



Harvard's Lincoln: A catalogue of an exhibition at Houghton Library

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HARVARD'S LINCOLN

A CATALOGUE OF AN EXHIBITION AT HOUGHTON LIBRARY

20 January–25 April 2009

Curator

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Houghton Library
for Collections

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Figure 5. EASTMAN JOHNSON. *The boyhood of Lincoln*. Boston, 1868. Chromolithograph. 55 x 44.4 cm. Lincoln Collection The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana. This version of Eastman Johnson's popular rendering of Lincoln's youthful attempt at self-improvement was included in "Prang's American Chromos," a series of chromolithographs issued in 1868 by the Boston firm of Louis Prang and Company. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

HARVARD'S LINCOLN

RISE OF THE RAIL SPLITTER

THE SECOND CHILD OF THOMAS AND NANCY HANKS LINCOLN, Abraham Lincoln was born on 12 February 1809 in Hardin (now LaRue) County, Kentucky. When Abraham was seven years old, the Lincoln family moved to southern Indiana in search of better farm land and economic opportunity. In 1818, almost two years after settling on the Indiana frontier, Abraham's mother died from a disease called the "milk sickness." A year later Abraham gained a stepmother when his father married a widow named Sarah Bush Johnston. After living thirteen years in Indiana, the Lincoln family, in another quest to improve its economic prospects, moved to Macon County, Illinois.

Lincoln worked hard to overcome his humble upbringing. Self-conscious of his lowly beginnings and lack of formal education, which he estimated totaled less than a year in length, Lincoln dedicated himself to a regimen of self-improvement, spending as much time as he could enhancing his reading and writing skills. The man who would later become one of this country's most respected orators and writers did not learn the fundamentals of grammar until he was in his early twenties.

In 1830, at the age of twenty-one, Lincoln left the family farm to strike out on his own, moving to New Salem, Illinois, where he spent the next six years trying his hand at various occupations, including store clerk, mill hand, postmaster, and surveyor. Lincoln also served as a captain in the Black Hawk War for several months in 1832, though he was never involved in combat. It was during his New Salem years, however, that Lincoln developed an interest in politics. He was attracted to the Whig Party and its leader, Henry Clay, who espoused government support for internal improvements, education, a central banking system, and protective tariffs. Such policies conformed to Lincoln's emerging view that government should create opportunity for economic independence for those, like himself, who were willing to work for it. After failing in his first attempt to gain a seat in the Illinois legislature in 1832, Lincoln was elected two years later and served four consecutive terms. In 1837, Lincoln issued his first public statement on slavery when he voted against several resolutions that condemned abolition societies. Although Lincoln was not a supporter of abolitionism, he believed

strongly that slavery was “founded on both injustice and bad policy.” Around this time Lincoln began to study law, which he saw as a way to economic security and a political career. He received his license to practice in 1836.

In 1837, Lincoln moved to Springfield, Illinois’ capital city, where he would reside until he assumed the presidency in 1861. It was in Springfield that Lincoln established a successful law practice and achieved political fame. It was in this city that Lincoln met and in 1842 married Kentucky-born Mary Todd, and together over the next decade they celebrated the birth of four sons, Robert Todd (1843), Edward (Eddie) Baker (1846), William (Willie) Wallace (1850), and Thomas or Tad (1853). In 1850, three-year-old Eddie died of pulmonary tuberculosis.

After winning the Whig Party’s nomination to represent Illinois’ Seventh District in May 1846, Lincoln was elected to his only term in Congress in August 1846. Lincoln’s term began in December 1847 and he wasted little time in attacking President James Knox Polk’s 1846 decision to go to war with Mexico. Like many Illinois Whigs, Lincoln opposed the conflict, asserting that Polk waged war for land for the expansion of slavery rather than against an invasion of American territory, as the president had argued. The Mexican War was popular in Lincoln’s congressional district, as it was in the country at large, and he probably would have been defeated for re-election had he not agreed to step aside for another Whig candidate. Before he left Congress, Lincoln introduced a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia (he failed to get the votes needed to pass the legislation) and supported the Wilmot Proviso, which prohibited slavery in any territory acquired from Mexico. Disillusioned with politics, Lincoln spent the next five years practicing law.

It was the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 that drew Lincoln back into the political arena. Written largely by Stephen A. Douglas, Democratic senator from Illinois, the legislation repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which had banned slavery above the Mason-Dixon Line and allowed residents of territories and future states to decide the slavery issue for themselves. The political turmoil engendered by this controversial act destroyed the Whig Party, divided Democrats, led to the formation of the Republican Party, and renewed sectional animosity by making slavery the predominant national political issue. Though he had hoped to keep the Whig Party intact, Lincoln soon became a leader of the Republican Party, which comprised various “anti-Nebraska” groups that opposed the spread of slavery outside of the Southern states where it already existed. Lincoln emerged as Douglas’s most vocal critic in Illinois and in 1858 was nominated by the state Republican Party to challenge Douglas for his Senate seat. The election was notable for the series of seven debates covered by newspapers across the North. Although Lincoln lost the election (his party won the popular vote, but the election was at that time decided by the state legislature, which was controlled by the Democratic Party), his performance in the debates enhanced his national reputation

to the point that he was touted by Illinois Republicans as a potential candidate for president in 1860. On 9 May 1860 the Illinois Republican Convention endorsed Lincoln for the presidency, anointing him as the “Rail Candidate,” a homespun nickname that recalled his prowess with an axe during his prairie youth (the nickname later evolved into the “Rail Splitter”). Nine days later, Lincoln received the presidential nomination of the national Republican Party at its convention in Chicago.

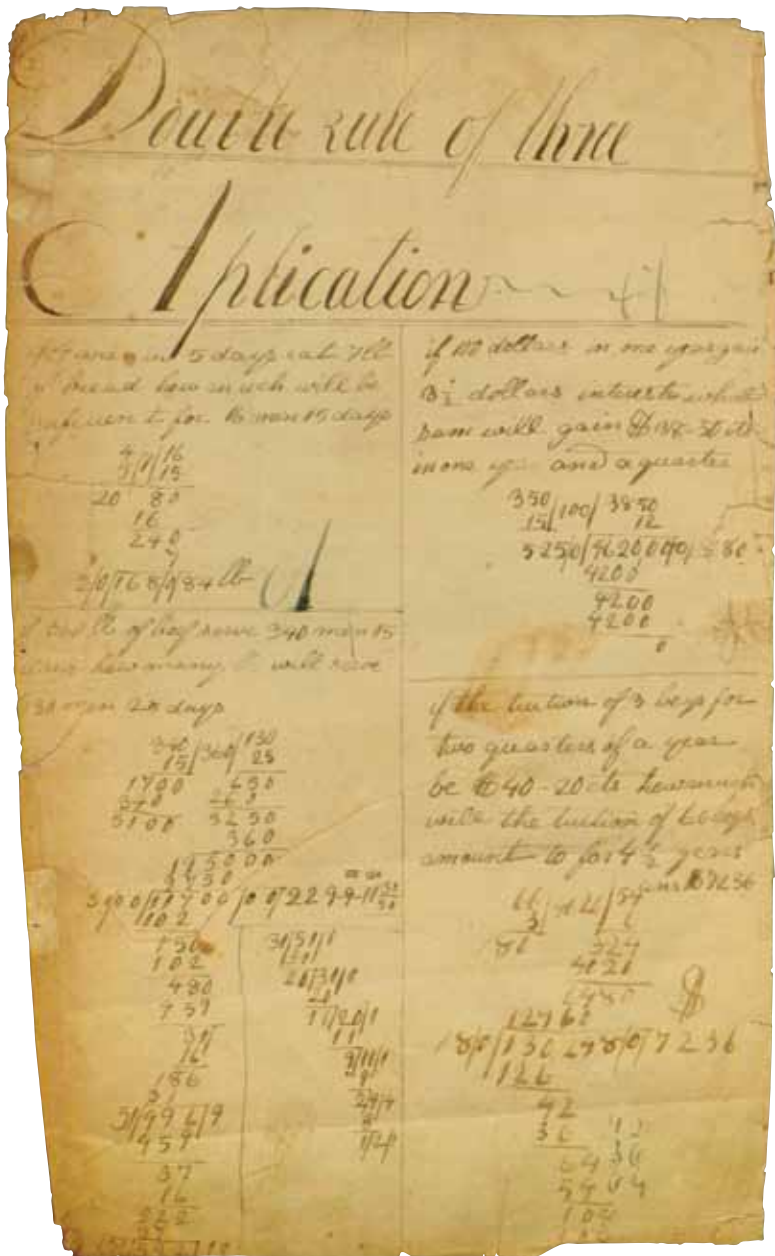


Figure 6. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Exercise book fragment, ca. 1825. Manuscript. 32 cm. fMS Am 1326 Gift of Christian A. Zabriskie, 1954. This fragment contains mathematical exercises in the hand of Lincoln when he was a teenager. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

CASE 1

**Eastman Johnson. *The boyhood of Lincoln. (An evening in the log hut.)*
Boston: Louis Prang, 1868. Chromolithograph.**

Having attended less than one year of formal schooling, Lincoln was largely self-educated. Lincoln's efforts to overcome his humble beginnings and lack of education have engaged writers and artists to this day. *The boyhood of Lincoln* (1868) depicts how the American artist Eastman Johnson (1824-1906) imagined the future president, an exemplar of the self-made man, reading by hearth fire in the family log cabin. This version of Eastman's popular artistic rendering of Lincoln's youthful attempt at self-improvement was included in "Prang's American Chromos," a series of chromolithographs issued in 1868 by the Boston firm of Louis Prang and Company. Immigrating to Boston from Prussia in 1850, Prang (1824-1909), was a printer, lithographer, and publisher who became known as the "father of the American Christmas card." (figure 5)

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Abraham Lincoln. Exercise book fragment, ca. 1825. Manuscript.

This fragment contains mathematical exercises in the hand of Lincoln when he was a teenager. Lincoln's former law partner, William Henry Herndon (1844-1891), received this leaf from Lincoln's stepmother, Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln (1788-1869), in 1866 when he was collecting documentation for his planned biography of the late president. (figure 6)

f MS Am 1326 *Gift of Christian A. Zabriskie, 1954.*

Abraham Lincoln. Legal manuscripts, 1842, 1846.

1. **Appeal to Illinois Supreme court in case Thomas Watkins v. John White. Logan and Lincoln. Springfield, Illinois, December 1842.**
2. **Appeal in the case of Hugh K. Cooper v. Israel W. Crosby and Silas W. Robbins. Lincoln and Herndon. Springfield, Illinois, December 1846.**

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Lincoln did not want to be a farmer like his father. In his early twenties, he considered both politics and the law as fields in which he could make a living. At first he thought his lack of formal education might be a deterrent to entering the legal profession, but the encouragement of a lawyer friend, John Todd Stuart (1807-1885), convinced Lincoln to undertake a regimen of personal study by reading the standard legal textbooks of the time. Lincoln received a license to practice in September 1836, a time when law schools were scarce and state bar exams did not exist. From 1837 until he assumed the presidency in 1861, Lincoln practiced law in partnership with Stuart, Stephen T. Logan (1800-1880), and William Henry Herndon. Despite his informal legal training, Lincoln was a successful lawyer and was particularly accomplished in persuading juries. The first of these two documents dates from his partnership with Logan and the second from his partnership with Herndon.

Lincoln Collection Abraham Lincoln, Miscellaneous Papers (72) (76) *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Charles Gilman. *The Illinois conveyancer: being a collection of original and selected forms for popular use with occasional references to the revised statutes; and an appendix containing all the laws relating to conveyance from the earliest date to the present time.* Quincy, Illinois: Woods and Flagg, 1846.

This copy of Gilman's work on land tenure law was owned by Lincoln. The title-page bears his signature and date of acquisition (1854).

*AC7.Un33P.Zz16g *Gift of Henry Saltonstall Howe, 1931.*

Abraham Lincoln. Letter to Benjamin F. James, Springfield [Illinois], January 14, 1846. Manuscript.

In May 1846, Lincoln was nominated by the Illinois Whig Party to represent the state's seventh district in the U.S. House of Representatives; three months later he was elected to his one and only term in Congress. This letter to Benjamin F. James, a supporter as well as the editor of the *Tazewell Whig*, was written several months before Lincoln won the nomination and shows that he had already developed the keen political sense for which he would become famous. The letter demonstrates that Lincoln understood the political terrain and how he stood in several key counties: "As to my being able to make a break in the lower counties, I tell you that I can *possibly* get Cass, but I do not think I will.

