

Lincoln In Alton

by
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ILLINOIS HISTORY
History 151

Donald F. Lewis
Instructor

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Brian and Lincoln : Thurs., May 16, 1974

Confident that your paper would be outstanding ~~and~~
I waited until 2:30 this morning (Don't worry, I
had gone to bed at 9:30 last night!) to give it the
attention your research deserves. The week-end in
Carbondale had put me behind in so many things
to be done - that even the rain on Tuesday
only ran me indoors to continue a different
kind of work inside - such as test grading and
figuring semester grades and answering
correspondence as well as writing two or three
letters concerning next fall's meeting of the State
Historical Society next October in Vandalia.

Your paper stands out as a "milestone"
presentation so far as Lincoln-Alton relationship
is concerned. Within its framework you
appear to have written the definitive piece
of research on the subject. Mrs. Irene Herrick,
now deceased, had done about the same thing
for Lincoln and Edwardsville. She had
taught English at Hillsboro (Ill.) High School
before her marriage to Mr. Dallas Herrick -
who became a Lincoln enthusiast and served
a term as Sheriff of Madison County - also
deceased. Now - thanks to your paper -
the job has been done for Alton. A
copy of it should be in a most conspicuous
place in the Lincoln folder in the research
files of the Alton Area Historical Society (one)

It isn't too important, but my middle initial is "F" not "L." Fix
not for Frankenstein, but for FREMONT. I was named after the first
Republican candidate for the Presidency whom you mention in
connection with Lincoln in 1856.

research center at Hart House on Belle Street.

You have done an over-all coverage that
should be appreciated by future Lincoln-Alton
researchers for years to come. Also a copy in the
L. & C. Library!

I am quite impressed by your dedication
to the subject - certainly a strong motivator -
and the "maturity" indicated by your research
techniques (perhaps your library contacts are
~~quite~~ greatly responsible). In other words,
in this work you are ahead of yourself
with two years in Junior College plus
your work as a post-grad this year.

It approaches the kind of work done for a
masters' degree in history in a university
except that it might be too interesting
to satisfy some department heads who
think dullness is a necessary characteristic
or quality of dissertations. Of course, dullness
does not apply to all.

Your paper could be in demand for a
few years for speakers who are asked to
speak to ^{Alton} civic groups during the "Lincoln
season" in February. The next time I
talk on Lincoln to an Alton group I
will most assuredly use your paper.

Of course I like your selection of
illustrations - they add tremendously to reader
interest.

never before has a book
succeeded in connecting a young
bibliographical page. Its completeness
tells the story of your success,
in finding, for, and tapping
the fountain of information.

I am especially interested
in old Prof. George Washington Smith's
"When Lincoln Came to Egypt"; Travellers
guide press, Heron, 1940.

Please tell me the location
of this book - I want to see it
for 2 reasons: 1. The subject,
2. The printer. I want to see
the quality of the appearance of the
book, its binding, typography, etc.

Mr. Hal Travelling Heron
was a hobbyist ~~in~~ in printing
fine books. I saw him at the
(me)

end of his long and useful career
was a surprise, and it was
few weeks before his death
few years ago, suffering from
arteriosclerosis and senility his
mind was gone - a sad ending
for this fine man.

I am especially interested
in our old. They Washington
After January 1st 1941; Traveler
from the 1940.
Please tell me the location
of the book - I want to see it.
for I remember the subject,
the printer. I want to see
the quality of the appearance of the
book, its binding, typography, etc.
Mr. Hal Traveling known
was a ~~book~~ book in front
fine book. I want him at the
(over)

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INTRODUCTION

My interest in Lincoln began in my Junior High years of American History. I was taught of Mr. Lincoln as one of our greatest Presidents and with his death the country mourned for him. I wondered why? Why was he different from other Presidents? Why would a man who was President during the greatest war of our history, be so admired that even to this day there are thousands of people who still read and study his life? After much study and research I have discovered the gentleness of this man, the wisdom, and kindness of him.

