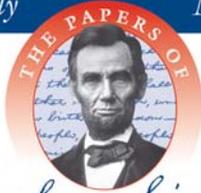


LINCOLN EDITOR

The Quarterly

Newsletter of



April - June 2009

Volume 9 Number 2

Abraham Lincoln

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

PAPERS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN WINS BOOK OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Illinois State Historical Society (ISHS) has presented its 2009 "Book of the Year" award to the editorial staff of *The Papers of Abraham Lincoln* in recognition of the four-volume *The Papers of Abraham Lincoln: Legal Documents and Cases*, published in 2008 by the University of Virginia Press. The staff (pictured below) accepted the

award at the society's annual awards luncheon on April 25 at the Illinois Governor's Mansion in Springfield.

"This set represents publishing at its best—professionally done, competently produced, and a scholarly labor of love," said ISHS Awards chair Russell Lewis, executive vice president of the Chicago History Museum.

"These volumes are not only extremely relevant to the state of Illinois, but they are especially welcome work in the Lincoln bicentennial year. The editors' introduction will stand as the definitive statement about the project and Lincoln's law practice, and the decision to assemble in the volume court cases that represent his geographical journey along the circuit is nothing short of ingenious. Meticulous, comprehensive, and powerful, this work is most deserving of the award."

In addition, the ISHS gave an Award of Superior Merit to *Lincoln Editor: The Quarterly Newsletter of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln*, the project's newsletter edited by Stacy Pratt McDermott.

The editorial staff members present for the awards were, from left, Assistant Editor Chris Schnell, Associate Director John Lupton, former NHPRC Fellow Dan Monroe, Director Daniel Stowell, Assistant Editor Stacy McDermott, retired Assistant Editor Susan Krause, and former Assistant Editor Dennis Suttles.



Image courtesy of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln.

NHPRC FULLY FUNDS GRANT REQUEST

In May, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) awarded the Papers of Abraham Lincoln a grant for \$118,070, which represents a 58 percent increase from the previous year and fully funds the grant request.

The Commission has provided money to the project for twenty years for a total of nearly \$1.5 million. As the

grant-making affiliate of the National Archives and Records Administration for preservation, publication, and access to vital historical documents, the NHPRC gave a total of \$2.6 million to twenty-five documentary editing projects. The Papers of Abraham Lincoln appreciates the support of the NHPRC, notably Executive Director Kathleen Williams and Director for Publications Timothy Connelly.

DIRECTOR TRAVELS UNDERGROUND AND OVERSEAS IN SEARCH OF LINCOLN DOCUMENTS

In May, Director Daniel Stowell traveled to Lenexa, Kansas, to search records from the Patent Office at a National Archives storage facility in an abandoned limestone mine. More than a half-mile inside the mine entrance is the office for this records center. The National Archives leases fourteen bays in the mine, capable of storing more than 3.2 million cubic feet of records. Among this vast quantity of archival material are 82,526 boxes of patent files, spanning the years 1836-1956. Fortunately, only a small fraction of the boxes are from Lincoln's era.

Stowell searched twenty-one boxes from Lincoln's congressional career to determine if he may have helped any constituents from Illinois with their patent applications but found no documents. He also searched seventy boxes from Lincoln's presidency, focusing on patents for military items, from rifles and cannon to tents and knapsacks. Within these boxes, Stowell located and scanned two endorsements by Lincoln that appear in *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, but he found no new Lincoln documents. Another 300 boxes remain to be searched from Lincoln's presidency.

The project thanks Rosemarie Weisz, Volanta Harris, Bob Rufo, Valerie Coty, and Sherry Steverson for their assistance at the Federal Records Center. Thank you also to Dave and Jana Keener for providing housing in Kansas City.

In June, Stowell traveled to Hawaii on vacation. While there he visited the Hawaii State Archives, which holds four documents signed by Abraham Lincoln. One of those documents is President Lincoln's order to Secretary of State William Seward to affix



Hawaii State Archives Building,
Honolulu (above); Press Conference with
Stowell in Hawaii (at left)



Hawaii State Archives Building,
Honolulu (above); Press Conference with
Stowell in Hawaii (at left)



Clockwise, from left, the entrance to the limestone mine, the parking area for researchers, and the underground entrance to the archives in Lenexa, Kansas.

