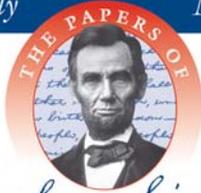


LINCOLN EDITOR

The Quarterly

Newsletter of



October - December 2011

Volume 11 Number 4

Abraham Lincoln

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

ADVISORY BOARD CONVENED

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln held the first meeting of its Advisory Board on October 13. Since its inception, the project has had an Editorial Board, consisting of historians and editors, who provide the project with advice on editorial issues. The Advisory Board, in contrast, advises the project on fundraising, accessing documents in repositories and private collections, and the public presentation of the project and its products. The initial Advisory Board consists of the following:

Robert Lenz, an attorney from Bloomington, Illinois, is the current President of the Abraham Lincoln Association (ALA). The ALA and its members have been steadfast supporters of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, and the project appreciates Lenz's longtime interest in Lincoln and in the project's goals.

David Racine is Interim Executive Director of the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS). UIS is a cosponsor of the project and provides the hiring apparatus for most of the project staff, and Racine has been a staunch advocate for the project within the center and the university.

Steven Rothman is an attorney from Los Angeles, California. A graduate of Stanford University, he has already helped the project secure digital images of Lincoln documents located there.

Rhoda Sneller, from West Des Moines, Iowa, is coeditor of Abraham Lincoln Online. She is active in various Lincoln organizations and attends numerous annual conferences. She has graciously agreed to promote the project on her website and at various Lincoln events.

Robert A. Stuart Jr. is Vice President of the Abraham Lincoln Association and an

attorney from Springfield, Illinois. He has been a longtime supporter of the project, dating back to the early days of the Lincoln Legal Papers.

The Advisory Board will eventually grow to perhaps a dozen members and will convene annually for an update on the progress of the project and to provide input. At this year's meeting, project staff gave the Advisory Board a detailed overview of the process that each document must go through from initial identification to scanning, transcription, proofing, markup, annotation, subject indexing, and final review before being ready for publication.

Director Daniel Stowell sought the Board's advice on private fundraising, obtaining information about additional private owners of documents, and gaining access to repositories that were not initially cooperative. The Advisory Board members asked good questions and provided several helpful ideas for action. The project is very pleased to welcome the new board and is grateful for their willingness to serve.



Papers of Abraham Lincoln Advisory Board
(from right): Steven Rothman, David Racine, Rhoda Sneller, Robert Lenz, and Robert Stuart Jr.

NEW RESEARCH ASSISTANT JOINS D.C. TEAM

In November, the project welcomed Anne Musella, a new research assistant, to the staff at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Musella holds two degrees from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia: a B.A. in History (2009) and an M.A. in Applied History (2011). She comes to the project with a great deal of experience conducting research at the National Archives and the Library of Congress and digitizing historical documents. Previously, she worked as a research associate for soldiersource.com, a company that offers historic research services.



She also worked as an intern for the Robert E. Lee Memorial Association and the Buckland Preservation Society.

Musella will spend her time digitizing documents found by editors working at the Archives. She joins Research Assistant Helena Iles Papaioannou in this effort. Having two full-time scanning technicians will expedite the digitization of the thousands of documents the project expects to locate in dozens of record groups at the National Archives Building.

PROJECT AND STAFF NEWS

Assistant Editor Christian McWhirter and his wife Corrin Smithson McWhirter welcomed a son this fall. Dylan Michael David McWhirter was born October 29, weighing in at seven pounds, fourteen ounces. Dylan is the first child for the couple, and he is pictured here in his fashionable Papers of Abraham Lincoln bib and festive holiday pajamas.



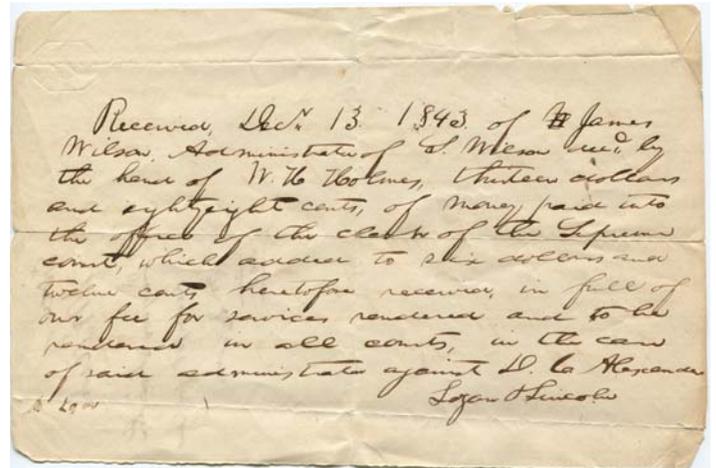
Pamela McMorrow of Arlington Heights, Illinois, traveled to Springfield, Illinois, in October with her Lincoln document for project editors to scan. We appreciate her willingness to make her document available.