Now, I have researched into his appearance in Alton, and to my surprise have found that he has been in that city a total of six different known times. It is here that I will write about his presence in this city and the events that brought it about.

A+
*You have made a
significant contribution to
the Lincoln - Alton
relationship with this
outstanding research
paper!*
*Don Davis
5/16/74*

Lincoln's Early Visits

Lincoln is widely known for his appearance in Alton during the Lincoln and Douglas debates, held in the year 1858, but this was not his first appearance in Alton.

His first appearance in Alton, which appears in the Alton Evening Telegraph, April 11, 1840 was on April 9, 1840, in the old courtroom of the Riley Building. Editor Bailhache reported:

Abraham Lincoln, Esq. of Sangamon County, one the Presidential Electors, addressed the citizens of Alton, on last Thursday evening at the old Courtroom, on the great questions at issue between the people and office-holders. Although not more than two or three hours previous notice could be given of the intended meeting, the room, which is very spacious, was crowded to excess, and his speech which, although highly argumentative and logical, was enlivened by numerous anecdotes, was received with unbounded applause, and left a very favorable impression on the minds of his auditors. (1)

Lincoln's second visit to the city of Alton was on August 21, 1840, as he was passing through on his way to Waterloo, Illinois. Alexander P. Field, a Southern Illinois politician, who at that time was Secretary of State, accompanied him. (2) Their purpose was to speak in the southern counties on the principles of the Whig party and the administration of Governor Duncan and the senatorship of E. D. Baker to the Illinois Senate. (3) They also passed through Belleville on their way to Waterloo, and this gave the Belleville Advocate an opportunity to hold them up to ridicule. The paper was violent in its criticisms. It referred to these two campaigners as "Missionaries Field and Lincoln."

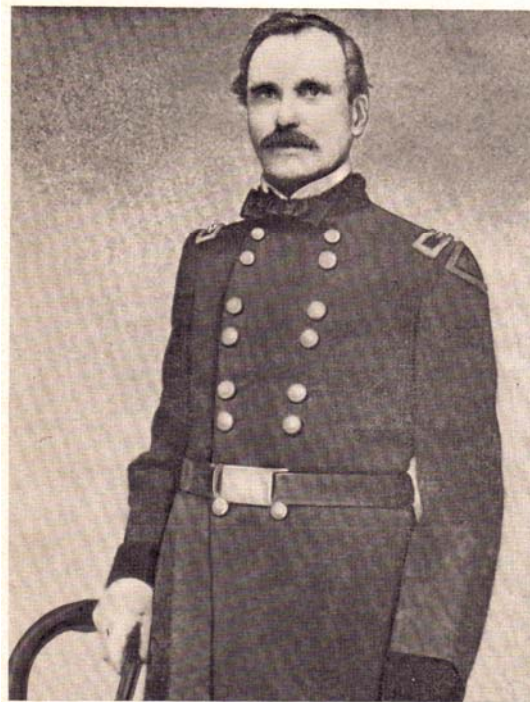
"These same missionaries were in Belleville last week, (August 22), for the purpose of lecturing the besotted St. Clair men for their obstinate adhesion to their sins..."(4)

There was no public speaking in either Alton or Belleville. Only personal contact was engaged in on this visit.

The Duel

Lincoln's third visit to Alton was on September 22, 1842, one which he always wished he could forget. For it was a duel which brought Lincoln to Alton in that year.

The chain of events that led to the duel began in August of 1842, with a series of satirical, insulting letters that were signed, "Rebecca." These letters were aimed at James Shields, a respected attorney and the Auditor of the State of Illinois.



