday school if their mother would permit them to come. Mrs. Martha Ellen Truman approved, the children enrolled, and Harry Truman soon glimpsed a little girl with golden curls named Elizabeth Virginia (Bess) Wallace. He fell in love, afterward said, and never really liked another girl. Harry was six years old. Bess, five.
George Dennison Prentice, born on December 18, 1802, was the editor of the *Louisville Journal*, which he built into a major newspaper in Louisville, Kentucky.

The son of a farmer, Prentice excelled in school and graduated from Brown University in 1823. Following graduation he began contributing to literary periodicals and studied law in Canterbury, Connecticut. Although he joined the bar in that state, he was more interested in literature. After practicing law briefly, he became editor of the *Hartford New England Review* in 1828. On the strength of his political writings, he was invited to come to Kentucky to write a campaign biography of Henry Clay, which sold 20,000 copies. He stayed in Louisville and accepted an offer to co-found the *Louisville Journal* newspaper in 1830, with the goal of rivaling the then-dominant *Louisville Public Advertiser*. Prentice soon found himself in an editorial feud with *Advertiser* publisher Shadrack Penn, which continued until Penn left the city in 1841.

The *Journal* quickly became popular in Louisville, largely because of Prentice’s biting editorials and the savage wit of his replies to detractors. Prentice was a dedicated backer of the Whig Party. In the 1850s, Prentice editorialized in support of the Know-Nothing party and the pro-slavery, anti-Catholic and anti-foreigner movement that reached a hysterical level in the 1850s in many parts of the nation. In Louisville this culminated in the Bloody Monday riot of 1855, in which 22 people were killed. Just days before the riots, which occurred as mobs tried to prevent Irish and German citizens from voting on election day, Prentice had editorialized against the “most pestilent influence of the foreign swarms” loyal to a pope he called “an inflated Italian despot who keeps people kissing his toes all day.” According to Archbishop John Lancaster Spalding, Prentice later publicly expressed regret over his role in the riots. Prentice supported the Union in the 1850s, but disagreed with many of its policies during the Civil War. In 1861 he joined a group that urged Kentucky not to secede from the Union but to establish itself as a neutral party in the war. In 1864 he created the famous “Sue Mundy” guerrilla character to mock the incompetence of Union General Stephen G. Burbridge, military commander of Kentucky. After the war Prentice opposed many of the policies of Reconstruction. His paper was one of the few that criticized federal rebuilding policies of the time. Prentice remained as editor of the paper during and after the 1868 merger that created *The Courier-Journal*. He died on January 22, 1870 of influenza and was buried in Cave Hill Cemetery.

His legacy is generally unfavorable, with an editor from his own paper calling Prentice’s writings “raw bigotry” in a 1993 feature on the history of the newspaper. A statue of Prentice by Alex Bouly was completed in 1875. It was originally displayed at the *Courier-Journal* building in Louisville, Kentucky, but was moved in 1914 to its present location in front of the Louisville Free Public Library’s main branch. It has been a source of occasional controversy, due to Prentice’s famous anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant rhetoric. A compromise reached at one point involved the city placing a new plaque for the statue, describing Prentice’s “tarnished legacy.” A Liberty ship, the *SS George D. Prentice*, was launched in 1943 and remained in service until 1969.

**Springfield Library Association: Lecture by George D. Prentice**

Name: Springfield Library Association  
Entertainment: Lecture: George D. Prentice,  
*The Present Aspects of American Politics*  
Venue: Hall of the House of Representatives  
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 1858  
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

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401 *Journal*, Friday, January 8, 1858, p. 3.  
402 *Register*, Saturday, January 23, 1858, p. 2.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Journal, Saturday, January 23, 1858.

Journal, Thursday, January 28, 1858.

**Springfield Library Association: Lecture by Rev. C. P. Jennings**

Name: Springfield Library Association
J. R. Thompson, Rec. Sec.
Entertainment: Lecture: Rev. C. P. Jennings,
*The Unity of the Human Race*
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Wednesday, February 24, 1858
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

**Leo Miller’s Lectures**

Name: Prof. Leo Miller
Entertainment: Lecture *Spirit Rapping Mania*
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Monday, March 1, 1858
Time: evening
Entertainment in Lincoln's Springfield

Springfield Library Association: Mrs. Macready Readings

Name: Springfield Library Association
Entertainment: Mrs. Macready reading, including Byron, Saxe, Woodward, Poe, Holmes, Sawyer
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Wednesday, March 10, 1858
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

Journal, Wednesday, March 10, 1858.

Springfield Library Association: Mrs. Macready Shakespeare Readings

Name: Springfield Library Association
Entertainment: Mrs. Macready reading, including scenes from Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 1858
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Price: 25 cents

Journal, Tuesday, March 16, 1858.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

German Musical Association: Vocal and Instrumental Concert

Name: German Musical Association
Director: H. Elsner
Entertainment: Vocal and Instrumental Concert, 32 members
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Tuesday, March 30, 1858

Journal, Tuesday, March 30, 1858.409

Springfield Library Association: Meeting

Name: Springfield Library Association
Entertainment: Meeting; election of officers
Venue: Logan’s Building, south side of the Square
Date: Saturday, May 1, 1858
Time: evening

Glass Blowing

Name: Mr. Basford and Prof. Tagliabue
Entertainment: Glass Blowing
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Wednesday, June 16, and Friday, June 18, 1858
Time: tonight
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield and delivers “House Divided” speech in evening at the State House, across the street from the Concert Hall.

Register, Friday, June 18, 1858.411

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409 Journal, Tuesday, March 30, 1858, p. 3.
410 Journal, Friday, April 30, 1858, p. 3.
411 Register, Friday, June 18, 1858, p. 3.
Mr. E. Godard: Grand Balloon Ascensions
Postponed

Monsieur Eugène Godard definitely falls into the Who knew? category. During his long and productive career, from 1845 to 1890, Godard built dozens of hot air and gas balloons. He performed approximately 2,500 ascents in ten countries on two continents (Europe and America), setting several world records for altitude, distance, and duration of flight.

Eugène Godard Ainé, a notable French aeronaut, was born in Clichy on August 26, 1827. In 1841 at age 14, he enrolled at the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts in Paris. He did well in his studies and, being the son of a master mason, was intent on a career in architecture. After attending the launch of a gas balloon in 1845, however, he found his passion and began building balloons. By the end of 1846, he had designed, built, and successfully launched several unmanned hydrogen balloons. He and his brother established a workshop in Lille, where they constructed the balloon in which Eugène made his first free ascent on October 17, 1847, initiating his career as professional aeronaut and aerostat manufacturer.

In 1849, Godard went to Bordeaux and met the famous British balloonist Charles Green, who flew him aboard a balloon inflated with coal gas, which was cheaper and more easily obtained than hydrogen. Applying what he learned from Green, Godard constructed his next craft.

On October 6, 1850 Godard made his first long-distance flight from Paris to Gits, Belgium, aboard his balloon the Ville de Paris, described as a “noble and gigantic” balloon. The Ville de París was reportedly destroyed by fire about a month later following a mishap in Marseille where Godard and four passengers lost control of the balloon. Fortunately all five people survived.

In 1854 Godard made a series of ascents at the marriage of Emperor Franz Joseph I and Empress Elizabeth of Austria. On that occasion Godard signed an agreement with the Austrian government which stated that, in case of war, he would build balloons, organize balloonists’ companies, and perform observation ascents for the military. Franz Joseph declared him the “Aeronaut of the Emperor of Austria.”

In August 1855, Godard left France with his wife and his brother Auguste and went to the United States, where he remained until 1858. Godard’s many balloon ascents in North America included launches in New York City, New Orleans, St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati, San Francisco, and Springfield, Illinois and in Cuba. After a perilous ascent aboard the balloon American during a storm in Cincinnati, Godard invented the tear panel, which facilitates rapid deflation of a balloon.

In 1859, at the outbreak of the Franco-Austrian war, Godard returned to Europe and offered tethered observation balloon services to Emperor Napoleon III. In so doing, he instituted the art of aerial reconnaissance and broke the 1854 agreement he had made with Franz Joseph I, contributing to Austria’s defeat by the French.

After the war, Godard began building hot air balloons equipped with a boiler of his invention, known as the “Montgodarfières.” In 1863 he was again awarded the title “Aeronaut of the Emperor” by Napoleon III. He was commissioned to build a balloon to be used as a platform for aerial photography by renowned photographer Nadar. The aircraft, which was called Le Géant (The

Name: Eugène Godard
Entertainment: Balloon Ascension
Venue: Balloon Tent
Date: June 17, 1858
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Price: 50 cents, balloon tent
25 cents children

Name: Eugene Godard
Entertainment: Magician
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, June 17, 18, and 19, 1858
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Price: 50 cents magic performance
25 cents children

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Monday, June 14, 1858.

Eugène Godard Ainé, a notable French aeronaut, was born in Clichy on August 26, 1827. In 1841 at age 14, he enrolled at the National Conservatory of Arts and Crafts in Paris. He did well in his studies and, being the son of a master mason, was intent on a career in architecture. After attending the launch of a gas balloon in 1845, however, he found his passion and began building balloons. By the end of 1846, he had designed, built, and successfully launched several unmanned hydrogen balloons. He and his brother established a workshop in Lille, where they constructed the balloon in which Eugène made his first free ascent on October 17, 1847, initiating his career as professional aeronaut and aerostat manufacturer.

