



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION
<http://www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org>

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2017

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Abraham Lincoln's First Visit to Hampton Roads

By Anna Gibson Holloway and
Jonathan W. White



In April 2016, several members of the board of directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association joined the mayor of Springfield, Illinois, for a visit to U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*, which was undergoing repairs in Newport News, Virginia. The presence of a vessel named after the nation's 16th president in Hampton Roads is fitting. Lincoln's most famous visit to the area occurred on February 3, 1865, when he and Secretary of State William H. Seward met with several Confederate leaders for the Hampton Roads Peace Conference. But, in fact, the president had visited the region twice before, in the spring and summer of 1862.

On March 9, 1862, the ironclad vessels U.S.S. *Monitor* and C.S.S. *Virginia* battled to a draw in the waters of Hampton Roads. Over the ensuing months, the presence of the rebel steamer caused great trepidation for Union leaders. General George B. McClellan was stalled on the Virginia peninsula, while army and naval forces were making no headway toward capturing Norfolk. Finally, in May, President Lincoln decided to visit Fort Monroe to assess the situation and spur action forward.

Lincoln travelled down the Potomac River with Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, and a Union general. Upon reaching Fort Monroe on the evening of May 6, they went aboard U.S.S. *Minnesota* with General John E. Wool to



Hampton Roads image courtesy of The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Virginia

confer with Commodore Louis M. Goldsborough about "military & naval movements, in connexion with the dreaded Merrimac."¹ The following day the president and his entourage toured the famous ironclad *Monitor*. Paymaster William F. Keeler observed that Lincoln "had a sad, care worn & anxious look" as he toured the vessel.²

In the afternoon General Wool proposed that the president's party ride out to Camp Hamilton "and see what was to be seen." They saw the charred remains of the city of Hampton, which had been burned by the Confederates in 1861. "I never saw such a ruin -- bare, blackened, crumbling walls on every hand," wrote Chase after the ride.

The president and his companions returned from their tour "saddened," but soon the mood changed. General Wool had ordered a grand review, and the "troops were gratified by the President who rode along their line alone, uncovered, inspiring great enthusiasm," wrote Chase. "It is delightful, by the way, to observe every where the warm affection felt and expressed for the President."³

For many among the troops, this was their first visual of the president. One New Yorker remarked, "The ex rail splitter is as homely as a stone fence and dresses shockingly, but their [sic] is an

appearance about him which indicates great firmness, and strength of character; take him as I saw him, and he is just the picture of a *Western hoosier*, tall, lank, and gaunt."⁴

The next few days were spent preparing for an invasion of Norfolk. At one point the president personally boarded a boat to search the Confederate shoreline for an ideal landing spot. Spurred on by Lincoln's presence, General Wool finally ordered his men to attack and capture Norfolk. When they got there on May 10, they found that the rebel soldiers had abandoned the place, and they took the city without any loss of life.

When news reached Fort Monroe, Stanton jumped out of bed exclaiming, "My God!" The secretary ran to the president's room and in his nightshirt gave the unsuspecting General Wool a huge hug.⁵ The next morning the Confederates destroyed C.S.S. *Virginia* as it no longer had a safe harbor. On his way back to Washington, D.C., the president and his party steamed past the spot of the "suicide" to see what remained of the once terrifying rebel monster.

An artist on the scene named George Kaiser -- possibly a soldier -- captured the scene at Fort Monroe on May 10 as Union soldiers were preparing to embark

continued on page 3

The
Abraham Lincoln Association

Kathryn M. Harris
President

Robert S. Willard
Vice President

James M. Cornelius
Secretary

Douglas M. Barringer
Treasurer

Robert A. Stuart, Jr.
Immediate Past-President

Mary F. Shepherd
Executive Manager

Board of Directors

Kenneth L. Anderson

William E. Bartelt

J. Steven Beckett

Roger D. Billings, Jr.

Justin A. Blandford

Roger D. Bridges

Michael Burlingame

Julie Cellini

Nancy L. Chapin

Robert J. Davis

Jim Edgar

Guy C. Fraker

Donald D. Funk

Sara Vaughn Gabbard

Joseph E. Garrera

Donald R. Graham

Allen C. Guelzo

Richard E. Hart

Amy Hathaway

Matthew Holden, Jr.