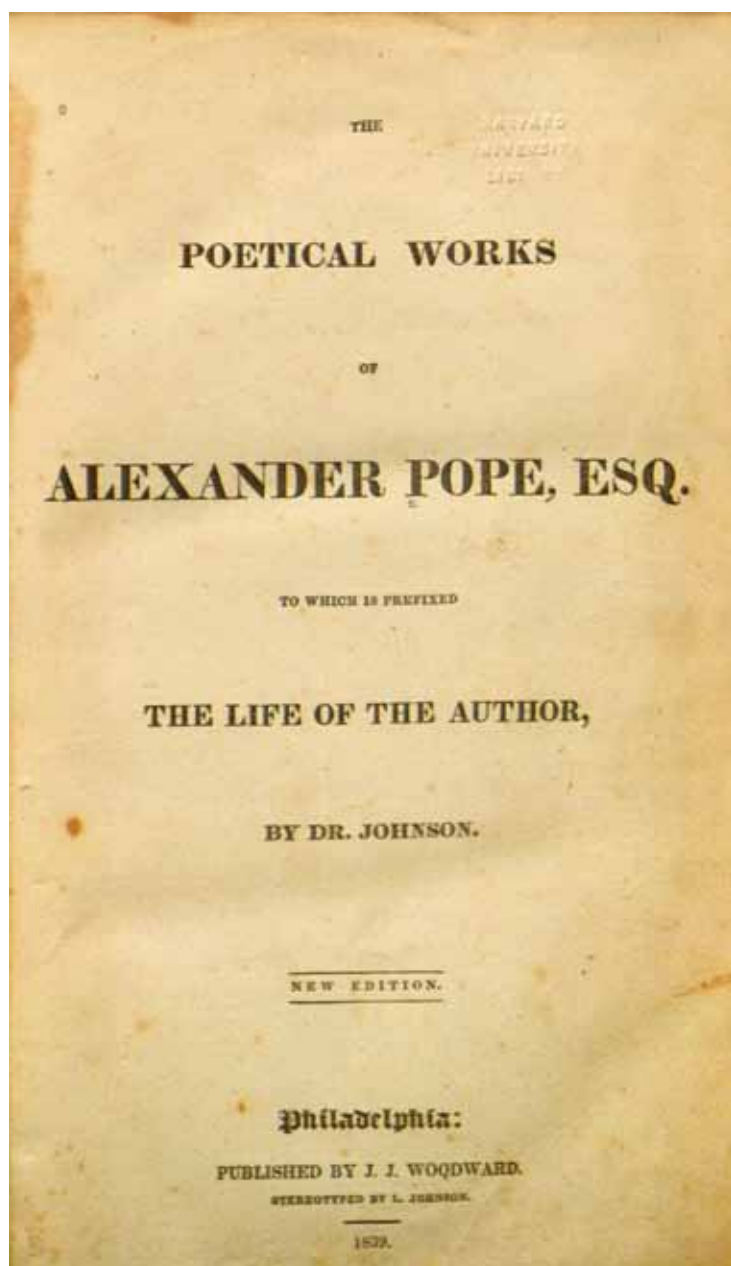


Figure 7. ALEXANDER POPE. *The poetical works of Alexander Pope, esq.* Philadelphia, 1839.
*AC85.L6384.Zz839p Bequest of Mrs. James T. Fields, 1915. One of three books owned by Lincoln that reside in Houghton Library. Includes ownership inscription "A. Lincoln, presented by his friend, N. W. Edwards." Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

Morgan & Scott are beyond my reach. Menard is safe to me. Mason—neck and neck. Logan is mine. To make the matter sure, your entire Senatorial District must be secured. Of this, I suppose Tazewell is safe; and I have much done in both the other counties....I wish you all in Tazewell, to keep your eyes continually on Woodford and Marshall. Let no opportunity of making a mark escape. When they shall be safe, all will be safe—I *think*.”

f MS Am 1845.7 Papers of John Hay and Abraham Lincoln *Bequest of Clarence Leonard Hay, 1969, 1970.*

Abraham Lincoln. Letter to William Henry Herndon, Washington [D.C.], February 15, 1848. Manuscript.

Lincoln took his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in December 1847. Hoping to distinguish himself in Congress, Lincoln chose to make opposition to the Mexican War one of his signature issues. He believed that the war was unnecessary and unconstitutional. In this letter, written back home to his law partner Herndon, a Whig who supported the war, Lincoln asserts that President Polk violated the Constitution by invading Mexico not to repel an invasion but to seek additional territory. “Allow the president to invade a neighboring nation, whenever *he* shall deem it necessary to repel an invasion,” Lincoln wrote, “and you allow him to do so, *whenever he may choose to say* he deems it necessary for such purpose—and you allow him to make war at pleasure.... If, to-day, he should choose to say he thinks it necessary to invade Canada, to prevent the British from invading us, how could you stop him?”

Autograph File, L *Bequest of Mrs. James T. Fields, 1915.*

Alexander Pope. *The poetical works Alexander Pope, esq.* Philadelphia: J. J. Woodward, 1839.

Lincoln liked to read—and on occasion to write—poetry. William Shakespeare and Robert Burns were two of his favorite poets. This copy of the poems of Alexander Pope was given to Lincoln by Ninian Edwards (1809-1889), a onetime fellow Whig (who later switched to the Democratic Party) and brother-in-law to Mary Lincoln. Lincoln later gave it to his law partner William Herndon in 1861 before leaving Springfield for Washington, D.C., to assume the presidency. In 1867, Herndon presented this copy to the American publisher and author James T. Fields (1817-1881). (figure 7)

*AC85.L6384.Zz839p *Bequest of Mrs. James T. Fields, 1915.*

CASE 2

Abraham Lincoln. *Political debates between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas, in the celebrated campaign of 1858, in Illinois.* Columbus, Ohio: Follett, Foster and Company, 1860.

After a failed attempt to win a U.S. Senate seat in 1855, Lincoln was nominated three years later by the newly-formed Republican Party to run against Stephen A. Douglas (1813-1861). Although he lost the 1858 Illinois Senate race to Douglas, Lincoln's performance in the series of debates with the "Little Giant" raised his national profile to the point that Illinois Republicans mentioned his name as a potential candidate for the presidency in 1860. Lincoln assembled a scrapbook of newspaper transcripts of the debates, which were used by the Columbus, Ohio, firm of Follett, Foster, and Company, at Lincoln's instigation, to produce the work shown here. When published in 1860, it became an instant bestseller.

Lin 2012.2.2 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Abraham Lincoln. *The address of the Hon. Abraham Lincoln, in vindication of the policy of the framers of the constitution and the principles of the Republican Party, delivered at Cooper Institute, February 27th, 1860.* New York: George F. Nesbit & Company, 1860.

In the wake of his strong Senate race against Stephen Douglas, Lincoln's name began to be mentioned as a potential Republican presidential candidate. He spent several months in 1859 on a speaking tour of the Midwest, and in October of that year Lincoln was invited to speak at Henry Ward Beecher's Plymouth Church in Brooklyn (the location was later changed to the Cooper Union). Lincoln accepted and used the opportunity to introduce himself to eastern Republicans in a state that was home to Senator William H. Seward (1801-1872), considered the front-runner for the 1860 Republican presidential nomination. Appearing before an audience of 1,500, Lincoln argued that the founding fathers had set the country on an anti-slavery course, contrary to the claims of Stephen Douglas and others in the Democratic Party, who, he maintained, conspired with Southern slaveholders to expand slavery into the territories. Lincoln asked his fellow Republicans to hold firm to their anti-slavery principles: "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our

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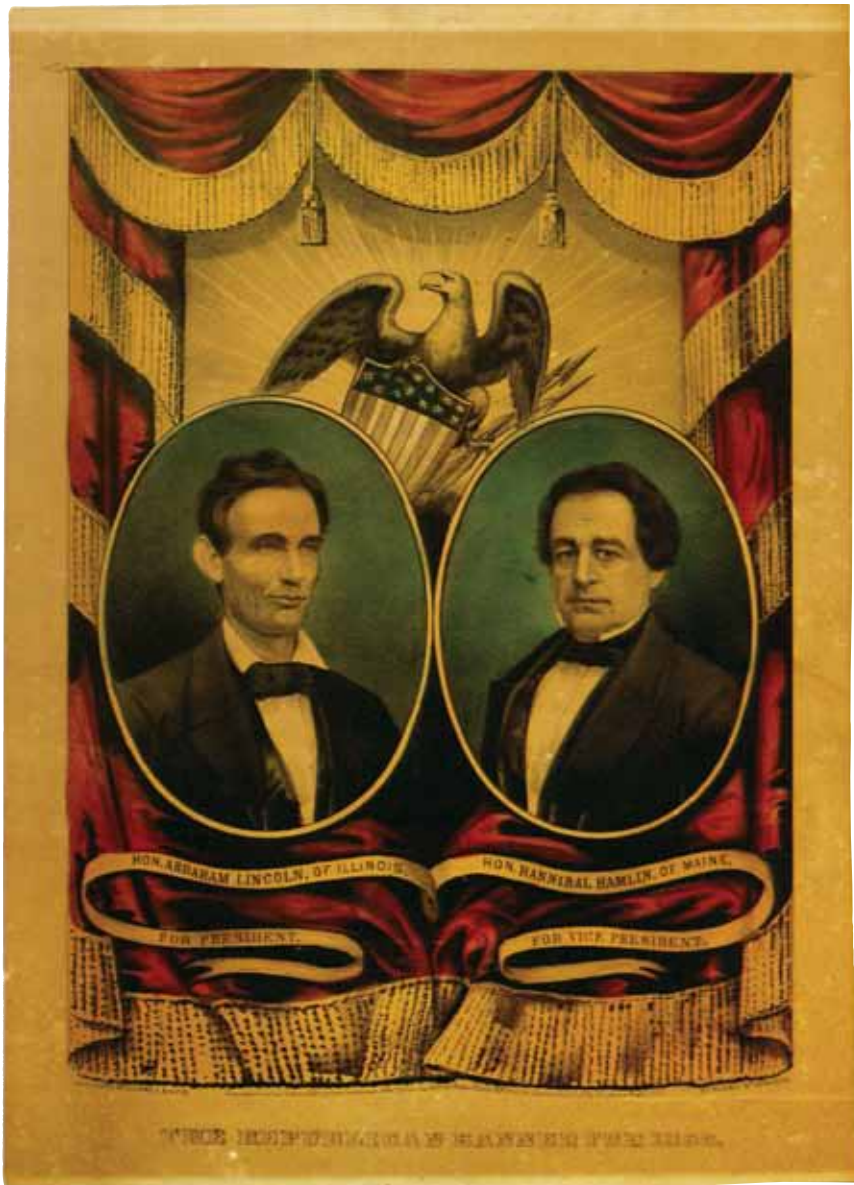


Figure 8. *The Republican Banner for 1860*. New York, 1860. Broadside. 35.5 x 25.4 cm. *2008-255
This broadside of the 1860 Republican Party ticket was published by the well-known New York
printmaking firm of Currier and Ives. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

duty as we understand it.” Enormously popular with Republicans, the speech was widely circulated in published form, including this one. The work shown here, the final authorized version of the address, appeared in September 1860, just weeks before the presidential election.

Lin 2013.5 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

The Republican Banner for 1860. New York: Currier and Ives, 1860. Broadside.

In May 1860, the Republican Party gathered in Chicago for its convention and nominated Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin for president and vice president. Hamlin (1809-1891) was a Republican senator from Maine and had previously served that state in the House of Representatives and as governor. This broadside of the 1860 Republican ticket was published by the New York printmaking firm of Currier and Ives. Founded by Nathaniel Currier (1813-1888) and James Merritt Ives (1824-1895), the firm issued more than a million prints such as this one between 1835 and 1907. Their prints, depicting a variety of images of American life, were extremely popular. The firm produced many political prints, several of which included Lincoln as a subject. (figure 8)

*2008-255 *Source unknown.*

For President, Abraham Lincoln/Vice President, Hannibal Hamlin. 1860. Flag.

Flags, such as the one shown here, were popular campaign ornaments in the 19th century. This is one of several flags that were produced for the Lincoln campaign. (figure 9)

b*2007M-43 *Purchased in 2007 on the Bayard Livingston & Kate Gray Kilgour Fund.*

Lincoln Campaign Biographies

1. *The life, speeches, and public services of Abram Lincoln, together with a sketch of the life of Hannibal Hamlin. The Wigwam Edition. New York: Rudd and Carleton, 1860.*

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2. *The life and public services of Hon. Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, and Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine.* Boston: Thayer and Eldridge, 1860.

3. Joseph H. Barrett. *Life of Abraham Lincoln (of Illinois) with a condensed view of his most important speeches; also a sketch of the life of Hannibal Hamlin (of Maine).* Cincinnati: Moore, Wiltach, Keys and Co., 1860.

Each presidential campaign since 1824 has inspired candidate biographies. Shown here are three biographies of Lincoln issued during the 1860 campaign to promote his candidacy. More than 200,000 copies of Lincoln biographies were distributed during the campaign, most of which were issued in paper wrappers. The Wigwag Edition (named after the temporary wooden structure built in Chicago for the Republican Convention of 1860) of *The life, speeches, and public services of Abram Lincoln*, the first of the Lincoln biographies to appear during the election year, sold 12,000 copies within a week of its publication. Note that Lincoln's first name is misspelled "Abram," possibly indicating that some New York publishers (despite his successful Cooper Union address) were not yet familiar with the western candidate.

(1) Lin 2257.76 (2) Lin 2257.75.2 (3) Lin 2056.14 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

***Honest Old Abe.* Song and Chorus Words by D. Wentworth. Music by A Wide Awake. Buffalo: Blodgett and Bradford, 1860.**

Music has played a role in American presidential elections from the beginning of the 19th century. Sheet music became an integral component of campaigns, used to promote candidates and energize their supporters with songs, polkas, quick-steps, two-steps, marches, and waltzes. Illustrated sheet music also provided the public with the opportunity to see what candidates looked like. Merging Lincoln's two popular nicknames of "Old Abe" and "Honest Abe," this song promoted the candidate as a man of integrity. The image used by the publisher, based on an 1857 photograph, shows Lincoln as a frontier-bred, down-to-earth common man with whom voters could identify. "Wide Awakes" were young men's marching clubs that sprang up across in the North in support of the Republican Party in both the 1856 and 1860 presidential campaigns.

Lincoln Collection *Bequest of Evert Jansen Wendell, 1918.*

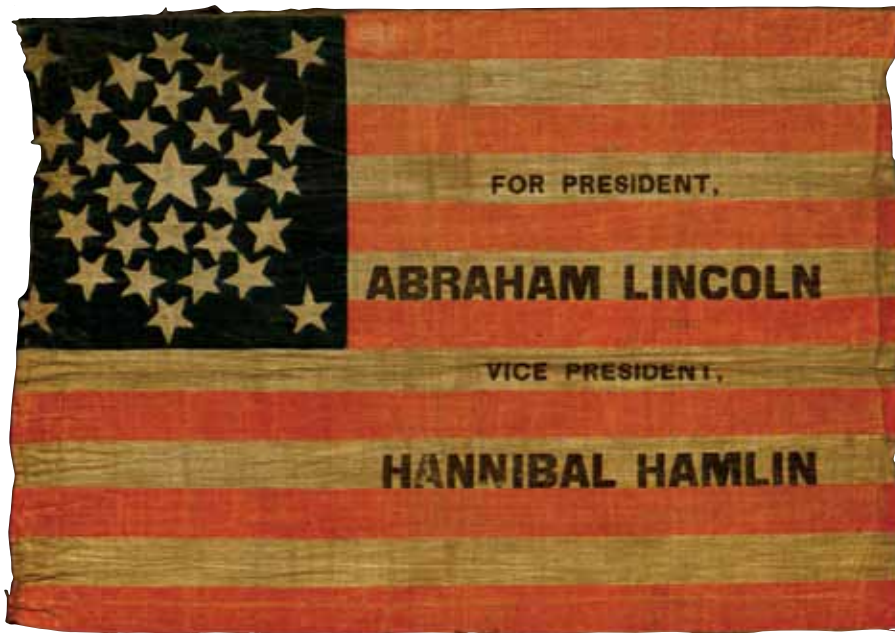


Figure 9. For President, Abraham Lincoln[.]Vice President, Hannibal Hamlin. 1860. Flag. 31 x 21 cm. b*2007M-43 Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

1860 Campaign Songsters

1. Thomas Drew (comp.). *The campaign of 1860. Republican songs for the people, original and selected*. Boston: Thayer and Eldridge, 1860.
2. *The Lincoln and Hamlin songster, or the continental melodist*. Philadelphia: Fisher and Brother, 1860.

