

For the People

A Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association
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Dr. Hans Trefousse and the Writing of History

By Joseph E. Garrera *

The writing of history is an argument without end. While most historians eventually retire from their formal professions, they seldom retire from writing about and researching the past. One such example is found in the amazing career of Dr. Hans. L. Trefousse, author of *The Radical Republicans: Lincoln's Vanguard for Racial Justice* (1969).

I recently sat down with Trefousse in his Long Island home to discuss his forthcoming book, his work as a scholar, and his thoughts on the Radical Republicans during the Civil War. Born in Frankfort, Germany, in 1920, Trefousse was forced to flee his homeland in 1936. Relocating to New York, he graduated from the City College of New York in 1942. That same year he entered the United States Army to defend America. By the end of World War II and the conclusion of his military service, he had been awarded two Bronze Stars and one Purple Heart.

Trefousse's most fascinating memory of the conflict centers on his chance encounter with the literary icon Ernest Hemingway. After a grenade explosion, Trefousse found himself bleeding and in need of professional medical attention. Hemingway, who was covering the conflict as a journalist, offered to drive the ailing soldier to the first aid station. "Even then Hemingway was a famous personality," said Trefousse. "So I was honored and pleased that this man would offer me transportation." Trefousse makes the point that he had the exciting honor of meeting Hemingway the day before his remarkable drive to the first aid station.

After his experience with the war and his military service overseas, Trefousse returned to New York and entered the graduate program in history at Columbia University where, in 1950, he graduated having earned the Ph.D. in history. That same year he began his full-time career at the Graduate School of Brooklyn College, from which he officially retired in 1998 and was thus awarded the position of Distinguished Professor of History, Emeritus from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York.

During his extensive career Trefousse has authored or edited nearly twenty books including important biographies on Andrew Johnson, Benjamin F. Butler, Carl Schurz, Benjamin Franklin Wade, Thaddeus Stevens, and others. His most noted scholarship, *The Radical Republicans: Lincoln's Vanguard for Racial Justice*, remains important reading for all students of Lincoln history. We began our formal conversation by starting with the Radical Republicans.

Question: What were the Radical Republicans during the Civil War?

Trefousse: The Radical Republican political leaders who were against compromise before the war, for emancipation during the war, and for equal civil rights for blacks after the war. Because of their extreme positions they always said that Lincoln went too slowly, so they pushed and pushed the president. The point that I attempt to make in my book is that Lincoln, too, was antislavery, and in the long run the differences between the Radical

Republicans and Lincoln were not as great as they sometimes seem.

Question: Did the Radical Republicans help or hinder the Lincoln presidency?

Trefousse: The Radicals enabled President Lincoln to push forward with an antislavery policy, which he wanted all along. But Lincoln realized he could not immediately do it considering he was the choice of less than 40 percent of the popular vote. And we must remember the Democrats were dead set against emancipation. Lincoln needed the slave-holding border states [Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware] and said, "I don't know which side god is on, but I must have Kentucky." What Lincoln knew and what the Radicals did not know was exactly when to strike. Lincoln knew when the country was politically ready to tolerate certain acts. It would have been totally impossible to win the Civil War if Lincoln at the very beginning had said, "we must free the slaves." The Radicals told Lincoln that he must say that or otherwise we cannot win the war. But Lincoln knew darn well that he had to wait until the timing was right.

Question: Would you please name several political leaders that are prime examples of Radical Republicans?

Trefousse: In the Senate we have Benjamin F. Wade from Ohio, Zachariah Chandler of Michigan, Lyman Trumbull, who was the junior Senator from Illinois, and Charles Sumner of Massachusetts. In the House the most obvious Radical Republican was Thaddeus Stevens of

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Solomon Wieder Hagerty Diary

By Thomas F. Schwartz

These are the final entries from the Solomon Wieder Hagerty diary, which is owned by John Scarborough. Previous entries were published in the autumn 1999 and spring 2002 issues of *For the People*. In these pages, Hagerty records the fateful events of April 14–19, 1865.