Shields was a high-spirited, hot-tempered Irishman and a naturalized citizen who had by great effort and intelligence, plus a prescient sense of public relations, moved up to his present high state office. As with most self-made men, Shields was sensitive about his position and his origins. The letters and some editorials goaded him unmercifully. The letters attacked a proclamation published and signed by the Governor, the State Treasurer, and Auditor Shields. The proclamation ordered the county tax collectors to refuse the State's own paper money in payment of taxes and school debts. Only specie – gold and silver – could be accepted the people had almost no gold or silver. (5)

STATE REGISTER. EXTRA

SPRINGFIELD

Monday, August 22, 1842

Executive Department Illinois,
August 15th, 1842

We the undersigned officers of the State being of opinion that there will be danger of loss by receiving the bills of the State Bank of Illinois and branches in the year 1842, and in payment of college, school and seminary debts and interest, do hereby prohibit the reception of said bills for the purpose aforesaid after the 12th day of September next until otherwise provide by law.

Given under our hands the day and year above written.

THO. CARLIN, Gov.
JAS. SHIELDS, Auditor
MILTON CARPENTER, Treas.

All the publishers of newspapers in this State are requested to publish the above notice for three successive weeks and send their bills for the same to the Auditor's office.

JAS. SHIELDS, Auditor

It would not have been so bad if Shields had stayed with the one proclamation, but he issued a second one under his signature alone and, in, it, advised the State officers, the Legislature, the people how to conduct themselves so as to restore tranquility and a sound currency. By exposing himself alone, Shields drew all the fire of the political opposition, and he became his party's symbol: a blow at Shield's was a blow at his party. (6)

Auditors Office, Illinois
Springfield, August 20, 1842

To the collector of the county of

Dear Sir: The Governor, Auditor, and Treasurer have prohibited the reception of the bills of the State Bank of Illinois and branches in the payment of the revenue of 1842, and of debts due the school fund. The bills of the Bank of Illinois at Shawneetown would have been included in the prohibition also, if the law had only invested us with such powers. The object of this measure is to suspend the collection of the revenue for the current year, which would otherwise commence in September next, until the next Legislature may have an opportunity of acting on the subject.

Without some such suspension act a large portion of the revenue of 1842, particularly that portion payable by non-resident land owners and large land companies, would be paid to collectors before the meeting of the legislature; and that body would be consequently prevented for the space of another year, not only from making any change in the system, but from dissolving the degrading connexion now subsisting between the State and a bankrupt institution. The restoration of a sound currency which is so essentially needed at present in this State can only be effected by the joint efforts of the government and the people, and the first step towards

the accomplishment of this object, is the rejection of depreciated paper by the State. - It is folly to hope for a sound circulation while the government is patronizing a worthless one. To prevent this change from operating oppressively the legislature will have it in its power, by the reduction of salaries and the curtailment of all expenses not absolutely indispensable to the existence of government, to make a material reduction in the taxes for the next two years.

By this means a sound currency can be gradually, though perhaps slowly, introduced without increasing the burdens of the people. The exigency of the present crisis requires a common sacrifice, and if it be wisely and firmly made, both by the people and their agents, a few years will suffice to lift our young State out of its present prostration. - Once more I take the liberty of repeating that the object and intention of the present notification is to suspend the collection of the revenue for the year 1842 until the meeting of the Legislature, at which time that body can such reduction in the amount of revenue as it may deem practicable.

Your obedient servant,
JAS. SHIELDS, Auditor.

There were four Rebecca letters and one poem in a similar vein but signed "Cathleen."

Poem by, "Cathleen." September 16, 1842 issue of the Sangamon Journal:

FOR THE JOURNAL

Ye jews-harps awake! the A-----'s won—
Rebecca, the widow, has gained Erin's son.
The pride of the north from the emerald isle
Has been woo'd and won by a woman's sweet smile;
The combat's relinquished, old love's all forgot,
To the widow he's bound, oh! bright be his lot;
In the smiles of the conquest so lately achieved,
Joyful be his bride, 'widow'd modesty' relieved.
The footsteps of time tread lightly on flowers—
May the cares of this world ne'r darken their hours.
But the pleasures of life are fickle and coy
As the smiles of a maiden, sent oft to destroy;
Happy groom! in sadness far distant from thee
The FAIR girls dream only of past times of glee
Enjoyed in the presence, whilst the *soft blarnied store*
Will be fondly remembered as relics of yore,
And hands that in rapture you oft would have prest,
In prayer will be clasp'd that your lot may be blest.

