



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 1

SPRING 2023

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

www.abrahamlincolnnassociation.org

Lincoln and Lord Hartington

By Allen Guelzo

On February 15, 1880, the *New-York Tribune* ran a short piece entitled “Lincoln and Lord Hartington,” excerpted from a lecture given by Schuyler Colfax a few days before in Indianapolis:

The Hon. Schuyler Colfax, in his lecture the other night, told a new story and a good one. The Marquis of Hartington, present leader of the English Liberal party, was traveling in this country during the war, and while here made a semi-official call on President Lincoln. He was introduced to honest old Abe in the White House with some ceremony, but Mr. Lincoln grasped the hand of the Marquis with his broad hand, closed a grip on it that brought the tears to the Englishman's eyes, and said in a cheery voice: “Glad to see you, marquis of Hartington. Shall never forget you, because your name rhymes with one of our great characters—Mrs. Partington! How are you, Marquis?” and he gave Hartington another squeeze; after which my Lord left the executive chamber nursing his hand and his temper, declaring to a friend that “your American President is a boor!”

The secret of the President's action was that the Marquis had appeared at a ball in New-York a few nights before his visit to Washington and ostentatiously wore the rebel colors in his button-hole. The incident was published, and the President, knowing the Marquis was to call at the White House, concluded to give the haughty but ill-bred Englishman a puncture that he would get through even his Bull-hide. And he did.

It was a funny story, and one of many similar stories supposedly told by Lincoln. Colfax, however, had more than the usual claim to first-hand knowledge. Born in New York in 1823 and raised in Indiana, Colfax was elected to Congress in 1854 on the same wave of anti-Kansas-Nebraska sentiment that had energized Lincoln's political ascent, and was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1863. He cast the final vote in favor of the 13th Amendment in 1865, and was the last politician to meet with Lincoln on April 14, 1865.

After Lincoln's death, Colfax composed a moving eulogy on the “Life and Principles of Abraham Lincoln,” which was then published in David B. Williamson's *Illustrated Life, Services, Martyrdom, and Funeral of Abraham Lincoln* (1865), but the eulogy did not contain the Hartington story. Colfax left the House in 1869 to serve as Ulysses Grant's vice-president from 1869 to 1873, and in 1875 went on the lecture circuit with a new two-hour Lincoln lecture, “The Life and Character of Abraham Lincoln,” which proved very popular and now featured the Hartington story. No full text seems to have survived in Colfax's papers in the Library of Congress or the Indiana State Library, although synopses of the lecture appeared in various places where he delivered it. The *Indianapolis Journal* provided a synopsis of his “celebrated lecture” on the occasion of its delivery at the Central Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church in Indianapolis on February 9, 1880. The church (according to the *Indianapolis News*) “was crowded ... with a very fine audience,” and the lecture was delivered “in Mr. Colfax's usual forcible style.” The *News* printed the Hartington

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Join Us at Cantigny Park on Saturday 17 June

By William G. Shepherd, ALA Vice-president

The Abraham Lincoln Association will host a free one-day Summer Symposium on Saturday 17 June 2023, at Cantigny Park, located in Wheaton, Illinois. The theme of the Symposium will be the increased use and availability of original or primary sources in scholarship and publications about Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. The speakers at the Symposium will include Lincoln scholar and ALA President Michael Burlingame as well as other leading authors who make use of the letters, diaries, and other first-hand accounts in their books, blogs, and articles.

Cantigny Park (30 miles west of the Loop) is a privately held property that includes the ancestral home of Joseph Medill and Robert R. McCormick, Jr., plus the “Big Red One” Museum that commemorates the history of the First Army Division from World War One to the present. Please register at abrahamlincolnnassociation.org and learn further details.

Prairie Winter, 1860: A Visit to Springfield

By Scott T. Schroeder, an ALA Director

As the season passes to spring, many will be happy to say goodbye to winter. A winter, particularly on the prairie, is easy to take for granted. Not so for sculptor Thomas D. Jones. In December 1860, Jones traveled from his home in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Springfield, Illinois. His mission: to meet with and sculpt a bust of President-elect Abraham Lincoln.