Another genre of published music that arose during the 19th century was the songster and, like sheet music, it became a staple of American political campaigns. A collection of songs or poems intended to be sung, ranging anywhere from twenty to seventy-five pages in length, songsters were inexpensive to produce and small enough to fit in one's pocket. Shown here are two songsters promoting Lincoln in the 1860 presidential campaign.

Lin 2048.5.3 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana*.

William Burleigh, ed. *The Republican pocket pistol, a collection of facts, opinions and arguments for freedom*. New York: H. Dayton, 1860.

In addition to campaign biographies, sheet music, and songsters, the 19th century witnessed the emergence of other genres of political print, including campaign newspapers, pamphlets, handbills, posters, and periodicals. The *Republican pocket pistol*, a periodical devoted to presenting “in the most precise form practicable, the principles and aims of the Republican party” as well as “the issues involved in its contest with the Slave Power, and its Democratic allies,” appeared monthly between the time of Lincoln’s nomination and his election. Complete sets of this title are quite rare; Houghton Library owns three of the four numbers known to have been published.

US 5368.46* *Source unknown.*

**Lincoln & Hamlin. Ward 6. [Massachusetts] Republican Ticket.
Boston: Wright and Potter, 1860.**

This Lincoln and Hamlin ballot from Massachusetts represents another form of contemporary political printing. Ballots such as this one were usually produced by political parties and distributed by party workers at polling places. The ballot was folded by the voter and placed into a box. Besides their use as a voting tool, ballots also served as an advertisement for the candidates and political parties—and another venue for circulating images of candidates.

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

COMMANDER IN CHIEF & GREAT EMANCIPATOR

IN JUNE 1856, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY held its first nominating convention, selecting the noted explorer John C. Frémont as its standard-bearer (Frémont would lose the election to Democrat James Buchanan). Abraham Lincoln came in second in the balloting for the vice-presidential nomination. Lincoln's political stature had grown enormously by the time the Republicans met four years later in Chicago, due to his famous debates with Stephen A. Douglas and his many well-received speeches, most notably the Cooper Union address, on behalf of the Republican cause. Yet it was New York senator and former governor William H. Seward, not Lincoln, who was considered the favorite to win the party's nomination in 1860. With Seward's views on slavery perceived as too radical for many Northern voters, however, Lincoln's convention managers employed a deft strategy of positioning their candidate as a safe second choice for the New Yorker's opponents. Moreover, having secured Chicago as the host city, Lincoln's managers were able to place key state delegations in strategic locations that were advantageous to Lincoln and pack the hall with local supporters. Lincoln won the nomination on the third ballot.

Lincoln entered the 1860 presidential campaign in a strong position against a divided Democratic Party. In one of his debates with Stephen Douglas, Lincoln had forced his rival to take a controversial stand on the Supreme Court's 1857 Dred Scott decision, which ruled that slavery in the territories was a property right guaranteed by the Constitution and thus beyond congressional jurisdiction. Douglas, defending his theory of "popular sovereignty" in the territories as outlined in the Kansas-Nebraska Act, conceded that residents of the territories had the option to regulate against slavery. Douglas's response alienated Southern Democrats as well as the nation's leading Democrat, President James Buchanan, who avidly supported the Dred Scott decision. Divided along sectional lines, the Democratic Party fielded two candidates—Douglas, representing the Northern faction, and Vice President John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, representing the Southern wing. A fourth candidate, John Bell, of Tennessee, was nominated by the new Constitutional Union Party, a fusion of conservative Whigs and Know-Nothings who abhorred sectional policies espoused by the two major parties.

The election, held on 6 November 1860, drew almost five million voters to the polls (over 80 percent of eligible voters) and exposed the country's deep sectional differences. Lincoln won the election with no Southern support; he carried every free state except New Jersey, which he split with Douglas, and secured 180 (more than the 152 required to be elected) out of 303 electoral votes. Lincoln won 54 percent of the popular vote in the North but only 40 percent of the popular vote nationwide. Many Southern leaders, especially from the Deep South, refused to accept Lincoln's election and threatened secession from the Union. Although there were several attempts by conservative Northern and moderate Southern politicians to reach a compromise, Lincoln rejected any proposals that would allow the extension of slavery beyond states where it already existed. During the four months between Lincoln's election and his inauguration seven Southern states seceded from the Union, with South Carolina leading the way, and elected Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, as president. Eventually, eleven Southern states would secede and join the Confederate States of America.

On 11 February 1861 President-elect Lincoln departed from Springfield to begin his inaugural journey to Washington, D. C. With Southern states seceding and President Buchanan refusing to act, Lincoln traveled to the nation's capital facing a crisis that no president-elect before or since has ever had to address. During his journey through numerous cities and towns in seven states, Lincoln, in an attempt to reassure anxious Southerners and limit secession, avoided partisan rhetoric and provided few details on how he would deal with the unfolding crisis. Reports of a possible assassination attempt in Baltimore forced Lincoln's train to arrive in Washington under a shroud of secrecy in the early morning hours of 23 February 1861.

Amid the upheaval and uncertainty caused by secession, Lincoln chose his cabinet and put the finishing touches on his inaugural address. His cabinet choices included several of his fellow contenders for the Republican presidential nomination: William H. Seward (Secretary of State), Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio (Treasury Secretary), Edward Bates, of Missouri (Attorney General), and Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania (Secretary of War). Lincoln's inaugural address, delivered on 4 March 1861, was conciliatory in tone, assuring Southerners that he would not interfere with slavery in states where it existed. He also affirmed that the government would enforce the fugitive slave law. On the other hand, Lincoln refused to recognize secession, arguing that it was lawfully impossible under the Constitution. He declared his intention "to hold, occupy, and possess the property, and places belonging to the government" within the states that had seceded. Lincoln's address failed to stop the secession movement in the South.

Lincoln's first two years in office were marked by military defeats, political controversy, and personal tragedy. On 13 April 1861, a little more than a month after Lincoln's inauguration, the Civil War began when South Carolina troops bombarded and captured Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. In response to the Fort Sumter attack,

President Lincoln asked the states for 75,000 militia troops to support federal armies, blockaded Southern ports, and called a special session of Congress on 4 July. On 27 April the president suspended habeas corpus along the lines of troop movement from Philadelphia to Washington, a measure that drew harsh criticism from Chief Justice Roger B. Taney and deeply troubled some of Lincoln's own supporters. The first major conflict of the war occurred in mid-July at Bull Run Creek, near Manassas in northern Virginia. Expecting a decisive victory, Northerners were shocked when Union troops were soundly defeated. The stunning outcome of Bull Run foreshadowed the long and bloody war that was to come. Union victories in the Western theater under General Ulysses S. Grant were tempered by defeats and inaction in the East. In July 1861, Lincoln placed General George B. McClellan in command of the Army of the Potomac. Although McClellan was popular with his troops and proved to be an efficient administrator, his overly cautious approach to engaging the enemy frustrated Lincoln, sapped the morale of the Northern public, and produced military stalemate. Lincoln had to contend not only with mounting casualties and defeats on the battlefield, but also with growing criticism of Mary Lincoln's lavish spending on White House refurbishing and with the death of his second son Willie on 20 February 1862, probably due to typhoid fever.

Abraham Lincoln was morally opposed to slavery, but unlike abolitionists who called for immediate emancipation of slaves he believed that the president and Congress were prevented by the Constitution from interfering with the institution in states where it already existed. It was Lincoln's view that if slavery could be contained and not allowed to expand into the territories, it would eventually die out. When the Civil War began, Lincoln, in an effort to hold border states within the Union and to support Unionist sentiment on the South, maintained that restoration of the Union, not emancipation of slaves, was the sole aim of the conflict. His approach to emancipation was gradual and was linked with compensation to slaveholders and colonization of freed slaves outside the borders of the United States. His moderate approach to emancipation disappointed abolitionists and those in the Republican Party who agreed with them. But by the second year of the war Lincoln's views on slavery and racial equality were rapidly changing. Profoundly affected by the mounting death toll, Lincoln began to view the conflict's purpose as something higher than simply reuniting a divided country. With rising casualties, McClellan's Virginia offensive stalled, enthusiasm for the war waning, and the need for recruits ever constant, Lincoln decided to emancipate slaves using his war powers as commander in chief (seizing what the enemy considered "property"), thus alleviating his constitutional concerns, and abandoned colonization and compensation. On 22 September 1862, several days following the bloody Union victory at Antietam, Lincoln announced that, effective 1 January 1863, slaves in Confederate-controlled areas would be free. The Emancipation Proclamation, signed by Lincoln on 1 January, transformed the war from a conflict that was fought solely

to restore the Union to one that would restore the founding principles of American republicanism and represent a new birth of freedom. Lincoln was reported to have said when he signed the proclamation, "If my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act." The Emancipation Proclamation authorized the enrollment of black soldiers in the Union army, which resulted in 180,000 black troops playing a vital role in the North's victory over the Confederacy. Though it is unclear how many slaves were freed by the Emancipation Proclamation (since the federal government had no control over the areas affected), the measure proved Lincoln right, for it is considered his greatest achievement as president and one hailed by generations of Americans.

CASE 3

***Broughton's Monthly Planet Reader and Astrological Journal*. Vol. 1, no. 6, September 1860. Philadelphia: L. D. Broughton, 1860.**

L.D. Broughton was a Philadelphia astrologer, onetime president of the American Society of Astrologers, and the author of *Elements of Astrology* (1906). In 1860, Broughton inaugurated his *Monthly Planet Reader and Astrological Journal* in order to “illustrate and *teach* the Astral Sciences on simple and plain but efficient principles, so as to render it a useful miscellany and companion to the farmer, gardener, traveler, merchant, and the youthful inquirer after truth.” The September 1860 issue shown here included the nativity of the “Hon. Abram Lincoln” in which the journal’s editor predicted that the candidate “will be defeated this next coming presidential election.” Although the journal’s prediction was proven wrong, a post-election prophecy of a tragedy befalling the Lincoln presidency turned out to be chillingly accurate. The editor thought that Lincoln’s election was as one of the “worst things that could have happened to the United States.” “The evil will not be felt in its full force right away,” stated the journal, but would occur “about next April or May.” The Civil War began on 13 April 1861. In late 1864, the journal predicted that a tragedy would befall Lincoln sometime during his second term. The editor had no idea of how accurate that prediction would prove to be.

Lin 2809.30 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana*.

Enoch Lewis. *Extra schedule for special train, for the accommodation of the President-Elect, to be run from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, on Friday, February 22d, 1861*. Altoona, Pennsylvania: McCrum and Dern, 1861. Broadside.

Lincoln’s inaugural journey by train began in Springfield, Illinois, on 11 February 1861. Over the next eleven days, Lincoln’s train covered more than 2,000 miles via eighteen different rail lines, traveling through numerous cities and towns in seven states. During the trip Lincoln delivered a hundred speeches. Shown here is the schedule of the special train that took the president-elect from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on 22 February. It turned out that the Harrisburg stop would be Lincoln’s last public appearance of the trip, his escorts having found out the night before that there was a plot

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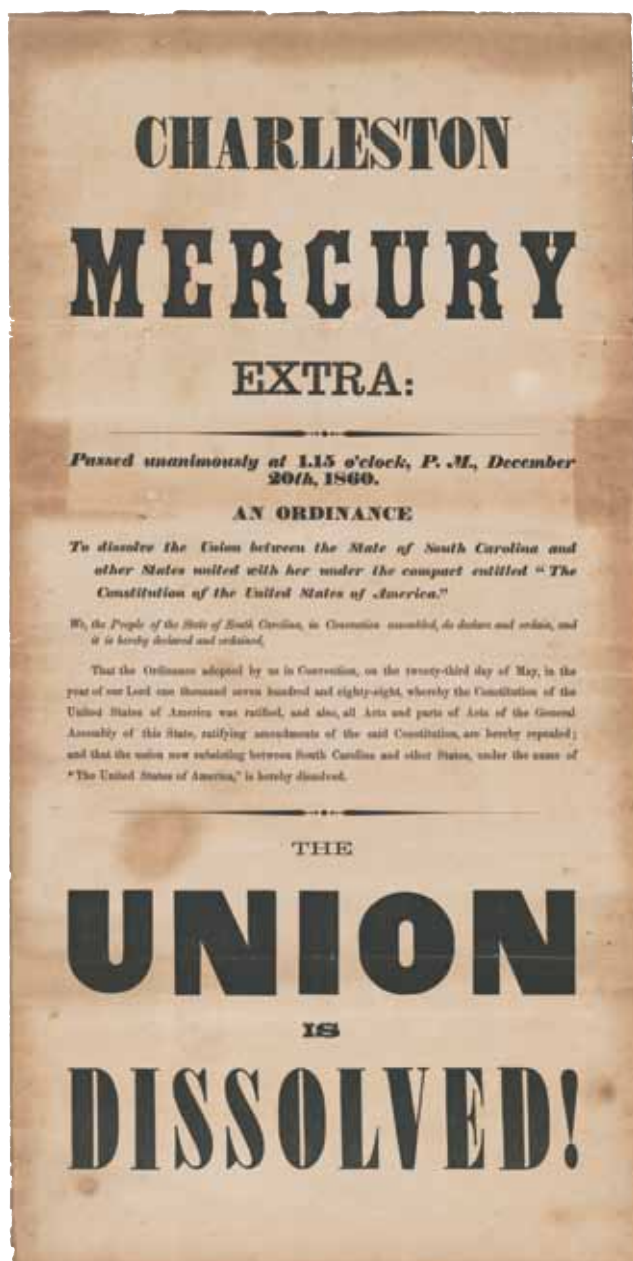


Figure 10. *Charleston Mercury Extra*....*The Union is Dissolved!* Charleston, 1860. Broadside. 56 x 29 cm. *AB85.L384.Z86oc The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana. Within weeks of Lincoln's election as president, South Carolina became the first Southern state to secede from the United States. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

to assassinate him in Baltimore. After Lincoln's stop in Harrisburg, he returned to Philadelphia and boarded a train that traveled to Washington through Baltimore under a shroud of secrecy, arriving unannounced in the nation's capital in the early morning hours of 23 February. Lincoln's clandestine arrival elicited ridicule from the Democratic press and caused much embarrassment among his supporters.