CATHLEEN.

Two of the letters were excessively punishing, and Abraham Lincoln, at the time of the duel, said he wrote one of them. This letter appeared on September 2, 1842.

Another letter was published in the Sangamon Journal on September 9, 1842. It is the shortest letter and is presented below in its entirety. (7)

LOST TOWNSHIPS, SEPT. 8, 1842

Dear Mr. Printer: I was a standin at the spring yesterday a washin out butter, when I seed Jim Snooks a ridin up towards the house for very life like, when jist as I was a wonderin what on airth was the matter with him, he stops suddenly and ses he, aunt Becca, here's somethin for you, and with that he hands out your letter. Well you see I steps out towards him, not thinkin that I had both hands full of butter, and seein I couldn't take the letter you know without greasin it, I ses, Jim, jist you open it and read it before me. Well, Jim opens it and reads it; and would you believe it, Mr. Editor, I was so completely dumfounded and turned into stone, that there I stood in the sun, a workin the butter, and it arunnin on the ground while he read the letter, that I never thunk what I was about till the hull ont run melted on the ground and was lost. Now, sir, its not for the butter nor the price of the butter, but the Lord have massy on us, I wouldn't have sich another fright for a whole firkin of it. Why, when I found out that it was the man what Jeff seed down to the fair, that had demanded the author of my letters, threatnin to to take personal satisfaction of the writer, I was so skart that I tho't I should quill-wheel right where I was. You say that Mr. S. is offended at being compared to cat's fur, and is as mad a March hare, (that aint fur) because I told about the squeezin. Now I want to tell Mr. S. that rather than fight I'll make any apology, and if he wants *personal* satisfaction, let him only come here and he may squeeze my hand as I squeeze the butter, and if that ain't personal satisfaction, I can only say that he is the fust man that was not satisfied with squeezin my hand. If this should not answer, there is one thing more that I would do rather than get a lickin. I have all a long expected to die a widow, but as Mr. S. is rather good looking than otherwise, I must say I don't care if we compromise the matter by-really Mr. Printer, I can't help blushin-but I- it must come out- I-but widowed modesty- well, if I must, I must-wouldn't he-may-be-sorter, let the old grudge drap if I was to consent to be-be-h-i-s-w-i-f-e? I know he's a fightin man, and would rather fight than eat; but isn't marrying better than fightin, though it does sometimes run into it? And I don't think upon the whole that I'd be sich a bad match neither-I'm not over sixty, and am just four feet three in my bare feet, and not much more round the girth, and for color I wouldn't turn my back to nary gal in the Lost Townships. But after all may-be I'm countin my chickins before they're hatched-and dreamin of matrimonial bliss when the only alternative reserved for me may be a lickin. Jeff tells me the way these fireeaters do is to give the challenged party choice of weapons, &c, which bein the case I'll tell you in confidence that I never fights with anything but broom-sticks or hot water, or a shovel full of coals, or some such thing: the former of which being somewhat like a shillalah, may not be very objectionable to him. I will give him choice, however, in one thing, and that is whether, when we fight, I shall wear breeches or he petticoats; for I presume that change is sufficient to place us on an equality.

Yours, & c,
REBECCA-----

P. S. Jist say to your friend if he concludes to marry, rather than fight, I shall only inforce one condition, that is, if he should ever happen to gallant any young galls home of nights from our house, he must not squeeze their hands.