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Giant), had an onboard darkroom, a two-story deck capable of carrying 50 men, and an envelope capacity of 210,000 cu ft. It was this balloon that inspired Jules Verne to write his adventure novel *Five Weeks in a Balloon*. Later that year Godard built an even larger craft, *L’Aigle* (The Eagle), whose furnace weighed 980 pounds and had a volume that dwarfed that of *Le Géant* with 490,000 cu ft.

On April 6, 1885 in Paris, Godard organized and directed France’s first aviation competition. In 1888 he settled permanently in Brussels, where he died on September 9, 1890. He is buried in Saint-Ouen Cemetery in Paris.

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**Journal, Thursday, June 17, 1858.**

Name: Eugène Godard
Entertainment: Balloon Ascension and Magician
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, June 21, 22, and 23, 1858
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Price: 50 cents balloon tent
25 cents children
50 cents magic performance
25 cents children
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Godard instituted aerial reconnaissance.

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**Journal, Tuesday, June 22, 1858.**

Name: Eugène Godard
Entertainment: Balloon Ascension
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: June 21 and 22, 1858
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Price: 50 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
Madame Isadora Clark: Vocal Concert

Name: Madame Isadora Clark
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Metropolitan Hall
Date: Saturday, July 3, 1858
Time: evening

July 4th Balloon Ascension: Eugène Godard

Name: Eugène Godard
Prof. S. M. Brooks and Mons. Le White, balloonists/aeronaughts
Entertainment: Balloon Ascension and Magician
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Monday, July 5, 1858
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Price: 50 cents balloon tent

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415 Journal, Friday, July 2, 1858, p. 2.
416 Journal, Friday, July 2, 1858, p. 2.
Sangamo Fire Company, No. 2: July 4th Ball

Name: Sangamo Fire Company, No. 2
Entertainment: July 4th Celebration Ball
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Monday, July 5, 1858
Time: evening
Price: $1.00
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Friday, July 2, 1858.\textsuperscript{417}

Miss M. A. Tree: Shakespearian Readings

Name: Miss M. A. Tree
Entertainment: Shakespearian Readings: Hamlet
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Wednesday, July 7, 1858
Time: evening
Price: 25 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Saturday, July 3, 1858.\textsuperscript{418}

Downie and Oldfield: Concert

Name: Emily Downie, Mr. Oldfield, Mr. and Mrs. Downie
Entertainment: Vocal, violin
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Wednesday and Thursday, July 21 and 22, 1858
Time: 8:15 p.m.

Journal, Saturday, July 24, 1858.\textsuperscript{419}

\textsuperscript{417} Journal, Friday, July 2, 1858, p. 2.
\textsuperscript{418} Register, Saturday, July 3, 1858, p. 2.
\textsuperscript{419} Journal, Saturday, July 24, 1858, p. 2.
Madame Love: Magician

Name: Madame Love
Entertainment: Magician
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Friday, July 2, 1858
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: 25 cents

Journal, Friday, July 2, 1858.420

Merritt’s Concert Band

Name: Merritt’s Concert Band
Entertainment: Concert Band
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Wednesday and Thursday, October 6 and 7, 1858
Time: evening

Journal, Saturday, October 2, 1858.421

Springfield Library Association: Planning Winter Lectures

Name: Springfield Library Association
Entertainment: Planning Winter Lectures
Possible lecturers: Edward Everett, Geo. D. Prentice and Park Benjamin

Register, Saturday, October 9, 1858.422

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420 Journal, Friday, July 2, 1858, p. 2.
421 Journal, Saturday, October 2, 1858, p. 3.
422 Register, Saturday, October 9, 1858, p. 3.

Name: Springfield Library Association
Entertainment: Lecture by George D. Prentice cancelled
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Friday, November 19, 1858
Time: evening
Tickets: 25 cents

Miss Eloise Bridges: Dramatic Reader

Shakespearean tragedienne Miss Eloise Bridges appeared as Lady Macbeth at the Murphy Theater in Pithole, Pennsylvania. Once extolled by a Richmond, Virginia, newspaper as "the most handsome actress in the Confederate States," Miss Bridges performed in the region's most notorious boom town.
/aoghs.org/tag/indian-territory-illuminating-oil/

Springfield Library Association: Lecture by Rev. Henry Giles

Name: Springfield Library Association
Entertainment: Rev. Henry Giles two lectures:
Women of Shakespeare
Irish Social Character and Humor
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Tuesday and Wednesday, December 14 and 15, 1858
Time: evening
Price: 25 cents
Henry Giles (November 1, 1809 – July 10, 1882) was a Unitarian minister and writer. Born in County Wexford to a Roman Catholic family, Giles changed his religious belief several times, becoming a Protestant and a Dissenter. He studied for a time at the Royal Academical Institution of Belfast before finally becoming a Unitarian and officiating as a minister of that denomination in Greenock, Scotland and chapel of Toxteth Park, in the edge of Liverpool, England.

During his three years preaching in Liverpool, Giles gained a reputation as a preacher of marked oratorical power. In 1840, Giles moved to the United States, where he preached, lectured extensively, and wrote. He was an avid reader and was proficient in both French and German. He was widely known as a lecturer, and his numerous volumes of literary interpretation and criticism were well-received, particularly his *Human Life in Shakespeare*. Other works included *Lectures and Essays* (2 vols. 1845), *Christian Thoughts on Life* (1850), and *Illustrations of Genius in Some of its Applications to Society and Culture*. He was married in 1849, in Bangor, Maine, to Louise Lord, of Bucksport, Maine, with whom he had two daughters and a son. One daughter, Nora, was drowned off Bucksport in 1869, at the age of 18, in a sailing accident.

Giles was plagued by a variety of health issues. He had a hunchbacked, dwarfish stature which he claimed resulted from a nurse having let him fall as an infant, injuring his spine. Throughout his life, he struggled with alcoholism; although he initially found strong drink distasteful, he became acclimated to liquor when it was prescribed to him to counter an illness. His public life came to an abrupt halt around 1865, when he suffered a sudden paralytic attack while lecturing in Boston. He lived for seventeen years thereafter, and died in Quincy, Massachusetts.428

The February 13, 1858 Fire

Fires were a constant threat and from time to time an unfortunate reality of life in mid-19th century Springfield. In the 1850s the Public Square suffered a number of very destructive fires. One of the most destructive occurred on the east side of the Public Square on Saturday, February 13, 1858.

On Saturday night [February 13, 1858] our city was visited by one of the largest and most destructive fires which we have yet been called to record. Before it was finally stayed, it consumed six stores, almost one-half [the south half] of the East side of the square... 429

Cook’s Hall

After the February 13, 1858 fire, the east side was rebuilt with four, three-story brick buildings. One of them housed a large public hall on the second floor. It came to be known as Cook’s Hall and was a popular place for public gatherings, theatrical performances, balls and parties, and drills of the Springfield Grays. It is the third building from the right in the following picture.

Inauguration of Cook’s Hall

East Side of the Public Square: Circa 1860.430
Cook’s Hall is the third building from the right.

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429 *Journal*, Monday, February 15, 1858, p. 2.
430 Drawn from nature on stone by H. Haerting, St. Louis. L. Gast, 1860.
When Metropolitan Hall was finished in 1855 its seating capacity of 1,200 was the largest in the state, but three years later it was forced to yield, in popular favor at least, to the hall which John Cook built on the second floor of the building which he erected south of the Marine and Fire Insurance Company. In Cook’s opinion the distinctive features of this auditorium -- its size, its gallery, the gas lights -- could be adequately represented only by the name “Illiopolitan Hall,” but this was too much for Central Illinois, and so it quickly came to be known by its owner’s plain but familiar name.  

Paul Angle

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**East Side of the Public Square: Circa 1859.**

Cook’s Hall is the third building from the right.

**Madame Isadora Clark: Inauguration of Cook’s Hall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Entertainment</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madame Isadora Clark</td>
<td>Great cantatrice</td>
<td>Vocal Concert</td>
<td>Cook’s Hall / Illiopolitan Hall</td>
<td>Thursday, December 23, 1858</td>
<td>8:30 p.m.</td>
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**1858 Venues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Concert Hall</td>
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<td>Cook’s Hall</td>
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431 Here I Have Lived, p. 175.
433 Journal, Friday, December 17, 1858, p. 3.
434 Register, Tuesday, December 21, 1858, p. 2.
1859

Madame Isadora Clark at Cook’s Hall

Name: Madame Isadora Clark
Entertainment: Concert
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Saturday, January 1, 1859
Time: evening

Register, Thursday, December 30, 1858.\(^{435}\)

Mrs. J. M. Mozart: Concert

Name: Mrs. J. M. Mozart
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Illiopolitan (Cook’s) Hall
Date: Thursday and Saturday, January 6 and 8, 1859
Time: 7:45 p.m.
Price: $1.00 for gentleman and two ladies; single tickets 50 cents.

Journal, Tuesday, January 4, 1859.\(^{436}\)

To Mrs. J. M. Mozart
Madam: [January 10?] 1859. The undersigned, wishing to testify their appreciation of your merits as an artist, and their most perfect satisfaction with the concert given by you on last Saturday evening, respectfully request you to give another entertainment, similar in character, on your return from Jacksonville. Your most excellent treatment of those sterling songs and ballads, has left a deep and lasting impression on those who had the pleasure of listening to you, and created an earnest desire to hear you once more before you leave the West. Trusting that your engagements will permit you to accede to our request, we are, dear Madam, your most obedient servants,

Lincoln’s name appears as one of 52 signers. Mozart’s letter acceding to the request to give another performance is also printed in the Journal. Her first concert scheduled for January 6, was postponed because of inclement weather until Saturday, January 8, and in response to the above letter she sang again on the night of Tuesday, January 11 at Cook’s Hall.