April 14th

On duty at the gate about 3 1/2 O clock P.M. I noticed a very stately looking barouche driving in direction of our Gate. Driver & footman on box made me think it contained some official. I stood to attention & as the behind came up to & with me. I beheld the person of Abm Lincoln alone in Carriage. He pleasantly returned the salute given him. Passing by so quickly, I had an imperfect view of him hence I awaited his return to gain a firmer impression of his person & physiognomy. I informed the Segt & he the Major, the later requesting us to watch his coming out & apprise him as quick as he came in sight. Hence I was on alert. Half an hour afterward as I was watching his return, He drove around the corner from west side of Yard almost unseen. I quickly ran across to Major's Quarters to let him know, but was too late. The coach was up by this time & I could only right about & stand to attention.

I had quite a satisfactory view. He seemed as though he been enduring much fatigue & anxiety in the recent passing of events, but through this apparent phenomena of person, I noted a spirit of satisfaction gleaming. He most respectfully & without any attempt at arrogance returned our military recognition of receptive positions. The most noted biographer with his golden tongue & with his minutest detail of his goodness & qualities of a gentleman & statesman could not have more favorable impressed me with the excellencies of this man than what I had already known & what was apparent in him in this single instance.

Being on the first watch was up till midnight after about a quarter of eleven o'clock P.M. the startling intelligence arrived here of the assassination of the Pres. First a telegram was sent in & there are one after another of the Navy officers came in. They reported the same widely differing in version that he was shot was confirmed. Some said the assassin immediately afterward shot himself. Others said he was arrested, another report that the Assassin was J. Wilkes Booth the dramatist & that he had escaped. The attempted assassin[ation] of the Seward's also came in abo[u]t the same time. All hands were aroused & charged with prepa[r]tion for duty in an emergency all were excited & expressing vengeance on the head of perpetrators.

April 15th Wash DC

We received the particulars of the case in substance about One O'clock A.M. Viz That it had been announced publicly & was generally known yesterday & before, the Pres & lady, Vice Pres. & Gen. Grant would attend Ford's Theatre last evening. Abrm Lincoln & Wife went according to invitation & acceptance. They occupied a private box in 2nd tier & were much delighted with the performance of (*American Cousins*) the drama. Just as they were into the most interesting part of this play so admirably conducted by Miss Laura Keane & troupe, the cry of murder! & at the instant a man jumped down on stage from Pres' box & tore with him the American Flag that was hanging there, reaching the stage he stumbled but instantly rising flourished his long dagger & repeated defiantly the following sentence in Latin, Sic Semper Tyrannous & then made his exit by a back way through the Theatre & out. The dumb stricken audience could not summon their senses ere he had gone. The Pres was shot through the head near the ear. The tragical act was committed about 2 min past ten O'clock last night. At about the same time some villian entered Sec.

Seward's House passing the Servts under false pleas & made attempt to take Seward's life also after inflicting several severe blows upon the Secy & his Sons. Major Seward & Frederic he managed to make his escape but not before the cry of alarm was heard.

At two O'clock AM all hands were under arms. The greatest vigilance was maintained until morning nothing further occurred.

At 7.22 this morning Pres Lincoln breathed his last breath. His life so nobly preserved till the national crisis has nearly subsided was taken by a base & cowardly villain who not having courage enough to exhibit his principles on the battle field was made the tool of this fool conspiracy against the life of our heads of Government. The whole is instantly in mourning. Crepe is being hung in front of every building. Flags are at half mast & periodical firing of guns. The whole police detective & military force in search for the villianous murderers.

April 16th Sunday Wash DC

Off duty armed police. The stillness of death pervades every part of this city to day. Few persons are on the streets. The cars stopped running. Every feature indicates the most profound respect for the departed magistrate. We arranged the sables of grief around our main entrance inside & out. Shrouding the Clay Eagle on entrance in the folds of black. All is still as the breeze. But within the breasts of all loyal citizens this murderous act of rebel conspirators has embedded the Essence of the undying aversion toward any known Conspirator. Hence, while there is apparent calm without there are storms of vengeance within.

17th April Wash DC On duty at the gate.

In consequence of the effect produced by the awful tragedy of Friday evening, the whole community were paralyzed conflicting motions, revenge, hatred, sorrow & mourning were mingled feel-

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THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN
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Garry WillsDr. Hans Trefousse and the
Writing of History*continued from page 1*

Pennsylvania, and Owen Lovejoy of Illinois was also a very important Radical. President Lincoln was on very good terms with Lovejoy and, of course, there were many others. Without the Radicals, Lincoln could not have gone forward [with emancipation] as he did. They enabled him to go forward and the conservatives enabled Lincoln to wait until the time was right. And that is part of Lincoln's greatness; he knew when the time was right and he knew how to balance these two factions for the good of the country. And because of this [I must say] Lincoln was a genius—there is no question in my mind to this point.

