

Abraham Lincoln's 1858 Speech
Re-enacted, October 16, 2008
Procession 12:30 p.m.
Speech 1:00 p.m.

**Welcome to our Bicentennial Rally to commemorate
the man who gave us our legacy, Abraham Lincoln.**



Thursday, October 16, 1858 at 1 P.M.

*"I like to see a man proud of the place in which
he lives. I like to see a man live so that his
place will be proud of him." ~ A. Lincoln*

We are proud to live the legacy.

(The song below is a campaign song. It is one that we would like to have the crowd sing along with Tim Searby as he leads us in these delightful lyrics.)

Uncle Abe”

To the tune “Nelly (or Nellie) Bly”

Uncle Abe, Uncle Abe! here we are again.

We’ve got a platform now we think that will not bend or strain,

Beat the drum, unfurl the flag, freedom is for all,

And so we fling it to the breeze as in the ranks we fall.

Chorus:

Ho, Uncle Abe! Listen Uncle Abe! and see,

We sing for you, work for you, hurrah for liberty!

Uncle Abe, we have tried, and we’ve found him true.

We know that he is honest in the work he has to do.

Uncle Abe has his faults and so have other men.

But in firmness for the Union, we’ll not find his like again.

(Chorus)

Uncle Abe is the man for the work in hand;

He knows the ropes about the ship upon whose deck we stand;

Waves may dash and winds may roar, but he’ll guide us on,

Till slavery’s storm is over and port of peace is won.

(Chorus)

Thank you to our girls in white dresses: Brianna Batley, Madison Bishop, Molly Buss, Katelyn Cecil, Alyssa Colgan, Kelsey Fults, Tiffany Houghton, Amanda Jones, Kiersten Meagher, Kelly Knecht, Raeann Sheley, Rachel Skelton, Ellen Splain, Katie Treakle, Shelby Voyles

PROGRAM

Script Writer, Dr. Leigh Henson

Scene I -Background Music of the 1850's

Abraham Lincoln travels historic Sangamon Street to the location of the original passenger depot.

On Broadway—Abraham is welcomed by his friends and official city greeters. Proclamation is presented to him.

Procession moves from the railroad depot toward the Logan County Courthouse. Abraham is greeted by acquaintances and admires as he travels up Broadway.

Children are excited by Mr. Lincoln's hand shakes.

Mr. Lincoln makes contact with Judge David Davis and Samuel Parks at Mr. Parks' office the proceeds to the courthouse.

Scene II -Introduction of Abraham Lincoln by Samuel Parks

Abraham Lincoln's campaign speech in Lincoln, Illinois on October 16, 1858.

Interactions occur with members of the audience.

Scene III -Supporters encouraged to sing campaign rally songs

-Closing remarks are made by Judge David Davis.

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As Mr. Lincoln meanders from the stage, people are encouraged to get a photo taken with him.

The rally is being taped and

DVD's will be available at a future date.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PRESENT AT THIS EVENT.

We are the First City to Live the Legacy of Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of Lincoln, Illinois

Elizabeth A. Davis-Kavelman, Co-chair, Mayor, City of Lincoln
Ron Keller, Co-chair, Lincoln College
Shirley Bartelmay, Postville Courthouse
Paul Beaver, Logan County Historian, Reenactment Coordinator
Darlene Begolka, Logan Railsplitting Association
Charles Conzo, Heritage Days Festival
Paul Gleason, Logan County Historian
Geoff Ladd, Abraham Lincoln Tourism Bureau of Logan County
Brian Messner, Lincoln Christian College and Seminary
Charles Ott, Renowned Abraham Lincoln Impersonator
Wanda Lee Rohlf, Main Street Lincoln, Reenactment Director
Richard Sumrall, Lincoln Public Library

Honorary Commissioners

U. S. Senator Richard Durbin
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State Senator Larry Bomke
State Senator Bill Brady
State Representative Rich Brauer
State Representative Bill Mitchell
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In Lincoln, IL
THE FIRST CITY TO LIVE THE LEGACY