Images courtesy of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln.

the Seal of the United States to the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Because the document simply refers to "my proclamation," the staff of the Hawaii State Archives did not realize that it had such historical significance. The Papers of Abraham Lincoln and the Hawaii State Archives issued a joint news release when Stowell was in Hawaii, and the story generated worldwide interest. More than one hundred newspaper, radio, and television outlets broadcast the story, including ones in the United Kingdom, Canada, Austria, Singapore, New Zealand, and Malaysia and twenty-eight states in the United States. While at the Hawaii State Archives, Stowell also located copies of two letters to Lincoln from Kamehameha V, the king of Hawaii.

The project wishes to thank Luella H. Kurkjian and Susan Shaner of the Hawaii State Archives for their assistance. No state or project funds were used to support Stowell's travel to Hawaii.

PROJECT AND STAFF NEWS

Robert Crosby graduated from the University of Illinois at Springfield in May. He served with the project as a graduate assistant for two years.

The project welcomed two summer interns in June. Through August, Helena Iles and Rebecca Wieters will be working at Archives II in College Park, Maryland, where they will be scanning pardon file documents.

Iles (pictured below at left) holds a Bachelor's degree in history from Lancaster University in England and a Master's degree in U.S. history from the University of Maryland. A British citizen, she is currently working on a Master's degree in Library Science at Maryland.

Wieters (pictured below at right) is a doctoral student in history at the University of Maryland, where she is studying the U.S. South, immigration, and ethnicity. She earned her Bachelor's degree in history and political science at the College of Charleston.



Project staff continue to collect images of Lincoln documents from around the country. The Special Collections Department at the University of Arkansas provided images of an appointment for a register of the land office in Springfield, Missouri. The project appreciates the assistance of Tom W. Dillard and Andrea Cantrell.

In April, Associate Director John Lupton traveled to the Los Angeles area to scan Lincoln documents in several public and private collections. He would like to thank Geoffrey Stover of Santa Ynez, Chris and Eileen Blankenhorn of Valencia, Robert W. Wood of Beverly Hills, Todd Bracken of Venice, Bob and Lauren Grant of Agoura Hills, Ken and Stephanie Cooper of Calabasas, Monsignor Francis Weber of the Archival Center of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in Mission Hills, Ken Otto of Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, and Susan F. Ogle of the Drum Barracks Civil War Museum in Wilmington.

Also in April, Director Daniel Stowell traveled to several repositories and private collections in Texas and Arkansas. The project appreciates the assistance of Richard

Workman at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin, Lee Pecht at Rice University in Houston, Sam Fore at the Harlan Crow Library in Dallas, and Dr. Christopher Greer. The University of Houston and Texas A&M University also provided images of the Lincoln documents in their collections. Thank you to Pat Bozeman and R. Niccole Cobb at the University of Houston and to Catherine Coker and Tina Weaver at Texas A&M University.

In early May, Assistant Editor Stacy McDermott scanned documents owned by Bill and Christina Rush of Antioch, Illinois, and Allen Ottens of Rockford, Illinois. These collectors were gracious to invite her to their homes to scan their Lincoln documents.

While in Kansas conducting research at the National Archives storage facility, Daniel Stowell visited Arthur F. Loux and scanned a Lincoln document that he owns. The project appreciates the support of Mr. Loux.

Staff members were busy this spring writing scholarly papers and making public presentations about various aspects of Lincoln's life and times.

Assistant Editor Christopher Schnell published "Lincoln and the Kentuckians: Placing Abraham Lincoln in Context with Lawyers and Clients from His Native State" in the latest issue of the *Northern Kentucky Law Review*.

In February, David Gerleman gave a paper entitled "A Loyal and Worthy Man: William Houston, Abraham Lincoln, and Loyalist Patronage," at the first annual Sam Houston Symposium held in Huntsville, Texas. At the same conference, he also participated in a round-table discussion about research and archival digitization projects. Sharing the panel with Lynda Crist, editor of the Papers of Jefferson Davis, Gerleman explained how the Papers of Abraham Lincoln is using cutting-edge digital techniques to preserve and disseminate Lincoln's vast correspondence.

Presentations in April...

