

ADDRESSES
1864

DRAWER 6

ADDRESSES

1864-1865

71 2009 085 047X3

Late Addresses of Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865

Addresses

1864

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

MEMORIAL DAY

WOMAN IN THE WAR



GREAT fair was holding in the Patent Office building just before the close of the War, for the benefit of the soldiers. President Lincoln was deeply interested visitor and was asked, while in attendance, if he would like to "say a few words of encouragement to the ladies." "Indeed he would," and when escorted to the platform he expressed his sentiments as follows, in the course of an offhand but memorable speech:

"In this extraordinary war, extraordinary developments have manifested themselves, such as have not been seen in former wars; and among these manifestations nothing has been more remarkable than these fairs for the relief of suffering soldiers and their families. And the chief agents in these fairs are the women of America.

"I am not accustomed to use the language of eulogy; I have never studied the art of paying compliments to women; but I must say that if all that has been said by orators and poets since the creation of the world, in praise of women, were applied to the women of America, it would not do them justice for their conduct during the war. I will close by saying:

"God bless the Women of America!"



A popular portrait of Lincoln—
with a beard

3-18-1864

Address by Lincoln Cited As Excellent Advice Today

By Lou Schneider
(Consolidated News Features)

Abraham Lincoln's March 21, 1864, speech before the Workingman's Council is timely advice today. He said, in part:

"Property is the fruit of labor. Property is desirable. It is a positive good in the world. If some should be rich shows that others may become rich. Hence it is just encouragement to industry and enterprise.

"Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him work diligently and build one for himself. Thus, by example, assuring that his own house shall be safe from violence when built."

This is an era of big—big national spending, big taxes, big production, big business, and big talk. But did you know that small business these days clears the biggest percent of profit on the amount of invested capital?

The Truman administration, for re-election reasons, is expected to

keep business bustling this year—even at the risk of inflation. And expect official remarks, from time to time, to encourage stock market good price behavior. A slump in securities prices would sour the prosperity theme song.

The public will pay any wage boost to steelworkers, whether steel prices are increased or not. If steel prices are increased, the public will openly pay. If prices aren't increased, corporate profits will decrease.

The government collects 20 percent of all its tax revenues from corporate earnings. Thus the government will lose by a decrease in tax take. Since the budget is high, the revenue loss will have to be made by something else, and the public will pay.

Price control today is a farce. It consists of a business firm filling the spaces of a few blanks, and receiving authority for price increases. It's that simple. Congress may as well save the vast sums of money being spent on the paper work and salaries, and scrap the whole idea.

Inflation plays curious tricks. Factually, there's a lack of money when money is supposed to be plentiful. Folks pocket more money during inflation, but the purchasing power is less. And big-earning business firms find themselves short of working capital to pay bigger payrolls, to carry high-priced inventories and to buy high-priced production equipment.

Don't let anyone tell you that stock market prices haven't participated in the inflation parade. The Securities & Exchange Commission share price index hit 197.7 on Jan. 26. (The index is based on 1939 as 100.) That's a securities price spurt of nearly 100 percent.

Mr. Lincoln's response to a delegation
of the National Union League, 1863.

I can only say in response to the kind
remarks of your chairman, as I suppose,
that I am very grateful for the renewed
confidence which has been accorded to
me both by the convention and by the
National League. I am not insensible at
all to the personal compliment there is in
this, and yet I do not allow myself to be-
lieve that any but a small portion of it is
to be appropriated as a personal compli-
ment; that really the convention and the
Union League assembled with a higher
view--that of taking care of the interests
of the country for the present and the
great future--and that the part I am en-
titled to appropriate as a compliment is
only that part which I may lay hold of as
being the opinion of the convention and
of the League, that I am not entirely un-
worthy to be intrusted with the place
which I have occupied for the last three
years. But I do not allow myself to sup-
pose that either the convention or the
league have concluded to decide that I

am either the greatest or best man in
America, but rather they have concluded
that it is not best to swap horses while
crossing the river, and have further con-
cluded that I am not so poor a horse that
they might not make a batch of it in try-
ing to swap.

6-7-1864

Speech To The 16th Ohio

There is more involved in the contest than is realized by everyone. There is involved in this struggle the question whether your children and my children

shall enjoy the privileges we have enjoyed. I say this in order to impress upon you, if you are not already so impressed, that no small matter should divert you from our great purpose. There may be some inequalities in the practical application of our system. It is fair that each man shall pay taxes in exact proportion to the value of his property, but if we should wait before collecting a tax to adjust the taxes upon each man in exact proportion with every other man, we should never collect any tax at all. There may be mistakes made. Sometimes things may be done wrong, while the officers of the government do all they can to prevent mistakes, but I beg of you, as citizens of this great republic, not to let your minds be carried off from the great work we have before us.

The struggle is too large for you to be diverted from it by any small matter. When you return to your homes, rise up to the dignity of a generation of men worthy of a free government, and we will carry out the work we have commenced.

