

LincolnLore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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The Presidential Campaign of 1860

A great many people have inquired if Abraham Lincoln, a man of modest means, could be elected to the Presidency today. The answer to such inquiries is, of course, a matter of conjecture. Except for students of United States history, few people are cognizant of the traditional methods of conducting presidential campaigns in the 1860s. Lincoln adhered to the precedent set by George Washington that no presidential candidate should actively participate in his own campaign.

In fact, some biographers have stated that Lincoln made no campaign addresses, wrote no public letters and held no political conferences. Nicolay and Hay, in their Abraham Lincoln — A History, wrote that "beyond a few casual interviews . . . , the great presidential canvas went on with scarcely a private suggestion or touch of actual direction from the Republican candidate."

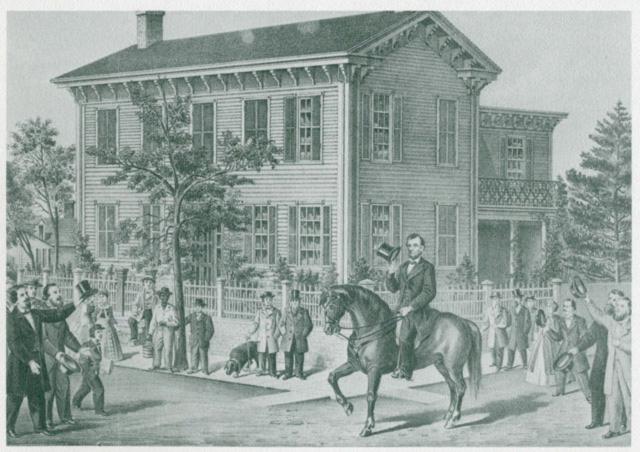
Modern historians do not always agree with Lincoln's

Modern historians do not always agree with Lincoln's private secretaries regarding Lincoln's so-called inactivity during the period from May 18 to November 6, 1860. A study of Lincoln's correspondence compiled in *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, Volume IV, pages

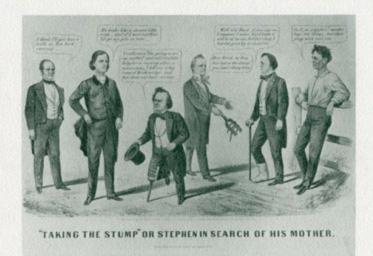
50-136, and a survey of his activities in Lincoln Day By Day — A Chronology, Volume II, pages 280-296, reveal that the "Railsplitter" was no rocking chair candidate. Instead, he had a firm grip on the reins of the Republican Party machine.

The nearest approach to a campaign speech was Lin-The hearest approach to a campaign speech was Lincoln's remarks at a Republican rally, held at Springfield, Illinois on August 8, 1860. The rally was a mammoth occasion at the Fair Grounds and was attended by thousands. Lincoln's arrival during the afternoon in a carriage set off a stampede by his friendly supporters who lifted him bodily from the vehicle and carried him to one of the stands. Upon being presented to his tumult-

uous audience, he made the following remarks:
"My Fellow Citizens: — I appear among you upon this occasion with no intention of making a speech. "It has been my purpose, since I have been placed in my present position, to make no speeches. This assemblage having been drawn together at the place of my residence, it appeared to be the wish of those constituting this vast assembly to see me; and it is cer-



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation This print depicts Lincoln with a beard on horseback in front of his Springfield, Illinois, home. As he did not engage in an active public campaign for the presidency he did not make a triumphant return home in October, 1860. It was not until after the election that the President-elect started to grow a beard.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
This Currier & Ives cartoon depicts the four 1860 presidential candidates, Bell, Douglas, Breckinridge and Lincoln. Shown with them are Henry A. Wise and President James Buchanan. The topic of conversation is "stumping" or actively campaigning for the office of President.

tainly my wish to see all of you. I appear upon the ground here at this time only for the purpose of affording myself the best opportunity of seeing you, and enabling you to see me.

