



The Charger

CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND-TABLE

P.O. Box 5786, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

FEBRUARY 1990

286TH MEETING

VOL. 11 #6

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 1990

PLACE: The Hermit Club

SUBJECT: "Lincoln"

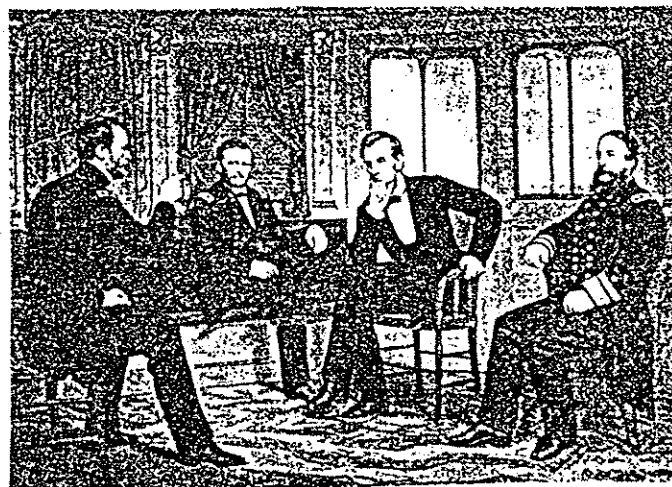
SPEAKER: Mark E. Neely, Jr. Mr. Neely is the Director of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana and is recognized as one of our country's foremost authorities on Lincoln. He is the author of numerous books and articles including The Abraham Lincoln Encyclopedia, The Lincoln Image: Abraham Lincoln and the Popular Print, The Insanity File: The Case of Mary Todd Lincoln, and The Confederate Image: Prints of the Lost Cause. He was born in Amarillo, Texas, received his B.A. in American Studies (Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude) and earned his PhD. from Yale University.

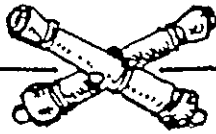


TIME: Drinks 6 PM

Dinner 7 PM

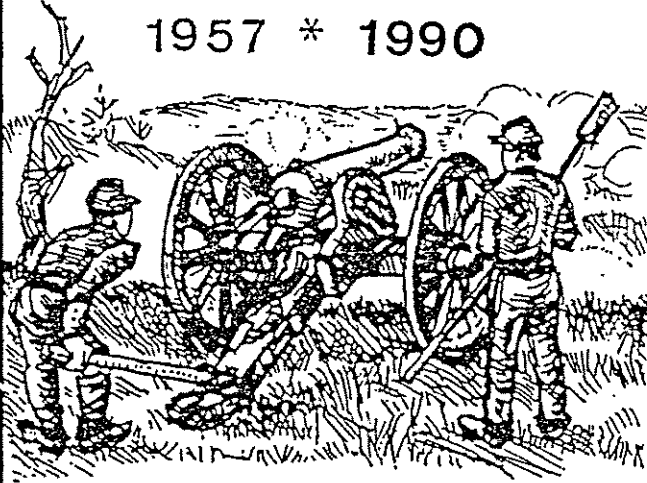
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CLEVELAND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

1957 * 1990



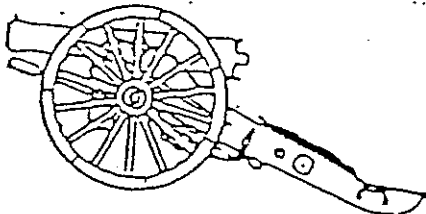
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Last Month's Meeting

Well, George Vourlajanis and Tim Beatty did it again - they made us wrack our brains and sweat bullets for the answers to this year's Civil War quiz. The quiz was a great success and a lot of fun. The questions varied in difficulty and were entertaining. Just as entertaining were the good-natured bantering that followed each incorrect guess.

George and Tim arranged the questions in different categories such as politics, famous quotes & notes, name the battlefield, Civil War according to Hollywood, and sex and gore in the Civil War.

Everyone played as members were divided into two teams (Blue & Gray) and seated within reach of an electronic buzzer to race for each answer. Teams were penalized a point for each incorrect answer. As one member was reminded when questioning his team's score, "Everytime you miss a question you lose a point and you've lost alot."

The Gray team did extremely well on Hollywood movies depicting the Civil War and Civil War literature, but the fastest fingers in the room belonged to the Blue team which won 31 to 20. Yes, like the Civil War the North won. At one point as the Yankees ran up the score, a Reb was heard to ask, "Could we get back to the Hollywood questions, George?"

A fun time was had by all.

WEST POINT SEMINAR

The Military Academy and the Capital District Civil War Round Table will co-sponsor a seminar on "Leadership in the Civil War" at Hotel Thayer on the Academy grounds. The seminar will be April 5-8, 1990 and the program will include talks by Robert Krick, Dr. Richard McMurry and other prominent speakers on the war. A tour of the Academy grounds and the USMA Museum will be provided, also. For reservations or information, please write: West Point Civil War Seminar, Box 265, Delmar, NY 12054-0265. Proceeds of the seminar will benefit Civil War Battlefield preservation.

Events of 125 Years Ago

FEBRUARY 1865

- FEB. 1 Sherman's army marches into South Carolina.
- Feb. 2 President Lincoln left Washington for Hampton Roads.
- FEB. 3 Hampton Roads Conference.
- FEB. 5-7 Battle of Hatcher's Run, Va.
- FEB. 6 Gen. Breckinridge named Confederate Secretary of War replacing James A. Seddon.
- FEB. 17 Sherman captures Columbia, South Carolina - city in flames. Charleston, South Carolina evacuated by Confederates.
- FEB. 22 Fall of Wilmington, North Carolina.
Gen. Joseph Johnston restored to command in South Carolina.