Also in October, Director Daniel W. Stowell traveled to four repositories and five private collections on his way to and from the annual meeting of the Association for Documentary Editing in Salt Lake City, Utah. The project thanks the following individuals for their assistance: Dee Harris at the National Archives at Kansas City in Missouri; Lorraine Madway at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas; Linda Gegick at the City of Las Vegas Museum & Rough Rider Memorial Collection in Las Vegas, New Mexico; and David J. Whittaker, Don Campbell, Andrea Cerveny, and Heather Bailey at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. The project also appreciates the cooperation of James M. Guy, Brad Whinery, David Roth, Tony and June Reed Ferrell,

and Steve and Mary King for making their privately held Lincoln documents available for scanning.

In November, Beverly Hill and Carrie Hunter of Ira and Larry Goldberg, Auctioneers, provided images of two documents from a recent sale. The project appreciates their assistance in providing these images.

In December, the project received images of the Bliss Copy of the Gettysburg Address from the White House Historical Association. The Bliss Copy is one of only five copies of the Gettysburg Address written in Lincoln's hand, and it resides in the Lincoln bedroom at the White House. The project now has high-resolution digital images of all five copies. The project thanks William Allman, Alexandra Lane, and Brenda Fike of the White House Historical Association for their assistance in obtaining these images.



**New Receipt in *Wilson v. Alexander*
13 December 1843**

(Image courtesy of James M. Guy)

THE SERENDIPITY OF RESEARCH

From time to time in the life of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, a question about one document leads to research that answers questions about other documents. In August, a private owner from Michigan visited the project's offices in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield with what she believed was an original response to a delegation of Methodists who visited Abraham Lincoln in May 1864. Our research about this document led to some interesting discoveries and an introduction to new techniques of distinguishing between original documents and lithographic facsimiles.

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1864. Held every four years, the General Conference was the preeminent gathering of the bishops and ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church. On May 14, the delegates elected a committee consisting of Bishop Edward R. Ames and four ministers to travel to Washington to present an address to President Lincoln supporting the administration and the war effort¹.

The committee met with President Lincoln at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 18. Lincoln had obtained the text of the address that they would be presenting and penned a reply in preparation for their visit.

Gentlemen:

In response to your address, allow me to attest to the accuracy of its historical statements; indorse the sentiments it expresses; and thank you, in the nations name for the sure promise it gives.

Nobly sustained as the government has been by all the churches, I would utter nothing which might, in the least, appear invidious against any. Yet, without this, it may fairly be said that the Methodist Episcopal church, not less devoted than the best, is, by it's greater numbers, the most important of all. It is no fault in others that the Methodist church sends more soldiers to the field, more nurses to the hospital, and more prayers to Heaven than any. God bless the Methodist church, bless all the churches, and blessed be God, Who, in this our great trial, giveth us the churches.

A. Lincoln

May 18, 1864

This response was immediately and understandably popular with Methodists and was printed

in the proceedings of the General Conference and reprinted in Methodist newspapers throughout the North. At some point, Lincoln's brief response was also converted into a facsimile version using the lithographic printing process.

These lithographic facsimiles, made in the nineteenth century, have complicated the identification of the original document. They consist of authentic Lincoln handwriting on paper that is more than a century old. Distinguishing between the original and many nearly contemporaneous facsimiles proved quite difficult, and facsimiles were often treated as the original document.

When the private owner arrived, it was clear that what she had was a facsimile. Dr. James Cornelius, the curator of the Lincoln collection at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, agreed. Although she also had original letters from an ancestor who was a Methodist chaplain, close inspection of the Lincoln document revealed the even lines of a lithographic copy rather than the uneven tones of iron-gall ink.

