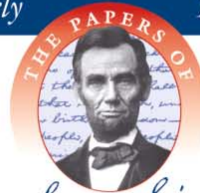


# LINCOLN EDITOR

The Quarterly Newsletter of

July - September 2002

Volume 2 Number 3



Abraham Lincoln

*"a great honor and a great labor"* A. Lincoln, October 26, 1863

## UIS INCREASES SUPPORT FOR PAPERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

In June the Illinois state legislature appropriated \$1.5 million to the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) to transform the university's Institute for Public Affairs into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Center for Governmental Studies (ALPCGS). The new center will take an active role in designing and implementing academic programming for the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Planned initiatives include a literacy center, a Lincoln legacy lecture series, a public policy symposium, an array of research support programs, a leadership academy, and summer programs for high school teachers



and students. The ALPCGS will also provide the Papers of Abraham Lincoln with an Assistant Editor, two graduate student interns for the project, and a Research and Editing Fellowship. These new programs represent over \$80,000 in new funding for the project. UIS has supported the Lincoln Legal Papers as a cosponsor since 1988, and currently also provides two-thirds of the Assistant Director's salary, professional development support, and vital personnel services. The new ALPCGS represents another step toward making Springfield a vital center for the study of Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy.

## LINCOLN AND THE GREAT CENTRAL SANITARY FAIR

Late in May 1864, Abraham Lincoln received an invitation to speak at the opening of the Great Central Sanitary Fair in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Organizers held the fair to benefit the United States Sanitary Commission, an organization founded in June 1861 to provide better sanitation and supplies for Union

soldiers. Beginning with Chicago in October 1863, numerous cities and towns across the North held such fairs to aid the Sanitary Commission or other soldiers' aid organizations. These fairs raised money by charging admission, selling donated items (Lincoln sent autographs to some fairs), raffles, voting for their favorite

general at \$1 per vote, exhibits, concerts, and other entertainment.

Lincoln had visited sanitary fairs in Washington, D.C. and in Baltimore, Maryland, in March and April of 1864, and Philadelphia's fair organizers hoped he would be able to attend the Great Central Fair there as well.



James Queen, *Buildings of the Great Sanitary Fair*  
Courtesy of The Library Company of Philadelphia.

*Continued inside...*

## John Welsh to Abraham Lincoln<sup>1</sup>

May 23, 1864

Office of the “Great Central Fair”.  
U.S. Sanitary Commission  
1323. Chestnut St. Phil<sup>a</sup> May 23/64

My Dear Sir:

The opening ceremonies of the Great Central Fair in aid of the U. S. Sanitary Commission will occur on the afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, and as the object of the Fair is to provide for the relief of those who suffer in the great conflict in which our nation is engaged, the Executive Committee look to you—our Chief Magistrate—as the one to dedicate our spontaneous offerings, many of them the fruits of self denial and all of them of deep sympathy for the suffering—to the holy purpose for which they are given.

I have the honor therefore, in obedience to the earnestly expressed wish of my colleagues to invite you to be present on that occasion, and I trust that it will be agreeable and convenient to your Excellency to accept the invitation and participate in the ceremonies.

Should any cause prevent a compliance with our wish, which we shall much deplore, we beg that you will appoint some one to represent you on the occasion.

I have the honor to be,  
Very Respectfully,  
Your obedient servant  
Jno. Welsh<sup>2</sup>  
Chairman of the Executive Com  
of the Great Central Fair.

His Excellency  
Abraham Lincoln  
President of the U. S.

<sup>1</sup>LS, RTL, DLC; HHL, IHi.

<sup>2</sup>John Welsh, b. 9 November 1805, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; d. 19 April 1886, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Welsh was a commission merchant in Philadelphia, in partnership with two of his brothers. Active in religious and charitable organizations, he was a vestryman in St. Peter’s Protestant Episcopal Church and was selected as the chairman of the executive committee of the Great Central Fair. *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (New York: James T. White, 1893), 3:412.