Erika Holst

Barbara Hughett

David Joens

Ron J. Keller

Robert J. Lenz

Russell Lewis

Richard W. Maroc

Edna Greene Medford

Lucas E. Morel

Karen L. Nekrasz

James W. Patton III

Mark A. Plummer

William Read

William G. Shepherd

Ronald D. Spears

James L. Swanson

Louise Taper

Donald R. Tracy

Andy Van Meter

Daniel R. Weinberg

Jonathan W. White

Stewart L. Winger

Honorary Directors

President Donald Trump

Governor Bruce Rauner

Senator Richard Durbin

Senator Tammy Duckworth

Congressman Darin LaHood

Congressman John Shimkus

Congressman Rodney Davis

Chief Justice Lloyd Karmeier

Mayor James Langfelder

Emeritus Directors

Cullom Davis

Judge Richard Mills

Distinguished Directors

Doris Kearns Goodwin

Lewis E. Lehrman

Thomas F. Schwartz

Wayne C. Temple

Summer Greetings From President Harris

I hope that everyone enjoyed a happy, safe, and fun Fourth of July holiday with family, food, and friends. Since the last newsletter, the veggie garden is growing and lots of flowers are blooming in my front and back yards ... summer is here in Central Illinois, and so are the hot temperatures.

I'm sending a special "Thank You" to Nancy Chapin and Ann Kramer for their work in organizing and coordinating a successful bus tour of Lincoln's 8th Circuit in June. My sincere appreciation is extended to Guy Fraker for his commentary and to all of the ALA members and friends who participated. To our friends who are not Association members, I hope that this experience will entice and encourage you to become members.

I also thank Richard 'Dick' Hart for his coordination of the program "Thomas Lincoln Reconsidered." I learned that the program was well attended and the speakers were excellent.

I had the opportunity to be on a bus tour in June as well. It was a 6-day tour that traveled to Washington, D.C., the ultimate destination being the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Our group spent half a day at the Museum. I'm sure I only saw about 20% of the exhibits, and as a result it is on my list for a re-visit at a later date. I was overwhelmed, inspired, informed, and mesmerized by the depth and breadth of the exhibits. When in D.C., this is a MUST SEE stop. Our tour also enjoyed other sites including the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the MLK Memorial, the Vietnam Wall and Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial. On the way, a side stop at the Flight 93 Memorial in Pennsylvania was somber, moving, and sobering. I don't regret the "backside fatigue" and would do it all over again. Seeing the monuments and memorials in D.C. is a living history lesson and well worth it.

As the seasons move along, please support the Lincoln-related events in your area and help us keep the life and legacy of our 16th President alive and well. I look forward to seeing many of you in Gettysburg in November.

Kathryn M. Harris



ALA Vice President Bob Willard Visits New Korea Abraham Lincoln Society

Seoul, Korea is the site of the latest formation of a group devoted to Abraham Lincoln. The Korea Abraham Lincoln Society (KALS) was established in April 2017 by a group of public servants, lawyers, academics, and other folks who believe the life of Abraham Lincoln can provide inspiration for dealing with internal political dysfunction there and addressing the 65-years-and-counting civil war between the north and south. Among KALS founders were the retired chief justice of the constitutional court, two former prime ministers, the former chief prosecutor, and numerous university and bar leaders. Attorney Chulho Kim is the president of the new group.

Abraham Lincoln Association vice president Bob Willard was the



lead speaker at the first formal meeting of KALS on April 24, 2017. He sketched out a brief biography of Lincoln and discussed how Lincoln's commitment to freedom and democracy can provide guidance for dealing with today's political unrest. He looked forward to ongoing cooperation between the newly formed KALS and the ALA. While in Korea, Willard and his wife, Caro-

lyn, met Donggill Kim, Korea's foremost expert on Lincoln. Professor Kim received his Ph.D. from Boston University; his 1971 dissertation, *Abraham Lincoln – An Oriental Interpretation*, was published in 1983. Professor Kim presented the Willards an inscribed copy of the 2015 print of his one-volume Korean language biography of Lincoln.

