



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

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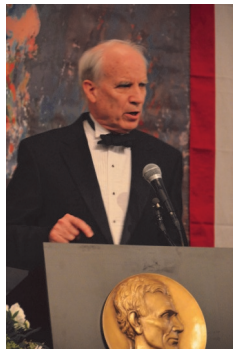
FALL 2013

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

John Hay Reports on Events at Gettysburg

By Michael Burlingame

Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished
Chair in Lincoln Studies
University of Illinois Springfield



John Hay (1838-1905), who served as Lincoln's assistant private secretary from 1860 to 1865, kept an informative diary during the Civil War. Unfortunately, the entry describing events in Gettysburg on November 19, 1863, is frustratingly skimpy: "In the morning I got a beast and rode out with the President's suite to the Cemetery in the procession. The procession formed itself in an orphanly sort of way & moved out with very little help from anybody & after a little delay Mr. Everett took his place on the stand – And Mr. Stockton made a prayer which thought it was an oration – and Mr. Everett spoke as he always does perfectly – and the President in a firm free way, with more grace than is his wont said his half dozen words lines of consecration and the music wailed and we went home through crowded and cheering streets. And all the particulars are in the daily papers."

One such paper, the Washington, D.C., *Daily Morning Chronicle*, contained a long description of the day's events, dated November 19 and signed "J. H." It is almost certainly Hay's handiwork, though historians have failed to realize it. (An exception is Gabor Boritt, who acknowledged that Hay "may well have been the author.") It is firmly established that Hay wrote for that newspaper, which was widely regarded as the Lincoln administration's organ. Its editor, John Wien Forney, told Hay in 1862: "I

have taken some liberties with the MSS. which will not, I hope, be objected to." He added, "I am very anxious for your assistance, and earnestly ask you for it." A few months later, Hay wrote to his fellow White House secretary, John G. Nicolay: "I am getting apathetic & write blackguardly article for the *Chronicle*, from which West extracts the dirt & fun & publishes the dreary remains." The knowledgeable Washington correspondent for the Cincinnati *Gazette*, Whitelaw Reid, reported that Hay "is charged with occasional sparkling editorials in the *Chronicle*." Hay pasted some *Chronicle* editorials into a scrapbook of his own writings.

During his years with Lincoln, Hay also contributed many anonymous and pseudonymous pieces to other newspapers, including two St. Louis journals (the *Missouri Democrat* and the *Missouri Democrat*); the Providence, Rhode Island *Journal*; the New York *World* (when it was a Republican paper); the Springfield, Illinois *State Journal*; and the Washington *National Republican*. Occasionally he signed those pieces "J. H." just as he signed the article reproduced here.

While historians have often quoted from that piece, few have recognized Hay's authorship, and for good reason. The *Chronicle* published an article dated "Wednesday, [November] 18th," immediately before Hay's, which was dated "Thursday, November 19". The headline above the two pieces indicates that both were by the same author, but it seems clear that the first was by someone other than "J. H." Those initials appear at the end of the second dispatch but not the first. (The *Chronicle* deployed four correspondents at Gettysburg.) The style of the first article differs from that of the second. The latter contains John Hay's literary fingerprints: unusual words ("clustering," a favorite of Hay's); use of an uncommon phrase in French, a language Hay knew (*coup d'oeil*) [a quick glance]; emphatic opinions; and shameless pun ("phonographic [i.e., stenographic] and funny graphic gentlemen").

Daily Chronicle

Saturday, November 21, 1863

The Gettysburg Dedication
THURSDAY, November 19

The Day of the Dedication

The sun never broke to life and warmth on a fairer fall day than this. A sharp night's frost was succeeded by one of the most beautiful Indian Summer days ever enjoyed. At an early hour, long before sunrise, the roads leading to Gettysburg were crowded by citizens from every quarter thronging into the village in every kind of vehicle—old Pennsylvania wagons, spring wagons, carts, family carriages, buggies, and more fashionable modern vehicles, all crowded with citizens—kept pouring into the town in one continual string, while the roads were constantly dotted with pedestrians by twos, by threes, singly, and in companies, all facing towards the village.