8-18-1864

A SPEECH FROM THE PRESIDENT.

This afternoon the 165th Ohio regiment, Col. Le whose term of service has expired, paid their respects to the President in front of the Executive mansion, who addressed them as follows:—

“Soldiers—You are about to return to your homes and your friends after having, as I learn performed in camp a comparatively short term duty in the great struggle. I am greatly obliged to you and all who have conformed to the call of their country. I wish might be more generally and universally understood what the country is now engaged in. We have, as all will agree, a free government, under which every man has a right to be equal with every other man. In this great struggle this form of government and every form of human rights is endangered if our enemies succeed. There is more involved in this struggle than is realized by every one. There is involved in this struggle the question whether your children and my children shall enjoy the privileges we have enjoyed. I say this in order to impress on you, if you are not already so impressed, that no small matter should divert us from our great purpose. There may be some irregularities in the practical application of our system. It is fair that each man shall pay taxes in exact proportion to the value of his property, but if we should wait before collecting a tax to adjust taxes on each man in exact proportion with every other man, we should never collect any tax at all.

There may be mistakes made sometimes. Things may be done wrong while the officers of the government do all they can to prevent mistakes. But I beg of you, as citizens of this great republic not to let your minds be carried off from this great work we have before us. This struggle is too large for you to be diverted from it by any small matter. When you return to your homes rise up to the height of a generation of men worthy of a free government and we will carry out the great work we have commenced. I return to you my sincere thanks, soldiers, for the honor you have done me this afternoon.”

Cheers were given for the President, and he was saluted by the regiment, after which the march was taken up for the railroad station.

1864
8-19

Lincoln Said:

"I always feel inclined, when I happen to say anything to soldiers, to impress upon them the importance of success in this contest. It is not merely for today, but for all time to come, that we should perpetuate for our children's children that great and free government which we have enjoyed all our lives . . . Still, let us not be over sanguine of a speedy, final triumph. Let us be quite sober. Let us diligently apply the means, never doubting that a just God in His own good time, will give us the rightful result."

v and Saturday San

Aug 22, 1864

August 22, 1864 -- ADDRESS TO THE 166TH OHIO REGIMENT

Soldiers: I suppose you are going home to see your families and friends. For the services you have done in this great struggle in which we are all engaged, I present you sincere thanks for myself and the country.

I almost always feel inclined, when I happen to say anything to soldiers, to impress upon them, in a few brief remarks, the importance of success in this contest. It is not merely for to-day, but for all time to come, that we should perpetuate for our children's children that great and free government which we have enjoyed all our lives. I beg you to remember this, not merely for my sake, but for yours. I happen, temporarily, to occupy this White House. I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father's child has. It is in order that each one of you may have, through this free government which we have enjoyed, an open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprize, and intelligence; that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life, with all its desirable human aspirations. It is for this the struggle should be maintained, that we may not lose our birthright--not only for one, but for two or three years. The nation is worth fighting for, to secure such an inestimable jewel.

Nicolay and Hay, Vol. 2, p. 567

should have done—all in his usual characteristic manner.

Several of our members from the General Offices honored us and their behavior left nothing to be desired. With one exception (no name, no blame), they followed the example of the gentleman from Willard, and proved to be excellent listeners.

A BIT OF REAL PATRIOTISM

By One Who Led That Others Might Excell

Abraham Lincoln, in a speech made to the 166th Ohio Regiment, August 22, 1864, after a review at the White House, said:

I happen temporarily to occupy this White House.

I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father's child has.

It is in order that each of you may have, through this free government which we have enjoyed, an open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise, and intelligence, that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life, with all its desirable human aspirations—it is for this the struggle should be maintained, that we may not lose our birthright.

GLEAMINGS FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY CLASS

Monumental Clerks Well Represented

The study of Psychology at the Baltimore Labor School during the past season, has proven both interesting and instructive to the members of this class. While a variety of subjects, of interest to the labor student were discussed, a large part of the course was devoted to the study of our environment, the conditions under which we live, and how they effect our personality and development.

Under the able direction of our instructor and comrade, Mr. Calverton, our students became more familiar with the present social system and find themselves thinking of, and understanding, many phases of our conduct in the field of toil and in the home. Constant atten-

tion to the subject is secured by the discussion method of teaching, the students readily expressing opinions and airing their views on the subject of the evening, thereby gaining considerable knowledge and a greater understanding of the subject than could be obtained through the lecture method.

Monumental Lodge was well represented in the Psychology Class, having five members of our organization on the class roster. The young psychologists of Monumental look forward with interest to the resumption of their studies in the fall, and hope to see more of their fellow-clerks avail themselves of the facilities of the Baltimore Labor School. Time thus spent in the acquiring of knowledge of this character will benefit the individual through a better understanding of the problems of the day, of aiding him in developing the personality, in giving a better understanding of his fellow-worker, and in making him a better member of our Brotherhood.