Our visitor from Michigan owned a facsimile, but the question remained as to the location of the original. A quick check of our files revealed that in 2005, the Associate Pastor of Owego United Methodist Church in Owego, New York, had contacted the project about the copy that his church had. He ultimately wrote up his findings in an article for *Methodist History*. He acknowledged that the church owned a facsimile, but concluded, "where is the original now?"²

The answer is, and has been since 1924, the Library of Congress.

The Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress consists of four series. Series 1, by far the largest, consists of those papers owned by Robert Todd Lincoln from his father's personal files. Series 2 consists of documents retained by John G. Nicolay, one of Lincoln's private secretaries. Series 3 contains items acquired by the Library later and added to the original collection. Each of these three series has been microfilmed and digitized to make them available.

Within Series 1 are two copies of the Address of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to Lincoln and a copy of Lincoln's response, though not in his hand. According to the note on the reverse, it was "Returned to the President with the thanks of Mr. Hanscom." Simon P. Hanscom was the editor of the *National Republican* and likely borrowed the copy to publish it in his newspaper.³

Series 4 of the Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress consists mostly of copies of documents held in other repositories, though they do contain some original documents. Among the original documents in Series 4 is Lincoln's response to the Methodist delegation. It has been there since 1924 but apparently was not incorporated into Series 4 until the 1960s.

Roy P. Basler and his associates, when they published *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* in 1953, cited the original document to Mrs. Arthur Wendell of Rahway, New Jersey. Mrs. Wendell was the granddaughter of Joseph A. Wright (1810-1867), a prominent Methodist who was Governor of Indiana, a United States Senator, and Minister to Prussia. It appears now that that copy was a facsimile.

The original document in Lincoln's hand was apparently retained by William L. Harris (1817-1887), the Secretary of the 1864 General Conference and later a Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His son, William H. Harris, died in November 1919, and his widow donated the document to the Library of Congress on March 17, 1924.

How do we know the document at the Library of Congress is the original document and not just another facsimile? With the expert assistance of Jeffrey M. Flannery, Head of Reference and Reader Services in the Manuscript Division, and Yasmeen Khan, a Senior Rare Book Conservator at the Library of Congress, and some technical wizardry, the answer became clear.

During the course of a nationwide search for Lincoln documents, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln had discovered other facsimile copies of Lincoln's short

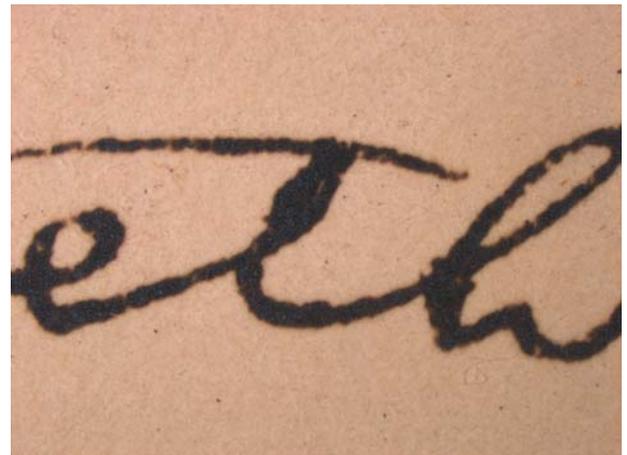
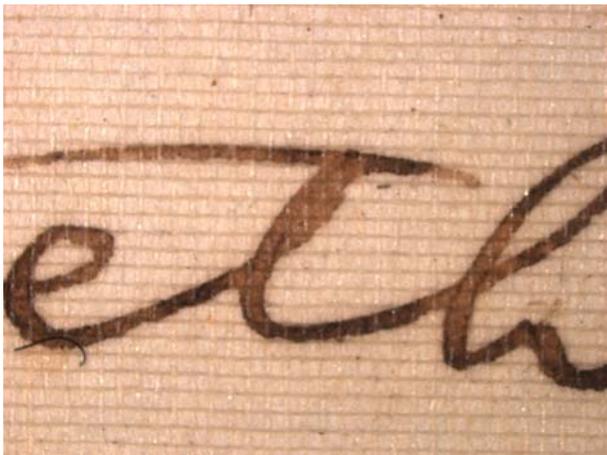
speech to the Methodist delegation. There are facsimile copies at Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, for example. A typed transcription even surfaced at the Polk County Historical Association in Tryon, North Carolina. However, because project staff had not yet conducted a search of Series 4 of the Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress, the existence of the original document in Series 4 remained undetected. A 1994 letter from John R. Sellers at the Library of Congress to former Illinois State Historian Thomas F. Schwartz suggested that there was another copy at the Library of Congress, but it remained unclear whether it was the original or simply another facsimile.