Judge Frank Williams Donates Lincoln Collection to Mississippi State University

In June 2017, Mississippi State University at Starkville announced that Judge Frank J. and Mrs. Virginia Williams of Rhode Island had given the University their 17,000 items of Lincolniana, including 100 original Lincoln manuscripts, documents, artifacts, photographs, statues, paintings, prints, broadsides, philately, numismatics, collectibles, and miniatures as well as some 12,000 published volumes from 1860 to the present (many of them rare). They are separated into two collections: the Lincoln Book and Pamphlet Collection, and the Civil War / Collateral Book and Pamphlet Collection, including the Claude Simmons collection, and a dozen banker's boxes of Lincoln-related materials and scrapbooks. The Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library is also at MSU.

Judge Williams was president of the ALA from 1986-1995. He retired as Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court in 2009. — *compiled from AbrahamLincolnOnline.org, and news reports.*



The Elijah Iles House Fall of 2017 Fireside Chats

5:30 p.m. Wednesdays,
September 6, 13 and 20.

Iles House, Seventh and Cook, Springfield, Illinois
Free and open to the public.

The Women in Lincoln's Springfield Life

September 6

Bonnie Paull, *The Women in Lincoln's Neighborhood*

September 13

Erika Holst, *The Women in Lincoln's Family*

September 20

Richard Hart, *Cousin Lizzie: Elizabeth Todd Grimsley Brown*

Co-sponsored by The Abraham Lincoln Association

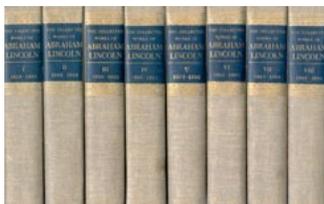
FORWARDED MAIL PROBLEM AND RESOLUTION

Do you spend time at two separate residences? Is your ALA mail not being forwarded even though you leave a forwarding address with the PO? A number of members are having this problem and we have asked the PO why? They tell us that only first class mail is forwarded and our mailings of the newsletter and *Journal* are not first class. The ALA mail sent to you when you are not at the address we use is being returned to the ALA. We have talked with the PO and there is nothing we can do in order to avoid the return and have it sent on to your other residence.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could contact Mary Shepherd and let her know when you will not be at the mailing address on file with the ALA. Mary can then arrange to forward all mail returned to the ALA to your second address.

Telephone: (866) 865-8500

Email: maryshepherd.ala@gmail.com



continued from page 1

for Norfolk. In the watercolor Lincoln stands in the foreground, towering over those around him. Kaiser's placement of Lincoln at the center of the scene captures the actions Lincoln took to ensure that Norfolk would be taken. Indeed, some witnesses recounted how Lincoln ran back and forth giving orders for troops to move, taking charge of the situation. The *Monitor* sits offshore in the upper right, while the menace of the *Virginia* can be seen in the distance.

Reflecting on this expedition, Secretary Chase wrote, "So has ended a brilliant week's campaign of the President; for I think it quite certain that, if he had not come down, Norfolk would still have been in possession of the enemy, and the 'Merrimac' as grim and defiant and as much a terror as ever."⁶ Others agreed. "It is extremely fortunate that the President came down as he did -- he seems to have infused new life into everything, even the superannuated old fogies begin to shew signs of life & animation," wrote the *Monitor's* paymaster William F. Keeler.⁷

By the end of this visit, Lincoln's demeanor and appearance had changed noticeably. As his vessel steamed by the *Monitor* on May 11, Keeler observed the president "had his hat off bowing, appearing highly pleased at the successful result of his plans."⁸

The views expressed in this work do not necessarily represent the views of the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, or the United States Government, of which Dr. Holloway is an employee.

Endnotes

¹Salmon P. Chase to Janet "Nettie" Chase, May 7, 1862, in John Niven, et al., eds., *The Salmon P. Chase Papers*, 5 vols. (Kent, Ohio: Kent State Univ. Press, 1993-1998), 3:186-87.

²William F. Keeler to Anna, May 7, 1862, in Robert W. Daly, ed., *Aboard the USS Monitor: 1862: The Letters of Acting Paymaster William Frederick Keeler, U.S. Navy, to His Wife, Anna* (Annapolis: United States Naval Institute, 1964), 106.

³Chase to Nettie, May 8, 1862, in *ibid.*, 189-90.

⁴William Lee Monegan to Joseph Monegan, May 7, 1862, William Monegan Papers (MS0014), The Mariners' Museum Library, Newport News, Virginia.

⁵Cannon, *Personal Reminiscences*, 161-68.