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Charleston Mercury Extra....The Union is Dissolved! Charleston: Charleston Mercury, 1860. Broadside.

Lincoln was elected president on 6 November 1860. On 20 December, almost seven weeks later, South Carolina became the first Southern state to secede from the United States. This broadside, announcing the secession ordinance, was the first publication of what would soon become the Confederate States of America. Within a month of South Carolina's decision, five more Southern states—Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana—seceded. Eventually, eleven states seceded from the Union to form the Confederate States of America. (figure 10)

*AB85.L384.Z86oc *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Before and After the Beard

1. *The "Wigwam" Grand March, dedicated to the Republican presidential candidate, Hon. Abm. Lincoln. Boston: Oliver Ditson and Co., 1860.*
2. *Inauguration Grand March, dedicated to the President of the United States. Hon. Abm. Lincoln. Boston: Oliver Ditson and Co., [1861].*

In 1860, Oliver Ditson and Company, one of the leading American music publishing houses of the mid- to late-19th century, issued the *The "Wigwam" Grand March* during Lincoln's campaign for the presidency. After Lincoln was elected, Ditson and Company published a grand march to mark the inauguration using the same image of Lincoln from the 1860 piece, but adding the beard that the president-elect had grown since his election.

Lincoln Collection *Source unknown.*

**Alexander Gardner. Abraham Lincoln. New York: E. Anthony, 1861.
Carte de visite.**

This photograph was one of several taken of President-elect Lincoln by Alexander Gardner (1821-1882) at Mathew Brady's gallery in Washington, D.C., on 24 February 1861, the day after Lincoln arrived in the capital for his inauguration. This carte de visite was produced by E. Anthony from Gardner's photographic negative. Brady (1822-1896) was one of this country's most celebrated photographers and is known today for his photographs documenting the Civil War as well as the career of Lincoln. Cartes de visite were mass produced calling-card-sized photographic prints that came into fashion in the 1860s.

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

**Abraham Lincoln. [First inaugural address]. [Springfield, Illinois:
Privately printed, January-February, 1861]. Proof sheets, extensively
revised in the hand of John George Nicolay, 1861.**

The first version of Lincoln's inaugural address was privately printed in Springfield, Illinois, before the president-elect departed for Washington, D.C. After Lincoln arrived in the capital he and several advisors, most notably his choice for secretary of state, William H. Seward, reviewed the text and made several suggestions for changes. These changes, in the hand of Lincoln's secretary, John G. Nicolay (1832-1901), were attached to the proof sheets and shared with the press. The proof sheets shown here are the first and last pages. Note that changes to the last page include the most famous passage of Lincoln's first inaugural address, in which he speaks to the Southern people: "I am loth to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearth-stone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." There are four sets of proofs at the Library of Congress, including one used by Lincoln as a reading copy, with emendations in his own hand. (figure 11)

Lincoln Collection Abraham Lincoln, Miscellaneous Papers (84) *Source unknown, 1914.*

A Dispatch from Little Mack. "Still waiting for more reinforcements!!!"
[1862]. Pencil and wash on paper.

The artist of this pencil and wash portrait of Lincoln is unidentified. The drawing shows Lincoln as a frustrated commander in chief dealing with General George B. McClellan (1826-1885), whom the president had placed in command of the Army of the Potomac. Although McClellan proved to be an able administrator and was loved by his troops, he procrastinated more than he fought the enemy. He was constantly asking Lincoln for more reinforcements, although he outnumbered opposing forces by significant numbers.

Lincoln Collection Abraham Lincoln, Miscellaneous Papers, IV (102). *Source unknown.*

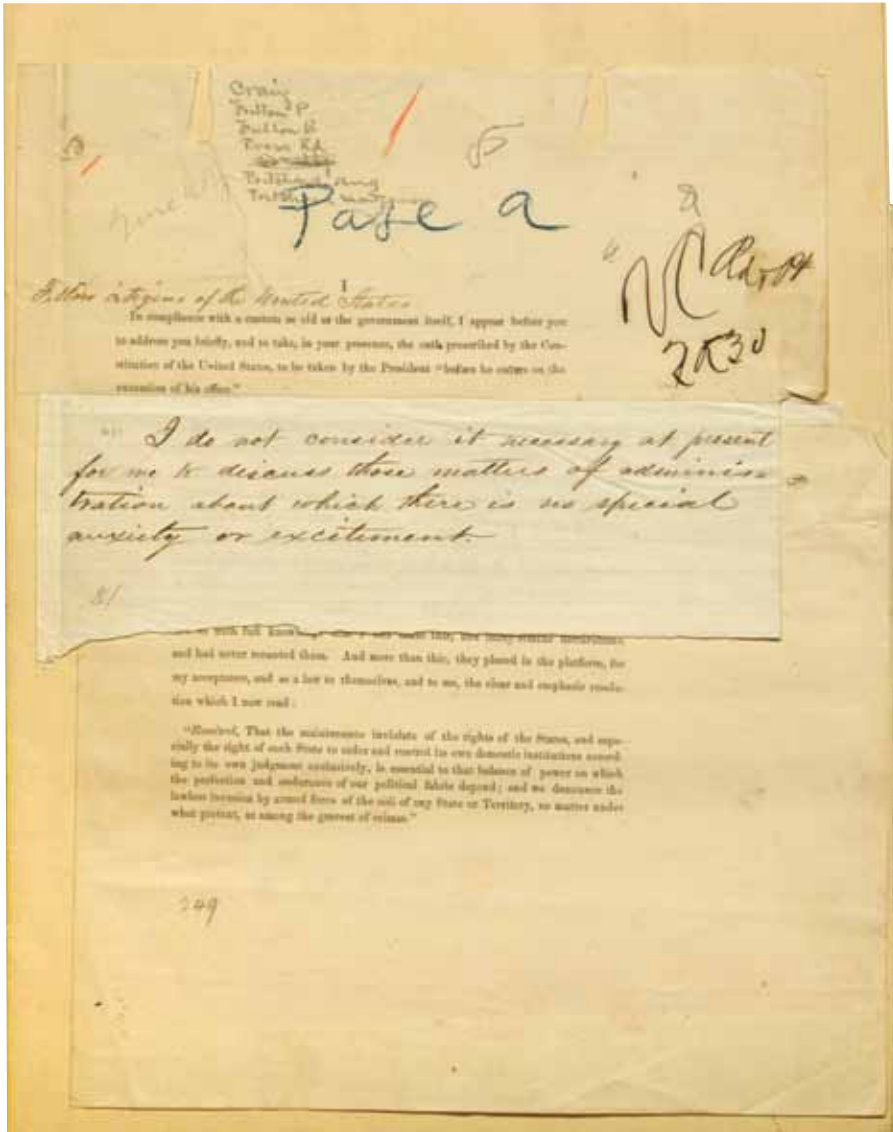


Figure 11. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. [First inaugural address]. [Springfield, Illinois, 1861]. 21.5 x 31 cm. Abraham Lincoln, Miscellaneous Papers (84) Proof sheets, first and last pages, extensively revised in the hand of John G. Nicolay. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

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of persons held to service. To avoid misapprehension of what I have said, I depart from my purpose not to speak of particular amendments, so far as to say that holding such a provision to now be implied constitutional law, I have no objection to its being made express and irrevocable.

The Chief Magistrate derives all his authority from the people, and they have conferred none upon him in the sense for the separation of the States. The people themselves ^{also} can do that they choose, but the executive, as such, has nothing to do with it. His duty is to administer the present government, so it came to his hands, and to transmit it, unimpaired by him, to his successor.

Why should there not be a perfect confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope, in the world? In our present differences, is either party without ^{of being} truth on the right? - If the Almighty Ruler of nations, with his eternal truth and justice, be on our side, what can our arms avail?

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The great truth, and that justice will surely prevail, by the judgment of this great tribunal, the American people.

but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearth-stone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

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3366 Prods - E.H.D.

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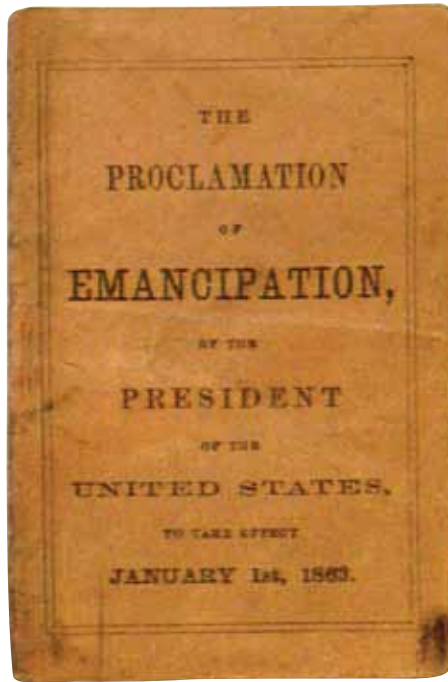


Figure 12. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. *The proclamation of emancipation, by the President of the United States*. Boston, 1863. 9 cm. *AC85.L6384.863e
An extremely rare miniature version of the Emancipation Proclamation, the first and only contemporary printing in separate book form.
Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

CASE 4

Alexander Gardner. President Lincoln at Antietam Battlefield. 1862. Photograph.

The battle of Antietam on 17 September 1862 was one of the most bloody of the Civil War. While it was not the conclusive victory that Lincoln had sought, it was a badly needed win for the Union army. In the days immediately following the battle, Lincoln became increasingly distressed with General McClellan's failure to pursue General Robert E. Lee's retreating Confederate army. In early October Lincoln visited McClellan at Antietam in order to speak with the general personally. This is one of several photographs of Lincoln's visit taken by Alexander Gardner on 3 October 1862. Lincoln is standing between (L) Allan G. Pinkerton (1819-1884), who was serving on McClellan's staff, and (R) General J. A. McClelland (1812-1900).

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Abraham Lincoln. A proclamation. Washington, D.C., 1862.

Lincoln had decided in late 1862 to issue a proclamation freeing the enslaved population within the Confederacy, but waited for a Union victory to do so. The battle of Antietam was enough of a victory for Lincoln to move forward with his plan. He issued this proclamation on 22 September 1862, stating that it would take effect on 1 January 1863. Lincoln was reported to remark as he signed the measure on New Year's Day that "if my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act." The writing on the bottom of this copy, in the hand of Charles Sumner, senator from Massachusetts, states that this was an "official copy from the Department of State."

p*AB85.L6384.862b *Purchased in 2006 on the Bayard Livingston & Kate Gray Kilgour Fund.*

Abraham Lincoln. *The proclamation of emancipation, by the President of the United States, to take effect January 1st, 1863.* Boston: J. M. Forbes, 1863.

This extremely rare miniature version of the Emancipation Proclamation is the

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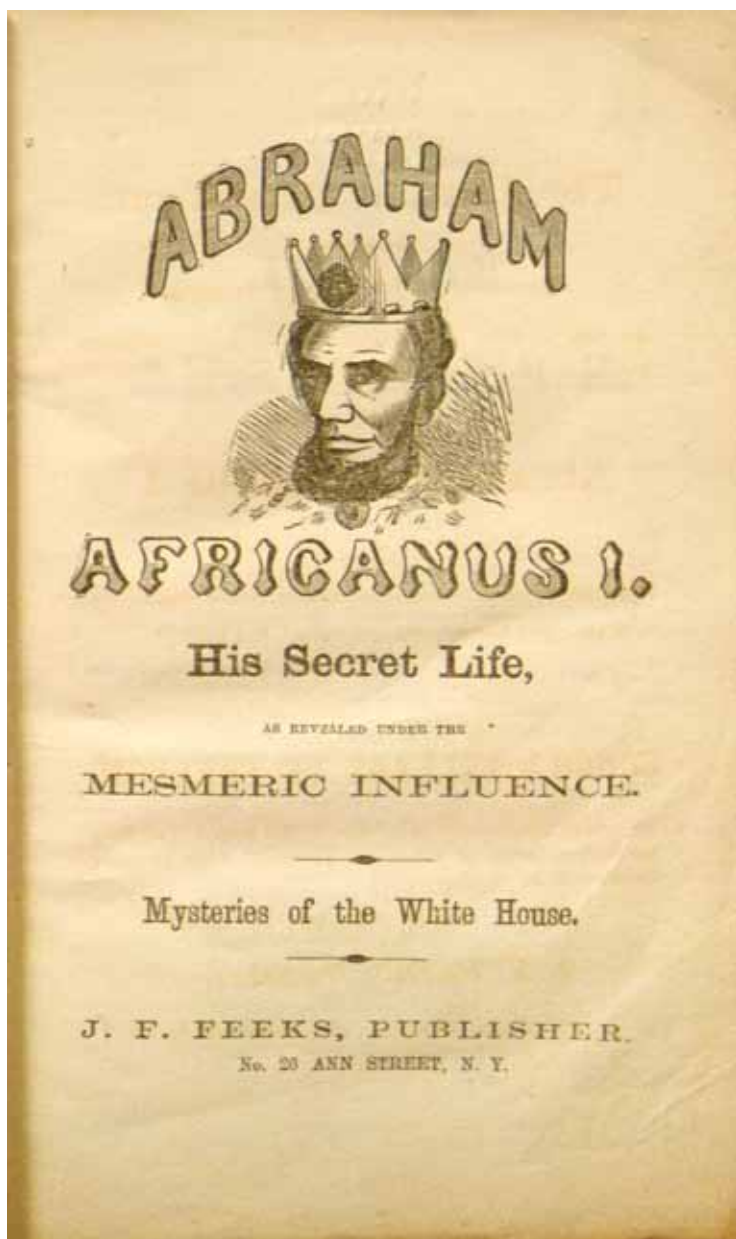


Figure 13. *Abraham Africanus I. His secret life, as revealed under mesmeric influence. Mysteries of the White House.* New York, 1864. Lin 2200.5 The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana. This work, representing Northern “Copperhead” opposition to the war, the suspension of habeas corpus, and the Emancipation Proclamation, depicts Lincoln making a pact with the devil to become the monarchical ruler of the United States. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

first and only contemporary printing in separate book form of the historic act. Published by Boston businessman and abolitionist John Murray Forbes (1813-1898), the booklet was intended to be distributed to freed blacks in the South by Union troops. (figure 12)

*AC85.L6384.863e *Purchased in 2008 on the Bayard Livingston & Kate Gray Kilgour Fund*

Boston Music Hall. *Grand Jubilee Concert...in honor of the day! The proclamation! The emancipation of the slave! The spirit of the fathers and the constitution!* Boston, [1862?].