Stacy McDermott spoke to a group of high school students, parents, and teachers at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library about Lincoln the lawyer. The students were winners of the Lincoln Legacy Contest sponsored by the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Research Associate Erika Holst and Assistant Editor Chris Schnell presented papers at the 2009 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference in New Orleans. Holst's paper was entitled "Residents of the 'Kingdom of the Sick': Images of Invalids in Victorian

continued on page 4...

America,” and Schnell’s was “Middle-class Middle Ground: Court Week in Lincoln’s Illinois.”

Erika Holst talked to the Zeta Psi fraternity at the University of Illinois. Her presentation was entitled: “Lincoln’s Left Brain: The Sixteenth President’s Scientific Interests.”

John Lupton presented “Hunting and Gathering the Papers of Abraham Lincoln” at the Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference in Detroit, Michigan. Lupton also presented a program on Lincoln and the Eighth Judicial Circuit to an Elderhostel group visiting Springfield.

Stacy McDermott presented “Matrimony and Divorce in Sangamon County, 1837-1861” at a luncheon for the Alumni SAGE Society at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Ed Bradley presented a paper entitled “Civil War Patronage in the West: Abraham Lincoln’s Appointment of William Jayne as Governor of the Dakota Territory” at “Abraham Lincoln Looks West: The 41st Annual Dakota Conference on the Northern Plains.” The conference was held at the Center for Western Studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where Bradley also made a luncheon presentation about the Papers of Abraham Lincoln.

Presentations in May...

Stacy McDermott made a presentation about the project and Lincoln’s law practice to a group of McHenry County lawyers during their annual Law Day luncheon.

John Lupton spoke in Peoria to the Abraham Lincoln Inn of Court—the oldest Inn of Court in the state. Nearly forty judges and lawyers heard Lupton speak about Lincoln the lawyer, with emphasis on Lincoln’s notes for a law lecture.

Daniel Stowell and Assistant Editor A J Aiséiríthe presented papers at the annual conference of the United States Capitol Historical Society in Washington, DC. Stowell spoke on “Government Girls’ in Wartime Washington,” and Aiséiríthe spoke on “Garrisonian Abolitionists and President Lincoln during the Civil War.”

Stowell also participated in a conference at the Filson Historical Society entitled “From Country Lawyer to Commander-in-Chief: The Making of Abraham Lincoln.” Stowell spoke about Lincoln as a Politician.

Presentations in June...

Daniel Stowell spoke to the Senior Counsel Division of the Hawaii State Bar Association about Lincoln’s career as an attorney. Also in June, Stowell spoke to students and faculty at Brigham Young University-Hawaii about the political and military power of Lincoln’s words.

John Lupton gave two presentations to nearly thirty participants of the Horace Mann Teacher’s Institute in June.

DONORS

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

Abraham Lincoln Inn of Court

Dr. Michael J. Devine in memory of John Trutter and Judge Harlington Wood Jr.

Lincoln Land Community College Elderhostel

John Lupton

Judge and Mrs. Richard Mills
in memory of Judge Harlington Wood Jr.

He spoke about Lincoln’s legal career and about authenticating Lincoln’s handwriting.

Also in June, Assistant Editor Daniel Worthington attended the Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents at the University of Wisconsin.

LIGHTY AND LUPTON JOIN LINCOLN CORPS OF DISCOVERY

Research Associate Chandler Lighty and Associate Editor John Lupton recently joined five previous recipients in the project’s Lincoln Corps of Discovery. To gain membership in this elite group of researchers, a staff member must discover a previously unpublished document written by Lincoln that is unknown to the repository in which it is housed.

Lighty (pictured at right) discovered two notes written by Lincoln in the records of the Treasury Department at Archives II in College Park, MD.



Lupton (pictured below) discovered eleven pages



of amendments written by Lincoln in the records of the House of Representatives at the National Archives in downtown Washington. The amendments were part of a bill from the Post Offices and Post Roads Committee, of which Lincoln was a member when he was a Congressman.

LINCOLN AND THE “LIBERAL PORTION OF THE ENGLISH NATION”

Abraham Lincoln’s presidency commanded the attention and inspired the intellectual commentary of some of England’s most learned men, including George Holyoake, the secularist editor of the *English Leader*. Holyoake took interest in Lincoln’s policies and held the American president in high esteem. He was one of many European radicals who were staunch supporters of the North during the Civil War and who were actively engaged in the abolition of American slavery.¹

Holyoake was a life-long champion of oppressed people, which grew partly out of his childhood experiences.