⁶Chase to Nettie, May 11, 1862, in Niven, *Chase Papers*, 3:197.

⁷Keeler to Anna, May 9, 1862, in Daly, *Aboard the USS Monitor*, 115.

⁸Keeler to Anna, May 12, 1862, in Daly, *Aboard the USS Monitor*, 121.

Anna Gibson Holloway is the National Park Service's maritime historian with the Park History Program in Washington, D.C. and is a leading expert on the Civil War iron-clad USS Monitor.

Jonathan W. White is associate professor of American Studies at Christopher Newport University and a senior fellow with CNU's Center for American Studies. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association.

Holloway and White are authors of "Our Little Monitor": The Greatest Invention of the Civil War. (Kent State University Press in Fall 2017).

“Little Eddie” Poem Found in St. Louis Newspaper

By Mark B. Pohlad

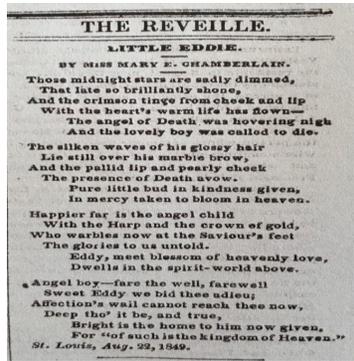


Days after the death of the Lincolns' second son, Edward Baker Lincoln (March 10, 1846 - February 1, 1850), a poem appeared in the Springfield *Illinois Daily Journal* [*IDJ*]. “Little Eddie” was long assumed to have been written by the Lincolns or someone close to them. But in “Solving a Lincoln Literary Mystery: ‘Little Eddie,’” (*Journal of the ALA*, Summer 2012), Samuel P. Wheeler (now the Illinois state historian) demonstrated that it was actually written by a young St. Louis poet, Mary E. Chamberlain (1832-1887). He observed that the same poem appeared two years *after* Eddy’s death as “Eddie” in her poetry book *Sunset Gleams from the City of the Mounds* (New York, 1852), published under the pseudonym “Ethel Grey.” The poem was now definitively and exclusively attributed to Chamberlain.

To explain how it had appeared two years earlier in Springfield, Wheeler conjectured that it had been printed in a St. Louis newspaper at some time preceding Eddy’s death. The Lincolns or a friend must have seen the poem and reprinted it in the *IDJ*. The words “By Request-” above the title of the poem suggested as much.

This theory has now been proven correct. A full five months before Eddy’s passing, “Little Eddie” appeared on the front page of a St. Louis newspaper, *The Daily Reveille*, on Tuesday morning, August 28, 1849.

There are textual differences between the way the poem appeared in the *Reveille* and how it was published in the *IDJ*. Some of those differences involve minor punctuation and spelling corrections. Other errors are newly introduced. “Angel of death” in the *Reveille* becomes “angel death” in *IDJ* (and later “Angel of Death” in *Sunset Gleams*). “Meet” -- a misspelling of the word “meek” -- appears in both newspaper versions, and is only corrected two years later in *Sunset Gleams*. Most disconcertingly, there are different spellings of “Eddie/Eddy” even within the *Reveille* poem. In the *IDJ* version, this error was corrected and “Eddie” made consistent. It



The Daily Reveille, Tuesday, August 28, 1849
Photo courtesy of *The Newberry Library*

is worth remembering that the Lincolns spelled their son’s name “Eddy.” Had they wanted to link the poem specifically to their son, they might have insisted that it be printed that way. It is possible, however, that no one besides themselves knew exactly how his name was spelled.

How and where could anyone in Springfield have seen Chamberlain’s poem? It seems that neither the Lincolns nor anyone in their circle were in St. Louis at the time “Little Eddie” appeared in the *Reveille*. Even so, newspapers were mailed and regularly traveled outside their regions, and distant newspaper offices naturally accumulated them. Thus, the editor of the *IDJ*, Simeon Francis, is a likely candidate to have seen and borrowed Chamberlain’s poem, as Wheeler notes. But Lincoln himself spent a great deal of time in Francis’s newspaper office and may have come across it as well. In any case, at some point during the boy’s long decline someone saw the poem and, startled to see the same name, made a mental note. It is also possible that the poem was reprinted in a different newspaper after its appearance in the *Reveille*, on a date closer to Eddy’s death. In any case, having seen it, the Springfield reader was then able to produce it once the boy passed.