On May 27, 1864, the organizers followed up their request with a telegram asking whether Lincoln had received their letter of invitation and noting that “immediate answer will oblige the Committee.”<sup>1</sup> Also in late May, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant had begun his overland campaign against Richmond and his first encounter with General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. On June 1, 2, and 3, Grant’s army tried vainly to dislodge Confederate forces and lost 13,000 men in the attempt. The armies remained facing each other along these lines a few miles from Richmond until June 12, when Grant began to withdraw and press southward.

On June 7, in Philadelphia, Bishop Simpson delivered the address, as Lincoln had requested, focusing on God’s providence in national affairs. Fifteen thousand

[Enclosure]

Order of opening Ceremonies.

Tuesday. June 7. 1864.

1. Music. (Hail Columbia)
2. Invocation by a Bishop.<sup>3</sup>
3. The chairman of the Committee on General arrangements, on behalf of the Committee, and of the Committee on Internal Arrangements, formally presents the Building to the chairman of the Executive Committee.<sup>4</sup>
4. The chairman of the Executive Committee with appropriate remarks receives the Building, and tenders it to the President of the United States for the use of the Army & Navy.<sup>5</sup>
5. The President replies accepting the gift.
6. Dedicatory Prayer by a Bishop.
7. Music
8. Addresses by Governors of Pennsylvania New Jersey & Delaware<sup>6</sup>
9. The President of the United States declares the Fair opened.
10. The Flag is raised, a salute of 21 guns fired, and the Star Spangled Banner sung spontaneously.
11. Benediction by a Bishop.

[Endorsement]

I shall be obliged if Bishop Simpson<sup>7</sup> of the Methodist Episcopal Church will perform my part in the above programme,  
A. Lincoln

June 3. 1864

<sup>3</sup>Bishop William Bacon Stevens (1815-1887) of the Protestant Episcopal Church delivered the invocation and the dedicatory prayer. *Philadelphia Public Ledger and Transcript*, 8 June 1864, 1:4-5; Charles J. Stillé, *Memorial of the Great Central Fair for the U.S. Sanitary Commission* (Philadelphia: U.S. Sanitary Commission, 1864), 25-32.

<sup>4</sup>John C. Cresson, Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, transferred the building to the Executive Committee.

<sup>5</sup>Theodore Cuyler, a member of the Executive Committee of the Great Central Fair, presented the building.

<sup>6</sup>Governors William Cannon (1809-1865) of Delaware, Joel Parker (1816-1888) of New Jersey, and Andrew Gregg Curtin (1817-1894) of Pennsylvania each delivered a speech at the opening ceremonies for the fair.

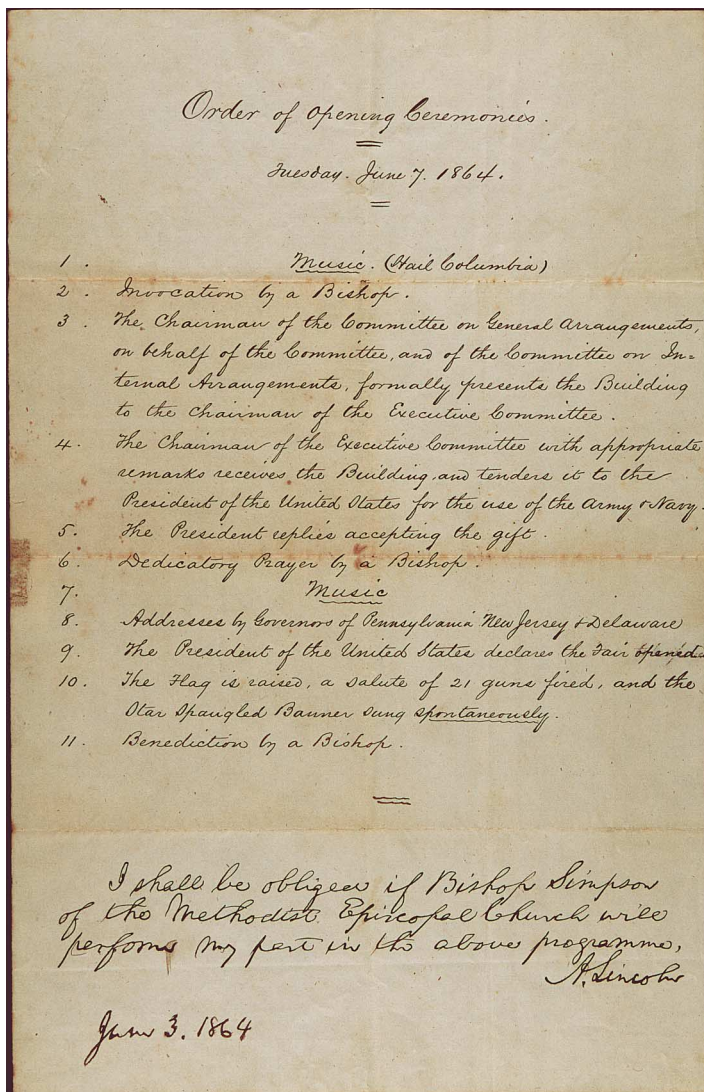
<sup>7</sup>Matthew Simpson, b. 21 June 1811, in Cadiz, Ohio; d. 18 June 1884, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Ordained as a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1834, Simpson served the denomination as a college professor, college president, newspaper editor. The General Conference elected him as one of the church’s bishops in 1852. Simpson used his oratorical abilities to aid the Union cause by combining religious and patriotic imagery in his speeches. He moved his home to Philadelphia in 1863. After Lincoln’s assassination, Simpson would deliver funeral orations both in Washington, D.C. and at the graveside in Springfield, Illinois. *American National Biography* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 20:21-22.