Jones, while traveling by train, carefully observed the landscape as it rolled by. In a letter written on December 30th, he described what he had seen, as follows. (The transcribed passages here preserve the spelling, punctuation, grammatical errors, and vagaries in the original handwritten letter.)

“We soon struck the grand Prairie, which extends from Chicago to Cairo - and from the State line to Springfield - It was the first time I ever beheld a real Prairie, and even in winter, covered with snow, it is a rare scene - just enough of the brown dried grass, portrudeing through the snow to give it all the appearance of a sandy desert - skirted in the dim distance, with forest trees, which gives it a blue horizon - as though it dipped in the lake or Ocean - Sometimes a few stragglng trees would approach the Rail Road - and stand in clumps, or like groups of tall Bedouins or Berbers, waiting for their loved camels, to convey them to their long hoped for Meca - Most of the farm houses seemed to avoid the Rail Road, for what reason I could not conjecture - and they appeared gloomy enough - sometimes

Continued on p. 3

HARTINGTON, *cont'd from p. 1* excerpt in its February 11th issue. It was this text which the *New-York Tribune* then reprinted four days later.

The genesis of the Hartington story lies with Spencer Compton Cavendish, Marquess of Hartington and later the 8th Duke of Devonshire, who served in Parliament and in various British governments from 1857 until shortly before his death in 1908. Although Hartington was a Liberal, all of his sympathies ran toward the Confederacy. In 1862, he undertook a personal tour of the war-torn United States, arriving in New York on August 24th. From the first, however, he was in company with prominent Democrats and critics of the Lincoln administration, beginning with August Belmont. It was at a party in New York that “a lady suddenly pinned something to his coat” which Hartington did not at first recognize as “a rebel badge,” but he afterwards “wore these colors for her sake at a Ministerial reception.” Hartington travelled next to Montreal, then Washington, where he met Lincoln and came away unimpressed. “I should think he was a very well-meaning sort of a man,” Hartington wrote to his father, the 7th duke. But if he was not actually a “boor,” Lincoln was “about as fit for his position now as a fire shovel.”

Hartington toured the fortifications of Washington, visited Harpers Ferry a week after the battle of Antietam, then crossed into the Confederacy and visited Richmond on December 25th. He finally departed for England in February 1863, writing again that “The people here are so much more earnest about the thing than the North seems to be, that it is impossible not to go a good way with them.” By that time, however, stories were already circulating in the press – in the Wilmington (N.C.) *Daily Journal* (on December 28, 1862), the Buffalo *Commercial* (on December 13th), the Memphis *Daily Appeal* (on January 5th) and the Pittsburgh *Gazette* (on January 19th) — that Lincoln had made Hartington the butt of a joke at their meeting.

But what made this a joke? The “original Mrs. Partington” was a character mentioned almost in passing in a speech by the English clergyman and critic Sydney Smith in 1831 on the rejection of the great Reform Bill by the House of Lords.

Smith compared the Lords’ action to “the conduct of the excellent Mrs. Partington” who tried to opposed an Atlantic flood “with mop and pattens.” It was an American, however, who picked up “Mrs. Partington” and made her into a regular literary character. Benjamin P. Shillaber (1814-1890), who began writing humorous sketches for the Boston *Daily Post* in 1838, made the dim-witted character of “Ruth Partington” into “a regular Yankee institution” and an American version of Richard Brinsley Sheridan’s character Mrs. Malaprop, in *The Rivals*. (When asked how she enjoyed an oratorio, Mrs. Partington replied: “I liked everything about the Ontario but the consecutives; the corrosives I thought were sublimated, but the consecutives I thought was dreadfully out of tune.”)