If it were Lincoln himself who saw the poem in the *Reveille*, it would not have been the first time he had become attached to verse he had seen in popular print. What would become his favorite poem, William Knox’s “Immortality” (“Oh! why should the spirit of mortal be proud?”), he saw “in a straggling form in a newspaper.” Lincoln’s choice of words suggests he knew that newspapers were generally unreliable in reprinting poems, as we saw above.

Still, poetry was highly valued by newspaper readers in Lincoln’s time. Verse regu-

larly appeared in nearly every American newspaper, large or small, including the *IDJ*. Much of this poetry was borrowed from other published sources and dealt with love, history, travel, virtue, patriotism, and especially death. The vast number of eulogistic poems that appeared in the newspapers of the period suggests that writing a poem -- or having one reprinted -- after the death of a loved one was a conventional way to mourn.

Many of Chamberlain’s poems were addressed to specific persons; their titles bear the first names of friends and relatives. “Little Eddie” was most likely inspired by the death of her own younger brother as implied in the introduction and in other poems in *Sunset Gleams*. Few families during this time did not suffer some losses, particularly of children. But the Chamberlains were especially stricken and lost several family members, including “little Eddie,” in St. Louis’s terrible “Cholera Summer” of 1849.

A fascinating but unknown Victorian author, Chamberlain had been writing accomplished and publishable poetry since she was 12 years old. Later, as “M. E. C. Wyeth,” she was a renowned writer of poetry, fiction, and religious and juvenile literature. Her work was regularly published alongside authors such as Louisa May Alcott, Sarah Orne Jewett, and William Cullen Bryant. Indeed, *Sunset Gleams* was the first book of poetry written by a woman west of the Mississippi.

Chamberlain never knew how much her poem meant to the Lincolns. But their shared experience of the loss of a young family member linked them in grief. Her authorship of the poem, and its appropriation from *The Daily Reveille* to the *Illinois Daily Journal*, reminds us that in mid-19th-century America, public mourning, like so much else, was intimately bound up with newspaper publishing.

Lincoln’s grief over the deaths of his children has become legendary. After Eddy’s death, Abraham told a friend that if he “had 20 children he could never cease to sorrow for that one.” The poem “Little Eddie” gave voice to that sorrow for Lincoln, even though its words had been penned by a heartbroken teenage girl from St. Louis.

Mark Pohlad is an associate professor of history at DePaul University. His research interests include art and photography associated with Abraham Lincoln.

Where is Mary Lincoln's Memoir?

By Kerry Ellard



On October 15, 1872, shortly after the first anniversary of her son Tad's death, Mary Lincoln wrote a letter to William Reid.¹

About a year since, in the midst of my overwhelming bereavement, I received a note from you, notifying me that our kind old friend Dr. Smith of Dundee, had left quite a number of papers relative to my husband, in your charge for me. I have transferred these papers to the Hon Isaac N. Arnold of Chicago, Ill, and you will kindly oblige, by immediately forwarding them to him.

Mary's pursuit of these papers continued for some time, as she wrote to Arnold on January 18, 1873.² Arnold was working on books about Lincoln at the time, and these were presumably to help him with his research.³

I am quite anxious to learn whether you have received the papers from Scotland. Unfortunately the letter Mr Reid wrote me sixteen months since, when my mind was so deeply agonized, that I was unable to cast a thought upon anything save my terrible bereavement -- that letter must have been carelessly tossed aside ... Yet I cannot realise that Mr. Reid *left to himself* -- would act otherwise than in good faith -- should he have received our letters.

Dr. James Smith had been the Lincolns' pastor in Springfield, and President Lincoln had appointed him to the Dundee consulate. He spent time with Mary and Tad when they lived in Europe in 1870, and corresponded with her before and after the visit. In letters sent in June 1870, Mary had provided commentary to Smith regarding his defense of Lincoln's religion and marriage in response to assertions made by William Herndon.⁴ In 1871, Smith died eleven days before Tad did.

According to an 1890 book, Reid was a "capitalist and Banker" from Dundee, Scotland.⁵ After taking a "literary course," he was admitted to the bar in 1867, and "acted as counsel for the United States for several American claim-

ants under the Alabama treaty." The biographical sketch noted that "While employed on this work he was appointed by President Grant as United States Consul at Dundee, and held the office at that port until his removal to Oregon in 1874," at which point he permanently relocated to Portland.