Lincoln proclamation touches off new furor

ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE PLAIN DEALER, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1989

"Most people ARE ABOUT AS happy
AS they MAKE up their MINDS to be."
— A. LINCOLN

Civil War: Day by Day by E.B. LONG

ASHFIELD, Mass. — A signed copy of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation first spelled freedom for the financially strapped library where it was found, but now the valuable document is causing a flap that could end up in court.

Some residents oppose an Oct. 31 auction that may fetch \$100,000 or more for the original copy, found in junk in the three-room library's basement.

"When a town comes to view its historical documents only for their monetary value, pretty soon it loses its character and identity and becomes just a place of mortar and bricks," Susan Todd, chairwoman of the Ashfield Historical Society, said yesterday.

Todd and others who don't want the document sold have been unable to persuade officials to call off the auction at Sotheby's in New York. Todd said she wouldn't be surprised if the matter winds up in court, though she would not say whether she planned such action.

Noah Gordon, chairman of the board of trustees at Belding Memorial Library where the copy was found in April, said neither the library nor the town could provide

'When a town comes to view its historical documents only for their monetary value ... it loses its character and identity.'

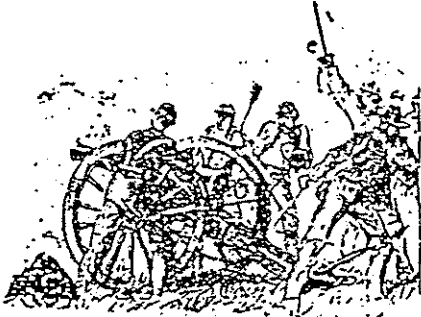
— Susan Todd,
Ashfield Historical Society

adequate security to keep the document.

More than 100 residents in this community of 1,500 people turned out for a recent meeting. Questions were raised over whether library trustees or town officials own the document Sotheby's values at \$70,000 to \$100,000 — and whether the library belongs to the town or legally is in private hands because of past donations.

The discovery of the document seemed the answer to library trustees' attempts to raise money for an addition when state and federal grants fell more than \$50,000 short.

Experts at Sotheby's told trustees the copy was one of 48 made in 1864 and signed by Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward. About half of the copies exist. The



PRESERVATION REPORT

by BILL STARK

WHAT YOU MUST CONTINUE TO DO: Write to the following Ottawa County Commissioners:

1. Darrell Ophfer
2. John Fritz
3. Steve Arndt

Ottawa Co. Courthouse
315 Madison
Port Clinton, OH 43452

Write in opposition to Carl Zipfel's "Baycliffs" subdivision and marina plan on the Island. Stress the importance of historical preservation. Question why the Planning Commission, on Dec. 19, 1989, ignored County Sub-division Rule #419, which states: "The Commission shall reserve the right to deny approval to a subdivision if such subdivision disregards the preservation of...areas of natural or historical significance, and similar irreplaceable assets." Why then, does the Ottawa County Regional Planning Commission insist on studying a plan which is in violation of Subdivision Rule #417? Also explain that the entire Island, less the quarry and private dock areas, was nominated for National Historic Landmark Status. This must lend some credence that the Island is of historical importance to the National Park Service. The Ohio Historical Society's Preservation Officer has also stated that the entire Island is of important historical status, enough to be granted National Historic Landmark Status also! Please stress that Zipfel's "Baycliffs" plan will, for instance, destroy the remains of Fort Hill, which the National Historic Landmark Status nomination report states should be saved. Please refer to the CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER article of January 14, 1990 entitled, "Landowners On Historic Site Waging War Against Developers."

REMEMBER: IF YOU DON'T WRITE NOW TO PREVERVE JOHNSON'S ISLAND, WHO WILL? IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

Please call Gary Ness, Director of the Ohio Historical Society, at 1-800-686-1538, and ask for details on the "Johnson's Island Fund," which he has set up. Also ask: What has the Ohio Historical Society done TODAY to help to preserve Johnson's Island. Let's inundate his office with calls!!

Letters should also be sent to Howard Metzenbaum, U.S. Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; to State Senator Betty Montgomery, Ohio General Assembly, State House, Columbus, Ohio 43215, and to Paul Gillmore, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. Also write to Governor Richard Celeste, State House, Columbus, Ohio 43216.

Johnson's Island aerial photo and map: Several individuals have asked about the following and here's how to order them:

1. Aerial photograph of Johnson's Island, black and white, 1/200 scale, 24" x 30", suitable for framing. Order from Norm Welch, 736 Sheridan, Columbus, OH 43209. Cost of \$10 (check) will cover shipment in cardboard tube.
2. Black and white prints of Johnson's Island Prison drawing by Gould in 1865. Size: 25" by 17." Ideal for framing. Price of \$10 includes shipment in cardboard tube. Send check to Follett House Museum, 404 Wayne St., Sandusky, OH 44870.

Submitted,

William C. Stark

William C. Stark, Chairman, Preservation Committee (any questions, call 621-5938 with a message)

SCENES I'D LIKE TO HAVE SEEN



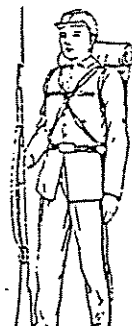
General McClellan visited the camps surrounding Washington often, frequently accompanied by President Lincoln and other officials. At least one such sortie proved embarrassing. One night, alert pickets of the Third New York Artillery stopped an unexpected carriage and sent the whole party therein under guard to Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Steward, whom they found, quite commendably, in his tent engaged in diligent study of tactics. "Well, Colonel," he heard a testy voice snarl, "you've captured the administration!" Indeed, there stood General McClellan, President Lincoln, and Secretary of State Seward.