Shillaber’s 1854 collection of *The Life and Sayings of Mrs. Partington and Others of the Family* sold 20,000 copies just in pre-publication orders. “Mrs. Partington” would go on to figure in political cartoons by Thomas Nast, as the forerunner of Mark Twain’s Aunt Polly (and Shillaber was the publisher of Twain’s first writing, in 1852), and in stage adaptations from *Apollo in New York* in 1854 to an operetta in 1884. Shillaber would add to her “sayings” in two further collections, *Partington Patchwork* in 1873 and *Ike Partington; or, The Adventures of a Human Boy and His Friends* (1879). Lincoln had evidently read something about Mrs. Partington, since he used the story of “old Mother Partington” and her broom in 1862 as a way of explaining to Ralph Emerson (1831-1914) of Rockford, Illinois, how determined he was to carry forward the war, “and we will see whether the storm or the broom will last the longest.” A year later, Lincoln deliberately confused Hartington and “Mrs. Partington” to let some of the stuffing out of Hartington’s pomposity. It is unclear whether Colfax was present at the time of Lincoln’s joke, but eighteen years later, he ensured that it would become part of the Lincoln literature.

Dr. Guelzo of Princeton University, an ALA director, applauds the generous assistance, so typical of the Lincoln fraternity, of Michelle Krowl, Michael Burlingame, and Jonathan White in compiling this article. The 9 footnotes to this essay are available on request.

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***Prairie Winter*, cont'd from p. 2**

like Arab tents pitched for the night - in only two or three places did I see any effort made to cultivate shade trees, to lend their grateful shade in summer, or to brake the force of storms in winter - with all of their heaped up and over flowing corn-cribs, standing near the Rail Roads, there was all the appearance of squalid magnificence of plenty - such may seem a paradox, but it is too true - These western Prairies are no doubt glorious in summer - but there is much to attract one's attention in winter - The general appearance of the Prairie, is that of the broad dead swells of the Ocean after a heavy storm, as though the Great auther had crystalized the waves or dead swells of some inland lake or sea - Earthquakes may have formed them, in those grand undulating lines, but be it as it may, they have no ordinary attraction for me even on a snowy day in winter - as we approached Springfield, there was just space enough between the clouds and the horizon to see a sunset on the Prairie - I have never witnessed such a glorious sight! Not even on our lakes, or the Ocean - The last golden glances of the God of day, as he bid us good night, penetrated my very soul - I shall not attempt to describe them - but they shall ever live in my remembrance -"

Near the conclusion of his letter, Jones added the following about what was thus far only a short stay in Springfield: "We are having glorious winter weather, sleighing for a week past - moonlight nights, laughing girls - sweet voices -"

Jones had arrived in Springfield at 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Day. His first order of business was to send word to Mr. Lincoln of his arrival and to settle on a time to meet with the recently elected President. He got a quick response. With his letters of introduction in hand, he met with Lincoln the next day. Jones remarked that while first observing Lincoln he was reminded of language that R. C. Parsons, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Ohio, had used: "I was astounded at the man's simplicity & modesty." Jones also expressed his own impressions, writing: "He is the man for the hour - and that includes all that can

be said of anyone - He reminds me of a rough block, of the old red primitive sand-stone - thoroughly tried by fire, and capable of enduring much more - The Union may be divided, before he is inaugurated, but he is the political Vulcan that will weld it together again - at least, as far as I have been able to infer from his conversation, - his mind is fully made up on that point - He has all the positive qualities of a Statesman and Soldier, combined with the firmness of a Jackson, and the clear perception of a Clay - He will be president of thirty-three States, and nothing less. That is his ultimatum, let demagogues wheedle one another as much as they may, what Lincoln swears to do, he will execute to the full letter of the law and the Constitution."

Another matter of early importance for Jones was to find a place to stay and to work. He found a room at the St. Nicholas Hotel, 4th and Jefferson, which he referred to as "the best and cleanest House in town." (Convenient for Lincoln, it was one block north of his president-elect office at 4th and Washington.) The work of sculpting the President-elect began by making several studies of Lincoln's head and face. Jones, owing to Lincoln's hard and ruggedly lined face, described him as "by far the most difficult subject I have ever encountered."