June 16, 1926.

W. J. Watts, Editor,
Dear Brother Watts:

July 4, 1926, is one hundred and fifty years of American Independence. You will agree with me that our country, a union of 48 States, has made a success as a nation, and in like manner you must agree with me that our Brotherhood would be a great success if every one of the employees would be a member of same.

We can, if we will, as an Organization, make our Railroad a great success as well as to benefit ourselves by belonging to the Clerks' Union.

July 4 ends the three-dollar initiation fee. It is very small, owing to the fact that an insurance policy is given free to the members.

I trust the non-union members will take advantage of the low rate and join our Brotherhood before Independence Day next.

Yours fraternally,

GEO. E. GARNER,

Chairman, Organization Committee.

Mr. W. J. Watts,
Editor, MONUMENTAL REVIEW.
Dear Sir:

I wish by this means to thank all of my friends for their support in electing me a delegate to the Relief Department Convention. I will do all possible to represent you to the best of my ability.

Again thanking you, I am,

Yours truly,

ROBERT B. HALL,

Lincoln addressed a Maryland party at the White House, Oct. 19, 1864:

Something said by the Secretary of State, in his recent speech at Auburn, has been construed by some into a threat that if I shall be beaten at the election, I will, between then and the constitutional end of my term, do what I may be able, to ruin the government. Others regard the fact that the Chicago convention adjourned not sine die, but to meet again, if called to do so by a particular individual, as the intimation of a purpose that, if their nominee shall be elected, he will at once seize control of the government. I hope the good people will permit themselves to suffer no uneasiness on either point. I am struggling to maintain the government, not to overthrow it. I am struggling specially to prevent others from overthrowing it. I therefore, say that if I live, I shall remain President until the fourth of next March, and that whoever shall be constitutionally elected in November shall be duly installed as President on the fourth of March; and, in the interval, I shall do my utmost that whoever is to hold the helm for the next voyage, shall start with the best possible chance of saving the ship.

LINCOLN CONCLUSIONS WISE TODAY

Compiled by HERBERT WELLS FAY, Custodian Lincoln's Tomb

After His Re-election 12-10-1864

It has long been a grave question whether any government not too strong for the liberties of its people can be strong enough to maintain its existence in great emergencies.

On this point the present rebellion has brought our republic to a severe test, and a presidential election occurring in regular course during the rebellion, has added not a little to the strain. If the loyal people, united, were put to the utmost of their strength by the rebellion, must they not fail when divided and partially paralyzed by a political war among themselves?

But the election was a necessity. We cannot have a free government without elections; and if the rebellion could force us to forego or postpone a national election, it might fairly claim to have already conquered and ruined us.

The strife of the election is but human nature applied to the facts in the case. What has occurred in this case must ever recur in similar cases. Human nature will not change. In any future great national trial, compared with the men who have passed through this, we shall have as weak and as strong, as silly and as wise, as bad and as good. Let us therefore study the incidents of this as philosophy to learn wisdom from, and none of them as wrongs to be revenged.

While I am deeply sensible to the high compliment of a re-election, and duly grateful, as I trust, to Almighty God for having directed my countrymen to a right conclusion, as I think, for their own good, it adds nothing to my satisfaction that any other man may be disappointed or pained by the result. May I ask those who have not differed with me to join with me in this same spirit towards those who have?

Capital Times, Madison
Long Lost Lincoln Manuscript
Found by Wisconsin Educator 2/12/36

**Prof. Gray Notifies C. E.
Brown of New York
Find**

THE long lost manuscript of the address which Pres. Abraham Lincoln delivered Nov. 10, 1864, at the celebration of his re-election, has been discovered in a bank vault at Dryden, N. Y., by Prof. Roland P. Gray, of Stout institute, Menomonie, Wis., friend and co-worker with Charles E. Brown, of the university museum.

Explains Discovery

In a letter Tuesday to Mr. Brown, Prof. Gray explained the events leading up to the uncovering of the Lincoln speech, and how it came into the possession of the New York state bank.

Pres. Lincoln delivered the address from a window above the portico of the white house on the night of Thursday, Nov. 10, 1864, two days after election day, when a serenade was staged by the Lincoln and Johnson clubs of the District of Columbia, Prof. Gray explains.

"In looking over the newspaper records of the re-election celebration," Prof. Gray comments, "an ironic touch is that the Lincoln speech was crowded off the front page of the New York Tribune by an address delivered by Jefferson Davis, to the Confederate congress, at Richmond.

"The report, a bare half column, was placed on the first page, about a third of the way down from the top, and shared the column with the report on a new creation which John B. Gough, the social reformer, made at the Academy of Music."

Mr. Lincoln appeared at the window above the portico and gave the speech which he had prepared for the occasion, Prof. Gray relates.