Thus the thronging in continued until late in the day, while the railroad disgorged its eager crowds, while the streets, ever filling, overflowed with the invading host.



John Hay,
Lincoln's assistant private secretary.

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Soon after breakfast I rode out to the Cemetery, and the crowds that I left in the town seemed to have duplicated themselves, and to have scattered all over the extensive area of the battle ground, wandering out to the seminary, strolling about the college, laboring to the summit of Round Top, examining Culp's Hill, tracing the plan of the Cemetery, seeking relics everywhere: the whole landscape was fairly studded with visitors, mostly on foot, many on horseback, and not a few in carriages, and with maps in hand, getting up the field of battle, and realizing for the first time the grandeur and extent of the struggle about which they had heard so much. Returning to the village, the scattered concourse we had left miles out in the country seemed to have got there before us, for the streets were full to overflowing, and yet they came.

The town was now enlivened by the procession forming and by the marshals and military. The various orders and delegations were being placed and arranged in the procession ready to set out.

At about 10 the President issued from Mr. Wills' house, and was greeted with three hearty cheers. Soon someone proclaimed three cheers for Father Abraham, and they were given with a will. Another call for three cheers for the next President of the United States was responded to with no less enthusiasm.

In the meanwhile the President had mounted, and was besieged by an eager crowd thronging around him, and anxious for the pleasure of taking him by the hand, while he sat pleasantly enjoying the hearty welcome thus spontaneously accorded, until the marshals, having mercy upon his oft-wrung arm and wearying exertions caused the crowd to desist and allow the President to sit in peace upon his horse. But the people, not yet satisfied, must have another three cheers for honest Old Abe, and they fairly eclipsed all the others.

Mr. Lincoln appeared in black, with the usual crape bound around his hat in memory of his little son, and with white gauntlets upon his hands. The list of



Original uncropped photograph of the crowd around the speakers stand at Gettysburg believed to be the only photo taken of Lincoln at the dedication. (Courtesy of the National Archives)

notables who were present is given in another column, and many of them mounted when he did, and they remained conversing together waiting for the moving of the procession.

Mr. Lincoln remarked upon the fair prospects spread out before him, and observed that he had expected to see more woods, an expectation, doubtless, that had been entertained by many besides himself.

In the meanwhile the throng of swaying, eager people, more remote from him, were crowding and jostling, ever restlessly trying to get a glimpse of Mr. Lincoln, many of whom, doubtless, saw for the first time a live President of the United States.

When the procession began to move I hastened to the platform, and arrived there long before the cavalcade appeared upon the ground. Taking our seat among the reporters, we endeavored to prepare ourselves to enable the readers of THE CHRONICLE to obtain some idea of the day's proceedings.

At about 11:20, the President arrived upon the platform, accompanied by Sec-

retaries Seward, Blair, and Usher. Soon Governor Tod and Governor Brough came near, and Mr. Tod, in a hearty, cordial manner, said: "Mr. President, I want you to shake hands with me;" and Mr. Lincoln as cordially responded. He then introduced Governor Brough to the President, and also to Mr. Seward, who said, "Why, I have just seen Governor Dennison, of Ohio, and here are two more Governors of Ohio—how many more Governors has Ohio." "She has only one more, sir," said Governor Brough, "and he's across the water."

By-and-by, Governor Tod said he had called on Governor Seward, but had not found him at home; also, on Mr. Usher: "Yes, sir," said Seward, "I visited the ground around the Seminary this morning, and Mr. Lincoln joined in. Well, Governor, you seem to have been to the State Department and to the Interior, I will now go with you to the Post Office Department; whereupon he turned to Secretary Blair and introduced Governors Brough and Tod to him.

The crowd upon the ground were kept in the form of a hollow square, within

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MIRACLES IN ST. LOUIS



By Paul Findley

One Friday evening in late summer of 1962 – fifty years ago – I committed a massive act of personal neglect that any politician would dread.

With the one hundredth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation approaching, the National Park Service gave me the privilege of carrying the inkwell Lincoln used to sign the Proclamation when I traveled to the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield. I had a speaking assignment at a public gathering at the Tomb. I mention this event of the past, because the 150th anniversary is being observed this year.