"I confess with gratitude, be it understood, that I did not suppose my appearance among you would create the tumult which I now witness. I am profoundly gratified for this manifestation of your feelings. I am gratified, because it is a tribute such as can be paid to no man as a man. It is the evidence that four years from this time you will give a like manifestation to the next man who is the representative of the truth on the questions that now agitate the public. And it is because you will then fight for this cause as you do now, or with even greater ardor than now, though I be dead and gone. I most profoundly and sincerely thank you.

"Having said this much, allow me now to say that it is my wish that you will hear this public discussion by others of our friends who are present for the purpose of addressing you, and that you will kindly let me be silent."

After making these brief remarks, Lincoln escaped "by stratagem on horseback with the expectant crowd massed around the carriage."

Lincoln wrote a dozen or more private letters in relation to Republican political strategy, but they were always marked "private" or "confidential." Lincoln had no intention of committing himself publicly on any question, major or minor. His other communications, not pertinent to the issues, were quite extensive. Lincoln maintained a special campaign office on the second floor of the State House, where he received hundreds of letters and newspapers and met politicians, curious observers, portrait painters, newspaper reporters, photographers and personal friends. However, if Lincoln remained quiet his political friends did not. They, along with the campaigners of the other three political parties, were most active.

Abiding by political custom, John Bell of the Constitutional Union Party, and John C. Breckinridge of the National Democratic Party did not participate actively in their own campaigns. However, Stephen A. Douglas, representing the northern wing of the Democratic Party, spurned the Washington tradition and engaged in a "mankilling" speaking tour. The "Little Giant" spoke throughout the North and then pushed courageously into the South which became for him "enemy country." His speaking itinerary was the most extensive ever made by a nominee in the history of the country, until the days of William Jennings Bryan.

Some of Douglas' followers were embarrassed by their nominee's furious activity to be elected President. One explanation was that Douglas was on a lyceum tour en route for a visit with his mother. Unfriendly caricaturists drew United States maps showing the zigzag course followed by Douglas "In Search of His Mother."

The printmakers of 1860, however, were not to be outdone with a noncommittal, non-traveling candidate. They pictured Lincoln anachronistically, with a beard, in a lithograph astride a horse, being greeted by well-wishers before his home at 8th and Jackson Streets, Springfield, Illinois with the caption: ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S RETURN HOME AFTER HIS SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER, 1860.

Douglas In Vermont*

Editor's Note: Stephen A. Douglas visited Brandon, Vermont, his birthplace, as a Presidential Candidate on July 28th, 1860. He most assuredly was not "in search of his mother" who resided in New York State. Douglas' father died July 1, 1813, when Stephen was an infant. His mother married Gehazi Granger in 1830, and moved to Manchester Center, Ontario County, New York. Mrs. Gehazi Granger died in 1869, surviving Douglas by eight years. There were no family ties in Brandon for the "Little Giant."

An account of Douglas' Brandon visit appeared in the Rutland Herald of August 2, 1860:

"Some forty of our citizens, including the committee of reception from Brandon, accompanied Mr. Douglas to Brandon, where he was received as in Rutland, by the citizens of all parties, amounting in number to some 2000 persons, and greeting extended to him, such as Brandon knows how to bestow. The Brandon House and many private residences were decorated with flags and streamers, and everything wore a holiday appearance. The 'Allen Grays' were out and did escort duty, and the Brandon and Vergennes bands furnished music for the occasion.

"Upon the arrival of the cars at Brandon, a procession was formed, escorted by the Bands and Military, and headed by the carriages containing Mr. Douglas, the committee of reception and the invited guests, and followed by a large number of carriages containing the citizens generally. The procession moved through most of the principal streets until it came to the old homestead, or 'birthplace' of their guest, when it halted, and an opportunity was given for those who chose to view at this time that interesting relic. A large concourse of people had gathered here in advance of the procession, and upon its arrival great enthusiasm was manifested by the crowd. Mr. Douglas, as well as his friends, viewed this relic of his boyhood days with an evident degree of interest. The building stands at the north end of the village, and is a small, brown, story and a half house, with a latticed porch, and bears evidence of the humble life of the former occupants, but there were associations connected with it, which at this time made it a matter of interest far beyond many of more attractive appearance.