Lincoln Quoted

It opened with the words:

"It has long been a grave question whether any government, not too strong for the liberties of the people, can be strong enough to maintain its own existence in great emergencies."

Lincoln concluded:

"And now, let us close by asking three hearty cheers for our brave soldiers and seamen and their gallant and skillful commanders."

Popular Government Defended In Emergencies by Lincoln; 'Lost' 1864 Speech Recovered

By a Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—"It has long been a grave question whether any government, not too strong for the liberties of the people, can be strong enough to maintain its own existence in great emergencies."

This striking passage opens the "long-lost" manuscript of Abraham Lincoln's speech on the White House lawn two days after his re-election, on Nov. 10, 1864, just discovered and released by the Works Progress Administration.

Then and Now

Implication of the quotation is to defend the New Deal's use of sweeping powers during the emergency. Yet a closer study of the manuscript raises doubt whether Lincoln really was saying something which can now be used to comfort the New Dealers. For later in the speech he appears to answer his original question. He says that, although a national election in a great emergency was a source of strife, it was a necessity, and had done good by demonstrating that "a people's government can sustain a national election in the midst of a great Civil War. Until now, it has not been known to the world that this was a possibility."

Regarding Emergencies

That seems to be the answer to Lincoln's original question: That in an emergency it was not necessary to extend the powers of a government beyond the point where they become "too strong for the liberties of the people," for had not the United States just risked the emergency government in an election, and successfully weathered the strife? And had the country taken the plunge over into the field of

emergency government, by foregoing the election, "The rebellion might fairly claim to have already conquered and ruined us."

Kept in Bank Vault

The manuscript was found in a bank vault at Dryden, N. Y., and hence could hardly be described accurately as lost. It was placed there for safe-keeping by the trustees of the Dryden Public Library. Photographs have now been taken, and are on display at the Library of Congress in Washington.

Prof. Roland P. Gray, seeking material for the WPA's American Guide, of which he is New York State research editor, was in chance conversation with the president of the Dryden bank, and heard of the manuscript.

From Robert T. Lincoln

It came to Dryden as a gift from Robert T. Lincoln, the President's son, to Representative John W. Dwight of Dryden, who had been instrumental in planning the Lincoln Memorial. Mrs. Dwight presented the manuscript to the Dryden Library, and hence it got into the bank vault.

The Lincoln manuscript is one of many other "finds" of historical objects which while not precisely lost, were not receiving much attention. Five thousand American guide writers, working under WPA, are digging into local records and statistics in practically every county in the United States.

The manuscript remained with the Lincoln family until April 18, 1916, when Robert T. Lincoln sent it to Mr. Dwight with the following message:

"You know my gratitude to you for your effective work in the House in the legislation providing for the erection of the Lincoln Memorial here, which is now approaching completion, but I wish you to have something tangible as a testimonial of my feeling and which may be associated by you in your memory of that part of your public work.

Written Out Beforehand

"In the book by Noah Brooks, entitled 'Washington in Lincoln's Time,' you will find an account of a public demonstration at the White House immediately after the presidential election of 1864, at which my father made a speech which he had written out beforehand. I am sending to you the original manuscript used by him on that occasion, and I beg your acceptance of it, with the renewed assurance of my kindest regard."

An enormous crowd flocked into the White House grounds to hear the Lincoln speech, delivered from the window over the front portico. But the speech was crowded off the front pages of New York papers by an address of Jefferson Davis to the Confederate Congress at Richmond.

The speech got scant coverage on an inside page. Two editorials discussed the Davis speech, but none Mr Lincoln's.

According to the Washington Evening Star, which devoted several first page columns to the account of the celebration, the club members formed lines opposite the Union League rooms in Ninth Street and marched up Pennsylvania Avenue, 1200 or 1400 strong, carrying torch lights and transparencies, while brass bands blared and men from the navy yard discharged two howitzers at intervals.

The Portico Speech

The Lincoln address follows:

(Nov. 10, 1864.)

It has been long a grave question whether any government, not too strong for the liberties of its people, can be strong enough to maintain its own existence, in great emergencies.

On this point the present Rebellion brought our Republic to a severe test; and a Presidential election occurring in regular course during the Rebellion added

Nov. 10, 1864

Popular Government Defended In Emergencies by Lincoln; 'Lost' 1864 Speech Recovered

By a Staff Correspondent of *The Christian Science Monitor*

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—"It has long been a grave question whether any government, not too strong for the liberties of the people, can be strong enough to maintain its own existence in great emergencies."

This striking passage opens the "long-lost" manuscript of Abraham Lincoln's speech on the White House lawn two days after his re-election, on Nov. 10, 1864, just discovered and released by the Works Progress Administration.