George Jacob Holyoake

Image courtesy of the Leicester Secular Society, Leicester, United Kingdom.

The son of working-class parents, Holyoake began working with his father, a whitesmith, at a foundry when he was just eight years old. As a young man, he studied the ideas of English reformer Robert Owen. His boyhood experiences as a worker and the influence of Owen’s ideas provided an inspiration for his life and work. In his intellectual efforts to reform society, in 1846 he coined the term secularism—the replacement of a belief system based on Christianity by a focus on

reason and science. He believed secularism provided the answer to the social ills of his era.²

Holyoake and Professor Francis Newman³ were both members of the Emancipation Society in London.⁴ Newman and others were appalled at Lincoln’s call for the colonization of black Americans and disappointed at the limited effectiveness of the Emancipation Proclamation. Newman had publicly chastised Lincoln for being too conservative in regard to the issue of slavery. In response, William Lloyd Garrison blasted Newman for dismissing Lincoln as dishonest and accusing the President of holding a “mean prejudice against colour.” The controversy compelled Newman to respond, and Holyoake published the response in the *English Leader*. In it, Newman defended his belief that the policies of the Lincoln administration were not fully in the best interests of black people. Newman also defended his right to an opinion on “moral” as opposed to “political”

grounds and urged Lincoln to “treat the coloured race as his ‘fellow-citizens’” and not as “property.”⁵

In 1864, Holyoake wrote a letter to Lincoln in defense of the professor. The letter reveals the extent to which Britain’s intellectual community was observing Lincoln’s administration and the historical events in the United States. Newman may have disagreed with the details of Lincoln’s measures, but both he and Holyoake supported the northern cause in the war, participated in the publication of pro-Union and anti-slavery pamphlets, and believed that Lincoln was the best hope for the abolition of American slavery.⁶

George Holyoake to Abraham Lincoln⁷

4 September 1864

“ENGLISH LEADER” OFFICE,
282, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
Sep 4 1864

To his Excellency, President Lincoln.

My dear Sir

Pardon my addressing you in terms so familiar; but every one who cares for freedom in this country regards your name not only with admiration but affection. I am among that number. I have published in the *English Leader* my friend Professor Newman’s Letter to Mr Lloyd Garrison and also M^r Garrison’s answer. You have probably seen them. Still I have ordered copies of the *English Leader* sent to you with them in. On bringing M^r Garrison’s answer under Prof. Newman’s notice he has sent me the Reply which I have the honour to enclose to you. It contains points which may interest you to read and I send it to you before it is published.

All my fear is that such letters may be taken advantage of by your enemies who do not share the exalted regard Prof Newman has for your personal character. He bears the distinctest testimony to his high belief in your honesty which should prevent the perversion of his letter. Where great questions are at issue some risks should be run in the hope that true light may fall on momentous principles. This I am sure is Prof. Newman’s feeling His love of America and frequent defences of you, when he stood alone among our eminent men, will I doubt not induce you to regard his opinion as one of high friendship to freedom and to truth.

No President of America since the days of Washington has won the esteem of the liberal portion of the English nation as you have. As one holding you in higher regard than any monarch I beg to subscribe myself

Yours very sincerely
Geo: Jacob Holyoake
Editor.

(I am personally known to M^r Horace Greely and were M^r Bright⁸ M[ember of] P[arliament]. in town he would include in this letter a few lines of introduction for me)

continued on page 6...

[Endorsement]

London Sept 4, 1864.

Editor of the Leader enclose copy of letter of Prof. Newman to Mr Lloyed Garrison

[Endorsement]

answ^d—Oct. 7. 64⁹

Notes

¹ Donaldson Jordan and Edwin J. Pratt, *Europe and the American Civil War* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1931), 94.

² George Jacob Holyoake, b. 13 April 1817 in Birmingham, England; d. 22 January 1906, in Brighton, England. Finding Aid of the George Jacob Holyoake Papers, located at Bishopsgate Institute, London, England.