Journal, Tuesday, January 11, 1859.\(^{437}\)

\(^{435}\) Register, Thursday, December 30, 1858, p. 3.
\(^{436}\) Journal, Tuesday, January 4, 1859, p. 2.
\(^{437}\) Journal, Tuesday, January 11, 1859, p. 3.
Springfield Typographical Association: Commemoration of Birthday of Benjamin Franklin

Name: Madame Isadora Clark  
Entertainment: Vocal Concert  
Special invitation of Legislature  
Venue: Cook’s Hall  
Date: Thursday, February 17, 1859  
Time: evening  
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield and attended.

In the evening, Springfield’s Concert Hall was the scene of a celebration marking the 100th birthday of the late Scottish poet Robert Burns. The organizers promoted an evening of “toasts, sentiments[,] and songs.” A newspaper reported that the “supper was splendid and abundant, and was well attended. The toasts offered on this occasion were most appropriate, and were responded to by some of the most talented men of the state, among whom were, Abraham Lincoln ... and others.”
Entertainment in Lincoln's Springfield

1859

The Burns Festival.

Tuesday, the 25th last, being the one hundred anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns will be observed at Springfield and Lincoln, and all this city, as well as in every other, will gather together to celebrate the event, in speech, in toast and recitation, jointed, too. It is a day ofAll lovers of Burns and Burnsiana are requested to be present. The addresses will be delivered by the President, Wm. Harrower, Esq. First Prize. Grand Orator. Composed for the occasion, by the Young America Club, with a multitude of verse, in which the regular order of the evening will come up, which has been prepared by the committee with taste, sentiments and harmony, interspersed with music from the band.

The Standard Toasts.

1. Burns.

2. The Burns Festival.

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**Madame Isadora Clark: Vocal Concert at Cook’s Hall**

**Madame Isadora Clark**

This great artiste, we are pleased to know, will once more delight the citizens of Springfield with her matchless voice. She will give a Grand Concert, at Cook’s Hall, on Thursday evening, the 17th inst., in which she will be assisted by a brilliant array of auxiliary talent, both vocal and instrumental. Madame Clark gives this concert, in compliance with a special invitation, signed by the Members and Officers of the Legislature, of which we give a copy below.

As there will be no levee held at Gov. Lincoln’s mansion, on this evening, we anticipate, in addition to the attendance of the Members of the Legislature, an immense audience will join them in paying a pitting tribute to the great Prime Donna, of whom we write.

**Journal, Tuesday, February 15, 1859.**

**Ye Concert of Ye Ancient People:**

**Entertainment: Vocal Concert at Cook’s Hall**

Name: Madame Isadora Clark
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Special invitation of Legislature
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Thursday, February 17, 1859
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Singing schools developed in Northeastern United States in the late 18th century, and became a popular way for people to learn to sing, and for composers to share, the religious and patriotic music being written and notated using the new system of “patent notes” and taught using solfege. The singing school movement spread west and south, but with the rise of the “Better Music Movement,” the singing schools went largely out of use in New England by the 1830s.
Though some in New England missed the “good old tunes,” giving rise to the Old Folks’ Concert that “revived the music and antiquated performance practices of the singing schools.” What apparently began as an informal and amateur activity in the early 1850s became a popular form of entertainment under the leadership of Robert “Father” Kemp by the mid and late 1850s, whose professional troupe toured the United States and even England with featured soloist Jenny Twitchell Kempton.

Their music is of that kind which touches the heart and appeals to the sympathies of everyone. It calls to mind early associations long since buried in the “dead past,” and revives the pleasantest recollections of the spring-time of existence, when “life was full of sunny years,” and our hearts free from the “mountains of care” which weigh them down in after years.

The Old Folks Concerts were an exercise in nostalgia. In addition to singing the old tunes, nostalgia was enhanced by the appearance of the singers in period costumes and advertisements written in the style of early American typography. In addition to professional troupes, Old Folks Concerts were often arranged by amateur groups for fund-raising.

Father Kemp retired in 1868, but other troupes, according to Steinberg (1973), continued the Old Folks’ Concert tradition. As time went on, the language affectations of the concert posters and presenters become more pronounced, and the clothing all the more quaint, the music less religious. Like the minstrel show, says Steinberg (1973), the Old Folks’ Concerts began to lampoon an inaccessible rural past.

## Le Grand B. Cushman: Concert-Lecture

### Register, Friday, March 11, 1859

> We hope our amiable loving friends will not forget the entertainment tonight of Mr. Cushman, at Cook’s Hall. We presume that most of our citizens have already made themselves familiar with the splendid hill offered in his programs, and from the very complimentary manner in which the press have everywhere spoken of his entertainments, we expect an evening of great fun and enjoyment.

### Register, Saturday, March 12, 1859

> Mr. Cushman’s Concert—Lecture.—Le Grand B. Cushman gave one of his interesting and instructive concerts—lectures, last night, at Cook’s Hall. His great variety of songs, burlesques, recitations, &c., were received with great enthusiasm and gave entire satisfaction to all present. To-night he will read the interesting poem from the pen of John G. Saxe, entitled “Proud Miss McBride,” also another chapter from the Widow Bedell’s papers, and many other interesting selections. Let there be a general turn out to-night to hear this popular lecturer.

### Journal, Saturday, March 12, 1859

> Concert.—Le Grand B. Cushman gave one of his entertaining concerts last night to a large audience at Cook’s Hall. He has concluded to give one more. Let all who wish a good treat go and hear him.

Name: Le Grand B. Cushman
Entertainment: reading the John G. Saxe poem entitled Proud Miss McBride and Concert and Lecture
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, 1859
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

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445 *Register*, Friday, March 11, 1859, p. 3.
446 *Register*, Saturday, March 12, 1859, p. 3.
447 *Journal*, Saturday, March 12, 1859, p. 3.
Springfield Library Association: Lecture by John G. Saxe

Journal, Saturday, March 12, 1859.  

Springfield Library Association: Lecture by Horace Mann

Journal, Friday, March 18, 1859.

Horace Mann (May 4, 1796 – August 2, 1859) was an American educational reformer and Whig politician dedicated to promoting public education. He served in the Massachusetts State legislature (1827–1837). In 1848, after public service as Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Education, Mann was elected to the United States House of Representatives (1848–1853). About Mann’s intellectual progressivism, the historian Ellwood P. Cubberley said:

No one did more than he to establish in the minds of the American people the conception that education should be universal, non-sectarian, free, and that its aims should be social efficiency, civic virtue, and character, rather than mere learning or the advancement of education ends.

Arguing that universal public education was the best way to turn unruly American children into disciplined, judicious republican citizens, Mann won widespread approval from modernizers, especially in the Whig Party, for building public schools. Most states adopted a version of the system Mann established in Massachusetts, especially the program for normal schools to train professional teachers. Educational historians credit Horace Mann as father of the Common School Movement.

Madame Frank and Otto Frank: Grand Opera Concert

Register, Wednesday, March 23, 1859.
Baker Family Singers at Cook’s Hall

Journal, Wednesday, March 23, 1859.

Journal, Friday, April 8, 1859.

Journal, Saturday, April 9, 1859.

Journal, Wednesday, April 13, 1859.

Journal, Friday, April 22, 1859.

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield in the evening of the 10th and was in Springfield on the 11th.

Abraham Lincoln reaches Springfield in the evening of the 10th and was in Springfield on the 11th.

Name: Baker Family, John C. Baker, Baker Troupe
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Monday and Tuesday, April 10 and 11, 1859
Time: evening
Tickets: 25 cents

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Name: Baker Family
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 1859
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: 25 cents

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Name: Baker Family
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Saturday, April 23, 1859
Time: evening

Name: Baker Family
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Saturday, April 23, 1859
Time: evening

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Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Saturday, April 23, 1859
Time: evening

*
Billy Birch and His Minstrels

Name: Billy Birch
Entertainment: Minstrel
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Thursday, April 28, 1859
Time: tonight

Rockland County Journal, April 24, 1897 — Death of Billy Birch.

Billy Birch was born in Utica, New York, on February 26, 1831. He died in New York City on April 20, 1897. He made his first appearance in New Hartford, New York in 1844 with a minstrel show as an amateur. His initial professional appearance was with the Raymond Minstrels at Stamford Connecticut in 1846. Subsequently he was identified with many prominent organizations until 1850 when he appeared in New York with Fellowe’s Minstrels. When Wood and Christy were running two houses on Broadway, Birch and Geo Christy would simultaneously appear at their respective theatres in the first part and would then proceed to the other theatre and finish their performance for the evening. In 1851 Birch opened in San Francisco and remained six years. On August 20, 1857, Birch sailed for New York and a few days later was wrecked off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina. He finally made his way to New York where he played a brief engagement with Bryant’s Minstrels. In February 1858, Birch’s Minstrels opened in Chicago. Subsequently he was one of the performers on the steamer Banjo which played the Mississippi River. He formed Birch and Cotton’s Minstrels in San Francisco in 1862.