Then and Now

Implication of the quotation is to defend the New Deal's use of sweeping powers during the emergency. Yet a closer study of the manuscript raises doubt whether Lincoln really was saying something which can now be used to comfort the New Dealers. For later in the speech he appears to answer his original question. He says that, although a national election in a great emergency was a source of strife, it was a necessity, and had done good by demonstrating that "a people's government can sustain a national election in the midst of a great Civil War. Until now, it has not been known to the world that this was a possibility."

Regarding Emergencies

That seems to be the answer to Lincoln's original question: That in an emergency it was not necessary to extend the powers of a government beyond the point where they become "too strong for the liberties of the people," for had not the United States just risked the emergency government in an election, and successfully weathered the strife? And had the country taken the plunge over into the field of

emergency government, by foregoing the election, "The rebellion might fairly claim to have already conquered and ruined us."

Kept in Bank Vault

The manuscript was found in a bank vault at Dryden, N. Y., and hence could hardly be described accurately as lost. It was placed there for safe-keeping by the trustees of the Dryden Public Library. Photographs have now been taken, and are on display at the Library of Congress in Washington.

Prof. Roland P. Gray, seeking material for the WPA's American Guide, of which he is New York State research editor, was in chance conversation with the president of the Dryden bank, and heard of the manuscript.

From Robert T. Lincoln

It came to Dryden as a gift from Robert T. Lincoln, the President's son, to Representative John W. Dwight of Dryden, who had been instrumental in planning the Lincoln Memorial. Mrs. Dwight presented the manuscript to the Dryden Library, and hence it got into the bank vault.

The Lincoln manuscript is one of many other "finds" of historical objects which while not precisely lost, were not receiving much attention. Five thousand American guide writers, working under WPA, are digging into local records and statistics in practically every county in the United States.

The manuscript remained with the Lincoln family until April 18, 1916, when Robert T. Lincoln sent it to Mr. Dwight with the following message:

"You know my gratitude to you for your effective work in the House in the legislation providing for the erection of the Lincoln Memorial here, which is now approaching completion, but I wish you to have something tangible as a testimonial of my feeling and which may be associated by you in your memory of that part of your public work."

Written Out Beforehand

"In the book by Noah Brooks, entitled 'Washington in Lincoln's Time,' you will find an account of a public demonstration at the White House immediately after the presidential election of 1864, at which my father made a speech which he had written out beforehand. I am sending to you the original manuscript used by him on that occasion, and I beg your acceptance of it, with the renewed assurance of my kindest regard."

An enormous crowd flocked into the White House grounds to hear the Lincoln speech, delivered from the window over the front portico. But the speech was crowded off the front pages of New York papers by an address of Jefferson Davis to the Confederate Congress in Richmond.

100.10.186
The speech got scant coverage on an inside page. Two editorials discussed the Davis speech, but none Mr. Lincoln's.

According to the Washington Evening Star, which devoted several first page columns to the account of the celebration, the club members formed lines opposite the Union League rooms in Ninth Street and marched up Pennsylvania Avenue, 1200 or 1400 strong, carrying torch lights and transparencies, while brass bands blared and men from the navy yard discharged two howitzers at intervals.

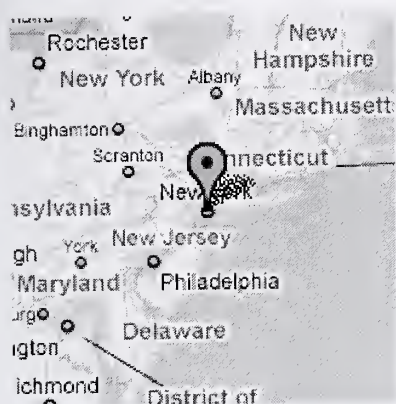
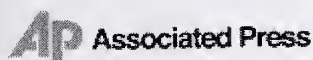
The Portico Speech

The Lincoln address follows:

(Nov. 10, 1864.)

It has been long a grave question whether any government, not too strong for the liberties of its people, can be strong enough to maintain its own existence, in great emergencies.

On this point the present Rebellion brought our Republic to a severe test; and a Presidential election occurring in regular course during the Rebellion added



Lincoln 1864 manuscript sets record at NYC auction

By ULA ILNYTZKY – 4 days ago

NEW YORK (AP) — A handwritten manuscript of an 1864 Abraham Lincoln speech sold for \$3.44 million on the bicentennial of his birthday Thursday, setting a new auction record for any American historical document.

The manuscript was sold to an anonymous phone bidder after spirited bidding in a crowded Christie's auction house room. Proceeds from the sale will go toward a new wing for a library in New York's Finger Lakes region, where the document has been since 1926.

Thursday's price was just slightly higher than the previous record of \$3.40 million set last year at Sotheby's, also for a Lincoln document — an 1864 letter the 16th president wrote to a group of youngsters who asked him to free America's "little slave children."

The manuscript that sold Thursday is a speech Lincoln delivered at the White House after he was re-elected in the midst of an unpopular Civil War that both he and his opponents believed might cost him his job.