³ Francis William Newman, b. 27 June 1805, in London, England; d. 7 October 1897, in Weston-super-Mare, England. Newman was a scholar and writer who taught at several British universities from 1830 to 1863. He was a prolific writer on religion and the classics and was the brother of the famous English Cardinal John Henry Newman. Newman watched the American Civil War with interest and, in 1863, gave a lecture entitled “The Good Cause of President Lincoln” and published *The Character of the Southern States of America*. John Clark Ridpath, ed., *The Ridpath Library of Universal Literature* (New York: The Globe Publishing Co., 1898); “Francis William Newman,” *Encyclopedia Britannica* (New York: Britannica, 1911), 19:517.

⁴ Jordan and Pratt, *Europe and the American Civil War*, 154, 180.

On October 7, 1864, John Hay responded to Holyoake’s letter to Lincoln, writing: “The President directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter of the 4th of September and to assure you of his grateful appreciation of the generous terms in which you have been pleased to speak of him.”¹⁰

Stacy Pratt McDermott, Assistant Editor

⁵ Francis William Newman to George Jacob Holyoake, published in the *English Leader*, c. September 1864; clipping enclosed with George Jacob Holyoake to Abraham Lincoln, 4 September 1864, Robert Todd Lincoln Collection of Abraham Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

⁶ Jay Monaghan, *Diplomat in Carpet Slippers: Abraham Lincoln Deals with Foreign Affairs* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1945), 280; Jordan and Pratt, *Europe and the American Civil War*, 94, 141-42; Francis William Newman, “The Good Cause of President Lincoln,” (London: Emancipation Society, [1863]).

⁷ George Jacob Holyoake to Abraham Lincoln, 4 September 1864.

⁸ John Bright, b. 16 November 1811, in Rochdale, Lancashire, England; d. 27 March 1889, in Rochdale, Lancashire, England. Bright was a Quaker and liberal member of Parliament from 1843 until his death in 1889. C. A. Vince, *John Bright* (Chicago: Herbert S. Stone & Co., 1898), 9, 12-13, 204.

⁹ This endorsement is in the hand of John Hay.

¹⁰ John Hay to George Jacob Holyoake, 7 October 1864, Robert Todd Lincoln Collection of Abraham Lincoln Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

LIGHTNING LINE ON THE PRAIRIE: LINCOLN’S USE OF TELEGRAPHY

A reminiscence of Charles A. Tinker, first published in David Homer Bates’s *Lincoln and the Telegraph Office* in 1907 and repeated as recently as 2006 in Tom Wheeler’s *Mr. Lincoln’s T-Mails*, suggests that Abraham Lincoln’s first encounter with telegraphy came in 1857, more than a decade after its introduction. As the story goes, while on the legal circuit in Pekin, Illinois, Lincoln wandered into the telegraph office housed in the Tazewell House hotel and asked Tinker, the young telegraph operator, how the new technology worked. Tinker observed that Lincoln “seemed to be greatly interested in his explanation, and asked pertinent questions showing an observing mind already well furnished with knowledge of collateral facts and natural phenomena; and that he comprehended quite readily the operation of the telegraph, which at that time was a comparatively new feature in business and social intercourse; for it should be remembered that before that time wires had been extended west of the Allegheny Mountains only five or six years.”¹

Actually, Lincoln’s comprehension of telegraphy came from what was, by 1857, eight years of firsthand experience. The telegraph reached Springfield, Illinois, by 1848, and correspondence assembled by the Papers of

Abraham Lincoln shows that Lincoln commenced receiving and sending telegrams within a year.

Samuel Morse sent the first telegraphic message in the United States on May 24, 1844. Between 1844 and 1846, the only forty miles of wire in the country ran between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. After 1848, however, telegraph mileage exploded in the United States, largely in concert with the expansion of railroad lines. By 1848, the country had more than 2,000 miles of telegraph wire; by 1850, 12,000; and by 1852 almost 24,000.²

In a letter printed in the *Illinois State Journal* in January 1848, Elihu Washburne wrote from St. Louis, “The line from the Atlantic seaboard to this place... has already been completed, and they are now setting the posts up to Alton, on the line between this and Chicago, via Springfield and Peoria.”³ Springfield was connected to the growing telegraphic network by June 1848. David Davis wrote his wife from that city on June 9: “The wonder workings of the Telegraph are past comprehension. The wires are in communication from this place direct with Philad & New York, and two or three hours after anything is done in those cities, it is known here. These old success who go into the Telegraph