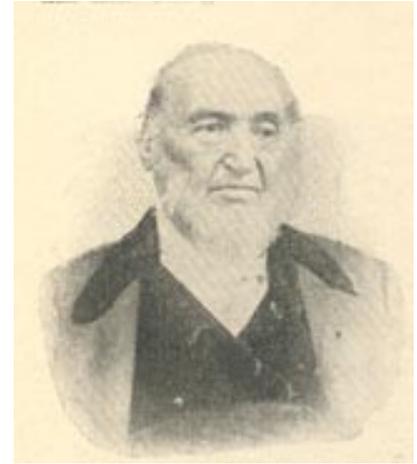
But the most interesting sentence of the sketch was the following: "In 1868 he was employed by Mrs. Mary Lincoln, widow of the President, to assist in the preparation of the *Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln*." An 1886 biography reiterated the claim: "While at Dundee he met Mrs Lincoln ... and performing for her some literary service, was rewarded by the appointment of U. S. vice-consul at Dundee ..."⁶

Though Mary was overwhelmed with grief after the assassination, there is evidence that she desired to tell her side of the story. In a letter written to a book publisher, she turned down the offer, yet implied that if her circumstances improved, she might give in to the "temptation."⁷

The temptation to me is sometimes very great that many incidents that occurred in so momentous a time, under my immediate notice, connected with my beloved husband & the country, should be truthfully placed before the public... It will be impossible for me, under present circumstances, to subject myself the annoyance of public clamor.⁷

One month later, the unexpected publication of *Behind the Scenes* by her friend and seamstress Elizabeth Keckly may have intensified this desire. From the time of the Old Clothes scandal in 1867, through 1870, periodic newspaper reports appeared that Mary was working on a book. Their truth cannot be ascertained. Mary could have been introduced to Reid via letter by Dr. Smith as early as late 1868, when she arrived in Europe. Reid's "literary" training and close relationship with the trusted Dr. Smith may have made him attractive as a ghostwriter. Tad's death in July 1871 may have ended Mary's interest in publishing the work.

William Reid died in 1914,⁸ but he had given an interesting interview to the *Oregonian* a few years earlier, on June 18, 1911.



Dr. James Smith

Mary Todd Lincoln ... is shown by letters in the possession of William Reid, a Portland attorney, to have been an ardent supporter of the Union and as having abundant faith in Mr. Lincoln's ability and justice. The letters, which the local attorney will not have published until after his death, were written in a series covering several years, while Mr. Reid was engaged in writing "The *Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln*," materials for which Mrs. Lincoln furnished. More than 40 years ago, when Mrs. Lincoln and her son were residing in Europe, Mr. Reid and Rev. M. Smith, American Consul, were asked by Mrs. Lincoln to write a book on Mr. Lincoln's life. She supplied the material ... Later the work was turned over to Mr. Reid.

The article quoted Reid as saying "Mrs. Lincoln ... while living herself in Germany, frequently crossed to Dundee to examine Dr. Smith's manuscripts so I frequently saw her ... Dr. Smith ... she said she had two sons who were rabid secessionists and had joined the confederate army. She feared that, as Dr. Smith's wife backed her sons, an attempt might be made to stop the publication of the *reminiscences* if Dr. Smith died. So she authorized me and so did the Doctor, to finish the work there at Dundee, where I was practising law. In the interval she promised me and faithfully did forward from Germany new sources of material."

What happened to the work "turned over" to Mr. Reid? If he was telling the truth, in 1911 he still had the letters that had been the basis of the work, but the letters have not come to light.

Reid wrote a letter to *The Oregon Daily Journal* in 1912, mentioning that he was

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

“one of the authors of the ‘Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln,’ through his widow’s desire while a young man in Scotland.” While Reid did use this association in a self promotional way, he first mentioned it while Mary Lincoln was still alive. A letter from “Hon. William Reid, U. S. Consul at Dundee, Scotland,” was copied from an article in the *Oregonian*, dated March 4, 1874, and published in the *Illinois State Journal* on May 16, 1874. It is likely that someone connected to Abraham Lincoln had asked Reid to write this letter, which mostly defended Lincoln against charges of being an infidel.