Lincoln delivered the speech to a large crowd on Nov. 10, 1864, after winning a second term with 55 percent of the popular vote. He said the results "demonstrated that a people's government can sustain a national election in the midst of a great civil war."

Lincoln also expressed gratitude to "almighty God for having directed my countrymen to a right conclusion" and called on them to "reunite in a common effort to save our common country."

Lincoln's war policies were unpopular and his prospects for a second term had looked bleak. He himself believed that Democrat George B. McClellan, a popular former Union general, would win.

The four-page document remained in the family's hands until 1916. Lincoln's son, Robert Todd Lincoln, presented it to New York Rep. John A. Dwight as a "thank you." Dwight helped secure funding for the construction of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

In 1926, Dwight's widow gave the document to the Southworth Library Association in Dryden, N.Y. According to the library's Web site, it displayed it only once, during the 1976 bicentennial celebration.

Chris Coover

Erudite specialist at Christie's oversees record auction of Lincoln manuscript



Coover close-up

UB degree BA '73; **Instrument played as a music major at UB** the lute; **Favorite spot in New York** Brooklyn Botanic Garden; **Home base** Montclair, NJ; **Most impressive firsthand sighting of a rare manuscript** Leonardo da Vinci's Codex Hammer (now owned by Bill Gates)

Back in 1992, Chris Coover, senior vice president and specialist in manuscripts at Christie's in New York City, was "poking around" in Volume 8 of Abraham Lincoln's *Collected Works* when he stumbled on the text of a presidential speech he had never before seen. Titled "Response

to a Serenade," the speech was delivered by Lincoln on November 10, 1864, from the balcony of the White House only two days after his unexpected reelection as president.

"It was striking that this little-known speech had the same ring as the famous second inaugural," says Coover. "They both contained a powerful and eloquent appeal for national reconciliation."

A footnote indicated that the Southworth Library in upstate New York owned the original manuscript, so Coover wrote to the library and offered an appraisal. "Opening the folder that contained the speech was an intensely exhilarating moment," he recalls, noting that it was written in Lincoln's large, clear hand, and that the authenticity of the manuscript was immediately evident. "When you've been doing this as long as I have, you can tell in a glance," Coover explains. But it took more than a decade of deliberations for the library to decide to put

the Lincoln manuscript up for sale. Finally, on February 12, 2009—the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth—it sold at auction at Christie's for \$3.4 million, a world record for any American document.

Coincidentally, another UB alumnus, Michael Lane, BA '72, is the secretary of the Southworth Library's Board of Trustees and worked closely with Coover to negotiate the consignment to Christie's. "When Chris first met the board, he put everyone at ease with his impressive knowledge of Lincoln and of the manuscript itself," says Lane, who noted that it was with "very heavy hearts" that the board decided to sell it to finance a new addition to the library. "We put our total trust in Chris and Christie's, and they delivered."

While that sale was a high point of Coover's career, he also helped bring to auction such high-profile items as Jack Kerouac's original typescript scroll of "On the Road," the manuscript of a Johann Sebastian Bach cantata, an early Albert Einstein scientific manuscript and many other treasures. While the documents he's researched in nearly 30 years at the world-renowned auction house have collectively sold for hundreds of millions of dollars, he says it's "the thrill of discovery" that he enjoys most, adding that he's had "some incredible luck along the way."

Story by Mara McGinnis, BA '97, with photo by Douglas Levere, BA '89

The President's last, shortest, and best
speech.

On Thursday of last week two ladies from Tennessee came before the President asking the release of their husbands held as prisoners of war at Johnson's Island. They were put off till Friday, when they came again, and were again put off to Saturday. At each of the interviews one of the ladies urged that her husband was a religious man. On Saturday the President ordered the release of the prisoners, and then said to the lady "You say your husband is a religious man, tell him when you meet him, that I say I am not aware of a prayer of religion, but that, in my opinion, the religion that sets men to rebel and fight against their government, because, as they think, that government does not sufficiently keep some men to eat their bread on the sweat of other man's face, is not the sort of religion upon whose power can get to heaven!"

A. Lincoln.

claimed the right of paying the telegraph tolls, unless, as was sometimes the case, the dispatches were sent from the war department. In the midst of his multifarious and oppressive cares, he never forgot the comfort and enjoyment of those about him. He would frequently, even on his busiest days, send a messenger to some friend, who was not a public or important personage, and invite him to go with him on a little excursion, or to come to the White House to hear the music, or to meet some famous person.

One very snowy night in March, 1863, just after the adjournment of Congress, a messenger came to my lodgings, saying that the President desired me to come to the White House forthwith, if possible. Arriving at the house, I found Lincoln somewhat disturbed by the information that the three California representatives had left Washington a little miffed at the manner in which several important appointments had been filled. The President was tramping up and down the room, swinging his long

12/6/1864



BDN Connection

www.beloitdailynews.com

The Stateline's Online Choice

NEWS > LOCAL NEWS

Lincoln page brings \$91,000

[Print Page](#)

By Debra Jensen-De Hart
Features Editor

Published: Monday, April 19, 2010 12:21 PM CDT

During the summer of 2009, someone bought a piece of national history when the Beloit Historical Society agreed to auction off a piece of paper that netted \$91,000.