How the North Won by Hattaway & Jones pp 87
Illustrated by Stu Cramer



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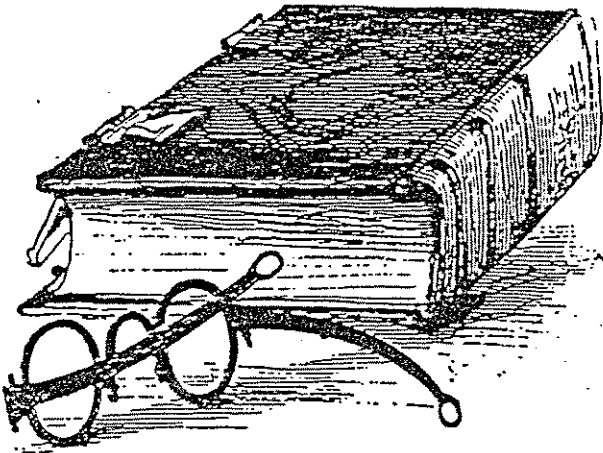


BOOK REVIEW:

Honest Abe and fans poorly served by hype



Books



ABRAHAM LINCOLN: Speeches and Writings. Edited by Don E. Fehrenbacher. The Library of America, 2 vols., 1,685 pp., \$70.

By **ALLAN PESKIN**

If truth-in-advertising laws apply to book publishers' blurbs, then the Library of America is in trouble. The literature which accompanies its deluxe boxed edition of the speeches and writings of Abraham Lincoln contains enough whoppers to put Honest Abe to shame.

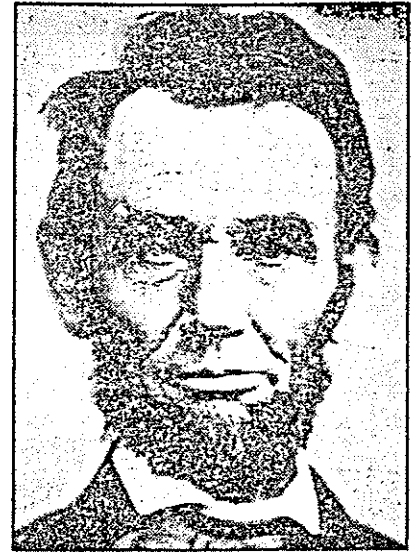
First of all, it claims that although there are many books about Lincoln, "there are virtually no collections of his own words." Not so. Preeminent Lincoln scholar David Donald flatly states (in the bibliography to his "Civil War and Reconstruction") that "Selections from Lincoln's writings are numerous," a fact which can be verified by a cursory inspection of any library's card catalog.

The new volumes, however, aspire to be definitive. According to the publisher's boast: "This is the most comprehensive collection of Lincoln's works ever published."

Yet when one considers that the 1905 edition of "The Works of Abraham Lincoln," edited by John G. Nicolay and Cleveland John Hay, ran to 12 large volumes and that the 1950s update by Roy Basler claimed to have twice as many items as its predecessor, then one cannot help but wonder how these two volumes can be even more comprehensive unless the typeface has been designed by that painstaking craftsman who inscribes the Lord's Prayer on the head of a pin.

In fact, these two volumes are not comprehensive at all. They contain only 750 Lincoln items skimmed from the vast mass of his writings (including the text of speeches in Cleveland in 1861 and in Columbus and Cincinnati in 1859). The selections are well chosen, constituting the cream of Lincoln's letters, speeches and proclamations, even including both sides of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, but they are, nonetheless, only selections.

Of course the editor, Pulitzer Prize-winning Lincoln expert Don E. Fehrenbacher, is not responsible for the advertising department's excess of enthusiasm. Even so, he should have provided more help to the reader than is here



CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: His words needed more help, less hype.

BOOK REVIEW 'ABRAHAM LINCOLN'

offered. This set is clearly aimed at a mass market, as its adoption by the Book-of-the-Month Club and three other clubs attests. Such a wide audience is bound to include large numbers whose knowledge of American history is, at best, vague.

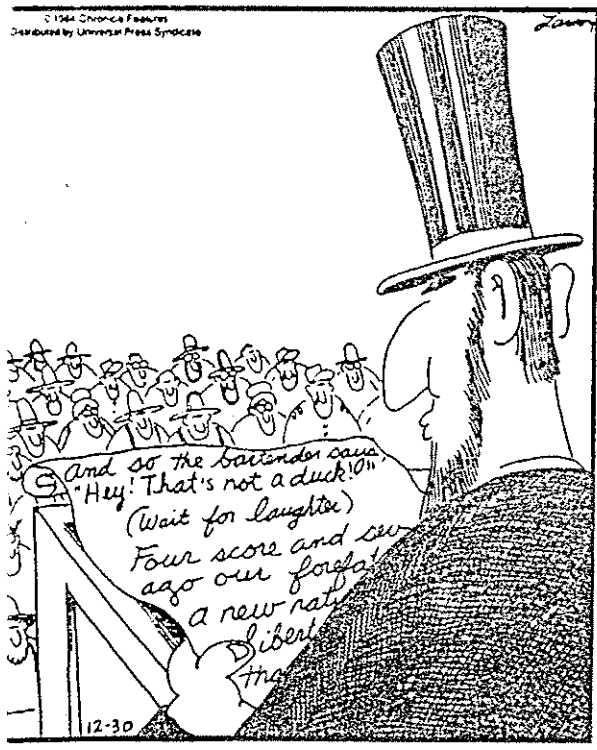
What are they to make of over 1,500 pages of raw documents? There is no introduction, no analytic essays, no way to place Lincoln's words within their historical context other than an 18-page "Chronology" which zips through the events of Lincoln's life with all the stylistic felicity of a telegram. A few pages of end notes are tacked onto each volume, but, as the editor explains, "No note is made for material included in a standard desk-reference book," whatever that may mean.