...knowing Mrs. Lincoln personally, having been in correspondence with that Lady, and having also been of some assistance in a work entitled ‘Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln’... I am proud to think I have in my possession-- as a reward for a few insignificant services done by me on account of Mrs. Lincoln -- the great and Martyred President’s psalm book.

A word before I close, as to Mrs. Lincoln. She is a lady of great merit, and in spite of Herndon’s mad expression to the contrary, was dearly loved by the President, as letters to her will show...

Thus, Reid first spoke of his work in 1874, and implied that letters written by Abraham Lincoln to his wife would be included in the work. Interestingly, he minimized this work as “a few insignificant services,” perhaps because Mary did not want the project known in the Springfield community.

On March 7, 1915, *The Oregon Daily Journal* reported that Reid had been survived by five children and his widow. Reid’s two daughters gave the psalm book Reid had received from Mary to a Lincoln collector, Rev. William Johnstone of St. Paul. Johnstone learned that they had possession of Reid’s papers, but he seems to have been so excited about the psalm book that he did not inquire about them. Inquiries to Reid’s descendants are pending. It is interesting that Reid repeatedly referred to the work as though it was a finished and known draft. William Johnstone believed it became the identically named compilation by Allen Thorndike Rice (NY, 1886), but the works seem unrelated, and no essay by Reid appears in the Rice volume. Perhaps Mary’s version of those “many inci-

dents that occurred in so momentous a time, under my immediate notice connected with my very beloved husband,” will be discovered some day.

Endnotes

- ¹ <https://www.rrauction.com/PastAuctionItem/3281901>, sold in Jan. 2013.
- ² Justin G. Turner and Linda Levitt Turner, *Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1972), 602-603. Turner and Turner’s footnote mistakenly identified ‘Mr. Reid’ as Rev. James A. Reed of Springfield.
- ³ The Chicago Historical Museum did not know of any references to Reid.
- ⁴ Turner and Turner, 564-569.
- ⁵ Harvey Scott, *History of Portland, Oregon with illustrations and biographical sketches of prominent citizens and pioneers* (Syracuse, N.Y.: D. Mason & Co., 1890).
- ⁶ Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of Oregon*, 2 v. (San Francisco: History Co., 1886-88), 1: 788.
- ⁷ Mary Lincoln to A. D. Worthington, March 7, 1868. <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/collections>
- ⁸ *The Oregon Daily Journal*, June 8, 1914.

Kerry Ellard, an attorney in Watertown, Massachusetts, is an independent historical researcher.



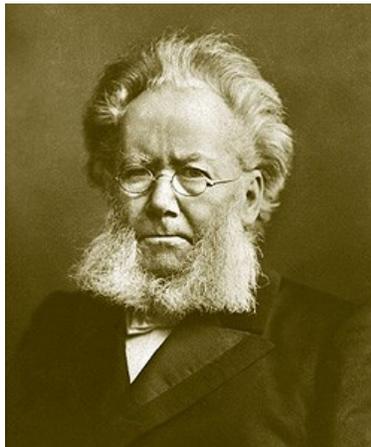
Nordic News Notes

Henrik Ibsen

Norway’s greatest dramatist, Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906), had no connection to Lincoln ... or so we thought. Thanks to Chuck Hand, collector and dealer in Paris, Illinois, for spotting a reprint of Ibsen’s 1865 poem on Lincoln’s death, written from Rome. Its first appearance in English (translated by Theodore Jorgenson) came in 1957, for *In the Mountain Wilderness and Other Works*, a book of Ibseniana edited at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. The 81 lines address European reactions to the assassination more than the man himself, yet here is one of Europe’s greatest minds giving immediate expression to North America’s greatest tragedy. “... came this shot in the silence and calm, / And a lonely man had to die,” to bring about a judgment day for Europe, in Ibsen’s view. No Lincolnist seems ever to have noticed this poem.