During the barrage of letters, poems, editorials, Shields had to leave Springfield for Quincy on State business. Before he left he demanded and got from the editor of the Sangamon Journal, Simeon Francis, the name of the author of the Rebecca letters. Although they were friends, Francis gave

Lincoln's name. It seemed a betrayal at first, but Lincoln must have given Francis permission to give his name if Shields demanded it. (8)

On Saturday, September 17, 1842, in Tremont, Illinois, General J. D. Whiteside, a friend of Shield's, approached Lincoln and handed him the following note after which he returned to his principal Shield.

A. Lincoln, Esq.

Tremont, Sept. 17, 1842

I regret that my absence on public business compelled me to postpone a matter of private consideration a little longer than I could have desired. It will only be necessary, however, to account for it by informing you that I have been to Quincy on business that would not admit of delay. I will now state briefly the reasons of my troubling you with this communication, the disagreeable nature of which I regret—as I had hoped to avoid any difficulty with any one in Springfield, while residing there, by endeavoring to conduct myself in such a way amongst both my political friends and opponents, as to escape the necessity of any. Whilst thus abstaining from giving provocation, I have become the object of slander, vituperation and personal abuse, which were I capable of submitting to, I would prove myself worthy of the whole of it.

In two or three of the last numbers of the Sangamo Journal, articles of the most personal nature and calculated to degrade me, have made their appearance. On enquiring I was informed by the editor of that paper, through the medium of my friend, Gen. Whiteside, that you are the author of those articles. This information satisfies me that I have become by some means or other, the object of your secret hostility. I will not take the trouble of enquiring into the reason of all this, but I will take the liberty of requiring a full, positive and absolute retraction of all offensive allusions used by you in these communications, in relation to my private character and standing as a man, as an apology for the insults conveyed in them.

This may prevent consequences which no one will regret more than myself.

Your ob't serv't

Jas. Shields.

Mr. Lincoln and his two friends, William Butler and Dr. Elias Merryman, studied the note, and Lincoln wrote an answer to it. Dr. Merryman had had a good deal of experience in the art of the duel and understood the code duello and those stylized progressions that the punctilio of the duel demanded.

Jas. Shields, Esq.

Tremont, Sept. 17, 1842

Your note of today was handed me by Gen. Whiteside. In that note you say you have been informed, through the medium of the editor of the Journal, that I am the author of certain articles in that paper which you deem personally abusive of you: and without stopping to enquire whether I really am the author, or to point out what is offensive in them, you demand an unqualified retraction of all that is offensive; and then proceed to hint at consequences.

Now, sir, there is in this so much assumption of facts, and so much of menace as to consequences, that I cannot submit to answer that note any farther than I have, and to add, that the consequence to which I suppose you allude, would be matter of as great regret to me as it possibly could to you. Respectfully,

A. Lincoln.

About sundown the same evening, General Whiteside called to receive Lincoln's answer. He accepted the note and returned to Shields. Within an hour he returned with yet another note from Shields:

A. Lincoln, Esq.

Tremont, Sept. 17, 1842

In your reply to my note of this date, you intimate that I assume facts, and menace consequences, and that you cannot submit to answer it further. As now, sir, you desire it, I will be a little more particular. The editor of the Sangamo Journal gave me to understand that you are the author of an article which appeared I think in that paper of the 2d of Sept. inst, headed the Lost Townships, and signed Rebecca or Becca. I would therefore take the liberty of asking whether you are the author of said article or any other over the same signature, which has appeared in any of the late numbers of that paper. If so, I repeat my request of an absolute retraction of all offensive allusion contained therein in relation to my private character and standing. If you are not the author of any of the articles, your denial will be sufficient. I will say further, it is not my intention to menace, but to do myself justice.

Your obd't serv't

Jas. Shields.

Butler, not Lincoln, received the note and read it. Butler told Whiteside that Mr. Lincoln could not receive any note until the first one was withdrawn.