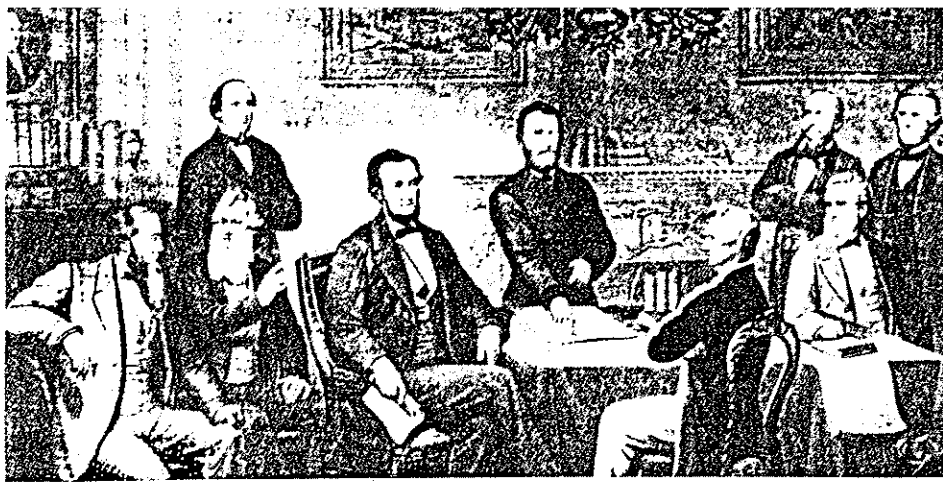
What it means, in practice, is that an army of readers hungry for some understanding of Abraham Lincoln is free to sink or swim, most likely to sink.

Peskin teaches history at Cleveland State University.

FAR SIDE

By **GARY LARSON**





More Than You Ever Wanted To Know About The Lincoln Railcar

by

Thomas J. Bores of the Milwaukee CWRT

It was just at 8 o'clock a.m. on April 21st 1865 that Engineer Thomas Beckett eased open the throttle of Engine 238, and as it chugged to life and slowly pulled its nine car train out of Washington City's Baltimore & Ohio railroad station it began the first segment of a 1700 mile journey through seven states and involving fourteen other railroads.

Those present, including a group of high-ranking military and civil authorities, watched as the train moved down the track, on both sides of that track soldiers of a black infantry regiment stood at attention in the light, falling rain.

The gaze and thoughts of all individuals there were centered on the next-to-last car of this train, for that car, with the oval-shaped U.S. Coat of Arms adorning its side, bore away the mortal remains of the recently slain President Lincoln and his deceased son, Willie, to their place of internment at Springfield, Illinois.

The railway car selected for this solemn and unique duty was unique in its own right and possessed an unusual history of its own. It was constructed at the car shops of the U.S. Military Railroads at Alexandria, Virginia and required over a year to complete, for late in 1863 to February 1865. Though intended for specific use of the President there is no actual record of Lincoln having ridden in the car during his lifetime, it is also unknown with whom the concept for this presidential railcar first originated, though B.P. Lamason, who was superintendent of all car work oversaw the project and contributed to certain design features of the car.

When completed the car measured 42 feet long by 8½ feet wide (interior) and featured a cupola-type roof; painted a "rich, chocolate brown" it was then given an oil and rotten stone hand-rubbed finish. The car was equipped with four trucks instead of the usual two giving it eight sets of wheels, there has been speculation that this was done to bolster the car because there was armor plate between its walls; however, a foreman who actually worked on the car's construction, Mr. W.H.H. Price, stated no armor was used. The extra trucks were likely added to improve the ride of the

car which, oddly in light of its splendor, was noted for its rough ride.

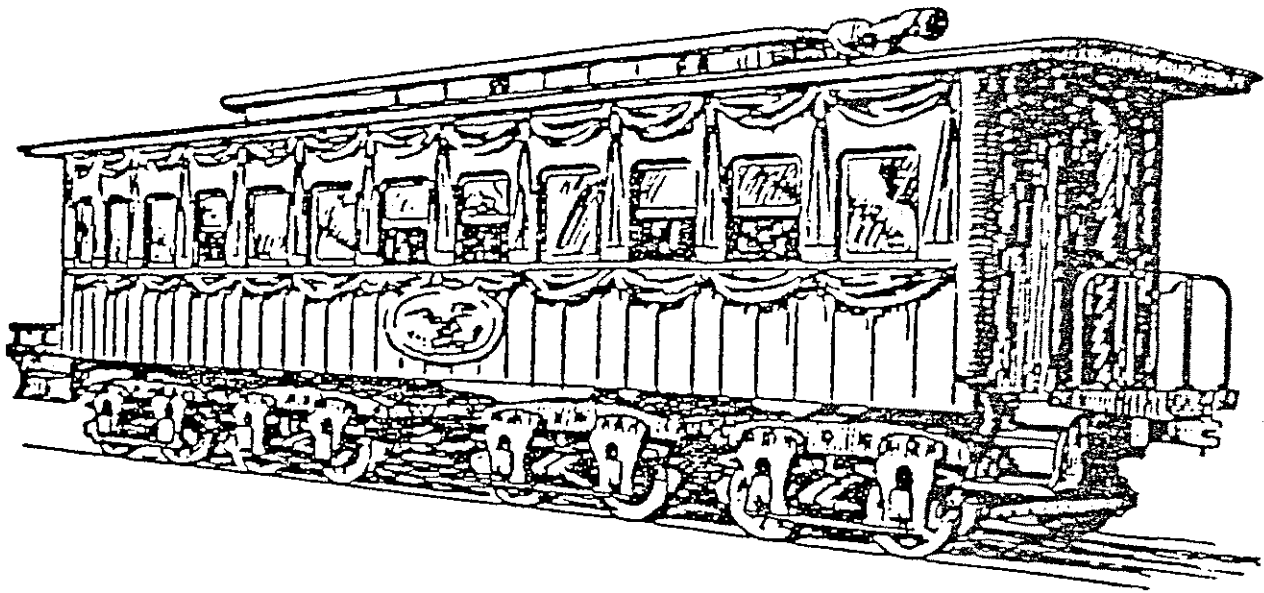
Inside, the car was upholstered from chair rail to head lining and was divided into three compartments: drawing room, parlor and stateroom, a corridor running the length of the interior connected the compartments. The upper area was painted a zinc white with small renderings of the coat of arms of the various states set in paneling at about eye level and apparently continued around the circumference of one or more of the rooms. Furnishings included two specially constructed (for Lincoln's height) sofas 7½ feet long with hinged backs that folded down to make a bed; chairs; a desk; a bookcase and a cupboard for the silver service.