Nicolai Christian Dalhoff

Perhaps relatedly, an activist Lutheran minister, Nicolai Christian Dalhoff (1843-1927), abridged a lengthy book by Noah Brooks, *Abraham Lincoln and the Down*



Henrik Ibsen

fall of American Slavery (1900), and introduced it under the title *Her er ikke træl og fri! En Fortælling om Abraham Lincoln og Neger-slavernes Frigørelse* (“Here is Neither Serf nor Free: A Narrative about Abraham Lincoln and the Liberation of Negro Slaves”). Jay Monaghan’s 1943 bibliography (No. 3852) identified these 48 pages as Norwegian, published in 1890. In fact, Dalhoff wrote in Danish, publishing in 1901 or 1902. In 1934 the pamphlet was mailed from Paris, France,

to Henry Horner, governor of Illinois, by Worthington Chauncey Ford, the great Brooklyn / Boston editor and historian of Americana. Ford had just bought it from a Copenhagen dealer and sent it in hopes that “it will form a rare and even unique item among Lincoln collectors.” Now at the ALPLM, it remains the only known copy.

Thanks to Springfield resident and native Dane Henrik Rasmussen, we now learn that the pamphlet’s first owner, Eduard Melbye, was a fellow crusader in southern Denmark with Dalhoff for women’s rights and kinder treatment of the mentally ill. Moreover, Dalhoff’s father had served as goldsmith to Denmark’s Frederick VII, to whom Lincoln in 1861 sent a pair of engraved Colt revolvers (now on view at the Royal Danish Treasury, Rosenborg Castle).

Perhaps that gift was the first occasion on which the teen Nicolai heard of the great American leader; and possibly Ibsen’s poem, printed in a Danish newspaper in 1865, was the second.

-- James M. Cornelius, Editor

Summer Tour of the Eighth Judicial Circuit



Thanks to the initiative and leadership of Nancy Chapin and the masterful narration of Guy Fraker, members and friends of the ALA toured the western portion of Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit on June 24. The wonderful day of touring included a stop at the Logan County Court House in Mt. Pulaski where the happy tourists were photographed.



Still standing where Lincoln crossed a county line in the 1840s is one of the Circuit Markers placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1922.

Welcome New Members

Our membership continues to grow and we welcome our twelve new members from eight states. We thank them for joining and hope that they will enjoy their association with the Abraham Lincoln association. If you are not a member or have a friend who might enjoy being a member, we invite you to join by using the form below or online. It makes a great gift to a friend or family member.

James Blank
Atlanta, Illinois

Pam and James Brown
Naples, Florida

David C. Bruce
South Yarmouth, Massachusetts

Ingamarie Northrip
Ballwin, Missouri

Lois M. Jazo
Pawnee, Illinois

Douglas Key
Albuquerque, New Mexico

John M. McKee
Shiloh, Illinois

Mark Pohlrad
Chicago, Illinois

Rebecca L. Pruitt
Springfield, Illinois

Julie Richards
Menlo Park, California

Elizabeth Schuh
Bismarck, North Dakota

Michael Woods
Huntington, West Virginia

Join Today Using the Form Below or Online!

Mail this form (or a photocopy)
and a check to:
The Abraham Lincoln Association
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Student.....\$25

Railsplitter.....\$50

Postmaster.....\$100

Lawyer.....\$250

Congressman.....\$500

President.....\$1,000

Benefits of Membership:

Receive the *Journal* twice a year.

Receive the *For The People* newsletter four times a year.

Receive periodic discounts on certain books and Lincoln related items.

Support the annual Lincoln Day Symposium (Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium)

Support ALA projects such as the restoration of the original entrance to Oak Ridge Cemetery where Lincoln is buried and the furnishing of the Old State Capitol.

Enjoy special tours and lectures sponsored by the ALA.

join online at
www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org

FOR THE PEOPLE

The Abraham Lincoln Association
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Springfield, Illinois
Permit No. 263

Return Service Requested



Thomas Lincoln Reconsidered



On Friday June 23, 2017, Dick Hart (center) moderated a panel of 6 to discuss the life of Thomas Lincoln, cabinet-maker, farmer, and father of the president. The 90-minute discussion was held before a standing-room-only crowd at the 1837 Elijah Iles House in Springfield.

Panelists were Steve Haaff, Bill Bartelt, Dale Ogden, Brian Dirck, and Matthew Mittelstaedt – all but the last of them traveling from Indiana for the event. Hart and Bartelt are directors of the ALA, which co-sponsored the event.

A video of the discussion may be seen at:
<http://bit.ly/tomlincoln>

On the evening of June 23, about 100 people gathered in the Museum of Springfield History at the Elijah Iles House in Springfield for a panel discussion and reconsideration of the life of Thomas Lincoln.