"After this halt of the procession it then moved back to the Brandon House, where accommodations had been provided for their guests, and the procession was broken up. A platform had been erected in front of the hotel, which was now occupied by the committee and their guests and a few invited friends.

"Mr. Douglas was welcomed to Brandon and her hospitalites by E. N. Briggs, Esq., and then introduced to her citizens. Mr. Douglas responded in a most touching and affecting reply, and we have to regret that we cannot give it entire to our readers. He acknowledged his gratitude for the attention paid him by the citizens of all parties, and confined his remarks to topics peculiar to, and suggestive of, the occasion. He spoke for about thirty minutes, and was listened to with profound attention, after which the formality of the reception was broken up, and he mingled freely with the citizens. At eight o'clock in the evening Mr. and Mrs. Douglas held a levee in the parlors of the Brandon House, for the purpose of receiving their friends, and a large number of citizens paid their respects to them.

"Mr. Douglas left Brandon on the Monday morning train for Burlington and Montpelier."

*Robert W. Johannsen, in an article entitled "Stephen A. Douglas' New England Campaign, 1860" reprinted from The New England Quarterly, Vol. XXXV, No. 2, June, 1962, gives the details of the "Little Giant's" political activity in the summer of 1860.

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1966

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Road, Garden City New York; Carl Haverlin, 8619 Louis Avenue, Northridge, California; E. B. Long, 708 North Kenilworth Ave., Oak Park Ill.; Ralph G. Newman, 18 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, Ill.; Kenneth A. Bernard, Boston University, 725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.; Clyde C. Walton, Jr., Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.; Judge Warren L. Jones, U. S. Court of Appeals, Jacksonville, Fla., Hon. Fred Schwengei, 636 Union Arcade, Davenport, Iowa. New items available for consideration may be sent to the above addresses or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

EASTERN NATIONAL PARK AND MONUMENT ASSOCIATION

1966-16

The Lincoln/Country/(cut of French statue) From these/humble beginnings . . . to immortality (picture of birth-place cabin). [Cover title]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, (24) pp., illus., "plastichrome" color. [Distributed by Eastern National Park and Monument Association, Abraham Lincon National Historic Site, Route 1, Hodgenville, Kentucky 42748]

GIVENS, MARSHALL

1966-17

(Cut of Lincoln portrait and Lincoln Heritage Trail seal) / Official/Lincoln Heritage / Trail / Coloring / Book. [Cover title] (Designed and Published by Marshall Givens, 1426 South 3rd Street, Louisville, Ky. 40208) Pamphlet, paper. 8½" x 11". (12) pp., with text and illustrations to color. Price, 25¢. (Lincoln Heritage Trail Foundation, 405 Sycamore Street, Evansville, Ind.)

HALLMARK CARDS, INC.

1966.1

The/Wit and Wisdom/of/Abraham/Lincoln/(device)/Compiled by the editors of/Hallmark Cards./[Copyright by Hallmark Cards, Inc. Printed in U.S.A. 1966]
Brochure, leatherette, 41/4" x 21/4", 60 pp., illus. Price, 25¢.

IKEDA, NOBUMASA

1966-1

Lincoln, #23/Sekai no Denki (Biographies of the World)/Author: Nobumasa Ikeda/Published: July 1966/by Populus-sha, Tokyo. [Printed in Japanese language] Book, 9" x 6", 236 (4) pp., illus.

ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY 1966-20

The Old/State/Capitol/As It Was And As/It Will Be Again/(picture) (Ill. State Seal State of Illinois.) [Cover title] (Prepared by the Illinois State Historical Library for the Illinois Department of Conservation. Otto Kerner, Governor. Printed by authority of the State of Illinois.) Folder, 9" x 4", (5) pp., illus.

KAPICA, KENNETH C.

1966-2

Lincoln's / Gettysburg / Address / (device) / Kenneth C. Kapica/New Britain, Conn. [Printed from hand set Garamond Old Style type by Kenneth C. Kapica at the Sign of the Dragon Press, New Britain, Conn.]