There were many celebrations held in the North to mark the Emancipation Proclamation. On 1 January 1863, the day the proclamation became official, the Boston Music Hall served as a venue for a celebratory concert, the proceeds of which were intended to “benefit the freed slaves” under the auspices of an “Educational Commission.” The commission’s membership included many prominent individuals from the Boston area, such as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Francis Parkman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Charles Eliot Norton, and Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

*AB85.H7375.A863n *Source unknown, 1927.*

Copperhead Reactions to Lincoln’s War Powers and the Emancipation Proclamation

1. *Abraham Africanus I. His secret life, as revealed under mesmeric influence. Mysteries of the White House.* New York: J. F. Feeks, 1864. (figure 13)
2. *The Lincoln catechism wherein the eccentricities & beauties of despotism are fully set forth.* New York: J. F. Feeks, 1864.

While many Northerners supported the war against the Confederacy and opposed the enslavement of African Americans, there was a vocal minority, primarily within the Democratic Party, popularly known as “Copperheads,” who opposed the war and, especially, the suspension of habeas corpus and the Emancipation Proclamation. Copperheads believed that Lincoln was acting like a dictator by ignoring the Constitution when he issued these edicts. *Abraham Africanus I* depicts Lincoln making a pact with the devil to become the monarchical ruler of the United States. *The Lincoln Catechism* poses a

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series of questions and provides answers that lampoon Lincoln as a dictator named Abraham Africanus. Although these pamphlets, issued during the 1864 presidential campaign, address more than Lincoln's policies concerning slavery, they unapologetically used racist language and images to promote their message. This is made clear in two questions and answers that appear in *The Lincoln Catechism*: "Does the Republican Party intend to change the name of the United States? It does. What do they intend to call it? *New Africa*."

(1) Lin 2200.5 (2) Lin 2048.19 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana*.

Adalbert Johann Volck. *Don Quixote and Sancho Panza*. Baltimore, [ca. 1864]. Etching on china paper.

Adalbert Volck (1828-1912) was born in Bavaria and moved to Baltimore in 1852, where he worked as a dentist and a political cartoonist and caricaturist. An avid supporter of the South, Volck aided the Confederate cause through his political cartoons, such as the one shown here, by smuggling drugs and medical supplies to rebel soldiers, and by acting as a courier for the Confederacy's president, Jefferson Davis (1808-1889). Lincoln was a frequent target of Volck's ridicule and sarcasm. The image shown here, portraying Lincoln as a bumbling commander in chief with one of his incompetent generals, Benjamin Butler (1818-1893), who was reviled in the South, was one of a series of secretly published anti-Union works produced by Volck during the war.

*61-1673 (br) *Purchased in 1962 on the Keller Fund*.

***President Lincoln at home, reading the scriptures to his wife and son*. New York: Currier and Ives, 1865.**

This Currier and Ives hand-colored lithograph was based on a photograph taken of Lincoln and his son Thomas (Tad) Lincoln (1853-1871) by Anthony Berger in Mathew Brady's Washington gallery on 9 February 1864. The original photograph was of Lincoln viewing an album or scrapbook, not reading from scriptures. Mary Todd Lincoln (1818-1882) was added to the engraving by Currier and Ives; in fact she and her husband were never photographed together. In the wake of Lincoln's assassination, Currier and Ives perhaps thought it would be more appropriate to give the image a religious tone. The photograph of the president and his son spawned other prints of a similar nature, several of which included the entire Lincoln family. The Lincolns had

four children, Robert Todd (1843-1926), Edward (Eddie) Baker (1846-1850), William (Willie) Wallace (1850-1862), and Tad.

Lincoln Collection *2008-256 *Source unknown.*



Figure 14. Smokers Club. [1860-1864]. Photograph. 33 x 24 cm. HUPSF Smokers Club. Harvard University Archives. Robert Todd Lincoln graduated from Harvard in 1864. He is shown here (second from right with cigar) with his Harvard classmates who formed a smoking club. Reproduction courtesy of the Harvard University Archives.

Robert Todd Lincoln and the Smokers Club at Harvard. [1860-1864]. Photograph.

Dubbed the “Prince of Rails,” Robert Todd Lincoln was the eldest son of Abraham and Mary Lincoln and the only one to outlive his parents. Robert spent little time in the White House, since he was enrolled at Harvard when his father was elected president. Robert, who graduated in 1864 ranked thirty-second in a class of ninety-nine, is shown here (second from right with cigar) with Harvard classmates who formed a smoking club. On 9 December 1862,

Lincoln was notified by the president of Harvard that Robert was “publicly admonished for smoking in Harvard Square after being privately admonished for the same offense.” (It is not known how Lincoln reacted to the letter.) After graduation, Robert served on General Grant’s staff as a captain. He later became a successful lawyer, served as secretary of war under presidents James A. Garfield and Chester Alan Arthur, minister to England in President Benjamin Harrison’s administration, and, from 1901 to 1911, as president of the Pullman Palace Car Company. Robert was a life-long Republican who was mentioned as a potential candidate for president during the 1880s. In 1868, he married Mary Eunice Harlan (1846-1937). Robert had his mother committed to private institution for the insane in 1875, for which she never forgave him. (figure 14)

HUPSF Smokers Club *Harvard University Archives.*

FROM THE GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD TO THE APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE

AS A RESULT OF RISING CASUALTIES, military defeats, and controversial measures initiated by the president, the Republican Party approached the 1862 mid-term elections with trepidation. In the Eastern theater of the war, Union forces suffered a major defeat at the battle of Second Bull Run (30 August 1862). On 17 September 1862 General McClellan's army halted General Lee's invasion of Maryland at the battle of Antietam, a bloody engagement at which 25,000 were killed, wounded, or went missing in action. When McClellan failed to pursue and capture Lee's weakened army, allowing it to retreat into Virginia, Lincoln relieved the general and replaced him with General Ambrose E. Burnside. Burnside's forces suffered horrendous casualties when they were defeated at the battle of Fredericksburg on 13 December. Meanwhile, Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, while applauded by abolitionists and many Republicans, was condemned by most Northern Democrats. On 24 September 1862, two days after he issued the Preliminary Proclamation, Lincoln extended the suspension of habeas corpus across the entire country. In response, the president's critics labeled him a dictator. In the mid-term elections Democrats made gains in several Northern states and picked up more than thirty seats in the U. S. House of Representatives. Republicans maintained control of Congress, however.

The year 1863 proved to be a turning point in the Civil War. After inflicting a crushing defeat on federal forces at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May, Lee's army commenced a second invasion of the North. In an epic three-day (1-3 July) battle at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Lee lost one third of his army (nearly 28,000 men). On 4 July, General Grant's three-month siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi, resulted in the surrender of nearly 30,000 Confederate troops. Despite these victories, a serious peace movement emerged in the North among Democrats, labeled "Copperheads" by the Republican press. Nevertheless, the military situation seemed to be improving as General Grant's forces drove the Confederate army out of Tennessee. On 19 November 1863 Lincoln was invited to deliver "a few appropriate remarks" for the dedication of a new military cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. But it was the noted orator Edward Everett, not the president, who was the featured speaker of the day. As it turned out, Everett's two-hour speech was subsequently overshadowed by Lincoln's two-minute, 272-word address, with the former long forgotten and the latter now considered one of the finest speeches in the English language.

In March 1864, Lincoln named Ulysses S. Grant general in chief of all Union armies. The president heartily supported Grant's ambitious strategy of a broader war which targeted both the Confederate armies and the South's socioeconomic infrastructure. Grant traveled to Virginia to engage General Lee's forces while other Union armies moved against Confederate troops in Georgia and Louisiana. Although Grant's massive assaults gradually wore down Lee's army, the latter fought valiantly in defense of Southern soil. During May and June 1864 Grant's and Lee's armies fought to a draw at the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg. Grant's Virginia campaign produced more than 60,000 Union casualties in just two months of fighting. Despite the staggering number of battlefield deaths, Lincoln's resolve did not bend. He issued a call for 500,000 more enlistments.

The carnage produced by General Grant's Virginia campaign shocked the Northern public and emboldened the peace movement. As the 1864 presidential election approached, Lincoln's political prospects appeared to be rapidly fading. In June, Lincoln was re-nominated for a second term by the Republican Party (renamed temporarily as the Union Party) at its national convention in Baltimore. The party also nominated Andrew Johnson, a pro-war Democrat from Tennessee, for the vice presidency (dropping Vice President Hamlin from the ticket). The Democratic Party held its convention in Chicago in August and nominated General George B. McClellan for president and adopted a platform that called for a peaceful end to the war. By the time Democrats held their convention, many in the North, including Lincoln himself, believed that the president would be defeated in the November election. Several days after Democrats chose their ticket, however, General William T. Sherman and his Union forces captured Atlanta after a long siege. Sherman's success revived Northern morale as well as Lincoln's campaign. On 8 November 1864 Lincoln was re-elected by a near-landslide, capturing more than 55 percent of the popular vote (without a single vote in the South) and 212 of 233 electoral votes.

President Lincoln was inaugurated for a second term on 4 March 1865. His eloquent inaugural address, considered by many to be his finest political speech, was conciliatory rather than self-righteous in tone. Noting that slavery was the cause of the war, Lincoln told the nation—North and South—that the conflict was God's retribution for allowing the institution to exist: "Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said 'the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether.'" Preparing the nation for a non-punitive reconstruction plan for the South, Lincoln closed his remarks with a call for reconciliation: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the

right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.”

When Lincoln delivered his inaugural address, the long and bloody Civil War was entering its final phase. The Confederacy was collapsing as General Sherman's army, after capturing Atlanta, embarked on a campaign of destruction through Georgia and the Carolinas, and General Grant's forces closed in on Lee's battered troops and the city of Richmond. On 2 April 1865 the Confederate capital was evacuated. Two days later President Lincoln toured the city and was greeted by hundreds of freed blacks. On 9 April, a week after Richmond fell to Union troops, General Lee surrendered his army to General Grant at Appomattox Court House. Although some Confederate forces remained in the field, the war was essentially over (it would officially end in May 1865).

As celebrations broke out across the North, President Lincoln was eager to enact a reconstruction policy that would heal the nation's wounds and hoped to see the adoption of a constitutional amendment abolishing slavery everywhere in the United States. The latter was on its way to becoming a reality. On 31 January 1865 Congress, with the active support of Lincoln, passed the constitutional amendment. Although not required by law, Lincoln decided to sign the measure to show his commitment to the abolition of slavery. He was undoubtedly pleased when, on 1 February, Illinois became the first state to ratify the amendment. Unfortunately, Lincoln did not live to see the Thirteenth Amendment become part of the U.S. Constitution on 18 December 1865. In his final speech, delivered at the White House on 11 April, Lincoln for the first time publicly expressed his wish that voting rights be extended to black men in the reconstructed South, especially those who were educated and who had served in the Union army.