Deplaning at St. Louis Airport the evening before the ceremony, I carried my suitcase in one hand, the carton that contained the inkwell in the other. I had special interest in the inkwell, because a young Pittsfield man, John George Nicolay, Lincoln's principal private secretary, dipped a pen in the inkwell and handed it to Lincoln for the Proclamation signature. It was an historic step toward eventual emancipation of all slaves in America. Lincoln called that signature the most memorable act of his presidency. The inkwell became a priceless heirloom.

I welcomed custody of the inkwell, believing anything connected with Lincoln always produced good publicity, of which I stood in great need. I was a first-term Member of Congress, and signs suggested it would be my last. Redistricting had placed me in a new district, a large part of which was long and ably represented by Congressman Peter Mack of Carlinville,

my opponent for reelection. Election day was three months ahead.

At the airport, I stopped at a pay phone to call Lucille, who was waiting for me at our Pittsfield home. I would drive to Pittsfield to spend the night before proceeding to Springfield for the Proclamation ceremony.

Before making the call, I placed the boxed inkwell on the shelf by the phone. When I hung up, I picked up my bag and forgot to retrieve the inkwell. Halfway to the parking garage, I realized my oversight and raced back. The box was gone.

Frantic, I vainly called the airport lost-and-found, examined waste bins throughout the airport—even on the tarmac—and had grim thoughts about how Rep. Mack would be able to describe me as hopelessly irresponsible. I also called police and asked them to notify TV and radio stations.

Deeply shaken, I drove my campaign van to Pittsfield where I tried to sleep. Meanwhile, miracles occurred in St. Louis. That evening, a teenage African-American youth who routinely checked airport pay phones for left coins found the inkwell box and brought it home. After showing it to his

father, he went to bed. When his father learned from the eleven o'clock television news of my loss, he reported his son's acquisition to the police.

At 1:30 a.m., police called the good news to Lucille and me, then delivered the inkwell the next morning to officials at the Lincoln Tomb. When the ceremony was over, I was content to leave the inkwell in the custody of National Park Service officials for its return trip to a museum in Washington. To my knowledge, Rep. Mack made no reference to my negligence or to my good fortune.

How could I be so lucky? The odds against quick recovery of the inkwell were surely as great as those in the Super Lottery, and I was reelected despite my well-publicized gross act of neglect.

Paul Findley served in Congress 1961-83. Among his awards are the Logan Hay Medal from the Abraham Lincoln Association and the Lincoln Laureate. He is the author of "A. Lincoln: The Crucible of Congress."



President Lincoln Writing the Proclamation of Freedom
Print based on painting by David Gilmour Blythe, 1863 (Courtesy of Library of Congress.)

(Continued from page 2)

which, while these things were proceeding, the procession had filed and the various companies forming it had taken up a position around the platform, while those who had tickets took their seats upon it.

We noticed delegations from Baltimore, Washington, and Philadelphia, and from the Masons, Odd-Fellows, Templars, and many of the Sons of Malta, who were not in regalia. The Sanitary Commission, too, were there, conspicuous by their banner, and precious by the memory of their extended usefulness and valuable services. Many States, too, were represented, and flags and banners enlivened the scene.

Five or six bands were also present, among which were the Marine band, of Washington, Birgfeld's band, the band of the 2d Regulars, from Fort McHenry, New York regimental band, and others.

At twenty minutes to twelve, Hon. Edward Everett arrived, and after being introduced to the President, the exercises at once proceeded. Marshal Lamon first announced that a letter had just been received from General Scott, regretting that his increasing infirmities rendered him unable to be present upon the occasion.

Birgfeld's band then played an introductory dirge, solemn and suitable for the occasion. The Rev. Thomas H. Stockton then offered a very impressive prayer. This was followed by Birgfeld's band, who gave us the Old Hundred in all its grand and sublime beauty—after which the Hon. Edward Everett was introduced by Marshal Lamon. Some idiot in the crowd at once proposed three cheers for Everett, which the good sense of the people immediately decided so irreverent upon such an occasion that no one responded, and Mr. Idiot subsided.