It is not known for certain what the cost of the car was, but some estimates exceed \$10,000.00 it has been suggested that Lincoln shunned use of the car because its appearance was too ornate.

After the funeral journey the railcar was taken back to the car shops at Alexandria where in 1866 -- in an incredible display of stupidity -- the government disposed of it as surplus property along with most of the rest of the military "rolling stock".

The Union Pacific Railroad acquired the car for \$8,000.00 and for the next forty-five years the vehicle had a "Flying Dutchman" type of existence on several railroads; it would be noticed in routine use on one line then sink into obscurity until noticed again years later on yet another line.

The Union Pacific apparently utilized the car to transport railroad officials and government inspectors, it was present in that capacity at the marking of the rail crossing of the 100th meridian at Cozad, Nebraska in October of 1866. The car was sold to the Colorado Central R.R. in 1870 and placed in regular passenger service, sometime prior to this sale the Union Pacific removed and placed into storage the major furnishings including the silverware. These items, placed in a full-scale mock-up of the car's once grand interior, are on display at the Union Pacific Museum at Omaha.



It appears in 1878 the car was again transferred to the Utah & Northern R.R. and was said to have seen service there as a dining car for work crews and carpenter's shop. Sometime between 1890 and 1892 Sidney Dillon, president of the Union Pacific, rediscovered the car in the railyard at Pocatello, Idaho in use as a bunk house. He had it returned to Omaha for restoration. That being done it was put on display at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 and the Trans-Mississippi Exhibition of 1898. In 1903 a Franklin Snow bought the car for \$2,000.00; he displayed it at the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904, the Illinois State Fair and various other events. After Snow's death in 1905 one Thomas Lowry of Minneapolis purchased the car for \$800.00. Besides being president of the Minneapolis, St. Paul Sault Ste. Marie R.R. Lowry was involved in real estate development. Perhaps at least partially to draw buyers he had the Lincoln car put on permanent display at the end of a park next to lots he had for sale in an area of northeast Minneapolis at 37th Ave. N.W. and Quincy Street.

On the afternoon of March 18, 1911 a boy in the rear of a house at 35th and Architects Avenue was burning dead grass and brush the fire, pushed by strong winds, spread beyond control and began to threaten other homes and barns of the area. Many residents of the neighborhood turned out to fight the fire using brooms and clothing soaked with water. Efforts were concentrated on saving near by buildings to the extent that when notice was taken of the fire's progress toward the Lincoln car it was but a few feet away. A rather valiant stand was made by many battling the fire to save the car--some of the volunteers suffering burns in the process--and a phone call was placed to Engine Co. #15 which arrived relatively quickly. Yet by that time the car had become well involved in flames with much of it finally reduced to a charred ruin, the car was afterwards scrapped. It was a final irony that the car was to be moved the following summer to Fort Snelling to be on permanent display in a proper, protected historical setting.

A MESSAGE FOR THE PRESIDENT

Colonel Hay, private secretary to President Lincoln, awoke his chief one night with an urgent message from General Ambrose Burnside, who was operating with his army in the vicinity of Knoxville, Tennessee. Normally, Hays would have waited till morning to give the message to the President, but the information it contained seemed of such importance that it should be dealt with immediately. Burnside's army was a shambles. They had been thoroughly mauled, and Burnside was contemplating surrender.

Upon awaking the President and imparting the information to him, Hays was shocked by the cheerful answer he received. A yawning Lincoln digested the information and stated: "I am glad to hear of it; I am glad to hear it."

"But Mr. President" said Hays, "that does not seem an item of news to be glad of."

Lincoln, in his down home manner, proceeded to explain to him why the news had been received in the way that it had. "Well, he said "it reminds me of a poor woman I used to know out in Menard County. She had a large brood of children. They wandered through the woods, and it was impossible for her to clothe them properly--she could hardly feed them. The old woman always used to say that it did her heart good whenever any of those young ones came around squalling, because

Don't call him Abe

The Lincoln legends would astonish him

by MARTIN D. TULLAI

Abraham Lincoln once told William Herndon, his third law partner, "Biographies as generally written are not only misleading but false."

As America marks the 180th year since the birth of our most written-about and best-known president, (Feb. 12, 1809), it is interesting to note that he might well have been speaking about himself. For the road to Lincoln learning is strewn with false claims, spurious reminiscences and fraudulent documents.