The single page, handwritten paper was part of a larger manuscript and has the number 44 written at the top. It contains 23 lines written by then president, Abraham Lincoln. Although discarded, it was later retrieved, and saved by Indian Affairs Commissioner William P. Doyle, according to the auction catalog produced by Heritage Auction Galleries of Dallas, Texas.

It was part of Lincoln's last State of the Union Address, according to information in the catalog dated June 16 and 17, 2009.

Originally written in longhand, Lincoln's final, completed message was then printed and delivered to Congress in December of 1864 after Lincoln claimed victory in the national election during the Civil War.

At the time, Lincoln was prepared to fight the war to the finish and to complete the goal of abolishing slavery by getting the 13th Amendment passed. He had received assurances that the North was pulling ahead, according to the information.

A few lines from the auctioned off piece state:

"The important fact remains demonstrated that we have more men now than we had when the war began; that we are not exhausted, nor in the process of exhaustion; that we are gaining strength and may if need be maintain the contest indefinitely.

"This as to men. Material resources are now more complete and abundant than ever."

In that time, the president did not read his own message; it was read at the joint session of Congress by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Heritage Auction Galleries estimated the paper would fetch between \$90,000 to \$120,000 with the bid starting at \$75,000.

Copyright © 2010 - Beloit Daily News

[\[x\] Close Window](#)

<< [Previous Lot](#) | [Lot: 35074](#) | [Next Lot](#) >>

[Track this Lot](#)

[Jump to Lot:](#)


[\[NEW\] Back to Search Results](#)

Category: [All Auction Archive Items](#) > [Autographs](#) > [U.S. Presidents](#)

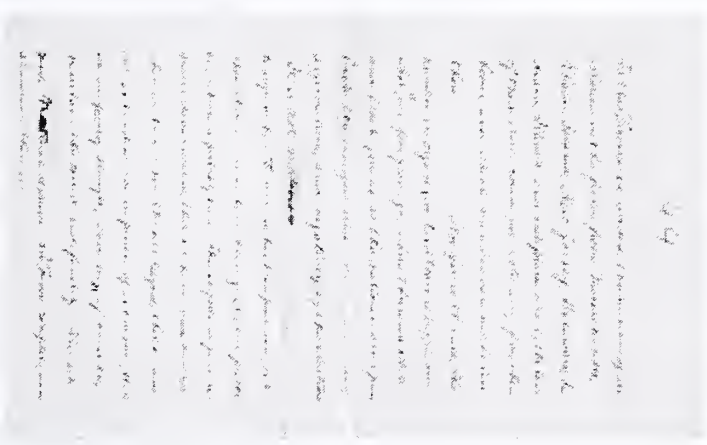
Lot 35074
Abraham Lincoln: Important Autograph Manuscript Page. Twenty-tt in Lincoln's own handwriting from his last State of t... (Total: 1 Item Auction: 2009 June Grand Format Historical Manuscripts Auction #6026

Sold for: [Sign-in or Join \(free & quick\)](#)

Ended: Jun 15, 2009

Item Activity: [6 Internet/mail/phone bidders](#) 
[5,338 page views](#)

[Printable Version of Prices Realized for Auction](#)



[View Larger Image](#)

Description:

"...we are not exhausted, nor in process of exhaustion... we are gaining strength, and may, if need be, maintain the contest indefinitely"

Abraham Lincoln: Important Autograph Manuscript Page. Twenty-three lines in Lincoln's own handwriting from his last State of the Union address to Congress. One page, 8.25" x 13.75", on plain lined paper in ink, no place [Washington, D.C.], no date [December, 1864], being page forty-four (numbered in pencil by a different hand) of Lincoln's own holograph copy. It reads, in full: "*To this ^{again} [added above the line] should be added the number of all soldiers in the field from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Indiana, Illinois and California, who, by the laws of those states could not vote away from their homes, and which number can not be less than [Lincoln had not yet inserted the number 90,000]. Nor yet is this all. The number in organized territories is tripple [sic] now what ^{it} [added above the line] was four years ago; while thousands, white and black, join us, as the national arms press back the insurgent lines. So much is shown, affirmatively, and negatively, by the election. It is not material to inquire how the increase has been produced; or to show that it would have been greater but for the war, which is probably true. The important fact remains demonstrated that we have more men now than we had when the war began; that we are not exhausted, nor in process of exhaustion; that we are gaining strength and may if need be maintain the contest indefinitely. This as to men. Material resources are ^{now} [added above the line] more complete, and abundant than ever.*" [emphasis Lincoln's]. An 8.25" x 4.5" section, consisting of the text between "to enquire" and "contest indefinitely" was lightly glued down to this full page from an identical sheet, covering no writing underneath. One word slightly smeared by the glue, original fold slightly weak (a tape repair on verso), light toning, else fine.