At this time the *coup d'oeil* of the scene was truly grand. Crowds of citizens surrounded the stand and stretched away into the distance, far out of any possible range of hearing. Many were in mourning, and the upturned tearful eyes of those who were near, indicated too plainly that to them the dedication was a sad pilgrimage also. Military officers and marshals on horseback, scattered through the crowd,

added a pleasing variety to the scene; while the various regimental bands, societies in their regalia, and the bright and gay uniforms of officers and marshals, the banners, flags, and devices of the various regiments, associations, and delegations, all contributed to produce a blending and contrast of colors highly pleasing to behold.

Around, far off, scattered over the landscape, were crowds of people who, despairing of a near approach to the stand, the centre of interest, were satisfying their curiosity and enjoying the scene apparently apart from it. Below lay Gettysburg, deserted and flag-bedecked, behind it the seminary and college, with their clustering historical associations; stretching before and beyond was the beautiful battlefield, now giving rich promise, as it had yielded past evidence of its abundant fertility. On the one side Culp's Hill, now precious in history, and on the other, far back in the distance, and surmounted by our beautiful flag, was the victory-crowned summit of Round Top. Far, far off, in distinct outline, were the South Mountains, forming a well defined frame to the whole picture. Minute guns added their impressiveness to the scene, while a daguerreotypist, with his instrument prominently placed at the outskirts of the main crowd, by the aid of the softly-glowing, hazy sun, endeavors to snatch and forever preserve the animated foreground, rich in eminent citizens.

Prominent in that foreground must not be omitted a beautiful *in memoriam* banner, born by a delegation of the Army of the Potomac, from the hospital at York, of which they, who had been wounded at Gettysburg, were yet inmates. This banner was in the deepest mourning. Upon it was an urn and an inscription: "Honor to our brave comrades." Upon the other side was, "In memory of those who fell at Gettysburg, July 1st, 2d, and 3d, 1863."

Mr. Everett spoke for about two hours, and his oration, fully reported elsewhere, need not be here produced. Those who read it will find that he did ample justice to his former celebrity, and to the impressive occasion.

After the oration the Baltimore Union Glee Club sung in a very beautiful style. A poem, by B. B. French, inspired and written upon the battlefield, was then deliv-

ered. The following is the poem:

Gettysburg

By B. B. FRENCH

'Tis holy ground—
This spot, where, in their graves,
We place our country's braves,
Who fell in Freedom's holy cause
Fighting for Liberties and Laws—
Let tears abound.

Here let them rest—
And summer's heat and winter's cold
Shall glow and freeze above this mould—
A thousand years shall pass away—
A Nation still shall mourn this clay,
Which now is blest.

Here, where they fell,
Oft shall the widow's tear be shed,
Oft shall fond parents mourn their dead,
The orphan here shall kneel and weep,
And maidens, where their lovers sleep,
Their woes shall tell.

Great God in Heaven!
Shall all this sacred blood be shed —
Shall we thus mourn our glorious dead,
Oh, shall the end be wrath and woe,
The knell of Freedom's overthrow --
A Country riven?

It will not be!
We trust, Oh God, Thy gracious power
To aid us in our darkest hour.
This be our prayer—"Oh Father! save
A people's Freedom from its grave—
All praise to Thee!"

The President then delivered his address, which, though short, glittered with gems, evincing the gentleness and goodness of heart peculiar to him, and will receive the attention and command the admiration of all of the tens of thousands who will read it.

It seemed to us that the President sensibly felt the solemnity of the occasion, and controlled himself by an effort. This might have been fancy, but it was our impression; and as such we record it.

The brief address of the President was followed by the dirge selected for the occasion—one of Percival's—sung by a choir mainly composed of Gettysburg ladies, and accompanied by Birgfeld's band.

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After this, a benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. — — [Henry Lewis Baugher], the President, we believe, of the College. Marshal Lamon then announced that at half-past four the Hon. Chas. Anderson, Lieutenant Governor elect of Ohio, would deliver an address at the Presbyterian church, which the President, his Cabinet, and the people, were invited to attend; he then proclaimed the assemblage dismissed, and while the procession was reforming, a battery of the 5th regulars fired a salvo of eight rounds from their four guns.