But when Lincoln was told a good story or anecdote, his face would come alive, according to Jones.

It was that image of Mr. Lincoln's face that Jones endeavored to capture. *Continued on p. 7*

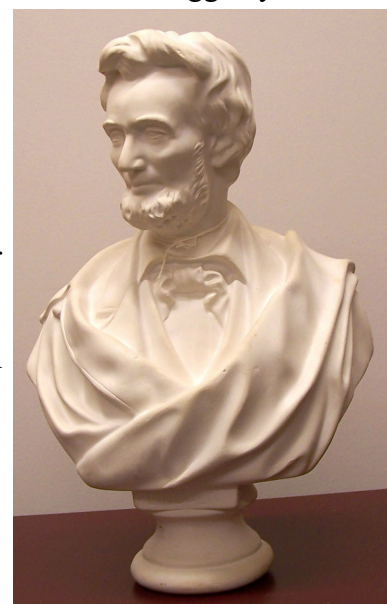


Image courtesy of the ALPLM

Lincoln's 214th Birthday Celebration



*Banquet Speaker Sidney Blumenthal on Lincoln, 1860-63;
below, with wife Jackie Blumenthal*



Bob Stuart, Doug Barringer, & Jeanne Heaton



Ian Iverson, Hay-Nicolay winner; Michael Burlingame



All six authors signing books for the symposium attendees



Mary Patton with Paula Pugh Romanaux and William Furry

All photographs by Dave Blanchette. On p. 8: Idahoan David Leroy with Minnesotan Ian Iverson, the Dissertation Prize winner for 2022.

The ALA 2023 Symposium and Banquet



Symposium Panel: Michael Burlingame, Ed Achorn, Michael Green, Terry Alford, & Jonathan White



Sarah Thomas, Roy Wehrle



Mark Pohl, Erin Mast



12th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield Brian Burgess and Denise Burgess



Naomi Lynn, Vicki Megginson, & Brynn Henderson

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Eagle Scout Tyler Hall



Tim Good with Kent and Sue Massie



The western territory of the busy banquet room

Barbara Dinkel, *cont'd from p. 8* Evidently Valentine made enough money to purchase real estate on May 26, 1847, and January 24, 1848. His property stretched 40 feet wide on the south side of Edwards Street and 120 feet deep along the east property line facing the alley. Thus, the Dinkels resided in the third building east of Eighth Street and the south side of Edwards, a block from the Lincolns. But Barbara soon became a widow, on February 4, 1849, when Valentine died, leaving her with three young children: Philip, born June 29, 1845; George Jasper, December 28, 1846; and Mary, born January 25, 1849. Barbara bought Lot 142 in Hutchinson Cemetery and buried her husband there. When the Dinkel house finally received an identification number (ca. 1865), it became 812 East Edwards. A sizable structure, it was valued at \$1,000 in 1860.

With a 10-day-old baby girl to nurse and two very young boys to raise, Barbara rented out a room in her home and cleaned others' houses, took in laundry, etc., yet she never neglected the education of her boys. Barbara later declared that she could read, write, and speak English. Sadly, probably from financial difficulty in her family, Mary Dinkel at the tender age of 15 married Charles Steffen, on July 16, 1864. George H. Dinkel (of the next generation) later stated that Philip began to labor outside his home at the age of 15 or younger. Somehow, Philip later managed to study for the ministry at the Chicago Theological Seminary. Barbara's mighty efforts to see that her boys received a satisfactory education paid off very well. From an actual letter by George Jasper to President Lincoln, we can see that he, too, could write very well. In fact, he would later become Deputy Grand Master of all the Masons in New Mexico, a position requiring much correspondence.