Assistant Editor Ed Bradley contacted Jeffrey Flannery to inquire about viewing the document. Bradley examined the document in person and believed that it was the original. The short speech had been "silked," or coated with silk and a mixture of starch and protein adhesive, to strengthen it. Common from 1900 to the 1940s, "silking" is considered too invasive and is no longer used today. Flannery offered to have the Conservation Department look at the document more closely, and the project was grateful to accept the offer.

Most of the documents Abraham Lincoln wrote and signed were created using iron-gall ink. Manufacturers of iron-gall ink crushed galls from oak trees and mixed the result with water, iron sulfate, and gum arabic as a suspension agent. Unlike carbon-based inks, iron-gall ink reacted with both parchment and the cellulose in paper and could not be rubbed away easily.

The ink used in lithography was carbon-based and has different characteristics from the iron-gall ink

Comparison of the last three letters of "giveth" in the last line of the document. On the left is the handwritten document, and on the right is the lithographic copy. Note the texture of the silking reinforcement on the handwritten document.



commonly used in preparing handwritten documents.

Senior Conservator Yasmee Khan examined the document under high magnification and was certain that the ink was applied by a pen. Using the ARTIST multispectral camera in the Conservation Division, Khan (pictured here with the camera) also created a false-color infra red 2 image that displays iron gall ink as red, while carbon-based inks appear gray and lithographic ink appears black. The results were dramatic and conclusive. Although she was not an expert on Lincoln's handwriting, Khan concluded that the document at the Library of Congress was "written by



hand in iron-gall ink on writing paper and not a lithograph printed under the extreme pressure of a lithographic press."

Combined with the Papers of Abraham Lincoln staff's familiarity with Lincoln's handwriting, these tests demonstrate conclusively that the copy of Lincoln's speech to the Methodist delegation that resides in the Abraham Lincoln Papers, Series 4, at the Library of Congress is the original document.

**By Daniel W. Stowell,
Director/Editor**

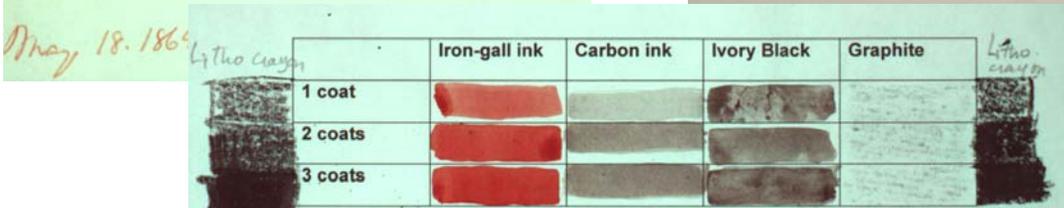
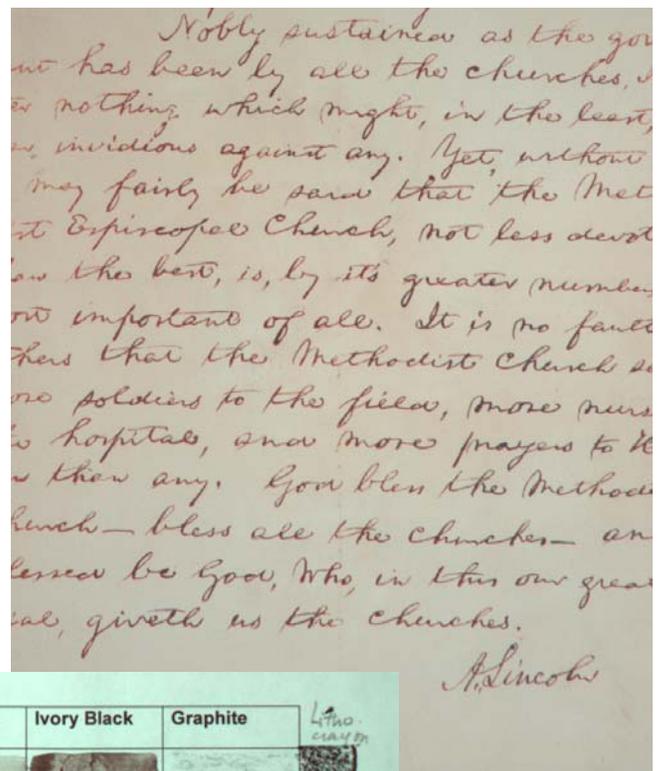
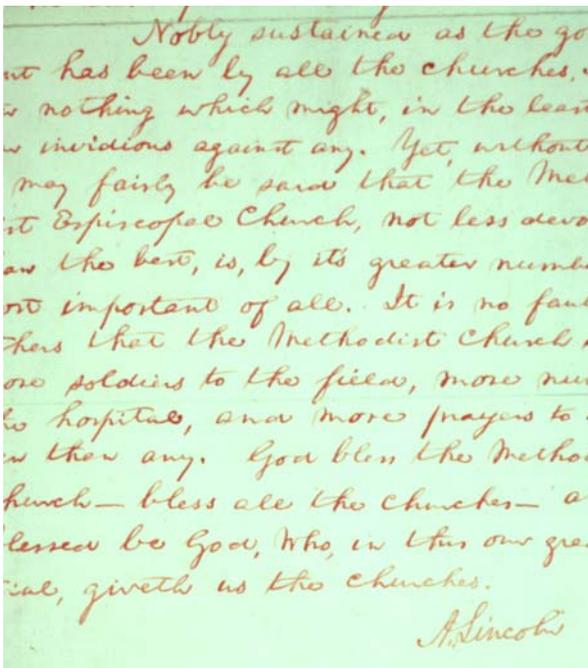
Notes:

¹ *Journal of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Held in Philadelphia, Pa., 1864* (New York: Carlton & Porter, 1864), 155-56, 373-75.

² John Leo Topolewski, "Lincoln's Response to the Methodists," *Methodist History* 44 (April 2006): 133-39.

³ *Daily National Republican* (Washington, DC), 18 May 1864, Second Edition, 2:1.

False Color Infra 2 Images of the Original Handwritten Document (left), the Lithographic Facsimile (right), and a control with patches of lithographic crayon, iron-gall ink, carbon inks, and graphite (pencil) (below). The bright red color of the original document indicates that it was written by hand with iron-gall ink. The red tint to the letters in the lithographic facsimile may indicate the presence of some iron in the lithographic printing ink.



“MY SERVICES, MY FUTURE AND MY LIFE”: THE VIRGINIAN WHO SAID NO TO JEFFERSON DAVIS AND YES TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN

After Virginia seceded from the Union, Robert E. Lee, Thomas J. Jackson, and other native Virginians resigned their U.S. Army commissions or left civilian occupations to take up commands in the Confederate Army. Far fewer Virginians with military experience declined Confederate commissions to remain loyal to the Union.¹ Among the select few who corresponded with Abraham Lincoln was James H. Neyce, a former colonel in the Virginia State Guard who, when the Civil War began, was a quartermaster clerk at the Vancouver Depot, Washington Territory.²

During his tenure as secretary of war, Davis had selected Neyce for a mysterious, undisclosed mission for the U.S. Army. This mission may have taken Neyce to the Pacific Northwest; by 1860, he was working as a clerk in the Quartermaster Department of the U.S. Army outpost at Fort Dalles, Oregon (present day The Dalles, Oregon). When Fort Dalles was downgraded to a quartermaster depot in 1861, he moved on to the Vancouver Depot.