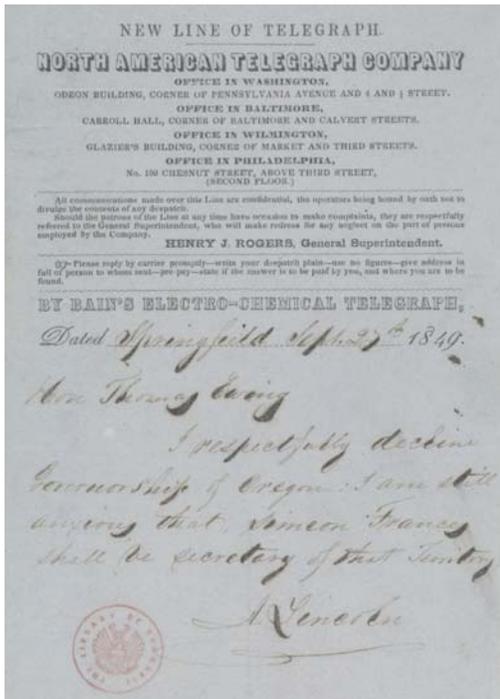
Office and witness the operation cant believe. They shake their heads, & think there is some hocus-pocus about it.”⁴

Perhaps Lincoln was one of those who shook his head in wonder at the prospect of information traveling across the country at the speed of light, but he quickly availed himself of the technology.

Telegraphic messages were much more expensive than mailed letters; the first ten words sent between Chicago and New York by telegraph in 1850 cost \$1.55, compared with the three cents it cost to mail an entire letter. However, as JoAnne Yates points out, “the higher per-word cost was relatively unimportant for time-sensitive exchanges involving an immediate decision or transaction. After all, the mail took days or weeks, while the telegraph took minutes.”⁵ More than a decade before the Civil War made Lincoln’s use of telegraphy a necessity for keeping abreast of military developments, Lincoln found the concerns of politics pressing enough to employ the faster but more expensive telegram.

The first known telegraphic exchange involving Lincoln occurred during the summer of 1849. Having concluded his single term in the United States Congress, Lincoln was eager to secure a position of patronage within the new administration of Zachary Taylor. He initially set his sights on being Commissioner of the General Land Office, and on June 2 was “informed by a Telegraphic despach”⁶ that the appointment would go to either him or Justin Butterfield of Chicago. Unfortunately, that telegram has not survived.

The first extant telegram sent by Lincoln dates to September 27, 1849. Lincoln was disappointed by his failure to obtain appointment as the Commissioner of the General Land Office. The administration of Zachary Taylor offered Lincoln the governorship of Oregon instead. Lincoln replied



**Recipient's Copy
of Lincoln's Telegram to Ewing**

*Image courtesy of the the Ewing Papers,
Library of Congress, Washington, DC.*

to Taylor’s Secretary of the Interior Thomas Ewing by telegram (pictured at left):

Dated **Springfield Sept. 27th 1849.**

Hon Thomas Ewing

**I respectfully decline Governorship of Oregon; I am still anxious that, Simeon Frances shall be secretary of that Territory
A.Lincoln⁷**

Lincoln followed his telegram with a letter (pictured below) written the same day to Ewing, which sheds light on Lincoln’s reason for choosing the more expensive telegram to convey his rejection of the office:

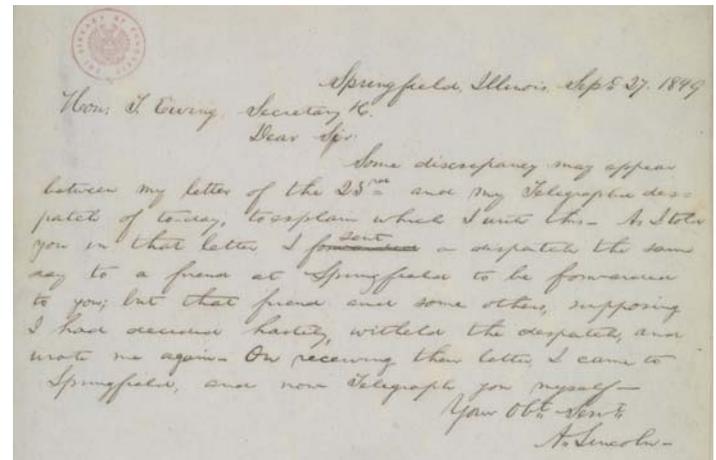
Springfield, Illinois. Sep^t 27. 1849

Hon: T. Ewing, Secretary &c.