Question: How would you best describe the thesis in your book *The Radical Republicans*?

Trefousse: The thesis is twofold. First, Lincoln needed the Radicals. They were necessary. And number two, the difference between the Radicals and Lincoln, though they constantly quarreled, was not that great. They both wanted emancipation of slaves.

Question: I understand that you have recently completed a manuscript for yet another Lincoln book. Can you discuss the thesis of your next book, scheduled to be published by Fordham University Press later this year?

Trefousse: My next book will deal with President Lincoln's reputation while he was in office. The thesis will counter those who have said that had Lincoln not been assassinated, popular culture would not have thought much of his legacy because during his lifetime he was unpopular. And my thesis [works to show] that this opinion is not true. That while there were many who attacked him, there was still a larger number during his lifetime that said, "This man will rank with George Washington." I believe President Lincoln's reputation was far greater than what we generally credit him for and I have the evidence.

Question: How did you research this new book that will show President Lincoln as being far more popular than we generally assume?

Trefousse: Well, I did not use any material that was published after April 1865. I researched contemporary private letters, speeches [by others], diaries, and numerous newspapers to make my case.

While some older Americans seek the refuge of retirement, Trefousse exemplifies the fact that many scholars remain agile and productive decades beyond conventional retirement age. With numerous esteemed books to his credit he continues to conduct research and write on a daily basis. He continues to give lectures, occasionally appearing on C-SPAN and CNN. He rarely misses a meeting of the Lincoln Group of New York, where he continues to serve as the organization's vice-president. For more than a half century, Trefousse has labored at the craft of writing history, proving, yet again, that the writing of history is an argument without end.

* Joseph E. Garrera is the president of the Lincoln Group of New York and a well known figure in the Lincoln field. He began his collecting endeavors by purchasing the Victor Borkman materials from Upsala College. He writes columns for various Lincoln and Civil War publications.

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Mariah (Bartlett) Vance Daytime Servant to the Lincolns Part 3

By Wayne C. Temple *

For some unknown reason, Mariah left the 613 Gilbert Street address and by 1902 or 1903 was living at 510 Gilbert Street with her son William H., the barber. John worked as a cook at 16 East Main and resided at 802 Oak. However, by the summer of 1903, Mariah had returned to Springfield to live with her daughter, Rosa, who, at age seventeen, had married George Wilson in Sangamon County on August 1, 1872.¹ Rosa had been born in Springfield on April 15, 1855, and seems to have shifted domiciles from there to Danville and back. Her husband died at the age of fifty-two in Springfield on February 27, 1891, leaving Rosa a widow with five children.² She next married William Noah Chandler in Vermilion County on August 3, 1895.³ By 1900, however, Rosa had become a widow once more and returned to live in Springfield at 552 North Third Street.⁴ When Mariah went to stay with Rosa, she then resided at 921 East Cass Street in Springfield.⁵

It is certain that Mariah was in Springfield during 1903, because she was living there when she gave an interview to a newspaper reporter on July 12. On the previous day, Mariah had attended a meeting of the Sangamon County Old Settlers Association held in the office of Judge George W. Murray at Springfield. She spoke to the assembled group and proclaimed in a boastful manner that she was the oldest living person born in Sangamon County. She related that in the previous year she had begun to learn the alphabet as a preliminary step to mastering the art of reading. But as yet she had only learned the alphabet. In addition, she told the audience that she had never worn eyeglasses. And she walked

several blocks a day for exercise. Mariah also looked forward to the Old Settler picnic to be held later that year. Of course, Mariah was not ninety-two years of age as she claimed. Yet she was up in years and about eighty at that time.⁶