The Marine Band, of Washington, escorted the procession back to the town, and afterwards, with other bands alternating, kept the air resonant with melody until sunset.

Previous to the address of the Hon. C. Anderson, Gov. Seymour presented a flag to a New York regiment, and made an appropriate speech.

We are also informed that just as the President was going to hear Mr. Anderson, a gentleman introduced him to old John Burns, the soldier of 1812, and the only man in Gettysburg who volunteered to defend it; and that the President invited him to go with him and Secretary Seward to hear the speech, and, each taking his arm, the old man between the two great statesmen for whom he had literally fought and bled, was escorted by them to the church, where he sat between them during the speaking. This little incident must have been a truly gratifying compliment to the brave old hero.

This we did not witness, as we were at the railroad endeavoring to get homewards. Nobody seemed to know anything of the arrangements, and thousands were patiently waiting to get home.

It appeared finally that the directors of the road or some other power had ordered that no train should leave until after the President's special train had gone, and hence, although the time for the regular train was 1 o'clock, and hundreds literally had thronged to the depot to go by that, yet they and additional expectants, until the accumulating hundreds had swelled to thousands, were all compelled to wait until near



7 o'clock, six mortal, long, wearying, slowly-dragging hours. We are confident that our excellent President was not a party to this shameful mismanagement, and that had he known that so dense a crowd of citizens were waiting upon his movements he would not have delayed another minute—but it was, nevertheless, the case, that while at least two full and heavy trains might have been run to Hanover Junction and back between 1 and half-past 5, P.M., yet one of the largest crowds that ever waited at a depot were detained here through a most unfortunate mistake. To the credit of our citizens be it said they bore their delay with remarkable patience, and the Baltimore Union Glee Club relieved the weariness of a very large portion by singing in a superior manner a constant succession of patriotic and popular songs.

It was my good fortune to return at last on the President's special train, conducted to Baltimore by Mr. John Vandanskee, who certainly deserved the thanks of many of the phonographic and funny graphic gentlemen on the train; for he courteously procured and fixed for them, at considerable trouble, an excellent light, around which, busy as bees, they compared notes and transcribed their phonographic reports for the papers for which they were laboring. Though neither a phono or funny grapher, he certainly obtained the thanks of your present correspondent.

The whole affair passed off admirably, saving the annoying and unnecessary railroad delays. There seemed an abundance to eat

and drink; the crowd were of the best class of our American citizens, highly intelligent, refined, and of course quiet and orderly.

There seemed to me to be no sensible jar or discord to the whole proceedings. It struck me, however, that the flags upon the flag-staffs should have been at half-mast, and all should have been draped in black, especially those at Round Top and on the ground immediately in front of the platform. It appeared to me, too, that minute guns should have been fired from Round Top and Culp's Hill—at least from 9 until 4—throughout the day. Further than this there appeared nothing left undone that ought to have been done, and possibly there may exist ample reasons why the omissions I have indicated were permitted.

The train arrived at Washington at ten minutes to one on Friday morning, and thus ended the dedication of the Gettysburg Cemetery—a day long to be remembered by the Gettysburgers in this to them eventful year, and one whose effects will pass into history.

J.H.



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PRESIDENT ROBERT J. LENZ'S GREETING

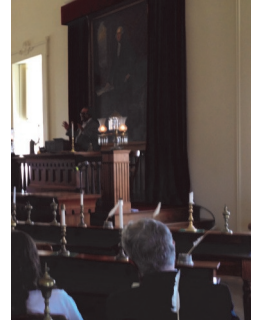
Dear Members of the Abraham Lincoln Association,

Saturday, August 3, 2013 was a special day in Springfield. The Abraham Lincoln Association presented the program *Lincoln, Colored Warriors and the Spirit of Freedom* which explored the effect of the Emancipation on the Civil War.