NEW-YORK — “Billy” Birch, the old time negro minstrel, died of paralysis, aged sixty-seven years. He was penniless, although he had made a fortune by making others laugh. From 1844, when he was thirteen years old, until the close of the Old San Francisco Minstrels, Birch was continuously in service.

Theatre at Cook’s Hall

Entertainment: Plays,
Poacher’s Bride and Widow’s Victim
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Thursday, June 2, 1859
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Thursday, April 28, 1859.  
New York, April 21.—Billy Birch, the old time minstrel, died in his home, 76 Seventh avenue, at 2:15 o’clock. Death was due to paralysis of the brain and chronic Bright’s disease. He had been very ill for over a month. He was born in Utica, N. Y., in February, 1831. He began his theatrical career at the age of 13.

International Herald Tribune, April 22, 1897.

Rockland County Journal, Thursday, June 2, 1859.  
Theatrical.—Tonight is the last night of the theatre at Cook’s Hall. The play is the “Poacher’s Bride,” followed by the “Widow’s Victim.” We are informed that the company are drawing good houses, and giving entire satisfaction.

Journal, Thursday, June 2, 1859.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Baptist Church: Concert and Strawberry Party

Entertainment: Concert and Strawberry Festival and Baptist Church Choir Concert
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Tuesday, June 6, 1859
Time: evening
Proceeds: for new bell placed in the tower of church

Journal, Saturday, June 4, 1859.

Reading of Poem “The Modern Patriot”

Entertainment: Reading of poem “The Modern Patriot”
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Sunday, July 3, 1859
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Friday, July 1, 1859.

Peak Family: Music Concert

Name: Peak Family
Entertainment: Harp, vocal, and bell ringers’ concert
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Tuesday and Wednesday, August 9 and 10, 1859
Time: evening

Journal, Tuesday, August 9, 1859.

Register, Thursday, August 11, 1859.

Silverbrook Legacies: Swiss Bell Ringers, by Kathie Hempel

Most of the members of the “family” were skilled in many different talent areas. Fannie Delano began as a featured singer, then learned to play a variety of instruments and progressed to become an accomplished comedienne who performed in many skits with her husband Jeppe. The family name “Peake” was also spelled “Peak” in some historical references. When the Peake Family Swiss Bell Ringers came to town, it was not quietly. This troupe would arrive on Main Street USA with great fanfare, with banners announcing the upcoming venue and the musicians giving crowds that lined the street a preview of the extravaganza to come from a large ornate horse-drawn carriage.

“Previous to the civil war, the Peake family, seven in number, toured the United States giving performances in bell ringing, a form of entertainment much in vogue at that time. Mr. Peake conducted the tours of the family and was always to be found in the center of the group. The others were arranged on either side according to their height,” the New York Times obituary states.

459 Journal, Saturday, June 4, 1859, p. 3.
460 Register, Friday, July 1, 1859, p. 3
461 Journal, Tuesday, August 9, 1859, p. 3.
462 Register, Thursday, August 11, 1859, p. 3.
Phineas T. Barnum, who is generally attributed to introducing musical hand-bells to the U.S. While on a tour of England in the mid-1840s with General Tom Thumb, one of his greatest acts, Barnum saw the Lancashire Bell Ringers entertaining in Liverpool. He was so impressed with their musical skill he felt they would be a great hit back home.

The master showman signed the group to a 12-month contract, under the condition they would grow long moustaches and don Swiss costumes. Barnum would then bill them as “Swiss Bell Ringers” to add to the intrigue of the show. Some reports suggest that they were not even allowed to talk in public lest their Lancashire dialects give them away and that because of Barnum’s insistence, the misconception that hand-bells originated in Switzerland and not England thrived.

While we find no record that clearly defines when Barnum and the senior Peake first crossed paths, legend suggests that the two combined their talents to entertain at Andrew Jackson’s White House along with another famous local entertainment group, The Berger Family.

Peake, recognizing the value of the bells, purchased them from Barnum and adopted the name Peake Family Swiss Bell Ringers. The senior Peake became a master of the bells and taught his family the art. The popularity of the bells, added to the brass band, harps, singing, comedy routines and acrobatics in the show, led to the family dividing into the two forces and William H. Peake making Niles the western troupe’s home base.

The original Peake Family originated in New York State.

William Henry Peake. It was the younger William who, eventually, with his sister Julia, formed the division of the family business that took the territory west of the Ohio River and settled in Niles, while his father headed the troupe, which entertained in the eastern and southern states.

Discovery of Sol Smith Russell in Springfield, Illinois

The couple spoke of their discovery of Sol Smith Russell.

“He came to us barefooted in Springfield, IL and asked the privilege of working for us. He was nothing of singer, but he more than made up by his genius for comedy.”

The Trained Dogs and Monkeys

Name: The Trained Dogs and Monkeys
Entertainment: Exhibition comedians and equestrians
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, August 29, 30, and 31, 1859
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Thursday, August 25, 1859.

Professor Millar: Magician

Name: Professor Millar
Entertainment: Magician
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Tuesday and Wednesday, September 6 and 7, 1859
Time: evening
Price: 25 cents
100 gifts given to attendees
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Tuesday, September 6, 1859.
The Ravels: Pantomime

The Ravel Family was a four-generation clan of French circus/variety performers. The progenitor was Gabriel, but the family troupe appears to have originally been founded and led by his son Jean. The core of the troupe consisted of Jean’s children Gabriel (1810-1882), Antoine (1812-1872), Angelique (1813-1895), Jerome (1814-1890) and Francoise (1823-1881). The troupe was then supplemented by many other non-family members, the most famous of whom was Blondin, the man who crossed Niagara Falls on a tightrope. Another famous member of the troupe was Leon Javelli, who headlined with them at Niblo’s Garden.

Trained in Italy and based out of Paris, the family toured all the major countries of Europe, as well as America starting in 1825, and throughout the next four decades. Their large production consisted of pantomime, ballet, tumbling, wire walking and balancing.

Hofer and Constantini Troupe

Name: Hofer and Constantini Troupe
Entertainment: Ballet and Pantomime
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Monday, September 26, 1859
Time: evening

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
Old Folks Musical Troupe: Vocal Concert

Name: Old Folks Musical Troupe
Entertainment: Vocal Concert
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Monday, November 21, 1859
Time: evening

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Wednesday, November 23, 1859. 470

Henry Squires and Little May McVicker: Concert

Henry Squires, Little May McVicker, and Mr. Hoffman: Concert

Name: Henry Squires and Little May McVicker
Entertainment: Vocal Concert and Readings and Piano
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Thursday, December 1, 1859

Henry Squires (1825–1907), tenor, was an American opera singer who spent the 1850s performing in the United States, Italy, and Britain. Squires was said by some to lack animation in his acting, but he was greatly admired for his stage presence and the quality of his voice. Squires married in May 1870 and retired to Paris. Squires returned to the United States following his wife’s death in December 1895 and died in Iowa in January 1907.

Concert playbill for Little Mary McVicker at Willard’s Hall, Washington, D. C., April 17, 1860.

Willards’ Hall. Tuesday, evening, April 17, 1860. One night only. Operatic gems and ballad concert. By invitation of many senators, members of the house, and other distinguished gentlemen, Little Mary McVicker who has been honored by the greatest operatic artists of the day with the cognomen of the genius of music. Her sweet vocalization and capital rendition of the Great Masters of Music create an enthusiasm on the part of her hearers, who look upon her as the Child Wonder. Mr. Henry Squires, the distinguished American Tenor, of the Academies of Music, New York, Boston, &c., and recently of the Strakosch Opera Troupe, and the accomplished pianist, Mr. Edward Hoffman, will appear in an elegant entertainment, composed of Choice Operatic Gems and Popular Ballads.

Journal, Saturday, December 3, 1859. 473

Review by newspaper

470 Register, Wednesday, November 23, 1859, p. 3
471 Journal, Tuesday, November 29, 1859, p. 2.
473 Journal, Saturday, December 3, 1859, p. 3.
The Rarey technique is a method of calming horses that have become vicious and fearful of humans due to abusive handling or other traumatic events. It is named for its inventor, John Solomon Rarey (1827–1866) of Groveport, Ohio, who became famous for taming violent horses with it, and later for teaching it in various countries around the world.