Although Mary Lincoln could act quite uppity toward certain women whom she considered social rivals or someone she considered below her situation in life, she deployed great empathy toward those of her sex who struggled under adverse conditions, especially mothers. It also helped the downtrodden if they looked up to her with a large degree of admiration or deference. Widow Dinkel certainly learned quickly to portray herself in that category. According to direct Dinkel descendants, Barbara was quite often in the Lincoln house, performing chores or simply visiting; remember that her son Philip lived there. It is said that the women baked bread together in one place or the other and did canning, etc., for the coming winter months. While thus occupied, it was the kitchen where they sat together and talked.

When the Lincolns broke up housekeeping on February 8th, 1861, they rented their place to Lucian Tilton, a railroad official, for \$350 a year. After receiving a promotion, Mr. Tilton and family moved to Chicago on May 1st, 1869. With them went the large number of Lincoln furniture pieces that Tilton had purchased. Those priceless pieces went up in smoke on October 8, 1871, when the great Chicago Fire destroyed their home. Thus, a huge portion of the Lincoln home furnishings were lost forever. Only a few items survive through the descendants of other buyers. Luckily, the large, new cookstove remained in the Lincoln Home, where it stands today.

In a gesture of kindness before leaving town in 1861, Mary Lincoln gave Barbara Dinkel a chair from the kitchen where they had often shared hours of work and conversation. That chair became a sacred relic to the Dinkel family, who cherish it as proof of their close association to the immortal Lincoln. It has passed down through all the generations of their family. The oldest son, Philip, died on October 25, 1865, without leaving a wife or children. Thus, George Jasper Dinkel came into possession of the kitchen chair. He married Lydia Jennie Conant on March 17, 1868, in Springfield; she died on August 22, 1886, without having had children.

George took a second wife on December 4, 1888, Emma Emily Cummings, who was 22 and George 42. They quickly produced three offspring: Emma H., born in 1889; George J., Jr., in 1891; and Katherine in 1894. George, Sr., died on July 3, 1909, and the antique chair of historical significance passed to George Jasper Dinkel, Jr. From him it went to John Leroy Dinkel (born 1923); then to his son George Gardner Dinkel (born 1957); and then to Olivia (Dinkel) Kimmich (born 1988) and her siblings, Bowie (1984) and Roxanne (1985). Olivia, of Canoga Park, California, now acts as the family historian and has its collections of manuscripts, etc. So the famous chair has passed down in a straight line from Barbara Dinkel.

It has a faint goldleaf pattern on the legs and back rungs. Just like its first Dinkel owner, it has done its share of work, as one family member used the Lincoln chair to hold up one end of a legless ironing board while its other end was placed on a table.

This artifact tells us the type of chairs that stood in the Lincoln kitchen. Previously, we knew only about the furniture of three other rooms on the first floor. In December 1860 *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* showed the Sitting Room, the Front Parlor, and the Back Parlor. All illustrations were finely drawn by their special artist while the house was still intact. Today, that kitchen chair is not only a wonderful heirloom, but also a vital clue to how the Lincoln kitchen was furnished and who worked there.

— Wayne C. 'Doc' Temple turned 99 on 5 February 2023. He received more than 100 cards, including proclamations from the Governor, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the White House.



The chair's seat is now reupholstered with needlepoint, but the underside is original. Photo taken in Kimmich family home in Canoga Park, California, 2022.



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Joe Garrera, ALA Membership chair, urges you to join! The most important part of our organization are our members, who make all activities and publications possible.

A membership can also make a fine gift — for a Holiday, for a birthday, or for a young person's graduation. If you have already renewed for 2023, we warmly thank you. *-Joe*

Prairie Winter, *cont'd from p. 3* Jones began the clay work for his sculpture on New Year's Day, 1861. It had been arranged that Lincoln would spend one hour each morning sitting for the sculptor. Lincoln's visits, however, were not regular. And when he did come, he was not always on time. The endless parade of visiting dignitaries and well-wishers often drew him away. In the end, Jones spent about six weeks meeting as regularly as possible with Lincoln. He worked right up until the time Lincoln

left for Washington on February 11th.

Jones remained in Springfield for some time after Lincoln departed, still working on the bust. Many copies of the finished bust now reside in institutions and collections across the country. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield has several copies in its collection. An origi-

nal marble version of the bust is on display in the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio.