We want to give thanks to all of our co-sponsors: The National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, The Lincoln Home, The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, The Old State Capitol Foundation, The Sangamon County Historical Society, and Frontiers International. We are grateful to many other groups and individuals that partnered with us for this wonderful event.

I want to give special thanks to two Board members who had special leadership roles; Kathryn Harris and Robert Davis. Kathryn is chairperson of our special events committee and Robert was chairperson of this event. They both spent numerous hours planning this wonderful day.

Robert J. Lenz, President



New Members

We welcome our new members:

Katie Andres
Springfield, Illinois

Carole Griffen
Sacramento, California

Charles M Hubbard
Signal Mountain, Tennessee

Charles Murphy
Springfield, Illinois

Dr. Ronald Royce
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Maurine Taylor
Knoxville, Tennessee

Richard Watt
Bloomington, Illinois

Reminder: Lincoln Colloquium, September 28, 2013

Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois

Rethinking Herndon: Has His Role in Lincoln Studies Changed?

For registration information, visit:
<http://www.knoxalumni.org/LINCOLN>.

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

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

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Address: _____

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Your membership is essential to the ALA's success. It allows the ALA to provide you with the *For The People* newsletter and the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* and to sponsor many worthwhile programs related to the life of Abraham Lincoln. Please join.

William G. Shepherd,
Membership Chairman



You may join through our website at:
www.abrahamlincolnnassociation.org
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Lincoln, Colored Warriors and the Spirit of Freedom

On Saturday, August 3, 2013 the Abraham Lincoln Association sponsored an Emancipation Proclamation commemorative event in Springfield, Illinois. The event was attended by over 400 people who listened to speakers at the Old State Capitol, viewed a Civil War United States Colored Troops encampment on the grounds of the Old State Capitol, listened to a speech by Senator Richard J. Durbin, and were moved as they observed a youth group placing flags on the graves of Civil War soldiers around a GAR memorial in Oak Ridge Cemetery.



ALA Board member Robert J. Davis describes the Emancipation events of August 3, 2013.

Lincoln: “I never, in my life, felt more certain that I was doing right than I do in signing this paper [Emancipation Proclamation].”

Colored Warriors: “... black men had a powerful interest in the outcome of the war, and slaves had the most powerful interest of all for they would be fighting for their freedom.”

The Spirit of Freedom: “... a delegation of Christians argued [to Lincoln]... that the Emancipation Proclamation was the will of God.”

The program “Lincoln, Colored Warriors and the Spirit of Freedom” was truly an inspiring celebration of freedom involving the nearly 400 attendees. The weather was ideal for the ground encampments and the various stations depicting different aspects of camp life that were visited by the youth as they learned what camp life was like for the civil war soldier. The parade from the Lincoln Home to the Old State Capitol was a spectacular sight as nearly 70 marchers, including the 30 youth who had been mustered into the IL 29th Infantry, United States Colored Troops (USCT), displayed their newly learned drill techniques and USCT T-shirts and caps.

Inside the Old State Capitol, the script readers captivated the large audience with their well-researched rhetoric in the voice of Lincoln’s supporters and his dissenters. Additionally, the excitement and enthusiasm generated by Mr. Hari Jones’s oratory and his phenomenal knowledge of the era mesmerized the audience and accolades of praise could be heard through the Representative Hall.

The morning program was rounded out with a campfire luncheon that consisted of chicken

stew, beans and rice, cornbread and bread pudding, which was perhaps a not so typical meal for a civil war soldier on the battle field, but compliments to the chef were made on the tastiness of the food.

The excitement and inspiration continued during the afternoon session as President Lincoln and the readers amazed the audience with a powerful and convincing detailed defense of Lincoln’s decision, in the form of his letter to James C. Conkling, to lift the long-standing ban on black troops in the Union army and let them fight for Union and Freedom. Then President Lincoln, depicted by George Buss, and assisted by his Press Secretary portrayed by Bob Lenz, concluded the session within the Old State Capitol with a press conference inviting the audience to ask questions of Mr. Lincoln. The audience loved this unique way of talking directly with Mr. Lincoln. Bob Lenz had admonished the audience that no contemporary questions were to be asked; only queries about that time period would be answered. For example, Mr. Lincoln would not have the slightest idea about current politics or know of President Barack Obama.