Rarey began by tying one of the traumatized horse’s legs with a strap so that the horse could not stand on it. This gave him control over the horse and quickly tired the animal out. Then, Rarey would gently but firmly cause the horse to lie down on a comfortable surface. Once the horse was lying on its side, Rarey could use his weight, concentrated at a strategic point, to keep the horse from rising. While the horse was thus unable to protect itself, Rarey showed it that it was still entirely safe with him by touching and stroking it on all parts of its body. The result was that the horse learned that it could be entirely safe in Rarey’s company, and from that beginning it was relatively easy to demonstrate to the horse that it did not need to protect itself from most other humans.476

### 1859 Venues

<table>
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<td>Cook’s Hall</td>
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474. *Journal*, Saturday, December 3, 1859, p. 3.
475. *Journal*, Saturday, December 3, 1859, p. 3.
476. Illustrations from *The Complete Horse Tamer* by John Rarey (1860). *The Modern Art of Taming Wild Horses*, the booklet of Rarey hosted into wikisource Rarey’s extended description of his method of rehabilitating abused horses is given in full on the web site created and maintained by some of his descendants, The Original Horse Whisperer
1860

Catholic Church Festival at Cook’s Hall

Name: Catholic Festival
Entertainment: Fair and concert for benefit of new Catholic Church
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 1860
Time: evening
Tickets: 50 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Tuesday, January 17, 1860.477

Dr. Henry’s Lectures on Psychology, Psychometry, and Clairvoyance and Mad. Lee Rathburn

Name: Dr. Henry and Mad. Lee Rathburn
Entertainment: Lectures: Psychology, Psychometry, and Clairvoyance
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Wednesday and Thursday, January 18 and 19, 1860
Time: evening
Price: 15 cents, or 25 cents for 2
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Thursday, January 19, 1860.478

Mad. Lee Rathburn at Concert Hall

Name: Mad. Lee Rathburn
Entertainment: Seer
Venue: American House
Receiving people to tell of their past and future, luck, losses, marriage, health, diseases, business

Journal, Tuesday, January 17, 1860.479

Journal, Friday, January 27, 1860.480

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477 Journal, Tuesday, January 17, 1860, p. 3.
478 Journal, Thursday, January 19, 1860, p. 3.
479 Journal, Tuesday, January 17, 1860, p. 3.
480 Journal, Friday, January 27, 1860, p. 3.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Springfield Library Association: Meeting

Springfield Library Association, — The meeting that was called for Tuesday evening, to take into consideration certain important matters connected with the Springfield Library Association, did not come off. We made numerous inquiries yesterday regarding the intentions of some of the prominent members of the Association, but did not learn anything definite, and we suspect that the members themselves do not know exactly what course to pursue. But the probability is that those of our citizens who consider the Association dead, are more than half right. It may recover from its present embarrassments, but such an event need not be anticipated very soon.

Journal, Thursday, February 2, 1860.481

Springfield Library Association: Meeting

MEETING THIS EVENING.—The members of the Springfield Library Association will please take notice that they are expected to make their appearance in J. H. Rosette’s office at seven o’clock this evening. Business of importance will be brought before the meeting, and a large turn-out is desirable.

Journal, Thursday, February 16, 1860.482

Peak Family: Swiss Bell Ringers at Cook’s Hall

Name: Peak Family
Entertainment: Swiss Bell Ringers, 200 bells
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Saturday, February 18, 1860
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

481 Journal, Thursday, February 2, 1860, p. 3.
482 Journal, Thursday, February 16, 1860, p. 3.
**Register, Friday, February 17, 1860.**

**Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield**

**Journal, Saturday, February 18, 1860.**

Name: Peak Family
Entertainment: Bell Ringers 200 bells
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Saturday, February 18, 1860
Time: evening
Report on boys who disturbed the program on the evening of February 18.

We would like to know if the ill-mannered boys who sat and stood in the gallery of Cook’s Hall on Saturday evening are blessed with parents or guardians. The rowdy dam which they exhibited was disgraceful to them and annoying to the respectable portion of the audience, and their conduct merited prompt punishment.

**Journal, Tuesday, February 21, 1860.**

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483 Register, Friday, February 17, 1860, p. 2.
484 Journal, Saturday, February 18, 1860, p. 3.
485 Journal, Tuesday, February 21, 1860, p. 3.
Springfield Library Association: Plans Twelve Lectures by Local Citizens

Home Lectures.—The Springfield Library Association are making arrangements for the delivery of twelve lectures by well-known citizens of this place. The first lecture will be delivered by Rev. Dr. Brown, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, on Thursday evening, March 1st; and the second by J. H. Matheny, Esq., on the evening of the following Thursday. There is no reason why the lectures should not be well attended, for the Association intend to put the price of admission down to a low figure, and the lecturers will doubtless speak upon interesting subjects. We have had several indifferent lectures from foreigners, and we certainly ought to have pride enough to encourage an Association that is making arrangements to favor us with a course of good lectures from talented natives. We are informed that tickets for the course will be sold for two dollars each; single tickets twenty-five cents; ladies, accompanied by gentlemen, free.

Journal, Tuesday, February 21, 1860.486

Fireman’s Ball: Washington’s Birthday Celebration

FIREMAN'S BALL.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD, OUR ONLY AIM."
The Twenty-Second of February,

THE SANGAMO FIRE COMPANY, NO. 2,
Will have a great Ball on Washington’s Birthday Day at CONCERT HALL.

All companies and the public generally are invited to attend. Tickets $.10. Supper extra.$0.10-11, 50 

Register, Monday, February 20, 1860.487

Name: Sangamo Fire Company, No. 2
Entertainment: Fireman’s Ball: Washington’s Birthday Celebrations
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 1860
Time: evening
Tickets: $1.00 Supper extra
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

486 Journal, Tuesday, February 21, 1860, p. 3.
487 Register, Monday, February 20, 1860, p. 2.
Madame Lola Montez: Fashion Lecture

Madame Lola Montez is by far the most interesting performer to pass through Springfield. She was born in Ireland and performed at an early age. She went on to become the mistress of King Ludwig I of Bavaria who dubbed her the Countess of Landsfeldt. She had affairs with Franz List, Alexandre Dumas and a number of marriages. She entertained in Europe and Australia where the gold miners loved her risqué Spider Dance which left nothing to the imagination of the assembled miners. She was only 39 when she lectured on “fashion” in Springfield. She was showing the tertiary effects of syphilis and her body had begun to waste away. She died at the age of 39 on January 17, 1861, just 10 months after her appearance in Springfield.

Name: Madame Lola Montez
Entertainment: Lecture on Fashion
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Wednesday, March 14, 1860
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: 25 cents
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

But the biggest crowd of all was a tribute to notoriety rather than intellect. Springfield disapproved when Lola Montez—dancer, actress, and onetime mistress of the King of Bavaria—lectured on “Fashion” in the spring of 1860, but curiosity overcame scruples and Cook’s Hall was packed.

Marie Dolores Eliza Rosanna Gilbert, better known by the stage name Lola Montez, was born on February 17, 1821 in Ireland. Her mother, Eliza(beth) Oliver, was the child of Charles Silver Oliver, a former High Sheriff of Cork and member of Parliament for Kilmallock in County Limerick. Her father was Ensign Edward Gilbert. Early in 1823, the family journeyed to Liverpool and from there departed for India. Shortly after their arrival in India, Edward Gilbert died of cholera. The following year, Lola’s mother married Lieutenant Patrick Craigie. Craigie quickly came to care for a young Lola, but her spoiled and half-wild ways concerned him greatly.

At the age of ten, Lola was sent back to England where she attended a boarding school in Sunderland for one year. Her determination and temper became her trademarks. However, the “queer, wayward little Indian girl” quickly became known as a mischief-maker. On one occasion, she stuck flowers into the wig of an elderly man during a church service. On another, she ran through the streets naked.

In 1837, 16-year-old Lola married Lieutenant Thomas James, and the couple separated five years later in Calcutta, and she became a professional dancer under a stage name. She had her London debut as “Lola Montez, the Spanish dancer” in June 1843 and thereafter departed for the continent. At this time, she was almost certainly accepting favors from a few wealthy men, and was regarded by many as a courtesan. She met and had an affair with Franz Liszt, who introduced her to the circle of George Sand. After performing in various European capitals, she settled in Paris, where she was accepted in the rather Bohemian literary society of the time, being acquainted with Alexandre Dumas, with whom she was rumored to have had a dalliance. In Paris she would meet Alexandre Dujarier, “owner of the newspaper with the highest circulation in France, and also the newspaper’s drama critic.”

489 Journal, Tuesday, March 13, 1860, p. 3.
Through their romance, Lola revitalized her career as a dancer. Later, after the two had a quarrel over Lola’s attendance at a party, Dujarier in a drunken state offended gentlemen attending the party and was challenged to a duel. Dujarier was shot and killed. In 1846, Lola arrived in Munich where she became the mistress of Ludwig I of Bavaria. At the time they met, Ludwig had asked her in public if her bosom was real. Her response was to tear off enough of her garments to prove that it was. She soon began to use her influence on the King and this, coupled with her arrogant manner and outbursts of temper, made her unpopular with the local population. Despite the opposition, Ludwig made her Countess of Landsfeld on his next birthday, August 25, 1847. Along with her title, he granted her a large annuity. For more than a year, she exercised great political power, which she directed in favor of liberalism, against the conservatives and the Jesuits. In March 1848, under pressure from a growing revolutionary movement, Ludwig abdicated, and Lola fled Bavaria. It seems likely that Ludwig’s relationship with Lola contributed greatly to his fall from grace.

After a sojourn in Switzerland, where Lola waited in vain for Ludwig to join her, she made one brief excursion to France and then moved to London in late 1848. There she married George Trafford Heald, a young army cavalry officer with a recent inheritance. However, the terms of Lola’s divorce from Thomas James did not permit of either spouse’s remarriage while the other was living. She and her new husband were forced to flee from England to escape a bigamy action. They resided for a time in France and Spain, but within two years, the tempestuous relationship was in tatters, and George reportedly drowned. In 1851, Lola set off to make a new start in the United States, where she was surprisingly successful at first in rehabilitating her image. So much so that there is a mountain named in her honor, Mount Lola. At 9,148 feet, it is the highest point in Nevada County, California.