At some time after this important newspaper interview in 1903, Mariah went back to Danville to live at 1035 Robinson Street with her son, Cornelius, who worked at various jobs: cook, janitor, porter, etc. (William had died on January 16, 1904, according to cemetery records.) There, Mariah died on December 23, 1904, at 4 P.M., after having a week before suffered a stroke that paralyzed her left side. Her obituary appeared on the front page of the local newspaper, a rare honor for a person of color in that era. The editor proclaimed that Mariah Vance had been “so well known to many in the city,” and proceeded to relate numerous tales about her that were untrue. For instance, he declared that she had been born in slavery in the South and came north “after the war” “and for years was in the family of Abraham Lincoln.” (American history evidently was not a strong suite of the editor.) “No colored woman in Danville was so widely known as the deceased,” vouched the editor, “and not one held in higher regard. She was a good woman and a faithful member of the colored Baptist church. Mrs. Vance will be missed by many in this city,” continued the writer. It was thought by the newspaper that she was either 105 or 106 years old, another error perpetuated by those who did not actually know her birthday. Among her several children, only John, Cornelius, and Rosa survived her, and they were with her when she died.⁷ After appropriate services for a devoted member of the

Baptist Church, Mariah’s body was interred in an unmarked grave at Springhill Cemetery.

The last of Mariah’s children, Rosa (Vance) Wilson Chandler, a widow, passed away at 1112 East Reynolds Street in Springfield on October 7, 1932, at 10:30 P.M. She was buried alone in Oak Ridge Cemetery at Springfield after a funeral in Union Baptist Church. A son, William “Buck” Wilson, and two daughters survived her. Rosa had last worked in October of 1928.⁸

Mariah Vance remained in an unmarked grave in Springhill Cemetery at Danville until Lloyd Ostendorf of Dayton, Ohio, took a deep interest in her history and spearheaded a drive to mark her resting place. Under the auspices of the Ward Hill Lamon Civil War Round Table, a ceremony was held there at 5:30 P.M. on August 12, 1964, with Ostendorf and Reverend Tobias Hutchins giving orations. At that time, a very suitable stone was unveiled to commemorate her services to the Lincoln family. At long last Mariah Vance’s contribution to Lincolniana was secured for posterity.⁹

The following interview appeared in the *Illinois State Journal* (Springfield) on July 13, 1903, page five, column three:

**OLDEST PERSON BORN IN
COUNTY
MRS. MARIA VANCE, AGED
COLORED WOMAN RESIDING
A 921 EAST CASS STREET,
CLAIMS THIS DISTINCTION—
RELATES INTERESTING
STORY OF HER CONNECTION
WITH THE HOUSEHOLD OF
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.**

The distinction of being the oldest living resident of Sangamon county born within its present limits is claimed

by Mrs. Maria Vance, an aged colored woman who was born in the Round Prairie neighborhood ninety-two years ago [actually, about seventy-nine years ago] and who has resided almost continuously in the county ever since. [Not true—she lived in Danville for many years.] She appeared Saturday [July 11, 1903] at the meeting of the Sangamon County Old Settlers' association in Judge [George W.] Murray's office and made known her claim to the unique distinction.

Mrs. Vance, who is at the present making her home with a daughter, Mrs. Rosa Chandler, 921 East Cass street, is in remarkably good health and retains all her mental faculties as well as physical powers which are missing in many younger people. She is quite nimble and one of her favorite diversions is to take walks of several blocks. However, the very warm weather of the last few days has caused her to vary this part of her daily routine.

The aged woman in telling the story of her life says that she has always had to work hard and that only in the last few years has she had any leisure. She is taking advantage of this spare time to improve her mind. Last year she took up the task of learning to read and so far has mastered the alphabet. She has acquired this degree of learning without the use of spectacles, a device she has never had the necessity to adopt. She declared yesterday [July 12] that she can see as well as she ever could.

Born on Round Prairie.

"Grandma" Vance was born, as she terms it, on the "second Sunday in October," 1811, on Round Prairie. She was never a slave but her mother, Mrs. [Phebe] Bartlett, was in bondage in Virginia and was owned by Si [Stephen] Shelton. When Mr. Shelton removed his family from Virginia to Sangamon county he brought Mrs. Bartlett. Two children were born after the settlement was made, Maria and Betsey [Elizabeth].

Maria at the age of 9 was indentured to William L. May of Springfield. Her sister, Betsey, at the same time was "bound" to Doctor [John] Todd, an uncle of Mary Todd, who became the

wife of Abraham Lincoln. She remained in the May family until 18 years old when she was released and from that time worked for wages.