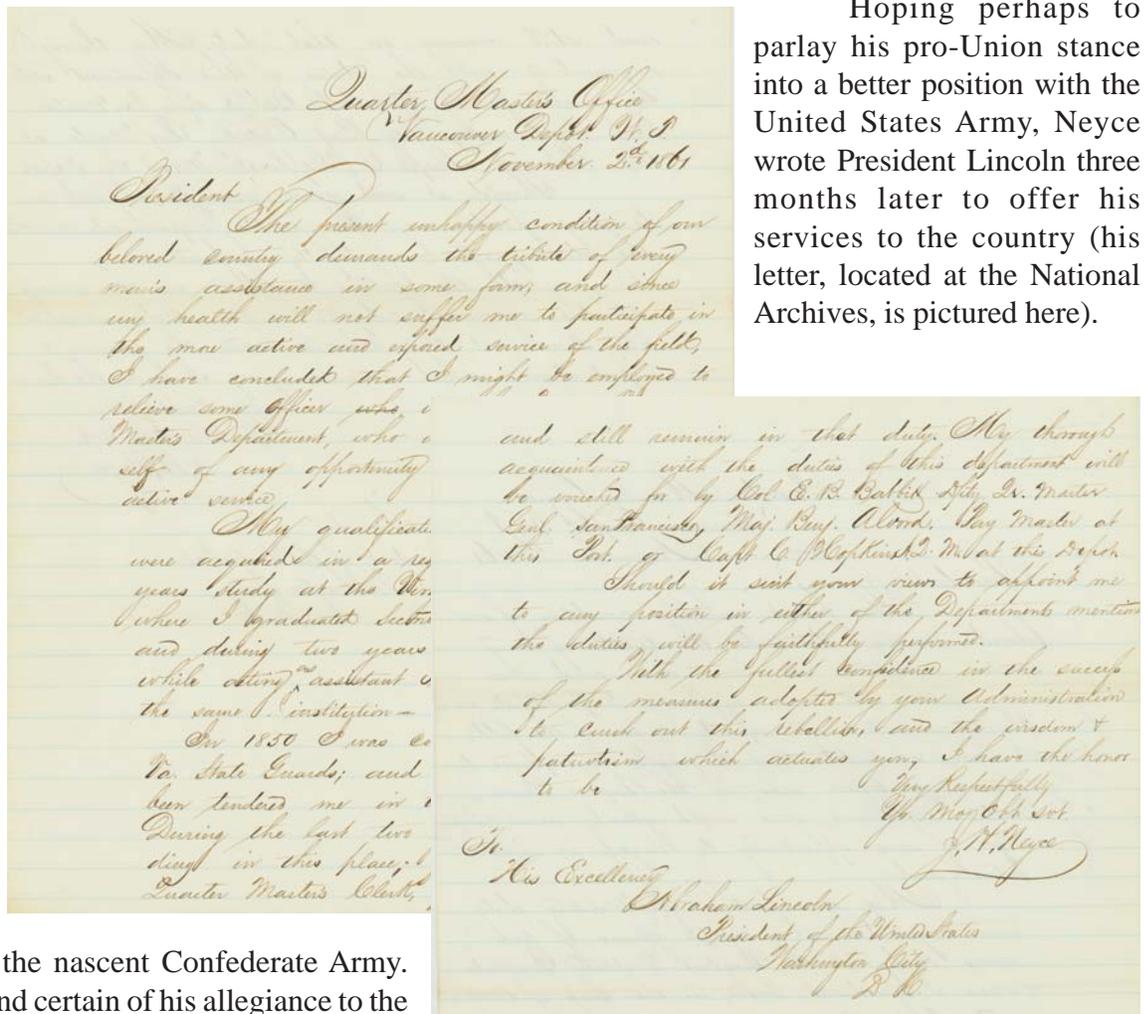
Though only a quartermaster clerk, Neyce came to prominence in Oregon and Washington, thanks in no small measure to his exploits as an adventurer and explorer. On September 28, 1860, Neyce and five prospectors scaled and reached the summit of Mount St. Helens—only the second group to accomplish that feat.³

Once the secession crisis devolved into military hostilities, Confederate President Jefferson Davis faced a dilemma: how to find qualified men to lead the nascent Confederate Army. Remembering Neyce and certain of his allegiance to the Confederacy, Davis directed Confederate Secretary of

War Leroy P. Walker to offer Neyce command of a regiment in the Virginia Rifle Guard. On June 19, 1861, Walker transmitted a colonel’s commission to Neyce. “The President . . . takes great pleasure,” Walker wrote in an accompanying letter, “in appointing you to the position for which your requirements and qualifications, so well fit you.”⁴

On July 30, Neyce replied to Walker’s letter, returning the commission and affirming his absolute, unconditional loyalty to the Union. “Deeply . . . as I sympathize with the people of the South,” Neyce wrote Walker, “I assure you I have no sympathy with the unholy Rebellion which has plunged our once happy country, into a chaotic state of anarchy, confusion, and war.” “My services, my future and my life, were each multiplied a thousand times,” he continued, “would be cheerfully devoted to support the Constitutional President in sustaining the Constitution & Government of the United States of America.”⁵

Hoping perhaps to parlay his pro-Union stance into a better position with the United States Army, Neyce wrote President Lincoln three months later to offer his services to the country (his letter, located at the National Archives, is pictured here).