If Lincoln were aware of how his words have been misused and abused, he would be amazed. For example, in 1950, two pages of bogus Lincoln quotations were inserted in the Congressional Record.

But just as his words have been distorted or fabricated to serve different purposes, so have myths developed about other aspects of our 16th president.

How about the impressions that:

■ Lincoln was our only "log cabin" president. Not quite. Presidents Jackson, Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan and Garfield can also claim this kind of background.

■ As a boy, Lincoln did his reading at night by the light of the fireplace. Not if his stepmother is to be believed. As Albert Beveridge noted, she said, "He didn't read after night much, went to bed early, got up early and then read."

■ He was regularly called "Abe" and enjoyed the name. Actually, according to Stephen B. Oates, a recent biographer, nobody called him "Abe" to his face. "He loathed the nickname. There was something about his origin that he never cared to dwell on."

Incidentally, you will never come across a document signed "Ab Lincoln." It will be either "Abraham Lincoln" or "Abraham Lincoln."

■ Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address on the back of an envelope on the train to Gettysburg.

Actually, no writing was done on the train. It was too bumpy a ride to permit writing, with or without an envelope. Lincoln drafted it on executive letterhead as befitted the dignity of the Gettysburg Address. Gen. James B. Fry, his special escort, did not remember Lincoln "writing or even reading his speech during the journey."

■ Since Lincoln could deliver such masterpieces as the Cooper Union speech, the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural address, it shows he could deliver a terrific speech at anytime.

Wrong. Lincoln was "a poor extemporaneous speaker — he needed a script to be eloquent," says one historian. A contemporary noted that, "Mr. Lincoln was not a successful impromptu speaker. He required time for thought and arrangement of the thing to be said." Lincoln scholar Richard Current has declared, "His long-remembered sayings were written and rewritten with meticulous revisions ahead of time."

(He would have appreciated Red Smith's quip about writing: "All you do is sit at a typewriter until tiny beads of blood begin to pop on your forehead.")

■ He told a visiting temperance committee that urged the firing of Gen. Grant because he drank too much whiskey: "Well, I wish some of you would tell me the brand of whiskey that Grant drinks. I would like to send a barrel of it to every one of my other generals."

It didn't happen. When Lincoln was asked if the story was true, he said, "No, I didn't happen to say it — but it's a good story, a hardy perennial. I've traced that story back to George II and James Wolfe. When certain persons complained that Wolfe was mad, George said, 'I wish he'd bite some of the others.'"

■ Lincoln's true love was Ann Rutledge, not the woman he married, Mary Todd.

Despite William Herndon's attempts to foist this on the public through his lectures and the book he wrote with Jesse W. Weik, it is unproved. No evidence has ever surfaced to indicate anything but a platonic relationship. No modern reputable Lincoln scholar accepts the story. These include Benjamin P. Thomas, Paul Angle, Stephen B. Oates and James G. Randall.

The last-named sums it up: "There is no thoroughly verified utterance by Lincoln, written or oral, in which Ann Rutledge is even mentioned, though one finds Lincoln's own statements concerning women whom he knew in this period — namely, Sarah Rickard and Mary Owens."

■ Lincoln was "a kind of homespun Socrates who disclaimed material rewards."

Not so. A number of recent biographers see Lincoln as a man of substantial wealth. At the time of his marriage in 1842, he was earning \$1,200 a year. Not bad when compared with the governor's salary of \$1,200 and the \$750 received by circuit court judges. In the mid-1850s, his yearly earnings reached \$5,000. By 1860, he had \$15,000 invested in various interests.

At his death, Lincoln left an estate of \$83,343, which was increased by his administrators to \$110,974, exclusive of real estate.

■ Lincoln's assassination was greeted with joy throughout the South.

Perhaps some diehards exulted, but as Carl Sandburg noted in his Lincoln biography, many knowledgeable and influential Southerners saw it differently.

Respected Gen. Joseph E. Johnston declared, "Mr. Lincoln was the best friend we had," and viewed the assassination as "the greatest possible calamity to the South."

Jefferson Davis was also saddened by the tragedy. He saw the South losing the benefit of Lincoln's "generosity" — a trait he did not see in Andrew Johnson.

Robert E. Lee, who regretted Lincoln's death as much as anyone in the North, indicated he had surrendered to Lincoln's goodness as much as to Grant's artillery.

■ "The health of Abraham Lincoln in his last year of life was such as to preclude completion of his second term of office even if he had never been assassinated."

This is the view of Dr. Harold Schwartz, who is on the staff of the University of Southern California School of Medicine. He maintains that Lincoln had symptoms of Marfan's syndrome. (This is hereditary disarrangement of connective tissue which affects one or more of three systems — skeletal, visual and cardiovascular.)

But in 1981, Dr. John K. Latimer of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University and the Presbyterian Hospital challenged this claim. His article "Lincoln Did Not Have the Marfan Syndrome," offers persuasive evidence in support of his point of view.

After reviewing the symptoms associated with the classic Marfan syndrome patient, he points out that "we do not know that Lincoln had any of these." He therefore concludes, "there is no firm evidence that Lincoln had the Marfan syndrome."

This does not exhaust the list of Lincoln myths and falsehoods. Unsettled controversies and unsolved puzzles still remain. And while some may never be put completely to rest, be assured the study and investigation of America's most exalted figure will continue unabated.

Tullai is chairman of the history department at St. Paul's School, Brooklandville, Md.