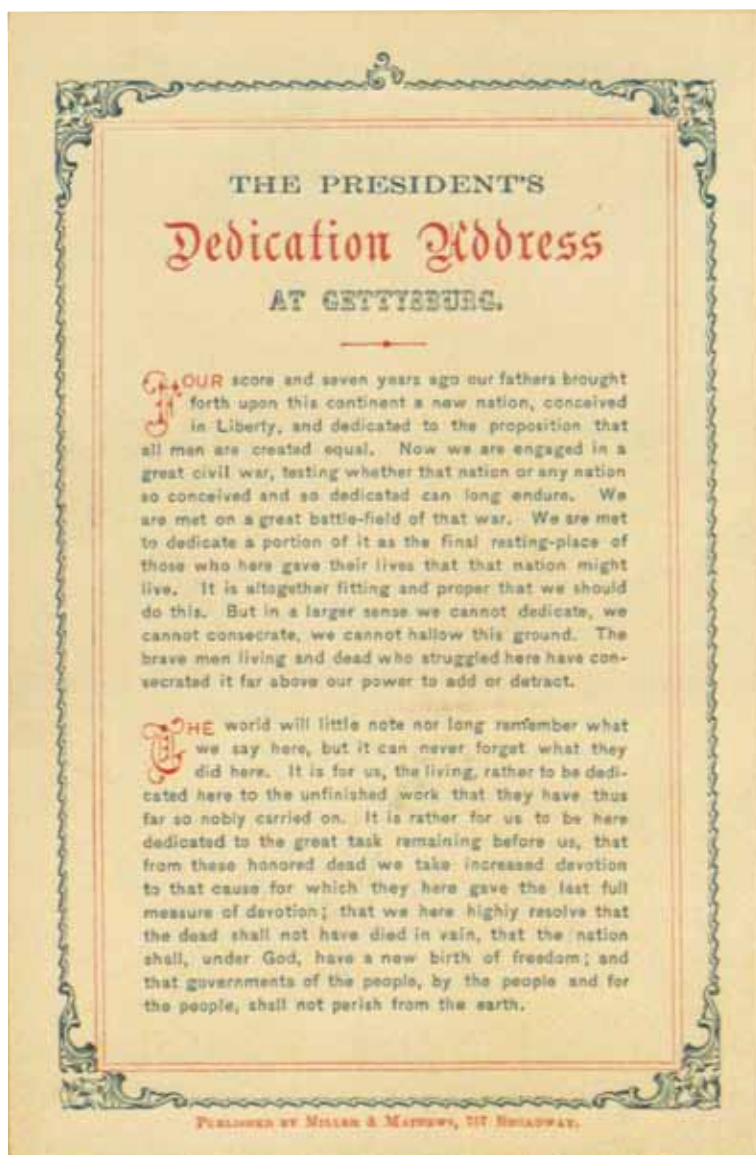


Figure 15. ABRAHAM LINCOLN. *The president's dedication address at Gettysburg.* New York, [1864]. Broadside. 14 x 9 cm. Lincoln Collection. This small and rare broadside is the first separate printing of Lincoln's famous address. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

CASE 5

Edward Everett. *An oration delivered on the battlefield of Gettysburg (November 19, 1863) at the consecration of the cemetery.* New York: Baker and Godwin, 1863.

After the Battle of Gettysburg, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania decided to consecrate the cemetery at the battlefield and invited the noted orator Edward Everett (1794-1865) to deliver the main address. Everett, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, as president of Harvard College, governor of Massachusetts, and secretary of state under President Millard Fillmore, ran for vice president on the Constitutional Union ticket in the 1860 election. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was first published in several newspapers before it appeared in pamphlet form. The pamphlet of Everett's speech shown here includes Lincoln's address as part of other dedication events, indicating that the historic significance of his remarks had yet to be understood. This version was one of the first rushed into print in the wake of the dedication ceremony.

Lin 2491.1 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Abraham Lincoln. *The president's dedication address at Gettysburg.* New York: Miller and Mathews, [1864]. Broadside.

This small and rare broadside is the first separate printing of Lincoln's famous address. The broadside is undated, but copies were available in 1864 when the publishers sent several copies to President Lincoln in March of that year. According to its publisher, the broadside was issued as a keepsake to be sold at the New York Metropolitan Sanitary Fair in April 1864. (figure 15)

Lincoln Collection *Source unknown.*

Three Artistic Images of Lincoln (1863-1864)

1. [Artist “Frost” unidentified]. *Rehearsing the Gettysburg speech*. [1863?].
2. [Artist unidentified]. *First meeting of Grant & Lincoln*. [1864?].
3. [Artist unidentified]. *At Willard’s June 1864*. [1864].

Shown here are three contemporary pencil and wash images of Lincoln. The first, signed by “Frost,” depicts the president composing the Gettysburg Address. The second work imagines the first meeting of Lincoln and General Ulysses S. Grant, exaggerating the difference in height between the 6’ 4” president and the 5’ 5” general. The third work shows a pensive president sitting in Willard’s, at that time Washington’s most famous—and the country’s largest—hotel.

Lincoln Collection Abraham Lincoln, Miscellaneous Papers, IV (102). *Source unknown*.

Abraham Lincoln. Andrew Johnson. President and Vice-President. Hartford, Connecticut, and New York: F. B. Whiting, [1864?]. Broadside.

This hand-colored lithograph broadside was produced by the popular lithography firm of Edmund Burke Kellogg (1809-1872) and Elijah Chapman Kellogg (1811-1881), located in Hartford, Connecticut. From the 1830s through the rest of the century, the Kellogg firm was second only to Currier and Ives in producing affordable and decorative prints for the American public. It is not clear if this broadside was published before or after the election of Lincoln and Johnson. Nevertheless, the message is that the election of the two would lead to a national revival of agriculture and commerce in the post-war years.

p *AB85.L6384.N864a *Purchased in 2007 on the Bayard Livingston & Kate Gray Kilgour Fund.*

Orville J. Victor. *The private and public life of Abraham Lincoln; comprising a full account of his early years, and a succinct record of his career as a statesman and president.* New York: Beadle and Company, 1864.

This work on Lincoln was issued as number 14 of Beadle's Dime Biographical Library. The purpose of the biography was to use Lincoln's rise from "obscurity to renown" as a moral lesson of what one could achieve through determination, hard work, and perseverance. The cover and frontispiece of the volume, similar to Eastman Johnson's homespun depiction shown earlier in this exhibit (see figure 5), show the boy Lincoln practicing his reading skills by the light of the hearth fire. Beadle and Company enjoyed tremendous success as a source of cheap publications for the general public. Although the Beadle firm was not the first to publish inexpensive, paper-bound books, it was the first to do so in a continuous serial format. The firm's most successful and well known serial venture was Beadle Dime Novels, inaugurated in 1860, which included over 600 titles issued over the next twenty-five years. Beadle's Dime Biographical Library was begun during the Civil War and comprised works on prominent figures, including Garibaldi, Kit Carson, Anthony Wayne, Davy Crockett, Daniel Boone, and Winfield Scott. Orville J. Victor (1827-1910), the author of the Lincoln biography, worked as the main editor for the Beadle firm from 1861 to 1897.

Lin 2158.5 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

1864 Campaign Songsters

1. *Lincoln campaign songster for the use of clubs, containing all of the most popular songs.* Philadelphia: Mason and Company, 1864.
2. *The President Lincoln campaign songster.* New York: T. R. Dawley, 1864.

These are two of several songsters that were issued for the 1864 presidential campaign. The first of these, *Lincoln campaign songster*, presents an early pre-beard image of Lincoln that was used during the 1860 campaign. These two works included lyrics for a variety of songs, such as "Shout Aloud for Lincoln," "Hoist the Flag for Abraham," "Hurrah! For Lincoln and Johnson," "Rally Boys for Uncle Abe," and "Vote for Lincoln."

Lin 2048.19.3 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

***The Copperhead catechism. For the instruction of such politicians as are of tender years.* New York: Sinclair Tousey, 1864.**

Issued during the 1864 election season, this work is a Republican attempt to answer the *Lincoln Catechism* (see page 43) by lampooning and ridiculing leaders of the Copperheads, particularly Fernando Wood (1812-1881), who is referred to as “Fernando the Gothamite, High Priest of the Order of Copperheads.” A two-term mayor of New York City as well as a congressman, Wood, during his term as mayor (1860-1862), suggested to the city’s common council that the city secede and declare itself free in order to continue a profitable cotton trade with the Confederacy.

Lin 2048.19 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

President Abraham Lincoln ABC plate. England, [ca. 1862-1865]. Porcelain.

This “ABC” plate is of a style popular during the Civil War period. The plate was issued along with a matching shaving mug. While most of the Lincoln pieces were produced in black and white, there were several issued in color.

Lincoln Collection *Source unknown.*

Lincoln and Johnson Union Ticket. One Flag. One Country, One Government. Cambridge, Massachusetts: John Ford, 1864.

This 1864 Lincoln-Johnson ballot is for District 4 in Massachusetts.

Lincoln Collection *Source unknown.*

Henry J. Raymond. *History of the administration of President Lincoln: including his speeches, letters, addresses, proclamations, and messages.* New York: J. C. Derby and N. C. Miller, 1864.

This 1864 campaign biography was written by Henry J. Raymond (1820-1869), editor of the *New York Times* during Lincoln’s presidency. Raymond, a politician as well as a journalist, was a strong advocate of William H. Seward in 1860 but later became an avid supporter of Lincoln. The *New York Times* was a

proponent of the Lincoln administration and Raymond served as chairman of the Republican Party's national committee in 1864. He expanded this biography and reissued it in 1865 after Lincoln's assassination.

Lin 2135 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Charles Eliot Norton. Abraham Lincoln. I. History of the administration of President Lincoln: including his Speeches, Letters, Addresses, Proclamations, and Messages. With a preliminary Sketch of his Life. By Henry J. Raymond. New York: J. C. Derby & N. C. Miller. 1864. 12mo. Pp. 496. [1864?]. Manuscript.

This is a manuscript draft of Charles Eliot Norton's review of Henry Raymond's 1864 Lincoln campaign biography that appeared in the *North American Review* in January 1865. Norton, who was at this time serving as co-editor of the magazine, said nothing about Raymond's book but much about Lincoln, whom he greatly admired. "[T]here has never been a statesman in America," asserts Norton, "more thoroughly in sympathy with the best interests of the American people, or more completely imbued with reverence for those ideas of justice, freedom, and humanity which inspire American institutions, than Abraham Lincoln." A member of the Harvard Class of 1846, Norton was professor of art at his alma mater from 1874 to 1898.

bMS AM 2507 (1) Charles Eliot Norton, Additional Papers *Gift of the Norton Family, 1903.*

CASE 6

Alexander Gardner. Abraham Lincoln delivering second inaugural address, 4 March 1865. Photograph.

This Alexander Gardner photograph shows President Lincoln delivering his second inaugural address on the east portico of the Capitol. Along with the Gettysburg Address, the second inaugural is considered to be one of Lincoln's finest speeches. With the war winding down and defeat of the Confederate armies all but certain, Lincoln could have chosen to deliver an address that celebrated victory over a soon-to-be vanquished enemy. Instead, the President chose humility over self-righteousness and delivered a speech that was at first solemn then conciliatory in tone, calling on the nation to heal the wounds of war and reconcile its differences. In the audience that 4 March day was the actor John Wilkes Booth, who was at the time plotting to kidnap the President.

Lincoln Collection *Source unknown.*

***The tallest ruler on the globe is inaugurated at Washington—the lesser luminaries of Europe assisting deferentially. Frank Leslie's Budget of Fun.* New York, April 1865.**

This double-page cartoon of Lincoln's second inaugural appeared in *Frank Leslie's Budget of Fun* in April 1865. The work of William Newman, a caricaturist whose work appeared regularly in Leslie's publications, the cartoon shows Columbia welcoming back Lincoln for another four years, as several world leaders show deference to the "tallest ruler on the globe."

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

William Shakespeare. *The plays of William Shakespeare. From the corrected text of Johnson and Steevens.* London: John Stockdale, 1807. Vol. 3.

This is the third of a six-volume set of Shakespeare's works owned by Lincoln. The volume is opened to *Macbeth*, one of Lincoln's favorite plays of Shakespeare. From 24 March to 9 April 1865 Lincoln was in Virginia visiting General Grant and his army. During the extended visit, the president met

with Grant, General Sherman (1820-1891), and Rear Admiral David Porter (1813-1891) to discuss strategy to end the war and visited Richmond after it was captured by Union forces. On the last day of the trip, as the steamer *River Queen* carried Lincoln and his party back to Washington, he read aloud from this volume to his guests, including Mrs. Lincoln, Senator Charles Sumner, Adolphe, Marquis de Chambrun (1831-1891), and Senator James Harlan (1820-1988) and his daughter Mary (who later married Robert Todd Lincoln). Lincoln's readings included passages from *Macbeth* shown here.

A10.80F *Gift of Charles Moore, 1931.*

***Richmond is Ours!* Words by A. J. H. Duganne. Music by Mrs. E. A. Parkhurst. New York: Horace Waters, 1865.**

After a long siege, Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederacy, fell to General Grant and the Union Army on 2 April 1865. The song *Richmond is Ours!* was issued soon after the Union troops captured the city.

Lincoln Collection *Source unknown.*

Mary Lincoln. Letter to Charles Sumner, Washington, D.C., April 10, 1865. Manuscript.

General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox Court House on 9 April 1865. The next day, First Lady Mary Lincoln wrote to friend and confidant Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner with good news: "Mr. L. told me the news, last night at ten o'clock, that Lee & his Army were in our hands." "If possible," she continued, "this is a happier day, than last Monday [the fall of Richmond], the crowds around the house have been immense, in the midst of the bands playing, they break forth into singing."

MS Am 1 (3857) Charles Sumner, Correspondence *Gift of Edward L. Pierce and family.*

***Ford's Theatre....Friday Evening, April 14th, 1865....Our American Cousin.* Washington, D.C.: H. Polkinhorn and Son, 1865. Broadside.**

With General Lee's surrender and the Civil War winding down, President Lincoln was looking ahead to a time of peace and reconciliation. As he had done on many occasions during the war, Lincoln turned to the theater as a means of escape from the physical and emotional strains caused by the conflict.

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On Friday evening, 14 April 1865, the president and his wife, accompanied by Major Henry Rathbone (1837-1911) and his fiancée Clara Harris (1845-1883), attended Ford's Theatre to see the play *Our American Cousin*, produced by and starring Laura Keane (c. 1826-1873). The three-act play, a farcical comedy about an awkward and boorish American being introduced to his aristocratic English relatives, was extremely popular in the United States. This playbill is part of a collection assembled by John B. Wright, who was the stage manager of Ford's Theatre at the time of Lincoln's assassination.

*2008T-17 Harvard Theatre Collection *Bequest of Evert Jansen Wendell, 1918.*

MURDER & MEMORY

THE CIVIL WAR TOOK AN EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL TOLL on Abraham and Mary Lincoln. By the end of the conflict, Lincoln looked much older than his 56 years. Mary Lincoln, who never fully recovered from the death of their son Willie in 1862, was ridiculed by the Northern press for her lavish spending during wartime and endured a whispering campaign that alleged that she was a Confederate sympathizer. Moreover, in July 1863, she had suffered a serious head injury in a carriage accident. The Lincolns looked forward to putting the strain of the war behind them and to enjoying national peace and reunion, not to mention badly needed rest and relaxation. On Good Friday, 14 April 1865, the Lincolns attended Ford's Theatre to see the comedy *Our American Cousin*. The crowd who joined the Lincolns for an evening of entertainment had no idea that they were about to witness one of the most tragic events in American history.