Jones's letter, on which much of this article was based, was addressed only to "My Dear Friend." The names of Thomas McMillan and William Linn McMillen have been put forward as potential recipients of the letter. The letter currently resides in the collection of Indiana University's Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana.

Select Sources:

Cecil K. Byrd. "Some Notes on Thomas D. Jones, Sculptor of Lincoln." *The Indiana University Bookman*. No. 2 (November 1957): 26-37.

Thomas D. Jones to "My Dear Friend," St. Nicholas Hotel, Springfield, Ill., 30 December 1860. Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

Thomas D. Jones. "Recollections of Mr. Lincoln." *Cincinnati Commercial* (Cincinnati, Oh), 18 October 1871.

Wayne C. Temple. "Abraham Lincoln and Others at the St. Nicholas." *Lincoln Herald*, vol. 70, no. 2 (Summer 1968): 79-124; and as a 48-page booklet.



Lloyd Ostendorf's 1968 drawing depicts Lincoln posing for sculptor Thomas D. Jones at the St. Nicholas Hotel in Springfield, Ill., in early 1861. (Author's collection / cover of Temple booklet.)

ALA Treasurer Donald Graham, M.D., read from his great-grandfather James Graham's 1913 speech to Congress on Mr. Lincoln's actual 214th birthday, 12 Feb. 2023. Venue? The congressman's own 1862 home, which faces today's Lincoln Home Visitor Center on 7th St. in Springfield. The event was a fundraiser for the ALA's endowment and proved to be a popular, gustatory, and historical success. Thanks to Don and Pat Graham and to homeowner Todd Elmore, M.D.

Photo by Jim Patton





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A Chair from Mary Lincoln's Kitchen

By Wayne C. Temple

Among the Lincolns' near neighbors, at 812 East Edwards, were the Dinkels, one block from 8th and Jackson. Until recently, very little had been known about them. Some writers mention that Abraham had drafted a couple of personal checks to widow Barbara Dinkel and that her oldest son, Philip, was listed in the 1860 U.S. Census as a servant residing with the Lincolns. In 1860 the Lincolns needed domestic help, since the head of household was a presidential candidate, and Robert Lincoln had gone away to college.

There was also a young black man, William H. Johnson, doing chores away from the home. He was seen about town at the post office, etc., but he did not reside at 8th and Jackson. Yet he stayed with Mrs. Lincoln, Willie, and Tad on the Inaugural Train to Washington. Both young Lincolns had to be watched carefully.

Philip Dinkel was not the only servant living-in during 1860. Mary Johnson, an 18-year-old white domestic, born in Illinois, also resided there in the maid's quarters above the kitchen. Mary Lincoln, since her 1842 marriage, had insisted upon a housemaid to help her with housekeeping. With her southern background, Mary grew up waited upon by servants, mostly slaves. The better-off Springfield families, even those with no southern connections, kept one, two, or even three servants. With Robert away, there was space for more domestics now, though in many cases Mary had difficulty in keeping one. It seems her temper ran them off quite often.

When Abraham discovered that his wife had not cooked or kept house as a young girl, he acquired some books to assist her. His motto was "Get the books and read them." On December 31, 1846, he went to the store of John Irwin & Co. and for 87 cents purchased two volumes by the noted author Miss Eliza Leslie: *Directions for Cookery ...* and *The House Book or, a Manual of Domestic Economy for Town and Country*. We do not know if Mary or her several maids made use of either book, but both were there.

Back to the Dinkel story. Barbara was born on September 12, 1824, western Germany, in Hohenacker, Kingdom of Württemberg, a region mostly Protestant in religion. During 1839 John and Margaretha Merckenthaler with their daughter Barbara migrated to the United States. Father John gained employment in Springfield, Illinois, as a gardener and owned \$500 worth of property in 1840. Barbara, almost 20, married Valentine Dinkel in Springfield on August 3, 1844.

Continued on p. 6