THE PLAIN DEALER, 2-7-89



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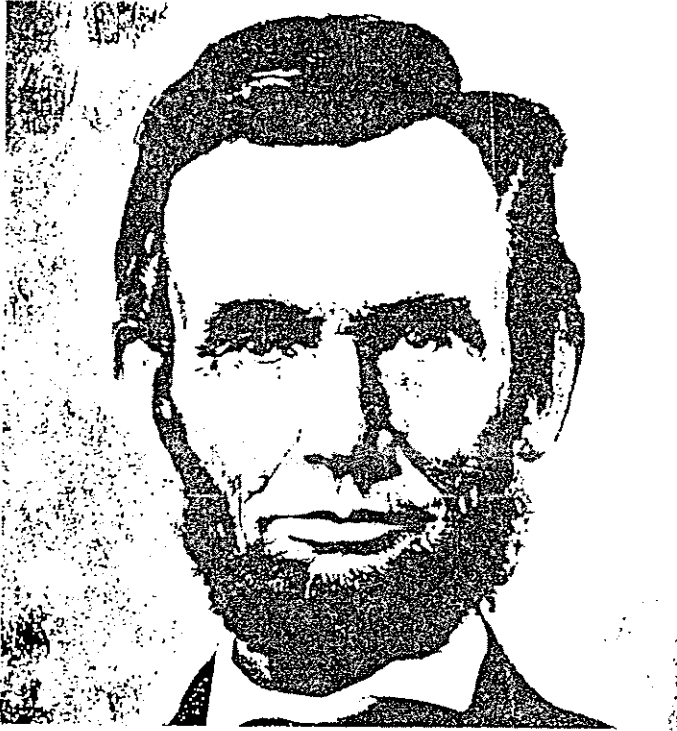


MEMORIES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

BY JEROME A. WATROUS

(Editor's note: The following was apparently written sometime in the 1880s by Jerome A. Watrous, at the time was editor of the weekly MILWAUKEE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH. He had written the piece for his newspaper, but it was apparently never published. Watrous had enlisted from Appleton in Company E of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry in 1861 and served throughout the Civil War, ultimately serving as a brigade adjutant. The account was brought to the attention of General Orders by Mr. William H. Washburn of Lake Bluff, Illinois, a grandson of Jerome Watrous.)

One day the first week in August, 1861, I was given permission to visit Washington, where I met a brother who belonged to another regiment. Both had marched with the "Wide Awakes" and shouted for Lincoln the year before. After a brief visit we planned to get a look at the man for whom we had become "Wide Awakes" and under whom we were soldiers. Modesty or a lack of courage kept us from the White House, but we held a position on the grounds, hoping that our candidate of the year before would appear. Mr. Lincoln took us by surprise while we were watching a regiment pass on Pennsylvania avenue. He was first to speak:



"My boys, I see by your uniforms that you have come to help me save the Union--to be my partners in the enterprise."

He asked what state we were from, said Wisconsin was sending many good men, and when he shook hands expressed the hope that our lives would be spared, and that we would never regret the partnership.

To have looked into the Lincoln face, at close range, heard the Lincoln voice, had our hands enclosed in the ample Lincoln hand, was glory enough for more than that one August day of fifty years ago. With one of the boys it has included all of the days, since then, and will extend through the rest of his days. My brother, a Lincoln partner, save his life at the battle of Port Hudson.

The next time I saw the great war President was at a review of McClellan's army at Bailey's Cross Roads, Va., a few miles from Washington, the following October. Through the order against attempts to look at the President and party while passing in review were strict, I recall that the line of our company was seriously harmed by hurried glances at the tall man under a high hat. Many other companies fared no better, but a multitude of young "Wide Awakes" and others feasted their eyes upon the leader of leaders.

The Lincoln carriage passed our regiment that evening while we were swinging back to camp singing "John Brown,"

a song just introduced to the army. The thousand western voices, giving forth the already popular air, seemed to please the President. for he lifted the high hat and gave us a smile and gracious bow.

Still another carriage passed the regiment that evening -- passed it several times. One of the occupants was Julia Ward Howe. Mrs. Howe seemed to like the song and the singers, for she, too, smiled and bowed her approval. Those Western boys and the "John Brown" song had a part in giving the Nation its choicest and longest-lived war poem and song -- "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Early in October, 1862, soon after the battle of Antietam, where nearly 25,000 American soldiers were killed or wounded in one day -- September 17 -- President Lincoln reviewed the now well seasoned army, with a record of many great battles. What changes had taken place with that army since his review of it at Bailey's Cross Roads, a year before. At least 100,000 of his partners in that one army had been killed or wounded. His thin, pale face and look of deep sorrow told of his aching heart at the great loss.

Twice Mr. Lincoln visited the Army of the Potomac while it was in Camp near the Rappahannock, not far from Fredericksburg, in 1863, the last time a few days before the battle of Chancellorsville. Mrs. Lincoln and young Ted Lincoln, were with him. As the army was never in better spirits or condition for a hard campaign, and every command that he visited gave him most cordial welcome, it was plain to see that the President was also in a cheerful mood, in high spirits, confident, as were his soldiers, that a telling Union victory was near at hand. He seemed much like the Lincoln I had seen on the White House grounds in August, 1861. I can imagine how he must have looked and felt, a few days later, when Gen. Hooker and the army recrossed the Rappahannock from Chancellorsville, defeated, and returned to the camps apposite Fredericksburg, after a loss of many thousands of brave men. I well remember how the rank and file took that defeat. It was their gloomiest period. But two months later that defeated, gloomy army fought and won the hightide battle of Gettysburg, carrying gladness to the head partner and boundless joy to the people of the North.