Among those who entered Ford's Theatre on that Good Friday evening was the dashing twenty-six-year-old actor John Wilkes Booth. Born in Maryland and a member of a family of distinguished actors, Booth was a passionate advocate of the Southern cause. During the last years of the war Booth devoted more of his time to aiding the Confederacy as a smuggler and a spy than to acting. Sometime in late 1864, Booth devised a scheme to kidnap President Lincoln, whom he held responsible for the war, and hold him hostage in exchange for Confederate prisoners. Over the next few months Booth assembled a cohort of Maryland friends and Confederate sympathizers to assist with the kidnapping. When the plan collapsed, Booth, desperate in the midst of the Confederacy's downfall, decided to assassinate Lincoln while two of his followers, George Atzerodt and Lewis Powell, were to murder Vice President Johnson and Secretary of State Seward. Sometime after 10 p.m. on Friday, 14 April, Booth, armed with a dagger and a pistol, entered the presidential box and shot the president in the back of the head and stabbed Major John Rathbone, one of the Lincolns' guests. Booth leaped from the box to the stage, breaking his leg in the fall, shouting "Sic semper tyrannis" (thus always to tyrants) as he escaped from the theater. Lincoln, who never regained consciousness, was carried across the street to a boarding house owned by William Petersen. He died at 7:22 the next morning.

Within days of Lincoln's assassination, most of Booth's associates, including Atzerodt (who left town without even attempting to kill the vice president) and Powell

(who severely wounded Secretary Seward), were arrested. Booth, who fled south from Washington and was soon joined by another associate, David Herold, led federal authorities on a twelve-day manhunt through Maryland and Virginia. In the early morning hours of 26 April, while sleeping in a tobacco barn on the Virginia farm of Richard Garrett, Booth and Herold were surrounded by Union cavalry. Herold gave himself up when ordered to surrender, but Booth refused, whereupon the soldiers set fire to the barn in order to force him out. As the fire raged, Booth was shot and mortally wounded by Sergeant Boston Corbett. Booth's body was taken back to the capital and buried on the grounds of the Washington Arsenal, where Herold and the other suspected co-conspirators would soon be moved and held for trial. The trial, by military commission, lasted from 10 May to 30 June 1865 and resulted in a guilty verdict of conspiring with the Confederate government to assassinate the president, vice president, secretary of state, and General Grant. Four of the eight co-defendants, Herold, Powell, Atzerodt, and Mary Surratt (owner of the Washington boarding house where Booth and his associates frequently met), were sentenced to hang, three were sentenced to life in prison at hard labor, and one was given six months at hard labor. Although there was a move by several members of the commission to commute Mrs. Surratt's sentence to life imprisonment, President Johnson denied the request. Mrs. Surratt, along with Herold, Powell, and Atzerodt, was hung on 7 July 1865, the first woman to be executed by the United States government.

The celebratory mood that pervaded the North in the wake of General Lee's surrender at Appomattox was shattered by Lincoln's assassination and replaced by profound grief. Lincoln's body went on view at the White House and the Capitol, where it was seen by thousands of mourners. Lincoln's funeral was held in Washington on 19 April; two days later the funeral train left Washington and embarked on a twelve-day journey to Springfield, Illinois, the martyred president's final resting place. The train stopped in eleven cities and passed through many small towns, and was witnessed by hundreds of thousands of Americans who wished to pay their last respects. On 4 May 1865 Lincoln was buried in Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery.

It was during the period of national mourning that Lincoln's standing changed from an often unpopular and controversial president to a figure of iconic proportions. In the weeks and months following his death, Lincoln the man and the president was praised by supporters and critics alike in sermons, speeches, and newspaper editorials. From the moment of his untimely death to the present, Lincoln's exalted status as the president who won the Civil War, ended slavery, and preserved democracy has remained constant. There have been more books and articles written about Lincoln than any other American, with many publications planned during this bicentennial year. There have been almost as many Lincoln collectors as books published about our

sixteenth president. The field of Lincoln collecting began with the assassination, as Lincoln's friends, acquaintances, and contemporaries sought out objects and relics associated with the late president. In the half century following the assassination, it seemed like almost everyone was collecting Lincoln. Today, as Americans celebrate the bicentennial of the man whom many consider as this country's greatest president, Lincoln's deeds and words continue to inspire and uplift people from all walks of life and all parts of the globe.

CASE 7

***Plan of the seats in orchestra & parquette of Ford's new theatre.
Washington, [1863?].***

Ford's Theatre was located on 10th Street, between E and F Streets in Washington, D.C. Manager John T. Ford (1829-1894) built the theater in 1863 on the site of another theater that had burned down. The box in which the president and the First Lady sat was directly above private boxes 3 and 4 designated on the floor plan.

Harvard Theatre Collection *Source unknown.*

The Assassination of President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre, Washington, on the night of Friday, April 14, 1865. Philadelphia: A. Pharazyn, 1865. Lithograph.

Of the several prints depicting Lincoln's assassination that were issued in the days and weeks following the tragic event, this hand-colored lithograph is the least accurate in terms of detail and perspective. In this fanciful depiction, the presidential box, situated about twelve feet above the stage, is presented here at stage level. Moreover, Booth broke his leg when his spur (shown lying on the stage) got caught in one of the flags draping the box. Yet there are no flags shown in this print. Finally, Lincoln did not stand and hold his head after he was shot, but slumped in his chair and never regained consciousness.

Lincoln Collection *Source unknown.*

John Wilkes Booth, the supposed assassin of President Lincoln, on Friday night the 14th. April 1865. 1865. Carte de visite.

This carte de visite of John Wilkes Booth was issued before he was certified as Lincoln's assassin. Within hours of Lincoln's death, demand surged for images of the alleged assassin and his co-conspirators. Many of the images were pirated, as photographers copied the work of others and sold them as their own.

*2006M-92 *Purchased in 2006 on the Bayard Livingston & Kate Gray Kilgour Fund.*

***Jefferson Banner—Extra.* Jefferson, Wisconsin, April 15, 1865.
Broadside.**

Issued the day President Lincoln died, this broadside published by a Wisconsin newspaper provides up-to-date reports on the assassination. The reports of Secretary of State Seward's death as a result of an assassination attempt and John Wilkes Booth's arrest were inaccurate, however. Seward survived his attack and Booth was shot and killed resisting arrest on 26 April.

*AB85.L6384.Y865j *Purchased in 2008 on the Bayard Livingston & Kate Gray Kilgour Fund.*

William Shakespeare. *King Richard the Third*. New York: Samuel French, n.d. Promptbook.

This promptbook for Shakespeare's *King Richard the Third* was at one time owned by John Wilkes Booth. His name appears in gilt on the cover and his name and initials have been written in several places throughout the volume. One of Shakespeare's darkest works, the play depicts the murderous rise to power and subsequent short reign of Richard III. Booth acted in this play on several occasions in different cities, including Boston and Philadelphia. *Richard III* was one of Abraham Lincoln's favorite Shakespeare plays.

TS Promptbook Sh154.313.335 Harvard Theatre Collection. *Source unknown.*

**Green Mount Cemetery (Baltimore). Mortuary stub book, 1868-1872.
Manuscript.**

John Wilkes Booth was shot and killed on 26 April 1865. His body was held at various locations by the United States government until a release was signed by President Andrew Johnson. Booth's body was removed from its temporary grave in the yard of the Old Penitentiary on the Washington Arsenal grounds on 18 February 1869. On 26 June of that year Booth's body was buried in an unmarked grave in the Booth family plot in Green Mount Cemetery in Baltimore. Stub number 560 records the receipt of the body of "J. Wilks [*sic*] Booth" on 18 February and the burial ("Taken out") on 26 June.

f Lin 28o6.3 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Alexander Gardner. Lewis Powell. 1865. Photograph.

Lewis Thornton Powell (alias Lewis Paine or Payne) attempted to murder Secretary of State Seward at the same time that John Wilkes Booth was attacking President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre. Powell (1844-1865) beat Seward's son with a pistol and stabbed Seward repeatedly with a Bowie knife. Though seriously wounded, the secretary of state survived thanks to a heavy brace he wore as a result of a recent carriage accident and through the efforts of his nurse, George T. Robinson, to protect him from Powell. Although Powell managed to escape from the scene of the crime, he was arrested on the evening of 17 April when he showed up at the boarding house of Marry Surratt, where Booth and his associates frequently met. Shown here is an albumen print made of Powell on 27 April 1865 by Alexander Gardner at the Washington Navy Yard, where Powell was held for a time after his arrest.

Lincoln Collection *Source unknown.*

James Allen Hardie. Telegram to John P. Gray, Washington, D. C., June 14, 1865. Manuscript.

In his telegram to John Purdue Gray (1825-1886), superintendent of the New York State Asylum in Utica, Major General James Allen Hardie (1823-1876) requests that Dr. Gray come to Washington to examine Lewis Payne (Powell). On 27 April 1865, ten days after his arrest, Powell had attempted suicide by banging his head against the wall of his cell. Powell and his fellow conspirators were tried by a military commission. Brevet Brigadier General William E. Doster (1837-1919), a former District of Columbia provost marshal, was appointed by the commission to represent Powell. Doster tried to prove that his client was insane at the time of the attempted assassination of Secretary Seward. He called three prison guards and two physicians, Charles H. Nichols on 2 June and James C. Hall on 14 June, to testify in support of Powell's insanity defense. The prosecution also called two medical experts, including the same James C. Hall who had testified for the defense (but then recanted his previous statements), on 14 June, the same day Hardie sent the telegram to Dr. Gray. Both testified that Powell was not insane. The commission rejected the insanity plea and found Powell guilty, sentencing him to death by hanging. There is no evidence that Dr. Gray ever examined Powell.

*2007M-42 *Purchased in 2007 on the Bayard Livingston & Kate Gray Kilgour Fund.*

R. B. Milliken. Letter to [?] Byron, Washington, D.C., April 16, 1865. Manuscript.

“With feelings of the most profound sorrow and heartfelt grief I take the pen to write you” is how R. B. Milliken opens this letter. Milliken, who was at Ford’s Theatre the night of Lincoln’s assassination, describes to an unknown correspondent the terrible event he had witnessed. During the play, Milliken’s attention was drawn to the president’s box “from whence came a report of a pistol. There was a slight noise as though someone was struggling with another, then almost instantly a man sprung to the front of the box and jumped recklessly upon the stage, and he rose to his feet...and swiftly darted across the stage.” At first Milliken thought that what he had seen was part of the play, but then quickly realized that he had “witnessed the tragic end of him we all loved so well, and I exclaimed *Lincoln is killed!*”

Lincoln Collection Abraham Lincoln, Miscellaneous Papers (54) *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Mary Todd Lincoln. Letter to Queen Victoria, Washington, D.C., May 21, 1865 [retained copy]. Manuscript.

Mary Lincoln responds to Queen Victoria’s message of condolence on the death of President Lincoln.

MS Am 1845.8 John Hay, Papers of John Hay and Abraham Lincoln *Bequest of Clarence Leonard Hay, 1969-1970.*

William Dean Howells. Excerpt from the *The Lives and Speeches of Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin* (1860), Belmont, Massachusetts, 1880. Manuscript.

William Dean Howells (1837-1920), journalist, novelist, poet, and biographer, penned a campaign biography of Lincoln entitled *The Lives and Speeches of Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin* (Columbus, Ohio, 1860). In 1880, Howells sent this excerpt from his biography to Lincoln collector Osborn H. Oldroyd for the latter’s 1883 monumental work, *The Lincoln Memorial: Album-Immortelles*, comprised of tributes to Lincoln by eminent American and European writers and statesmen. Howells writes, on custom paper supplied by Oldroyd, that “No admirer, who speaks in his praise, must pause to

conceal a stain upon his good name. No true man falters in his affection at the remembrance of any mean action or littleness in the life of Lincoln. The purity of his reputation, the greatness and dignity of his ambition, ennobles every incident of his career, and give significance to all events of his past.”

b *2007M-56 Purchased in 2007 on the Bayard Livingston & Kate Gray Kilgour Fund.



Figure 16. LEONARD WELLS VOLK. Abraham Lincoln life mask and pair of hands. 1886. Bronze. The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.



CASE 8

**Leonard Wells Volk. Abraham Lincoln life mask and pair of hands.
1886. Bronze.**

These bronze casts of Lincoln's face and hands were produced in 1886 by the artist Leonard Volk (1828-1895) from originals he made between March and May 1860 before Lincoln was nominated as the Republican Party's candidate for president. These casts were popular with Lincoln collectors, including William Whiting Nolen. (figure 16)

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

**John Brown's gold stud owned by Abraham Lincoln. [before 1859].
Gold, diamonds.**

In a letter addressed to William Whiting Nolen on 2 November 1922, Charles F. Heartman, antiquarian bookseller and publisher, claimed that this gold stud with the letter "B" set with chip diamonds belonged to the abolitionist John Brown (1800-1859). According to Heartman, the stud was given to Abraham Lincoln, who subsequently gave it to Horace Chase (1810-1886?).

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

**Norwegian spoon pin owned by Mary Todd Lincoln. [before 1855].
Silver, gold, enamel.**

Acquired by William Whiting Nolen in August 1922, this silver and gold plated Norwegian spoon pin was purported to have belonged to Mary Todd Lincoln in 1855.

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

**Wallpaper from Abraham Lincoln's bedroom in his Springfield,
Illinois house.**

This is a fragment of blue and bronze patterned wallpaper from Lincoln's bedroom in his Springfield, Illinois, house. The Lincolns left Springfield on

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11 February 1861 to travel to Washington, D.C., for the inauguration. They rented out their house with plans to return following Lincoln's presidency. Sadly, the family never returned to live there again. Souvenirs such as this fragment of wallpaper became treasured relics of Victorians wanting a keepsake of the martyred president.

*2008-1090 *Gift of The Rail Splitter, 2009.*

Walking stick made from wood cut on the Lincoln birthplace farm in Kentucky. [carved before 1923]. Hickory.