J. H. Neyce to Abraham Lincoln⁶
2 November 1861

Quarter Master's Office
Vancouver Depot. W[ashington]. T[erritory].
November. 2^d 1861

President

The present unhappy condition of our beloved country demands the tribute of every man's assistance in some form; and since my health will not suffer me to participate in the more active and exposed service of the field, I have concluded that I might be employed to relieve some Officer who, in the Pay or Quarter Master's Department, who would gladly avail himself of any opportunity to engage in more active service

My qualifications for Military duty were acquired in a regular course of four years study at the Virginia Military Institute where I graduated Second, in the class of 1848, and during two years attention subsequently, while acting as assistant Professor of Mathematics in the same institution, to the study Engineering.

In 1850 I was commissioned Colonel, in the Va. State Guards; and the same Rank has been tendered me in the Rebel Army, & declined. During the last two years I have been residing in this place; filling the position of Quarter Master's Clerk, for the most of the time, & and still remain in that duty. My thorough acquaintance with the duties of this department will be vouched for by Col. E. B. Babbitt Dpty [Deputy]. Qr. Master Genl. San Francisco, Maj. Benj. Alvord, Pay Master at this [Port], or Capt. C. Hopkins A. Q. M.[Assistant Quarter Master] at this Depot.

Should it suit your views to appoint me to any position in either of the Departments mentioned the duties will be faithfully performed.

With the fullest confidence in the success of the measures adopted by your Administration to crush out this rebellion, and the wisdom & patriotism which actuates you, I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

Yr. mo obt svt. [Your most obedient servant]

J. H. Neyce

To His Excellency
Abraham Lincoln
President of the United States
Washington City, D C.

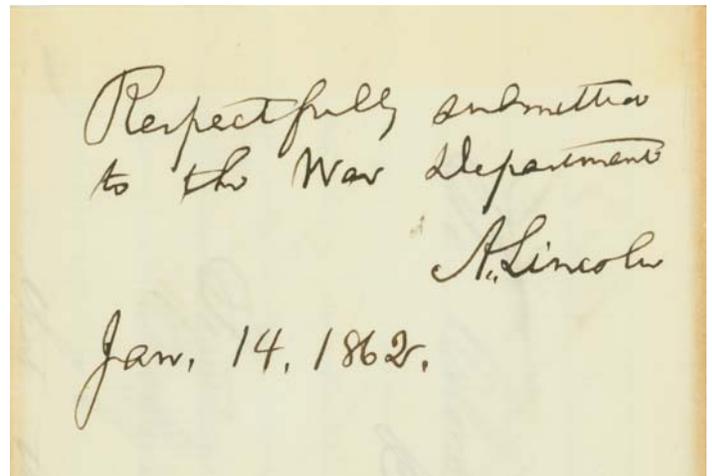
Lincoln did not respond to this letter and may not have even seen it. But Neyce's case did come to his attention. In aid of his missive of November 2, Neyce

convinced Judge James E. Wyche, a recent Lincoln appointee to the Washington Territory Supreme Court, to write the president on his behalf.⁷ On November 26, Neyce sent Wyche's letter, a certified copy of Walker's letter, and a copy of his reply, to Alexander B. Hasson, a military surgeon en route from the Washington Territory to a new assignment with the Army of the Potomac, hoping that Hasson would present the letters to President Lincoln.⁸ The letters came across Lincoln's desk, and, on January 14, 1862, he endorsed the back of Walker's letter:

Respectfully submitted to the War Department

A. Lincoln

Jan. 14. 1862.⁹



Despite Lincoln's endorsement, the War Department did not appoint Neyce to another position, and he remained a quartermaster's clerk in the Washington Territory for the remainder of the war.