From 1851 to 1853, she performed as a dancer and actress in the eastern United States, one of her offerings being a play called Lola Montez in Bavaria. In May 1853, she arrived at San Francisco and her performances there created a sensation, but soon inspired a popular satire, Who’s Got the Countess? In July, she married Patrick Hull, a local newspaperman, and moved to Grass Valley, California, but that marriage soon failed. A doctor named as co-respondent in the divorce suit brought against her was murdered shortly thereafter. Lola remained in Grass Valley at her little house for nearly two years. Her home is California Historical Landmark No. 292. She has two lakes named after her in the Tahoe National Forest.

In 1855, Lola traveled to Australia to resume her career by entertaining miners at the 1850s gold diggings. In September 1855 she performed her erotic Spider Dance at the Theatre Royal in Melbourne, raising her skirts so high that the audience could see she wore no underclothing. Next day, the Argus opined that her performance was “utterly subversive to all ideas of public morality.” Respectable families ceased to attend the theatre, which began to show heavy losses. At Castlemaine in April 1856, she was rapturously encored after her Spider Dance in front of 400 diggers (including members of the Municipal Council who had adjourned their meeting early to attend the performance.) She earned further notoriety in Ballarat when, after reading a bad review in The Ballarat Times, she allegedly attacked the editor, Henry Seekamp, with a whip.

Rapidly aging, Lola failed in attempts at a theatrical comeback in various American cities. She arranged in 1857 to deliver a series of moral lectures in Britain and America written by Rev. Charles Chauncy Burr. She spent her last days in rescue work among women.

In November 1859, the Philadelphia Press reported that Lola was “living very quietly up town, and doesn’t have much to do with the world’s people. Some of her old friends, the Bohemians, now and then drop in to have a little chat with her, and though she talks beautifully of her present feelings and way of life, she generally takes out her little tobacco pouch and makes a cigarette or two for self and friend, and then falls back upon old times with decided gusto and effect.

By then she was showing the effects of syphilis and her body began to waste away. She died at the age of 39 on January 17, 1861. She is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York, where her tombstone states: “Mrs. Eliza Gilbert / Died 17 January 1861.”

Her life was portrayed in the 1922 German film Lola Montez, the King’s Dancer. Montez is played by Ellen Richter. She has been mentioned by several writers as a possible source of inspiration for the character Irene Adler in Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes story, A Scandal in Bohemia. Lola was portrayed by Martine Carol in the film Lola Montès (1955), based on the novel La Vie Extraordinaire de Lola Montès by Cecil Saint-Laurent, directed by Max Ophüls and co-starring Peter Ustinov and Oskar Werner. Lola was the last role played by Conchita Montenegro, in the film Lola Montes (1944). Lola’s time in the Australian goldfields was the subject of the musical Lola Montez staged in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney in 1958 starring Mary Preston. A recording of the musical was released on LP in 1958. Lola also appears in Royal Flash by George MacDonald Fraser. She is also a character in the film of the same name, in which she is played by Florinda Bolkan. A character named Lola Montez is featured in the 1948 film, Black Bart, played by Yvonne De Carlo. Lola is featured prominently in Spider Dance by Carole Nelson Douglas. She has been portrayed by Carmen D’Antonio in Golden Girl (1951), Sheila Darcy in Wells Fargo (1937), and Paula
Morgan in an episode of the 1950s TV show *Tales of Wells Fargo*. In one of J. B. Priestley’s last fictional works, *The Pavilion of Masks*, she is unmistakably the original for Cleo Torres, Spanish dancer and mistress of a German prince.

Lola was allegedly the inspiration for Jennifer Wilde’s historical romance novel *Dare To Love* (1978), whose protagonist Elena Lopez is also a British woman passing herself off as Spanish who becomes an exotic dancer. In the book, Elena has an affair with Franz Liszt, becomes friends with George Sand and has a friendship with the king of a small Germanic country obviously based on Ludwig I of Bavaria, then moves to California, all documented as having happened in Lola’s life. Montez is also the inspiration for Lola Montero in Edison Marshall’s novel *Infinite Woman*.

Trestle Theatre Company created a production titled *Lola* about the life of Lola Montez. Montez is described in Daughter of Fortune by the Chilean-American author Isabel Allende. A feature film *Spider Dance* (2011) focuses on the latter years of Lola’s life and her time in Australia. Musician Joanna Newsom’s song and title track “Have One on Me” is about Lola Montez. The Danish band Volbeat has a song on their album *Outlaw Gentlemen & Shady Ladies* entitled Lola Montez. The lyrics reference the spider dance. The British/Irish writer Marion Urch based her epic historical novel *An Invitation to Dance* (Brandon 2009) on the life of Lola Montez.

**William H. Herndon: Lectures**

Name: William H. Herndon
Entertainment: Lecture: *Whence are we drifting?*
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Monday, March 19, 1860
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

**Robert B. Morse: Benefit**

Name: Robert B. Morse Benefit
Entertainment: Olympic Theatre
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 1860
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
Springfield Library Association: Meeting and Lecture by James H. Matheny

There will be a meeting of the Springfield Library Association at their rooms this evening at 7 p.m., past seven. All those interested are requested to be present, as amendments, both to the constitution and by-laws, will come up for adoption. The lecture this week before the association will be delivered by J. H. Matheny, Esq., on Thursday evening at Cook’s Hall.

Journal, Tuesday, March 27, 1860.⁴⁹²

Lecture by J. H. Matheny, Esq.—An interesting lecture will be delivered in Cook’s Hall, this evening, before the Springfield Library Association by the gentleman above named.—We do not know the subject, but are willing to risk our reputation in the way of prophecy by predicting that it will be of an interesting character, and that it will be well taken care of by the popular speaker. Let every friend of the Association endeavor to secure a large audience.

Journal, Thursday, March 29, 1860.⁴⁹³

Abraham Lincoln: Lectures at Cook’s Hall

Thursday, April 26, 1860. SPRINGFIELD. To “a large and intelligent audience” at Cook’s Hall, Abraham Lincoln repeats his lecture of a year ago on Discoveries and Inventions. “The lecture was a first class production,” the Journal commented, “and gave much pleasure to the audience. It was of the most instructive and entertaining character, and we doubt not that it cost its talented author much time and labor.” ⁴⁹⁴

Celtic Cornet Band Ball

A ball will come off this evening in Concert Hall—the proceeds to be expended in the purchase of new instruments for the Celtic Cornet Band.

Journal, Friday, April 27, 1860.⁴⁹⁵

Sangamo Fire Company No. 2: Fireman’s Ball

Name: Sangamo Fire Company, No. 2
Entertainment: Fireman’s Ball
Venue: Myers’ Concert Hall
Date: Monday, May 28, 1860
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Journal, Saturday, May 26, 1860.⁴⁹⁶

⁴⁹² Journal, Tuesday, March 27, 1860, p. 3.
⁴⁹³ Journal, Thursday, March 29, 1860, p. 3.
⁴⁹⁵ Journal, Friday, April 27, 1860, p. 3.
⁴⁹⁶ Journal, Saturday, May 26, 1860, p. 2.
Winchell’s Drolleries

Name: Winchell’s Drolleries
Entertainment: Comedian
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Thursday and Friday, May 31 and June 1, 1860
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: 25 cents

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Register, Thursday, May 31, 1860.\(^{497}\)

Springfield Philharmonic Society: Meeting

Name: Springfield Philharmonic Society
A.W. Estabrook, President
Entertainment: Meeting
Venue: 2nd Presbyterian Church
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 1860
Time: 8:00 p.m.

Entertainment: business meeting
Venue: Mendell & Roper’s shoe store
Date: Wednesday, June 27, 1860
Time: 8:00 p.m.

Journal, Tuesday, June 26, 1860.\(^{499}\)

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\(^{497}\) Register, Thursday, May 31, 1860, p. 2.
\(^{498}\) Journal, Friday, June 1, 1860, p. 3.
\(^{499}\) Journal, Tuesday, June 26, 1860, p. 3.
W. O. and H. S. Perkins: Children’s Concert

Name: W. O. and H. S. Perkins, directors
Entertainment: Concert with 200 children, Esther
Venue: First Presbyterian Church
Date: Tuesday and Thursday, July 10 and 12, 1860
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Sanford’s Opera Troupe: Minstrels

Sanford’s Opera Troupe was an American blackface minstrel troupe headed by Samuel S. Sanford (1821-1905). The troupe began in 1853 under the name of Sanford’s Minstrels. The name changed that same year to Sanford’s Opera Troupe.

Name: Sanford’s Minstrels
Entertainment: Minstrel Concert
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Monday, July 16, 1860
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.
Sanford’s Opera Troup Serenades Lincoln


In the evening, Sanford’s opera troupe “serenade[s]” Lincoln. A newspaper reports, “Those who had the pleasure of hearing it speak in the highest terms of [the troupe’s] performance.”

Celebration of Lincoln’s Nomination

Wednesday, August 8, 1860. Springfield, Ill.

Illinois Republicans hold immense rally to celebrate Lincoln’s nomination. Thousands attend. Giant morning procession passes Lincoln residence; he reviews it from his doorway. In the afternoon there is speaking from five stands at fair grounds. Lincoln appears, declines to make speech, and escapes on horseback. More speeches are made in the evening at Wigwam and state house.

Madame Anna Bishop

Anna Bishop was born on January 9, 1810, in London, the daughter of a singing master. She became one of the finest operatic sopranos of her day. Her voice was sometimes compared to a flute. She sang in many countries on every continent, and was the most widely traveled singer of the 19th century. She was married to the composer Henry Bishop.