Purchased by Nolen from Charles F. Heartman in 1922, this walking stick is purported to be made from wood cut on the Lincoln farm in Hodgenville, Kentucky. Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin on a farm three miles south of Hodgenville. Lincoln's family moved away from the farm to one located several miles away on Knob Creek when he was two years old. Lincoln's birthplace farm, and especially the original (or one thought to be the original) log cabin, attracted interest soon after Lincoln was elected president. In 1861, the farm and cabin were purchased by Dr. George Rodman, who moved the cabin to another location. The cabin was returned to the Hodgenville farm by New York businessman A. W. Dennett, who acquired the property in 1895. In 1905, Robert Collier, the publisher of *Collier's Weekly*, purchased the farm, and along with Mark Twain, William Jennings Bryan, Samuel Gompers, and others, established the Lincoln Farm Association to preserve the birthplace and to create a memorial to Lincoln. The memorial and the farm were established as a national park in 1916.

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Broad axe. [early 19th century]. Iron and wood.

This broad axe, according to an affidavit that accompanied it in 1922, was sold by Abraham Lincoln to a cattle driver in Illinois for "one dollar and four bits." A few years later, the cattle driver saw the man who sold him the axe "electioneering for office, later same man ran for the Presidency, and won, being Abraham Lincoln." The affidavit was signed by the wife of the cattle driver's grandson on 19 June 1922. During Lincoln's 1860 campaign for the presidency the axe became a symbol of his frontier upbringing. Lincoln became known as the "Rail Splitter" as a tribute to his prowess with an axe as a young man. (figure 17)

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*



Figure 17. Broad axe. [early 19th century]. Iron and wood. 82 x 23 cm. Lincoln Collection The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana. This axe, according to an affidavit, was sold by Lincoln to a cattle driver in Illinois. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

Ensign of the USS *Constitution* used in decorating Ford's Theatre on 14 April 1865. [19th century]. Silk.

This flag was purported to have hung in Ford's Theatre on the evening of Lincoln's assassination.

Harvard Theatre Collection Gift of Harry Francis Estabrook, 1939.

Ford's Theatre ticket stub for 14 April 1865.

Lincoln Collection Abraham Lincoln, Miscellaneous Papers (96) *Bequest of Evert Jansen Wendell, 1918.*

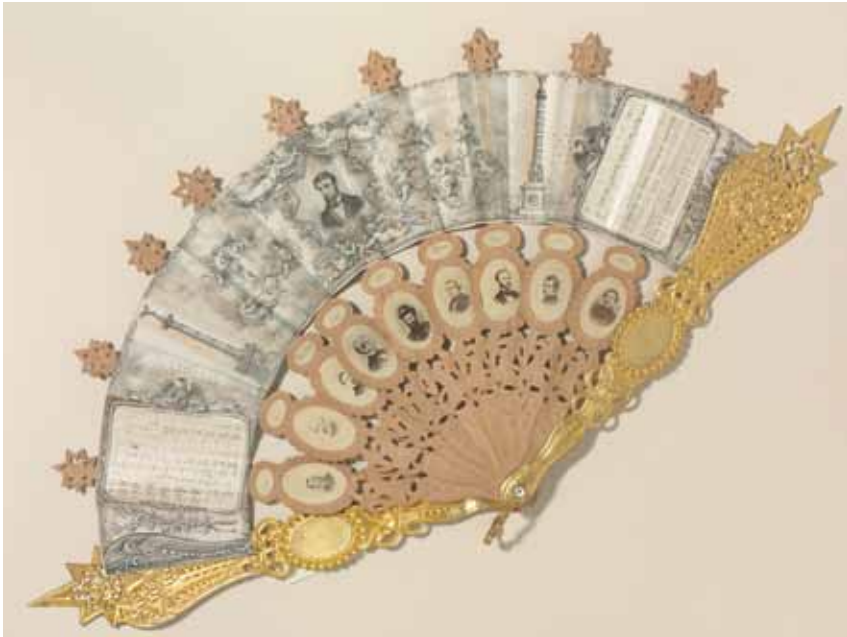


Figure 18. AUGUST EDOUARD ACHILLE LUCE. Lincoln memorial fan. [ca. 1866]. Paper, aluminum, and wood. 28 x 52 cm. pf*AC85.L6384.N866ℓ Created as a memorial to President Lincoln, this woman's commemorative fan is adorned with images of Lincoln, Union generals, Secretary of State Seward, and Vice President Johnson. The verso is decorated with images depicting Civil War battles and the assassination of Lincoln. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

**August Edouard Achille Luce. Lincoln memorial fan. [ca. 1866].
Paper, aluminum, and wood.**

Created as a memorial to President Lincoln after his assassination, this woman's commemorative fan was designed by August Edouard Achille Luce and made in either Cuba, Spain, or France for import to the United States. The fan opens into a 22-inch half circle with gilt, incised, decorative rods on each end. The verso is adorned with scenes of the Civil War and of the assassination of Lincoln. The side shown here is decorated with an image of Lincoln and images of his generals and Secretary of State Seward and Vice President Andrew Johnson. (figure 18)

pf *AC85.L6384.N866ℓ *Purchased in 2007 on the Bayard Livingston & Kate Gray Kilgour Fund.*

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Thomas Dow Jones (1811-1881). *Abraham Lincoln*. 1861. Plaster.

Thomas Dow Jones, a portrait sculptor and medalist, was commissioned by the Ohio Republican Party to make a marble bust of Abraham Lincoln. The artist traveled to Springfield, Illinois, where the president-elect sat for him on several occasions. Jones completed his work in February 1861, just before Lincoln embarked on his inaugural journey to Washington, D.C. This is a plaster copy of the marble original, the first sculpture to show Lincoln with a beard. This bust was acquired by Harvard College sometime before 1867 and was on display for many years in Gore Hall, the building that housed the College Library until 1913.

*2008M-44 *Source unknown.*

John Rogers (1829-1904). *The Council of War*. 1868. Painted terra cotta.

This is the first of three versions of John Rogers's famous depiction of President Lincoln consulting with General Grant and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton (1814-1869). Although he produced large, life-sized works of famous Americans, Rogers was best known for his creations of small figures and scenes depicting home life, known as "Rogers Groups," which were enormously popular.

MS Am 2228 *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

Unidentified Artist. *Abraham Lincoln* (1809-1865). American, late 19th – early 20th centuries. Oil on canvas. (figure 1)

Harvard University Portrait Collection H462 Bequest of William Whiting Nolen, 1924.

Wellman (William) Morrison (1815-1857). *Charles Sumner* (1811-1874). 1856. Oil on canvas.

Charles Sumner of Massachusetts was an ardent abolitionist and Republican senator during the Civil War. He first met Abraham Lincoln when the president-elect arrived in the nation's capital in 1861. Although he disagreed

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Figure 19. *Union Nominations...for President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, for Vice President of the United States, Andrew Johnson.* New York, 1864. Poster. 152.4 x 119.3 cm. pf*AB85.L6384.Z864u The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

with Lincoln's moderate approach to slavery and emancipation, he was a close friend of the president and, especially, Mary Lincoln. Present at Lincoln's bedside when he died, Sumner delivered a eulogy of the late president in Boston in June 1865. He was a steadfast supporter of Mrs. Lincoln after the president's death, securing a \$3,000 pension for her in 1870. The artist of this painting, Wellman Morrison, mistakenly known as William, was known for his paintings of New Hampshire scenes.

Harvard University Portrait Collection H119 Gift of Oliver C. Everett to Harvard College, 1874.

Union Nominations...for President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, for Vice President of the United States, Andrew Johnson. New York, 1864. Poster.

This rare 1864 poster promotes the Union ticket of Abraham Lincoln for president and Andrew Johnson for vice president and a list of candidates in the State of New York. (figure 19)

pf *AB85.L6384.Z864u *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana.*

After a Little While. New York: Charles Magnus, [ca. 1862]. Broadside.

This hand-colored lithograph was produced by Charles Magnus (1826-1900), a prominent New York City lithographer who came to the United States from Germany in 1848. Magnus, an ardent supporter of the Union cause during the Civil War, issued city views, sheet music, envelopes, maps, scenic prints, playing cards, and valentines. This broadside, produced early in the Civil War, depicts President Lincoln mounted on a horse as a more dominant figure than his Confederate counterpart, Jefferson Davis. In the background of this print, both Northern and Southern fanatics are being put in jail, possibly to convey a message that Lincoln's middle-of-the-road approach to the South and slavery would prevail in the end.

p *AB85.L6384.Y865a *Source unknown.*



Figure 20. MAX ROSENTHAL. *Proclamation of Emancipation*. Philadelphia, 1865. Broadside. 75 x 60 cm. *2008-254 Soon after Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, artists, such as Max Rosenthal, produced works celebrating the historic measure. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

**Max Rosenthal. *Proclamation of Emancipation*. Philadelphia:
L. Franklin Smith, 1865. Broadside.**

Soon after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on 1 January 1863, artists issued works celebrating the historic event. This print, issued by L. Franklin Smith shortly after the president's death, depicts Lincoln as the central figure in the abolitionist cause. Vignettes by lithographer Max Rosenthal (1833-1919) adorn each side of the print, depicting the evils of slavery and the blessings of liberty. Rosenthal, who was born in Poland, studied drawing, lithography, and painting in Paris and settled in Philadelphia in 1849, was known for his drawings and lithographs of distinguished Americans, Civil War battles, and Philadelphia buildings and scenes. (figure 20)

*2008-254 Source unknown.

***The Christian Graces. Faith, Hope and Charity*. New York,
[before April 1865].**

This engraving, an insert in an issue of Frank Leslie's *Lady's Journal*, hung on the wall of the bedroom in the home of William Petersen where Abraham Lincoln died on the morning of 15 April 1865. The engraving was purchased by Evert Jansen Wendell (1860-1917) in 1895. In April of that year, William Petersen's son wrote to Wendell confirming that the print had hung in the room in which Lincoln died. The print was later acquired by William Whiting Nolen in 1919 at the Wendell estate sale. (figure 21)

Lincoln Collection *The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana*.

**Lincoln Dioramic Association. *A magnificent work of art. A series
of wonderful exhibitions!* Columbus, Ohio: Nevins and Myers' Job
Rooms, [1867?]. Broadside.**

This broadside links popular art and commerce and uses the Lincoln assassination to create interest in the enterprise. It appears that the Lincoln Dioramic Association was comprised of real estate promoters wanting to sell farmland in Jasper County, Missouri. In order to be eligible to win a farm and other prizes, such as shawls, rings, and watches, a person had to purchase an admission certificate to the "Diorama of the Funeral Obsequies of ABRAHAM LINCOLN," which involved more than 100,000 moving mechanical figures,



Figure 21. *The Christian Graces. Faith, Hope and Charity*. New York, [before April 1865]. 79 x 51 cm. Lincoln Collection The William Whiting Nolen Collection of Lincolniana. This engraving hung in the room in William Petersen's boarding house where Lincoln died. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

paintings, and machinery. The diorama, purchased by “an association of gentleman” from the unknown creator, was scheduled to travel to cities and towns across the country.

PF Cabinet *AB85.L6384.Y867m *Purchased in 2007 on the Harmand Teplow, Class of 1920, Book Fund.*

Rufus Somerby. *Lincoln's triumphal death march a glowing and faithful transcript of all the scenes and incidents connected with the recent appalling calamity of the assassination of the president!* Boston: Rufus Somerby, [1865?]. Broadside.

Marketed as a “Magnificent Series of Pictures,” *Lincoln's triumphal death march*, produced by “Twelve Talented Artists,” depicts the late president’s “death march” from his second inauguration to his burial in Springfield, Illinois. Presumably, these series of paintings were to travel across the country, while Rufus Somerby, “Gifted Elocutionist and Eloquent Orator” as well as manager of show, delivered lectures about the events represented in the paintings. (figure 22)

PF Cabinet *AB85.L6384.Y865s *Source unknown.*

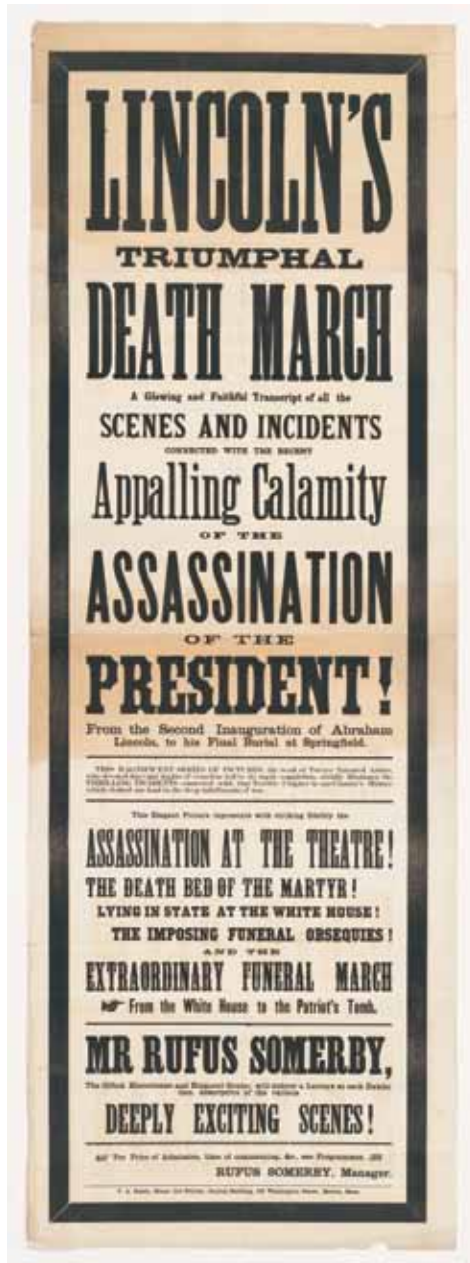


Figure 22. RUFUS SOMERBY. *Lincoln's triumphal death march*. Boston, [1865?]. Broadside, 118.1 x 47 cm. PF Cabinet *AB85.L6384.Y865s One of several commercial ventures that attempted to take advantage of Lincoln's iconic status in the wake of his assassination. Reproduction courtesy of Houghton Library.

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