The USCT reenactors from out of state were highly impressed by the collaboration, cooperation, and involvement of sponsors and organizations. Many out of town visitors stated that they had never seen anything like it.

The capstone of the day was the Memorial Ceremony at Oak Ridge Cemetery where the youth placed an American flag next to the headstone of each fallen comrade interned around the flagpole of the Grand Army of the Republic. The brothers from American Legion Post #809 and the descendants of USCT Civil War veterans placed wreaths and Rosemary for Remembrance of USCT buried there.

“Officials Records show that approximately 179,000 enlisted black men and 7,122 white officers served in 175 Union regiments during the Civil War, nearly 10 percent of the Union Army. These men fought in 449 engagements of which thirty-nine were major battles. Approximately 37,300 Negroes lost their lives while serving in the Union Army. Seventeen black soldiers and four black sailors were awarded Medals of Honor.”

President Lincoln summarized the contribution of Negro soldiers and laborers to the Union cause in a letter of September 12, 1864.

We cannot spare the hundred and forty or fifty thousand now serving us as soldiers, seamen and laborers. This is not a question of sentiment or taste, but one of physical force which may be estimated as horse power and steam power may be measured and estimated. Keep it and you can save the Union. Throw it away and the Union goes with it.

Robert J. Davis



Remarks by Senator Richard J. Durbin Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation

Illinois' Senior Senator Richard J. Durbin spoke at the Old State Capitol at the end of the day long event. Here are his words.



We are here today to celebrate what our greatest President considered his greatest act: The Emancipation Proclamation. Almost every document and letter Abraham Lincoln wrote, he signed “A. Lincoln.” On the Emancipation Proclamation, he wrote his full name, “Abraham Lincoln,” in a clear, firm hand. He said that if history would remember him for anything, it would be for this act.

Walking in Lincoln's Steps

Everywhere I walk in the United States Capitol, I see reminders of Abraham Lincoln. When I walk through Statuary Hall, I see the small bronze marker on the floor indicating where Lincoln sat during his one and only term as a member of Congress.

When I enter the Capitol, I pass the marble steps where President Lincoln delivered his Second Inaugural Address, in which he spoke those immortal words: “With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in to bind up the nation’s wounds.”

But there was one horrifying sight that Abraham Lincoln saw when he served in the House which – thank God – has not been seen for more than 150 years. Before the Civil War, slave markets and slave pens dotted what is now the National Capitol Mall.

Solomon Northup was a freedman who was

kidnapped and sold into slavery in Washington, D. C. in the 1840s. He wrote that the slave auctions were so close to the Capitol that – quote: “the voices of patriotic representatives boasting of freedom and equality, and the rattling of the poor slave’s chains, almost commingled.” Abraham Lincoln saw those chains and it must have anguished him because he despised slavery.

Slavery in America in 1860

The year Abraham Lincoln was elected President – 1860 – 1 out of every 8 Americans lived in slavery. In the southern states that made up the Confederacy, nearly 40 percent of the people were enslaved – more than **3 million** men, women, and children.

Even here in Illinois, where slavery was abolished formally in 1848, a series of laws known as “Black Laws” or “Black Codes” denied African Americans such basic rights as the right to vote, the right to testify in court, to serve in the state militia or to gather in groups of three or more without risk of being beaten or jailed. That was here, in our state. Those laws remained in place until 1865.

Prediction: 50 Million Slaves by 1925

Looking at the 1860 US Census, the *New York Herald* newspaper predicted that by

1925 there would be **50 million** African Americans living in slavery. Instead, in 1863, with the stroke of his pen and the courage of a giant, Abraham Lincoln set in motion the beginning of the end of slavery in America.

“The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation”

In the West Staircase of the Capitol, just outside my office, is an enormous painting entitled “First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation.” I see it many times every day on my way to and from the Senate floor. The man who painted it, Francis Bicknell Carpenter, believed, as Lincoln did, that the Emancipation Proclamation was the greatest act of Lincoln’s presidency.