Anna made her London debut on April 20, 1831, singing at the Royal Philharmonic Society. On March 28, 1834, she was the principal soprano in the first English performance of Luigi Cherubini’s Requiem in C. In 1838 she participated in the chorus at the Coronation of Queen Victoria. In 1839 she appeared at the Italian Opera House in London alongside the pianists Sigismond Thalberg and Theodor Döhler.

In 1839, she toured Scotland and Ireland with the French harpist Nicolas-Charles Bochsa, who had played for Napoleon I. Shortly after their return to London, she abandoned her husband and took up with Bochsa, who was 20 years her senior. This
was a great scandal for its time and much was written about it in the press. Bochsa became her manager and they toured Sweden, Denmark, Russia, Hungary, Germany, and Austria. They always avoided France, where Bochsa was wanted on a charge of forgery. She sang in private before the Queen of Denmark. They traveled overseas to Ireland, Australia, and North and South America. In 1853, theirs was among the first important visits by foreign artists to Ottawa, Canada.

She had her greatest successes in operas by Rossini and Donizetti at the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, where she became *prima donna assoluta* in 1843. She appeared there 327 times in 24 operas. On November 1, 1852, in New York she sang in the United States premiere of Friedrich von Flotow’s *Martha*.

On January 6, 1856, three weeks after Anna and Bochsa arrived in Sydney, Australia, and having given only one concert together there, Bochsa died. Anna completed her Australian tour, and then returned to South America (Chile, Argentina, and Brazil). In 1858, in New York she married Martin Schulz, a diamond merchant. She appeared in England again, and she also gave a royal command performance for Queen Victoria. She then resumed traveling throughout the Americas.

On March 4, 1866 en route from San Francisco to China, on the first leg of a world tour, her ship the *Libelle* was wrecked on Wake Island, and she and the rest of her party were stranded there for three weeks. All her costumes, jewelry, and music were lost. They finally set out in two rowboats for Guam, a 14-day journey. The boat containing Anna and her husband made it to safety, but the other boat containing the ship’s captain and some crew was lost at sea. After a period of recovery, she resumed her world tour, singing in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Ceylon, New Zealand, and Australia and London once again, before returning to New York.

On July 14, 1873, at the personal invitation of Brigham Young, she gave the first concert at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. In 1875 she sang in Australia once more, then in Cape Town and other places in South Africa, on to Madeira and England, and back to New York.

By all accounts she was excellent in her prime but continued to sing well past her prime. Her final concert, at age 73, was a testimonial concert at Steinway Hall in June 1883, where she sang *Home! Sweet Home!*, the song that had brought fame to her first husband (whose name she still bore). Anna Bishop Schulz died in New York on March 18, 1884, aged 74, and was buried in St Paul’s Lutheran Cemetery.

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**Union Sabbath School: Concert**

**Name:** Union Sabbath School Concert  
**Entertainment:** Address and Concert: A.W. Estabrook directed musical portion; 3,000 present  
**Venue:** Republican Wigwam, southeast corner of 6th and Monroe Streets  
**Date:** Sunday, August 19, 1860  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

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**Journal, Saturday, August 18, 1860.**  
"Union Sabbath School Concert."—There will be a Union Sabbath School Concert at the Republican Wigwam next Sabbath at 3 o’clock, P.M. Several addresses may be expected by friends of Sabbath Schools, and the exercises interspersed with music by the children. It is expected that every Sabbath School in the city will be present, and come from their respective places in procession, accompanied by their teachers. Let every School go to the Wigwam, so that the exercises may commence promptly at 3 o’clock. The public are cordially invited to attend. The galleries and stage will be occupied by the schools. All children desirous of taking part in singing, will meet in some place at half past three o’clock Saturday afternoon, to practice in concert the pieces for the occasion.

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**Journal, Wednesday, August 22, 1860.**  
"The Concert.—The Union Sabbath School Concert at the Republican Wigwam on Sunday, was very largely attended, and passed off very pleasantly. It is estimated that at least 5,000 children were present, and that the audience would swell the number to 8,000. The Sabbath Schools were all very fully represented, with the single exception of the Episcopalians, which, from some unexplained reason, refrained from taking any part in the proceedings. The exercises of the afternoon consisted of singing and addresses by Misses, Clark, Tazor, Abel, Boynton and Reynolds. The addresses were all very good, and well delivered, and produced the best impression. The singing by the scholars would have done credit to professional artists. The scene was one which could not fail to impress the beholder as being strikingly beautiful and interesting. We are informed that it is intended to give another of these concerts some time next month. We are very glad to hear it. Such gatherings cannot fail of being productive of great good, and they should be preserved in and encouraged."

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**Journal, Tuesday, August 21, 1860.**  
"Characteristics.—In our column, yesterday, of the concert at the Republican Wigwam on Sunday last, we neglected to make any mention of the bands of Mr. A. W. Estabrook. Mr. Estabrook supplied the musical portion of the exercises, and the performance was such as to reflect the highest credit upon his skill and taste as a musician and harmonist."
Signor Blitz: Entertainment

Name: Signor Blitz
Entertainment: Magician; Russian Wizard; Ventriloquist, learned canary birds, singing and pantomime
Venue: Myer’s Concert Hall
Date: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, September 19, 20, and 21, 1860
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Admission: 25 cents; children 15 cents
Front seats reserved for women.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Signor Antonio Blitz was born Antonio Van Zandt on June 21, 1810, in Deal, England. During the Civil War, Blitz performed what he estimated to be 132 shows to 63,000 soldiers recuperating at various Civil War hospitals in Philadelphia. A touching statement from his autobiography reads:

“Whenever it was known that I was to appear, unusual excitement prevailed. Men whose limbs had been amputated but a few days, although forbidden by the physician, begged to be dressed, that they might attend; and the same was the case with the feeble and exhausted, who were confined to their beds; who, when reminded of the imprudence and danger, replied, ‘A good laugh will raise our spirits, and bring about a speedy recovery.’”

Blitz led a varied life as a performer with ventriloquism, plate spinning, the performance by trained birds, séances, and magic acts appearing as parts of his routine. Blitz was apparently one of the first performers to use a vent dummy during his ventriloquism, thus setting the trend for future generations. His autobiography is titled Fifty Years in the Magic Circle: Being an Account of the Author’s Professional Life; his Wonderful Tricks and Feats; with Laughable Incidents, and Adventures as a Magician, Necromancer, and Ventriloquist, Hartford, Connecticut, Belknap & Bliss, 1871.

“Learned Canary Birds” These incredible acts include a canary sitting in a ring of fire, another canary pulling a dead (?) canary on a wheeled cart, a canary standing on its head, and a canary returning to life, to mention a few.

He was such a successful magician and comedian that many performers adopted his name and started to perform as Blitz. The Illustrated History of Magic states that there were as many as 13 performers using the name Signor Blitz, many of whom even copied his advertising and posters.

There was a famous exchange between Blitz and President Lincoln. Lincoln was present during a show Blitz was doing for a group of children, and among the children was Tad Lincoln. Lincoln asked Blitz how many children he has made happy. Blitz replied that it must be thousands. President Lincoln followed with “I fear that I have made thousands and tens of thousands unhappy.” This exchange took place as the Battle of Gettysburg raged.


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Julie Mellby, Princeton University’s Curator of Graphic Arts, wrote a blog post on Blitz.

516 Journal, Tuesday, September 18, 1860, p. 2.
517 Journal, Friday, September 21, 1860, p. 3.
518 Julie Mellby, Princeton University’s Curator of Graphic Arts, wrote a blog post on Blitz.
Entertainment in Lincoln’s Springfield

Prof. Stearns and Alf. Howard: Music and Psychology

Name: Prof. Stearns and Alf. Howard
Entertainment: Music and Psychology
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Friday, September 21, 1860
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Stereoscopic Exhibition and Polarscopic Display of Fireworks

Name: Stereomonoscopic Exhibition and Polarscopic Display of Fireworks
Entertainment: Museum of Fine Arts
Venue: Concert Hall
Date: Saturday, September 22, 1860, and Monday and Tuesday, September 24 and 25, 1860
Time: evening; 3:00 p.m. on Saturday for schools and families
Admission: 25 cents; children 15 cents
Front seats reserved for ladies
Catholic Church Festival

Name: Catholic Church Festival
Entertainment: Concert, historical tableaux benefiting the new Catholic Church
Venue: Cook’s Hall
Date: Tuesday, October 30, 1860
Time: evening

Benefit of the new Catholic Church

Journal, Tuesday, October 30, 1860, p. 3.
**Rev. U. Clark: Lecture and Psychometric Delineations of Character**

Name: Rev. U. Clark  
Entertainment: Lecture and psychometric delineations of character  
Venue: Concert Hall  
Date: November 21, 1860  
Time: evening

*Journal, Wednesday, November 21, 1860.*

**Springfield Library Association: Winter Lectures**

Name: Springfield Library Association  
Entertainment: arranging for winter lectures

*Journal, Saturday, November 24, 1860.*

**Springfield Library Association: Lecture by Joshua R. Giddings, Abolitionist**

Name: Springfield Library Association  
Entertainment: Lecture:  
Joshua R. Giddings on  
*John Quincy Adams, the Christian, the Heroic Statesman*  
Venue: Concert Hall  
Date: Monday, December 3, 1860  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
*Monday, December 3, 1860, Springfield, Ill.*  
Joshua R. Giddings, Ohio abolitionist, has long interview with Abraham Lincoln.