On being released from the indenture the two sisters continued almost continuously to work for the families of Doctor Todd and Abraham Lincoln. "Grandma" Vance, of course, was well acquainted with both the Lincoln and Todd families and she now alludes to the sons and daughters of the doctor as the "children." She played with them eighty years ago, but to her they are still the "children."

Packed Lincoln's Belongings.

Mrs. Vance says that she packed up all the belongings of Abraham Lincoln and his wife when they left for Washington after Mr. Lincoln's election to the presidency. After this was done she cleaned the house, carefully closing the windows and locking the doors when her work was finished. She took the keys to the old Chenery hotel, where Mr. Lincoln was staying, and delivered them to the proprietor, who turned them over to the owner.

"I never saw Mr. Lincoln any more," said Mrs. Vance, sadly, "until they brought him home dead [in May of 1865]." She says Abraham Lincoln was one of the best men in the world. She knew him when he was a struggling young lawyer. His treatment of her was always kind. She says that Doctor Tod[d] was also a good man and was very kind to her sister, who lived in the family from the time she was 8 years old until she was of age.

"Mr. May, the man who raised me, was one of the kindest hearted men in the world," said Mrs. Vance. "I remember one day when he was away from home his son [perhaps Rodney] made me go out into the field and work. I tell you his father got after him when he returned home, for he never would let me work in the field. After that I was never asked to work in the field again."

Frightened by Colored Man.

Mrs. Vance says that she was 10 years old before she ever saw a colored person other than her mother and sister. One day she saw a colored man coming along the road and, fearing

that it was an evil being that had come to do her harm, she ran a quarter of a mile to the house and concealed herself.

The aged colored woman treasures highly an old fashioned stand that the wife of Doctor Todd [Elizabeth (Smith)] gave her for a wedding present [in 1842]. She has parted with all the rest of her household furniture but has always clung to the old stand given her by the aunt of the wife of Abraham Lincoln, sixty-seven [sixty-one] years ago. This priceless relic is now at the home of her son, William Vance, who lives in Danville and with whom she made her home several years before she returned to Springfield the last time.

"I have looked on that piece of furniture with a mighty watchful eye," said Mrs. Vance. "I will take care of that old table as long as I live. Nobody can have that while I am alive."

Mrs. Vance will make an interesting figure at the old settlers picnic this year, and will be able to hold her own with all who have stories to tell of the years "before the big snow" [the winter of December 1830 to January 1831].

¹Various city directories for Danville; Marriage Record, Sangamon County.

²*Springfield Sunday Journal*, Mar. 1, 1891, p. 4, col. 5.

³Marriage Records, Vermilion County, Ill.

⁴*Polk's Springfield City Directory 1900-1901* (Springfield, Ill.: R. L. Polk & Co., 1900), 120.

⁵*Polk's Springfield City Directory 1902-1903* (Springfield, Ill.: R. L. Polk & Co., 1902), 128.

⁶*Illinois State Journal*, July 13, 1903.

⁷(Danville) *Commercial-News*, Dec. 24, 1904, p. 1, col. 6.

⁸Sangamon County, Death Record No. 38501; *Illinois State Journal*, Oct. 8, 1932, p. 12, col. 1. She lies in Block 24, Section 3, Range 16, Grave 37. Oak Ridge Cemetery Records.

⁹*Commercial-News*, Aug. 9, 1964, p. 19.

* Wayne C. Temple is the Deputy Director of the Illinois State Archives.

Solomon Wieder Hagerty Diary

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ings dwelling in their bosoms. The gate was closed. Works was suspended in Yard till after due respect were paid the remains of our honored President by a funeral procession which required the cessation of government works & the assistance of employees to complete. During the day numbers of persons flocked to the gate expecting ingress to the yard, but non were allowed in. Some expressed surprised at not being allowed in. Groups of men were collected here & there through the City Conversing on the state of affairs. Soldiers (Cavalry men) & dectives were riding to & fro with rapid pace, in pursuit of conspirators, various rumors as to were suspicious characters were seen. About 4 o clock, P.M. an order came from Department to yard, requesting the military to be in readiness to take charge of prisoners that would arrive in evening. Hence the guard was in readiness under arms. About 8 1/2 P.M. two were brought in and taken down the yard, some commotion in regulation of guard. Officer day sent for. All that could be mustered were under arms. A squad from Barracks came down for special guard duty.