This message was delivered less than one month after Lincoln, running under the National Union party banner, claimed victory in the presidential election over the Democratic "peace" candidate General George B. McClellan, former general-in-chief of the Union army. This was the first time a country had held a national election in the midst of a civil war and the first time certain states allowed soldiers in the field to cast ballots (the army gave Lincoln 70% of their votes). The divided nation had been fighting a brutal "brother against brother" war for well over three years and, for most of 1864, Lincoln's chances of reelection looked grim. Finally, some of the news from the fighting fronts was beginning to give the North a glimmer of hope for a Union victory: General Sherman had taken Atlanta and was marching forcefully to the sea and General Grant had sent General Sheridan to the Shenandoah Valley to deal with CSA General Jubal Early. Lincoln was ready and willing to fight the war to its finish and to complete his goal of abolishing slavery by getting the 13th amendment through Congress.

Research shows that Lincoln began working on this important Annual Message just a week after the November 8th election by writing telegrams to several governors asking them to "[p]lease send, as soon as practicable, exactly, or approximately, the aggregate of votes cast in your State at the late election. It is desired with reference to the forthcoming Message." Lincoln read his first draft during a cabinet meeting on November 25th and then, on December 3rd, he called a special cabinet meeting to read them the final version; the plan was to send it to Congress on the sixth. Lincoln wrote this address in longhand and it was then sent to be printed for distribution to the members of the house and senate. Unlike the live worldwide media coverage given to the president's personal delivery of the yearly State of the Union address today, in Lincoln's era, the president did not read his message to Congress himself. A newspaper reporter from California named Noah Brooks wrote of the December 6th joint session of Congress: "Precisely at one o'clock yesterday the private secretary of the President appeared [John Hay] at the House of Representatives with the annual message of the president... in a few minutes, Clerk [of the House Edward] McPherson, in a loud and clear voice, took up the document and began..." Another contemporary report stated: "A complete silence pervaded the vast hall and the breathless, crowded galleries"

In the message, Lincoln summarizes the current state of affairs in different areas of the government, the nation, and the world: foreign affairs satisfactory, financial affairs administered successfully; national banking system acceptable to most; admission of Nevada as state completed; territories growing; and Arkansas and Louisiana have organized loyal state governments. He strongly recommends that Congress reconsider and pass the 13th amendment abolishing slavery [which they would in 1865]. The speech ends with: "In stating a single condition of peace I mean simply to say that the war will cease on the part of the Government whenever it shall have ceased on the part of those who began it." The *New York Times* described the message as "straightforward and business-like" while the *London Times* called "the tenour... decidedly warlike." Later that evening, a crowd assembled at the White House to serenade and congratulate him on his message. The *New York Tribune* of December 8, 1864, reports on his impromptu address to the group: "FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: I believe I shall never be old enough to speak without embarrassment when I have anything [nothing?] to talk about. [Laughter and cheering.] I have no good news to tell you, and yet I have no bad news to tell. We have talked of elections until there is nothing more to say about them. The most interesting news we now have is from Sherman. We all know where he went in at, but I can't tell where he will come out at. [Cheers and cries, 'He'll come out all right.'] I will now close by proposing three cheers for Gen. Sherman and the army."

A 1952-dated, notarized affidavit accompanies this lot describing the chain of ownership for this manuscript, from its original owner William P. Doyle, who was Indian Affairs Commissioner under Lincoln, through to the current owner. Also included is a 1948 letter from the Abraham Lincoln Association mentioning Basler's appreciation and a Photostat of page forty-three of this same Message to Congress, owned at one time by the same person.

Carl Sandburg, in his book *Lincoln Collector* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, Inc, 1949), explains how a precious few of the original pages in Lincoln's holograph have survived to this day: "Of President Lincoln's Annual Message to Congress in December of 1864, several manuscript sheets were given to various persons by the Superintendent of Public Printing, J. D. Defrees..." (page 190). Sandburg goes on to state that three of these manuscript pages were contained in the legendary Oliver R Barrett collection (later sold by Parke-Bernet Galleries in 1952). Basler, in *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln Volume VIII*, notes eleven known fragments of the original manuscript extant, including this one (pages 136-153). The most recent of these fragments to appear on the market was Lot 119 of the October 2002 Forbes Collection of American Historical Documents at Christie's where the eleven-line manuscript (*ex Philip D. Sang*) sold for \$251,500 (with BP). That example was the top half of page thirty-nine. There is no way to predict when the next offering of one of these manuscripts will take place so please bid accordingly. The phrase is, perhaps, overused but this lot truly does represent a "rare opportunity to own a piece of history." Estimate: \$90,000 - \$120,000.