*Journal, Saturday, December 1, 1860.*

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526 *Journal, Wednesday, November 21, 1860,* p. 3.  
527 *Journal, Saturday, November 24, 1860,* p. 2.  
528 *Journal, Saturday, December 1, 1860,* p. 3.
Joshua Reed Giddings (October 6, 1795 – May 27, 1864) was an American attorney, politician, and a prominent opponent of slavery. From 1838 to 1859 he represented Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was at first a member of the Whig Party and was later a Republican, helping found the party.

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**Springfield Philharmonic Society Meeting**

The Philharmonic Society of this city will meet this evening at the High School, at the hour of 7 o’clock. Members are all requested to be punctually present.

We hope that this Society will be successful in its efforts to cultivate a greater taste for vocal music in our midst. The need of a well-organized association of the kind has long been felt.

A. W. Estenrood, President.

G. S. Roper, Secretary.

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**1860 Venues**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Cook’s Hall</td>
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529 *Journal*, Monday, December 3, 1860, p. 3.
530 *Journal*, Thursday, December 6, 1860, p. 3.
Afterwards

Lincoln’s Springfield was indeed home to a vast array of interesting entertainments. There was a great deal of variety in the choices available to Springfield residents. While some (such as minstrel shows) would be seen as exceedingly politically incorrect by today’s standards, it is interesting to note how many events and topics of discussion continue to take place today. Most of the entertainments of the past might be considered classic and would most likely be considered fodder for PBS or today’s performing arts centers. But I don’t think they would be much competition for popular movies or programs on major television networks. And that speaks highly of the entertainments of Lincoln’s Springfield!

Abolitionists

The following is a list of those entertainments, mostly lectures, by abolitionists. The lecture titles have no indication that the speaker was an abolitionist and give no evidence that the speaker may speak about abolition. Nevertheless, I was amazed that there were 11 abolitionists who spoke publicly in Springfield between 1839 and 1860. It is interesting to note that there was only one abolitionist in the 1830s, none in the 1840s and 10 in the 1850s. It is also interesting that in November 1837, The Young Men’s Lyceum conducted a discussion of the question: Is it proper to discuss immediate abolition in the non-slaveholding states?

The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Discussion: Is it proper to discuss immediate abolition in the non-slaveholding states?
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, November 11, 1837
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

James Rucker
Name: The Young Men’s Lyceum
Entertainment: Lecture: James Rucker
Discussion: Should our Legislature adopt a free Banking System
Venue: Baptist Church
Date: Saturday, March 2, 1839
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Attendees: Public

Dr. Jonathan Blanchard
Entertainment: Lecture: Education
Venue: Representatives’ Hall
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 1851
Time: evening
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Rev. John Mason Peck
Entertainment: Lecture: The Elements of Western Character
Venue: State House
Date: Friday, January 31, 1851
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Entertainment: Lectures: Wealth and The Anglo-Saxon
Venue: State House: Senate Chamber
Date: Monday, January 10, 1853
Time: evening
Samuel Hanson Cox, D.D.  
Name: The Young Men's Association  
Entertainment: Lecture: *History, or Chronology as a Science, and the Proper Method of its Pursuit*  
Venue: Metropolitan Hall  
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 1855  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Price: 25 cents

Rev. Joseph Parish Thompson  
Entertainment: Lecture: *Constantinople, its history and destiny*  
Venue: Metropolitan Hall  
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 1855  
Time: evening

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher  
Entertainment: Lecture: *Conservatism and Progression*  
Venue: Metropolitan Hall  
Date: Thursday, October 18, 1855  
Time: evening  
Price: 50 cents

Hutchinson Family  
Entertainment: Vocal Farewell Concert  
Venue: Metropolitan Hall  
Date: Thursday, Wednesday and Thursday, January 9, 16 and 17, 1856  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Elihu Burritt  
Name: Springfield Library Association (Union)  
Entertainment: Elihu Burritt, the learned blacksmith: Lecture: *The Value and Perpetuity of the American Union and Peace*  
Venue: Metropolitan Hall  
Date: Friday and Saturday, June 20 and 21, 1856  
Time: evening  
Price: 25 cents  
Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Rev. Theodore Parker  
Name: Springfield Library Association  
Entertainment: lecture *The Progressive Development of Mankind*  
Venue: Metropolitan Hall  
Date: Friday, October 24, 1856  
Time: evening  
Tickets: 25 cents

Joshua R. Giddings  
Name: Springfield Library Association  
Entertainment: Lecture: Joshua R. Giddings on *John Quincy Adams, the Christian, the Heroic Statesman*  
Venue: Concert Hall  
Date: Monday, December 3, 1860  
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Shakespeare

No doubt Abraham Lincoln attended some of these entertainments during his residency in Springfield from 1837 to 1861. He loved the theater and Shakespeare, and there were a number of performances of that sort that he may have enjoyed.

Mr. Emmett
Reading *Othello* and *Richard III*
January 27 and 28, 1855

Mr. Boothroyd
Reading Shakespeare
January 29 and 30, 1855

Mrs. Macready
Reading scenes from *Macbeth*
July 23, 28 and 29, 1856

Charles Walter Couldock
Reading *Macbeth*
February 24, 1857

Mrs. Macready
March 16, 1858

Miss M. Tree
Reading *Hamlet*
July 7, 1858

Rev. Henry Giles
Lecture: Women of Shakespeare
December 14 and 15, 1858
Number of Entertainments Per Year

The following is a list showing the number of entertainments in each year from 1834 through 1860. It also shows the total of the entertainments—325. It is interesting to note that in the 6 years of the 1830s the total number of entertainments was 73. For the ten years of the 1840s, there were only 45. The ten years of the 1850s saw a large increase in entertainments with a total of 208.

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<th>Year</th>
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RICHARD E. HART

Richard E. Hart was born in Ottawa, Illinois, and attended school and was raised in Springfield. He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he received his B.A. in 1964 and his J.D. in 1967. He was admitted to practice law in 1967 and has been a practicing attorney in Springfield for the last forty-eight years. He is a partner in the firm of Hart, Southworth & Witsman. Hart is married to Ann and they have three children and six grandchildren.

Hart is a past President of The Abraham Lincoln Association and member of the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. He is a past President and board member of the Sangamon County Historical Society, past Chairman of the Advisory Board of The Lincoln Legal Papers, and past President and member of the Board of Directors of the Elijah Iles House Foundation. Hart was largely responsible for raising the funds and managing the day-to-day restoration of the Elijah Iles House and the Strawbridge-Shepherd House, two ca. 1840 Greek Revival residences.

Hart is also past President of Springfield Preservation, Ltd., a for-profit corporation that has restored and leased five Lincoln-era houses in Springfield’s German Settlers Row.

Hart suggested the format for the Looking for Lincoln project in Springfield and donated his personal historical research and ideas that were used for that project.

Hart and his wife Ann were also responsible for proposing the design for the City of Springfield’s streetscape. Their design proposal and advocacy was adopted in lieu of another proposal for a contemporary design. As a part of their advocacy, the Harts purchased and donated the first period lights for Springfield’s streetscape. Since that first donation, the use of the design has spread throughout downtown Springfield and is now moving into several neighborhoods, including the Enos Park Neighborhood.

In 1999, Hart was given the City of Springfield’s Preservationist of the Year award.

In 2012, Hart was presented with the Logan Hay Medal. The bronze medal is awarded infrequently and is the highest honor given by The Abraham Lincoln Association to recognize individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the mission of the Association.

In 2014, Hart was awarded the Illinois State Historical Society’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions over the decades to promoting the history of the Prairie State.

In 2015, Hart was awarded the Springfield NAACP Chapter’s 2015 Legal and Political Award.

From 2003 until 2015, Hart served on the Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery and was Chairman of the Board of Managers of Oak Ridge Cemetery. He is a founding member of the Board of Directors of Springfield Illinois African American History Foundation Museum. Hart remains a member of the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association and of the Elijah Iles House Foundation.

For at least the last ten years Hart has been the editor of For The People, a newsletter of The Abraham Lincoln Association, and the Iles Files, a newsletter of the Elijah Iles House Foundation.
Hart’s personal interest has been in the history of Springfield during the time that Abraham Lincoln lived there and in particular in the presence there of African-Americans. He is also interested in particular areas of Sangamon County during the period of early settlement. He has divided his published research on these two areas into the Spring Creek Series focusing on Lincoln’s Springfield, and the Sugar Creek Series focusing on the early settlement of Cotton Hill and Ball Townships in Sangamon County.

**Spring Creek Series**

- *Early Sangamon County Antiques – The Barringer Exhibit* (2005) (Editor)
- *The Colored Section, Oak Ridge Cemetery* (2009)
- *Circuses in Lincoln’s Springfield (1833-1860)* (2013)
- *Jameson Jenkins and James Blanks, African Americans in Lincoln’s Springfield* (2014)

**Sugar Creek Series**

- *Sugar Creek Cemetery: Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois* (2010)
- *David Brunk Cemetery: Ball Township, Sangamon County, Illinois* (2010)
- *Cumberland Sugar Creek Cemetery, The Old Burying Ground* (2012)
- *The Strawbridge – Shepherd Farm Site*
- *Thomas Royal: Revolutionary War Soldier and Early Sangamon County Settler* (2016)