After the war, Neyce's life took many twists and turns. Amassing considerable wealth, Neyce constructed a large sandstone house in The Dalles, Oregon, only to lose "The Castle of The Dalles" to bankruptcy.¹⁰ In the 1870s, he relocated to Santa Rosa, California, where, in 1884, he built a house that still stands and is part of the city's Cherry Street Walking Tour. Financial problems plagued him in his later years, and in February 1890, he was convicted of embezzlement and served a two-year sentence in San Quentin. Neyce died on March 10, 1910, at County Hospital in Santa Rosa, at the age of 92, penniless and with no traceable family.¹¹

By Daniel E. Worthington
Assistant Editor

Notes on page 8...

Notes

¹ Jesse L. Reno, George H. Thomas, and Winfield Scott were among the Virginians who decided to remain in the U.S. Army. Thomas agonized over his decision; for a detailed account of his struggle, see Christopher J. Einolf, *George Thomas: Virginian for the Union* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007), 80-89.

² James H. Neyce, b. c. November 1818, in Virginia; d. 10 March 1910, in Santa Rosa, California. For biographical information on Neyce, see "Veteran, Aged 92 years, Answers Final Call," *San Francisco Call*, 11 March 1910, 3; Irene M. Clark, "The Castle of The Dalles," in William H. McNeal, *History of Wasco County, Oregon* (The Dalles, Oregon: By the Author, 1953), 27.

³ See "Veteran, Aged 92 years, Answers Final Call," 3; Clark, "The Castle of The Dalles; Leroy P. Walker to James H. Neyce, 19 June 1861, RG 107, Entry 259: Records of the Chief Clerk (1800-1931) and the Administrative Assistant (1931-47), Records Relating to Personnel, General Records, 1816-1899, Applications, Applications for Civilian Appointments and Regular Army Commissions, box 64, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC. Neyce and his party believed erroneously that they were the first to place a flagstaff and banner on the summit. The first successful climb was in 1853. Loo-wit Lat-Kla (pseudonym), *Gold Hunting in the Cascade Mountains* (Vancouver, Washington Territory: L. E. V. Coon, 1861), 18; Fred W. Beckey, *Cascade Alpine Guide: Climbing & High Routes, 1: Columbia River to Stevens Pass*, 3rd Edition (Seattle: Mountaineers Books, 2000), 40-41.

⁴ Leroy P. Walker to James H. Neyce, 19 June 1861, RG 107, Entry 259, box 64.

⁵ James H. Neyce to Leroy P. Walker, 30 July 1861, RG 107, Entry 259, box 64.

⁶ James H. Neyce to Abraham Lincoln, 2 November 1861, RG 107, Entry 259, box 63.

⁷ Appointment of James E. Wyche as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court for the Washington Territory, RG 59, Entry 785: General Records of the Department of State, Appointment Records, Commissions, Commissions of Judges, 1837-1888, vol. 2, 93, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.

⁸ Alexander B. Hasson likely met Neyce when Hasson headed the Medical Department at Fort Dalles, Oregon, from July 1859 to November 1861. In late 1861, Hasson left Oregon to become the chief medical officer of the Regular Cavalry Brigade, Army of the Potomac. See Hasson's service record in RG 94, Entry 561: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Personal Papers of Medical Officers and Physicians ("Medical Officer's Files"), box 254, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

⁹ Leroy P. Walker to James H. Neyce, 19 June 1861; James E. Wyche to Abraham Lincoln, 26 November 1861; and James H. Neyce to Alexander B. Hasson, 26 November 1861, all in RG 107, Entry 259, box 64.

¹⁰ Neyce's wealth might have come through marriage; his wife, Ella B. Neyce, was the daughter of a circuit court judge from Virginia. His house was the finest residence in The Dalles for fifty years. It burned down in 1905. "Veteran, Aged 92 years, Answers Final Call," 3; Clark, "The Castle of The Dalles."

¹¹ "Veteran, Aged 92 years, Answers Final Call," 3; Clark, "The Castle of The Dalles"; *Sonoma County Tribune*, 7 December 1889, 8 February and 22 February 1890; *Cherry Street Walking Tour* (Santa Rosa, CA: City of Santa Rosa Cultural Heritage Board, 1997), 4; C. P. Pomeroy, *Reports of Cases Determined in the Supreme Court of the State of California* (San Francisco: Bancroft-Whitney Company, 1891), 86:393-95.

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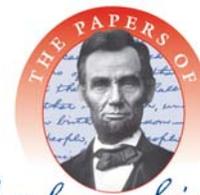
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Abraham Lincoln

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