18th On 2nd watch Con 1 AM.

About half past two this morning another of the conspirators were brought in duly guarded to the wahar & placed in Confinement on board of the Monitor. Saugus with others under marine guard. About daylight a force of Dectives came riding very rapidly from Bridge & turning to go up 8th St. his horse slipped at Navy Yard gate was bruised slightly. After wash away the blood he resumed his way. Relieved as usual at 9 AM. No liberty having been up all night cared little about it. Nothing further occurred during the day.

At night another prisoner was brought in & consigned with others on the Monitor there being the safest place in case of riot or mob. Temporary prisoners in cell, greatly frightened lest they be wrongly taken in case of a mob

to kill the conspirators.

19th April Wash

Being formerly notified that we were to join in the procession to accompany the Pres remains from Ex Mansion to Capitol (there it is to lie in State till Friday morning) we had our uniforms & accoutrements cleansed & ready. We were awakened by the Segt of guard earlier than were accustomed to do & summoned to breakfast, & then were ordered to be in full dress and ready to fall in at 8 O clock. A detail for this purpose, as well as for guard. The order promptly obeyed, we marched to Barracks & there awaited for the men to form battalion, formed 9 A.M. After drill for an hour nearly at "reverse Arms" then we proceeded headed by band to the Ex Mansion out 2 St. to 3d St. E. . & then up to Garrison St. & around Capitol to Penn Ave on this direct to Mansion. On our way up crowds gathered along the sidewalks. Many of whom followed the Battalion up the Ave. The music discoursed by our band attracted considerable attention. In Places where the crowd on the sidewalks were very great, it was necessary for a guard to go ahead of Battalion on each side to keep the way clear for the troops. Arrived at position in front of Ex Mansion about 10 1/2 A.M. Halted in line. Band on right. The gaudy uniform of Marines attracted the colored persons attention & they thronged around, *closed in* and almost *fell in* ranks to get line. It was necessary to place around & in front to keep the front space & ranks free from human encumbrance. Major Graham Cavalry Battalion found recourse with other officers to go to a restaurant close by and no doubt imbibe some of the stimulants. In his absence Lieut. Young was off. in charge. The great demand was water. Several buckets of water were served out to us by troops of the music. Two men complain of being sick. Segt. Major reported the same to Off Young who replied that "those men should be taken to dispensary & make them take

a fill haltry of medicines." The Segt told him this could not be done. He ordered them to fall out. We afterwards found they were too top heavy *drunk*.

Gen Augur reviewed the line as formed & at a little before two P.M. pronounced Everything ready to move. The bier moved out at the western front gate attended properly by bearers escort etc. & halted just without the gate. The military begin to form at the time the hearse reached the front of the line the command to present Arms was given by Maj. Gen. Augur Companies formed into line & slowly moved off keeping time to the tunes and dirges discoursed by Music and Band Corps. We were in rear of veteran Calvery Corps & on the right, rather, band & music in rear of us, we keeping time as well as we could under the circumstances. The music proved rather deficient. The Major a little the worse for his draughts of Andy Johnsons. We arrived at the top of Capitol Hill. No place in live for Marines. Our Battalion wheeled in the Alley North of Capitol & there stood under the heat of sun in ranks & no water could not get permission to fall out & hence we were in an awkward dilemma. For an hour & half we stood there with not opportunity of seeing what was going on, finnally we moved out the line of procession being broken up & returned the same road we went, back to barracks. Broke ranks, Navy Yard guard fell out & came to Yard tired, footsore, & dusty, unhinged our uniforms, belts etc. took canteen & supper (dinner for us) with a relish & came to quarters. Many much dissatisfied with the Major & other officers.

After we returned news came that a suspicious boat had left Baltimore to go down the Bay. Hence the dispatch boat King Philip with guard of marines was ordered to go down & intersect & examine this boat. So it happened that many of those who had been out all day were detailed for duty again. Thus ended this eventual day.