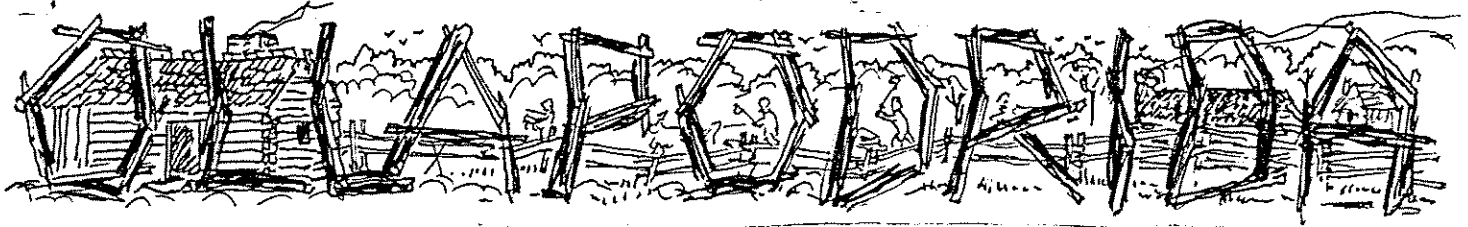
Late on the afternoon of March 25th, 1865, on a plantation two or three miles from Petersburg, Virginia, I saw Mr. Lincoln for the last time. He had come from City Point with Generals Grant and Meade upon hearing that the Confederate Gen. John B. Gordon had broken through the Union lines at Petersburg and been driven back with great loss.

The Fifth Army Corps, of which our brigade was a part, had been halted while making a forced march to assist the Ninth Corps in driving back Gen. Gordon and his fighters. About 4 o'clock word came that the President would review the Fifth. It was marched to the plantation and prepared for the interesting event. Who that was there among the survivors, has forgotten that review; how Mr. Lincoln appeared as he rode along the line with cabinet officers, Ted, mounted on a black horse, close to the carriage, talking to his father; the loud cheers given as the party passed each brigade; the lifted high hat and the frequent bow of appreciation and pleasure.

It was Mr. Lincoln's last review of an army Corps.

Three weeks from that day he died -- the greatest American loved by his uniformed partners, and since by the whole world; but Lincoln and his armed partners had fulfilled their contract -- they had saved the Union.

From The CWRT of Milwaukee



A gentleman called on Lincoln to solicit a pass through the lines to Richmond where he had relatives. "Well," said Lincoln, "I would be very happy to oblige you if my passes were respected. But the fact is, sir, I have within the last two years given passes to two hundred and fifty thousand men to go to Richmond and not one has got there yet."

Perhaps the answer why McClellan failed to take the Confederate capital is furnished in the following conversation reputed to have occurred between President Lincoln and Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott. According to the story, Lincoln once asked Scott, "Why is it that you were once able to take Mexico City in three months with 5,000 men, and we have been unable to take Richmond with 100,000 men?" "I will tell you," said Gen. Scott, "the men who took us into the city of Mexico then are the same men who are keeping us out of Richnond now."

from the Montgomery County(Ala.) CWRT

Lincoln was the sixteenth American President, and the first to wear a beard. He set so enduring precedent that, of the next nine men elected to the office after him, only William McKinley was clean-shaven.

from Our Incredible Civil War by Burke Davis ppl4

In one of his debates with Stephen A. Douglas, Douglas had already delivered a three-hour address. When Lincoln's turn came, he reminded the audience that it was already 5 p.m., that he would probably require as much time as Douglas and that Douglas was still scheduled for a rebuttal. He proposed, therefore, that the audience go home, have dinner, and return refreshed for four more hours of talk. The audience amiably agreed, and matters proceeded as Lincoln had outlined.

NO HICK LAWYER - Unique Transcript reveals Lincoln's Skill (from the Cincinnati Enquirer, February 10, 1988)

A trial transcript depicting attorney Abraham Lincoln's successful defense of an accused murderer has just come to light. It is the only such record known to exist among the thousands of civil and criminal cases that engaged Lincoln in his 24 years as a circuit-riding lawyer.

The case arose in the summer of 1859, a year after he was defeated by Stephen A. Douglas for the U.S. Senate and less than a year before Lincoln received the Republican nomination for president.

Lincoln spent August 31 to September 3 in the Sangamon circuit court here in his hometown, defending Peachy Quinn Harrison on a charge of murder.

The nearly 100-page document once was kept by the defendant's great-grandson in a shoebox in a Fresno, California garage. It reveals Lincoln as a shrewd courtroom tactician, far different from the conventional portrait of a simple small-town lawyer.

"It's the most important discovery in the field of Lincolniana in many years," said Cullom Davis, a history professor at Sangamon State University in Springfield.

"The transcript tells us a good deal about Lincoln's courtroom manner," said John Chapin, a Springfield lawyer who is chairman of the advisory board of the Lincoln Legals, a project that seeks to find and publish every Lincoln case.

"It shows he was painstaking about details, probing in cross-examination, and low key in style. His language was informal--to keep the jury on his side. But was Lincoln a hick lawyer? He was anything but!"

From The President's Desk

January 29, 1990



Please allow me to join in the praise for George Vourlajanis and Tim Beatty's endeavors in putting together the January quiz; we would be remiss if we failed to mention that it was the singular performance of Brian Kowell which lead the North in victory.

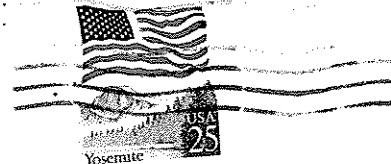
Our February program features Mark E. Neely, Jr., one of the leading authorities on Abraham Lincoln; Mr. Neely's reputation is of national stature. Others that have seen Mark's performance have suggested that it is exceptional.

This would seem a good occasion to reacquaint ourselves with one of the central figures of American history.

And for once, the above logo seems appropriate.



Kenneth R. Callahan, Jr.



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