Dear Sir:

Some discrepancy may appear between my letter of the 23rd and my Telegraphic despatch of to-day, to explain which I write this. As I told you in that letter, I **forwarded** ^{sent} a dispatch the same day to a friend at Springfield to be forwarded to you; but that friend and some others, supposing I had decided hastily, withheld the despatch, and wrote me again. On receiving their letter, I came to Springfield, and now Telegraph you myself.

**Your Ob^t Serv^t
A. Lincoln.⁸**



Abraham Lincoln to Thomas Ewing

*Image courtesy of the the Ewing Papers, Library of Congress,
Washington, DC.*

In this instance, the telegraph proved a useful technology for rapidly communicating across vast distances, and Lincoln, with his lifelong love of innovation, was likely happy to embrace it.

The next telegram Lincoln sent was to recommend his former law partner Stephen T. Logan for the position of U.S. District Judge, on January 29, 1850. In the coming

continued on page 8...

decade he would use telegraphy in his legal work, occasionally at first, then with increasing frequency, reflecting the growing nature and stature of his law practice. As the arrival of the railroads in central Illinois expanded the geographical limits of Lincoln's law practice, he occasionally found his presence requested at distant courts on very short notice. In 1853 Lincoln sent two telegrams, both excusing himself from distant legal work: On May 4, he wired Mason Brayman of the Illinois Central Railroad Company to say "I cannot go to Jonesboro,"⁹ and on October 15, he regretfully informed James Joy, also of the Illinois Central Railroad,

that he "cannot come" to Chicago "without injustice to some clients and to myself".¹⁰

By the late 1850s Lincoln's use of telegraphy in his legal practice had grown significantly. In addition to receiving messages regarding business in the federal courts in Chicago, Lincoln also received telegrams relating to more local business. In 1859 Asahel Gridley sent Lincoln several telegrams regarding legal work from Bloomington. The fact that a client would employ telegraphy to convey a message a mere sixty miles across the prairie indicates that the technology had become an increasingly accepted tool for doing business.

Erika Holst, Research Associate

Notes:

¹ David Homer Bates, *Lincoln in the Telegraph Office: Recollections of the United States Military Telegraph Corps During the Civil War* (New York: The Century Co., 1907), 4-5; Tom Wheeler, *Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: The Untold Story of How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War* (New York: HarperCollins, 2006), 31.

² Wheeler, *Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails*, 22-25; Daniel Walker Howe, *What Hath God Wrought: The Transformation of America, 1815-1848* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007), 690-98.

³ *Illinois State Journal* (Springfield), 20 January 1848, 1:4.

⁴ David Davis to Sarah Davis, 9 June 1848, David Davis Family Papers, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL.

⁵ JoAnne Yates, *Control Through Communication: The Rise of System in American Management* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989), 23.

⁶ Abraham Lincoln to Joseph Gillespie, 13 July 1849, Roy P. Basler et al., eds., *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 8 vols. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1953), 2:58.

⁷ Abraham Lincoln to Thomas Ewing, 27 September 1849, Thomas Ewing Family Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, DC. This recipient's copy is written on a form of the North American Telegraph Company.

⁸ Abraham Lincoln to Thomas Ewing, 27 September 1849, Thomas Ewing Family Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

⁹ Abraham Lincoln to Mason Brayman, 4 May 1853, Lincoln Collection, Chicago Museum of History, Chicago, IL.

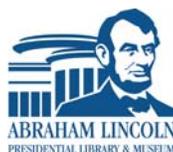
¹⁰ Abraham Lincoln to James F. Joy, 15 October 1853, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, Detroit, MI.

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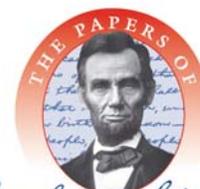
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Abraham Lincoln

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