LINCOLN
ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION



1858 HISTORICAL RALLY OF 1858: BACKGROUND

After Lincoln christened his namesake city in 1853 with the juice of a watermelon, he remained a popular figure to the citizens of Lincoln and Logan County, Illinois. They followed his re-entry into politics in the 1850's and supported his moral cause against slavery. As Senator Stephen Douglas canvassed the state in 1858 in his re-election bid, citizens in central Illinois and Logan County were among the first to promote Lincoln's candidacy in opposition to Douglas. Both Lincoln and Douglas visited the city of Lincoln that year of 1858, knowing that this region would be the important battleground for votes. To show their complete support for the railsplitter, Lincoln's friend and lawyer, Samuel Parks, wrote to Lincoln on August 9, 1858 inviting him to come to the city for a rally. Parks promised they were going to give Lincoln "a big time." Parks implored Judge David Davis to also invite Lincoln to the city for a rally, and so in September, Davis wrote to Lincoln: "They all think here (as Douglass has been here) that you should come here and speak-- Say 16th October -- the day after your discussion with Douglass at Alton-- Try & do it -- as Douglass has spoke here twice." Thus, on October 16, 1858, one day following the last of the seven great debates, Abraham Lincoln chose to begin the last leg of his campaign in this city named in his honor.

As expected, it was a grand affair—a big time indeed—the "likes of which had never transpired in this part of the state," according to the *Chicago Tribune*. Conservative estimates put the attendance at 5,000, though it likely exceeded that number. The *Tribune* described the incredible gathering reporting, "long trains came in from Springfield and Bloomington... canons announced the arrival of Old Abe, and as soon as he made his appearance, such cheers as were never heard before continued for some time. Abe Lincoln just closed one of his noblest efforts here." The *Illinois State Journal* agreed that "it was one of the largest and most enthusiastic meetings of the campaign," and wrote that "two (train) cars from this city (of Springfield) were completely filled with passengers inside, and covered with passengers on top, before leaving Lincoln. The train from Atlanta (IL) was also crowded." There was a long procession for Lincoln to the county courthouse, and while it is not known exactly what Lincoln said there, the *Bloomington Pantagraph* wrote that "Lincoln made an eloquent speech, and showed up Douglas' inconsistencies in fine style." Perhaps it was at this point that many citizens saw the prospects for Abraham Lincoln. He was the "father of our city," and "the future of our nation." While exact numbers on crowd attendance were not always recorded, there is good reason to believe the mass rally in Lincoln, Illinois is perhaps the largest crowd for Abraham Lincoln singularly, at any point and time until he was elected president!! Thus our event is incredibly important, and you are here to witness the restaging of this significant event.

Cast of Characters

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

—SEAN LEONARD

Samuel Parks

—Ron Keller

Judge David Davis

—Brian Messner

Robert Latham

—Todd Spellman

Sevillah Latham

—Beth Davis-Kavelman

John Dean Gillett

—Roger Matson

Louisa Lermira Parks Gillett

—Mercedes Rohlfs

William Walker, Candidate, State Legislature

—Richard Sumrall

Ezekiel Bowman, President of Town Board

—Charles Conzo

Lewis Rosenthal, Deputy Sheriff, (Lincoln Lot)

—Christopher Elam

Republican

—Gene Rohlfs

Democrats

—Martin Holder, Scott Jones

Whig

—Tom Kavelman

Town's people: Bill and Jean Gossett, Mary Ellen Martin, John Sutton, Marilyn Craig, Judy Conzo, **Darlene Begolka**, **Shirley Bartelmay**, Sue and **Paul Beaver**, Kathy Horn, Jonie Tibbs, Ivan and Elaine Ray, Cliff Sullivan, JoAnne Marlin, Terry Carlton, Jackie Baker, Dr. Yeh and Kaneand friends, Jon Diers, Pat and Gary Freese, **Wanda Lee Rohlfs**, and all others who were able to be present with us during this special event. Bold print represents bicentennial commissioners.

If we have forgotten anyone, please let us know so that you may be acknowledged in the Courier and LDN.

Thank You

City Council of Lincoln (City Street, Fire and Police Department) & Kathy Vinyard
Logan County Board (Sheriff Nicholas, Custodian and Secretary)

Habitat for Humanity of Logan County and Alexander Lumber

Wagons: Jim and Deb Rohrer and Irwin Conklen

St. John United Church of Christ

Lincoln Community High School: Joyce Hubbard, Cheryl Spove & Leslie Kroeger

Lincoln Christian Church

Lincoln Christian College and Seminary

Leigh Henson, Script Writer

IGA, Sorrento's, Guzzardo's, Joe's Pizzeria

Linda and Wayne Morris

Main Street Lincoln volunteers

News Media: WLCN 96.3, Courier, Lincoln Daily News

Costumes: Bonnie Knieriem, Sue Bidwell

Event Coordinators: Jackie Baker, Judy Conzo, Roger Matson

Glenn Brunk Stationers

All who distributed flyers