For six months in 1864, President Lincoln allowed Carpenter to work out of the White House, painting the president and his cabinet officers as they appeared when Lincoln first read them the historic decree. He pronounced Carpenter’s finished canvas “absolutely perfect” and showed it off to his cabinet.

In 1878, a wealthy New York philanthropist purchased the painting from Carpenter for \$25,000 and donated it to the United States Senate on what would have been Lincoln’s 69th birthday. The main speaker at the presentation ceremony was Alexan-



First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln
(Lincoln and his cabinet) Oil on canvas by Francis Bicknell Carpenter, 1864.

der Stephens. He and Lincoln had been friends when they served together in the House, but the Civil War had pulled the two old friends far apart – with Alexander Stephens serving as vice president of the Confederacy.

With the guns of war now long silent, Stephens said that he had believed it was his duty to support his state of Georgia when it seceded, but he never lost hope that a new union would one day emerge and that the achievements of the re-United States of America would exceed anything yet accomplished by our nation. He ended by saying, “All of this is possible if the hearts of the people are right.”

Immediately, the old man was surrounded by well-wishers. Among them, extending his hand in congratulations was the great abolitionist leader, Frederick Douglass.

Building on the Emancipation Proclamation

At times when unity of purpose can seem so elusive, I draw inspiration from that image of reconciliation. The re-United States of America have indeed achieved great things. We ended slavery in every state for all time. We ended Jim Crow laws, the ugly successors to slavery. Congress has passed and strengthened the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act and other laws to move us ever closer to that “more perfect union.”

DeLoyce McMurray, Montford Point Marine

Today, we are joined by a true American hero from our state. During World War II, DeLoyce McMurray served as a corporal in a segregated United States Marine Corps. He was a “Montford Point Marine,” the

Marine’s equivalent of the Tuskegee Airmen. He is part of a continuum of courage that includes all of the African American soldiers who fought and died in the Civil War.

Last month, I had the honor of presenting Mr. McMurray with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor our nation can bestow.

Conclusion

In tribute to President Lincoln, to the African American soldiers of the Civil War and to all of those who have struggled and died on and off the battlefield for the freedoms we enjoy today, let us here resolve to protect and continue to build on their legacy of freedom.

Thank you.





Lincoln, Colored Warriors, and the Spirit of Freedom program organizers partnered with community mentoring programs including The Outlet, Phi Beta Sigma-Springfield, Springfield Frontiers, and Project Ready-Springfield Urban League to present the youth component of the larger event. Youth activities included visiting Civil War encampments and listening to presentations about the Underground Railroad and the United States Colored Troops. The youth also practiced marching in preparation for a police escorted parade through downtown Springfield from the Lincoln Home to the Old State Capitol with Civil War reenactors. The day ended with a ceremony at Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery where the youth placed flags at the graves of United States Colored Troops and other Civil War soldiers. *Timothy Townsend, Historian, Lincoln Home National Park*



FOR THE PEOPLE

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2013 LINCOLN LEGACY LECTURES
LINCOLN & THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

November 19, 2013 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Brookens Auditorium at UIS

The 11th Annual Lincoln Legacy Lectures will be held November 19, 2013, the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address.

Dr. Martin P. Johnson, assistant professor of history at Miami University of Ohio-Hamilton will present a lecture titled "Lincoln's Journey to Gettysburg." Johnson is the author of the forthcoming book, *Writing the Gettysburg Address* (University Press of Kansas, 2013).

Dr. Joseph R. Fornieri, professor of political science, Rochester Institute of Technology, will give a lecture titled "Abraham Lincoln's Political Faith in the Gettysburg Address." Fornieri has authored several books on Lincoln, including the forthcoming *Lincoln, Philosopher Statesman* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2014).

Dr. Michael Burlingame, Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies, UIS, will give opening remarks and moderate.

The event will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in Brookens Auditorium at UIS. It is free and open to the public. No reservations are required. Seating is first come, first seated, with overflow seating in Public Affairs Center, Room C/D. For information call (217) 206-7094.

Sponsored by the University of Illinois Springfield. Co sponsored by The Abraham Lincoln Association.