Plan to Attend the 2005 Conference on Illinois History, October 27–28, 2005

The Conference on Illinois History, now in its seventh year, is the state's largest meeting devoted to the history of the Prairie State. More than two hundred and fifty attended the 2004 conference, which featured traditional academic papers, local history studies, teacher workshops, and roundtable discussions.

This year's luncheon and dinner speakers (pre-registration required by October 21, 2005):

CARL J. EKBERG, *Professor Emeritus of History, Illinois State University*. Ekberg, an expert on the French in colonial Illinois, has written the award-winning books, *French Roots in the Illinois Country: The Mississippi Frontier in Colonial Times*, *François Valle and His World: Upper Louisiana before Lewis and Clark*, and *Colonial Ste. Genevieve: An Adventure on the Mississippi Frontier*. His presentation will be on French-ness and Indian-ness in Illinois.

DARROCH GREER, *Documentary filmmaker and historical researcher*. Greer researched the casualty figures for "The Civil War in Four Minutes," one of the exhibits in the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield. He has written, produced,

and directed documentaries for PBS, the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, and VH1. He will discuss the development of "The Civil War in Four Minutes."

EDNA GREENE MEDFORD, *Associate Professor of History, Howard University*. Medford is a nationally recognized scholar and frequent lecturer on African Americans in slavery and freedom. As a member of the Scholars Advisory Board for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, she participated in discussions for planning the museum's content. She is also a member of the Advisory Committee for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Medford will speak on blacks' perceptions of emancipation.

To ensure that you receive a registration form and program for the conference, contact Donna Lawrence, IHPA, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1512; via email at donna_lawrence@ihpa.state.il.us; or by phone at 217.785.7933. Details will be posted as they become available at www.Illinois-History.gov/conference.htm. The Conference is accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education for CPDU.

Did Lincoln Make a Voiceprint?

By Thomas F. Schwartz

In 1856 Leon Scott de Martinville invented the phono-autograph, what some claim is the forerunner of the modern phonograph. Waldemar Kaempffert disparagingly described de Martinville's invention as: "Nothing but an instrument by which the puffs of air what we call sound were made to vibrate a marker, which in turn played on a piece of smoked paper and thus traced wavy lines in soot. . . . His wavy lines scratched in soot were no better than printed words when it comes to informing us how the great singers of his day trilled their notes; for it was impossible to make the wavy lines talk or sing again."¹ If de Martinville had not invented the phonograph we know today, his discs may at least provide a sense of the individual's vocal pitch. There are rumors that de Martinville made a disc of Abraham Lincoln's voice. To date, such a disc has yet to surface. Should it, however, an interesting source will be available for acoustical technicians to puzzle and perhaps give us a glimpse into Lincoln's vocal features.

¹Kaempffert, *A Popular History of American Invention* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1924), 1:446.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please enroll me as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association in the category indicated:

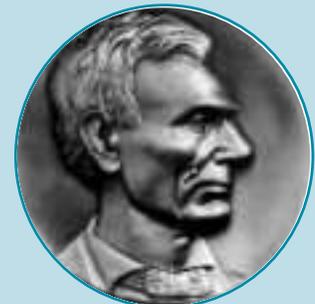
Railsplitter _____ \$35
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Members residing outside the U.S. add \$3.00.

Mail this application (or a photocopy) and a check to:

The Abraham Lincoln Association
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois
62701

Name _____
Street _____
City _____
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Web site: www.alincolnassoc.com

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum Dedicated

The weather was picture perfect for the four days of events culminating in the dedication of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum on Tuesday, April 19. Period music and activities, including a reenactment of Lincoln's Farewell Address at the Great Western Station followed by a torch light parade to Union Square Park, characterized the first two days of activities. A two-day conference, "Lincoln in the 21st Century," sold out with close to three hundred registrants. The highest attendance was at the Abraham Lincoln Association sponsored breakfast, where attendees heard from Lincoln Bicentennial Commission executive director Michael Bishop about the planning activities for February 12, 2009. David Herbert Donald was honored with the first prize for excellence in Lincoln studies at a lavish Lincoln-era White House dinner. The prize will henceforth be known as the David Herbert Donald Prize. A visit by President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush highlighted the dedication ceremony. The



museum had over 21,000 visitors in three days. All of the scholars attending the conference found the museum

engaging without compromising historical accuracy. For information on the museum go to www.alplm.org.

For the People

A Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
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