people attended the opening ceremonies. Simpson told the crowd that Lincoln could not be present because “His eyes are upon Richmond.” He praised Lincoln, the Union soldiers, and those who gave sacrificially to meet the needs of the sick and wounded soldiers. Simpson then formally accepted the buildings on Lincoln’s behalf and dedicated the fair for the purpose of meeting the soldiers’ needs.

Glenna Schroeder-Lein  
Assistant Editor

<sup>1</sup>C. A. Walborn to Abraham Lincoln, telegram, 27 May 1864, RTL, DLC.





Courtesy of the Illinois State Historical Library.

## DONORS

The project acknowledges with deep appreciation the generosity of the following contributors:

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Simpson Family  
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Theatre in the Park

## PROJECT AND STAFF NEWS

Benjamin Shapell of Beverly Hills, California, has donated \$10,000 to the project. The project staff would like to express our deep gratitude to Mr. Shapell for his contribution. Private donations remain a critical element of the project's continued success.

In September, Glenna Schroeder-Lein was a speaker at the Decatur Civil War Roundtable Symposium in Arthur. She talked about Confederate hospitals.

## MEET OUR EDITORIAL BOARD

(Fifth in a series)



**Cullom Davis** is Professor of History Emeritus, University of Illinois at Springfield and former director of the Lincoln Legal Papers (1988-2000). Dr. Davis received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1968, and is the author or editor of several books, including *The Public and the Private Lincoln: Contemporary Perspectives* (Southern Illinois, 1979).

“As former director of The Lincoln Legal Papers, I know both the enormous complexity of finding and publishing the entire corpus of Lincoln’s writings, and also the seasoned expertise that Daniel Stowell and his colleagues bring to this challenge. Their combination of cutting-edge technology and leading-edge editorial skills guarantees enduring success for The Papers of Abraham Lincoln.”—Cullom Davis

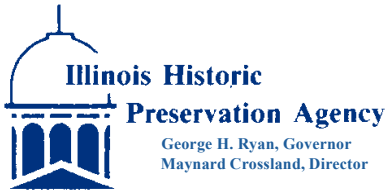
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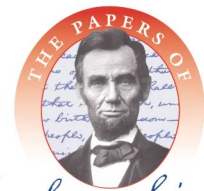
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### How You Can Help:

- By advising project staff of known or reported Lincoln documents in your locality. We are seeking copies of any document, letter, or contemporary printed account that relates to Abraham Lincoln's entire life, 1809-1865.
- By making a tax-deductible donation to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln in support of the project. Such gifts provide crucial support in furtherance of the project's objectives.



*Abraham Lincoln*

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