Miniature Book, black leather, 2\%" x 1\%", fr., (6) pp. [No. 81 of 100 copies printed]

LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Lincoln Memorial University Press/Summer, 1966/ Vol. 68, No. 2/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to historical/research in the field of Lincolniana and/of Lincoln Ideals in American/Education. [Harrogate, Tennessee]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10" x 7", pp. 57-104, illus.

LINCOLN SAVINGS AND LOAN

ASSOCIATION

1966-2

A Look Behind the Scenes/Walt Disney's/Great Moments With Mr. Lincoln/(cut)/Copyright Walt Disney Prod./[Cover title] (Published by Lincoln Savings and Loan Association, 630 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles, California)

Folder, paper, 81/2" x 51/4", illus., 5 pp.

McCORISON, JOSEPH LYLE 1966-24

The Lincoln Boys/A Paper Prepared For/The Lincoln Group of Boston/and read at/The Hotel Continental, in Cambridge/Massachusetts/Saturday, February 12, 1966/by/Joseph Lyle McCorison/East Corinth, Vermont/1966. [Printed by UniLith, The Gibby Press — W. Topsham, Vt.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 9" x 6", 13 pp.

SAYRE, F. B. JR.

1966-25

Abraham Lincoln and/the present generation/[Caption title] (Published by Washington Cathedral, Mount Saint Alban, Washington, D.C. 20016

Folder, paper, 91/4" x 4", illus. [Artist's sketch of proposed Abraham Lincoln Bay with descriptive text.]

LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE FOUNDATION 1966-26

Lincoln Lore/Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor/Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company Fort Wayne, Indiana/Number 1541, July 1966 — Number 1546, December 1966.

Lincoln Cartoon, Most Timely Lincoln Editorial, February 12, 1966-July 1966; Number 1542, The Christian's Defence—August 1966; Number 1542, The Christian's Defence—August 1966; Number 1543, William M. Prior's Portraits of Lincoln on Glass—September 1966; Number 1544, Lincoln's Visits to Kentucky—1841—October 1966; Number 1544, Hodgenville, Ky., How It Fits Into The Lincoln Story—November 1966; Number 1546, The Presidential Campaign of 1860—December 1966.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN LOVELL

1966-27

Mr. Lincoln/Sits For His/Portrait/A Complement to Life's 1966 Year-end Photography Issue/Copyright 1966 Time Inc.

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 7" x 5", fr. (Lincoln Photograph Courtesy The Meserve Collection, (5) pp. (Life, Rockefeller Center, New York, N.Y. 10020

TEMPLE, WAYNE C.

1966-2

Lincoln and W. H. W. Cushman/By Wayne C. Temple/ Reprinted from Summer 1966 Lincoln Herald. [Cover title]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 101/8" x 71/8", (8) pp., illus.

THE BIRTHPLACE MEMORIAL

(The concluding paragraph of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's address at President Abraham Lincoln's birthplace, April 23, 1954, is continued from the November, 1966 issue.)

"Thank you again for the great honor you do me for coming out here. I cannot tell you how happy I am, at least, to have the opportunity of coming to the birth-place of Lincoln, a man who for me — like all of you — has been an idol since the days of my first memories. "Thank you and goodbye."

VISITORS AT BIRTHPLACE

In July, 1966, some ninety-seven thousand visitors registered at Lincoln's birthplace from all fifty states, the District of Columbia and twenty-six foreign countries

McMurtry's Speaking Itinerary

Portland, Oregon	Jan. 17 & 18	
Seattle, Washington	Jan. 19 & 20	
Helena, Montana	Jan. 23 & 24	
Billings, Montana	Jan. 25 & 26	
Rapid City, South Dakota	Jan. 27	
Fargo, North Dakota	Jan. 30 & 31	
Denver, Colorado	Feb. 7 & 8	
Phoenix, Arizona	Feb. 9 & 10	
Lincoln, Nebraska	Feb. 13 & 14	
Omaha, Nebraska	Feb. 15 & 16	
Davenport, Iowa	Feb. 21 & 22	
Madison, Wisconsin	Feb. 23 & 24	

Those persons interested in learning of the schedule in detail in the various cities named above, may contact the general agency offices of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company.

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