On Monday morning, Whiteside again presented the same unacceptable note to Butler. Lincoln said that he did not think it "consistent with his honor to negotiate for peace with Mr. Shields unless Mr. Shields would withdraw his former offensive letter."

Again Whiteside returned empty handed to Shields. At once Shields named Whiteside as his second – it can only be presumed that a challenge accompanied the naming of Whiteside – and Lincoln chose Dr. Merryman. (10)

Merryman and Whiteside met to discuss arrangements for the duel. Between them they secretly agreed to make every effort to resolve the affair peaceably.

To forestall arrest it was agreed between Merryman and Lincoln that Lincoln should leave town very early Tuesday morning. Since Butler believed that shields would settle the matter, it was decided that Lincoln should write a note in two parts, the first to be a full explanation and apology to be presented to Shields IF he first withdrew his notes. If Shields refused to do this, then the second part of the note was to be given him, and this part held the terms for the duel. Since Mr. Lincoln was the challenged party, he had the right to set these terms. (11)

September 19, 1842

In case Whitesides shall signify a wish to adjust this affair without further difficulty, let him know that if the present papers be withdrawn, & a note from Mr. Shields asking to know if I am the author of the articles of which he complains, and asking that I shall make him gentlemanly satisfaction, if I am the author, and this without menace, or dictation as to what that satisfaction shall be, a pledge is made, that the following answer shall be given—

I did write the 'Lost Township' letter which appeared in the Journal of the 2nd. Inst. but had no participation, in any form, in any other article alluding to you. I wrote that, wholly for political effect. I had no intention of injuring your personal or private character or standing as a man or a gentleman; and I did not then think, and do not now think that that article, could produce or has produced that effect against you, and had I anticipated such an effect I would have forbore to write it. And I will add, that your conduct towards me, so far as I knew, had always been gentlemanly; and that I had no personal pique against you, and no cause for any."

If this should be done, I leave it with you to arrange what shall & what shall not be published.

If nothing like this is done—the preliminaries of the fight are to be—

1st. Weapons—Cavalry broad swords of the largest size, precisely equal in all respects—and such as now used by the cavalry company at Jacksonville.

2nd. Position—A plank ten feet long, & from nine to twelve inches broad to be firmly fixed on edge, on the ground, as the line between us which neither is to pass his foot over upon forfeit of his life. Next a line drawn on the ground on either side of said plank & paralel with it, each at the distance of the whole length of the sword and three feet additional from the plank; and the passing of his own such line by either party during the fight shall be deemed a surrender of the contest.

3. Time—On Thursday evening at five o'clock if you can get it so; but in no case to be at a greater distance of time than Friday evening at five o'clock.

4th. Place—Within three miles of Alton on the opposite side of the river, the particular spot to be agreed on by you.

Any preliminary details coming within the above rules, you are at liberty to make at your discretion; but you are in no case to swerve from these rules, or to pass beyond their limits.

Mr. Lincoln did not expect Whiteside or Shields to accept because early Tuesday morning, before Shields had returned to Merryman and presented the conditions to Whiteside, Mr. Lincoln left for Jacksonville to procure the broadswords. He may not have been spoiling for a fight but neither was he shrinking from one. He seems to have been thoroughly enjoying himself. (12)

After Mr. Lincoln left for Jacksonville the same morning, Merryman met Whiteside and read to him Lincoln's prerequisite to an apology and then he read the terms of the duel. When Whiteside and Merryman finished discussing Lincoln's note, Dr. Merryman quickly rounded up William Butler and Albert T. Bledsoe. The three men rode to Jacksonville where they met Lincoln near midnight on Tuesday. Early Wednesday morning they let for Alton, arriving there about noon on Thursday.

Whiteside rode north toward Tremont to meet Shields twenty miles out. Whiteside told Shields what had occurred, and the two men went Hillsboro, Illinois, where they selected General L. D. Ewing as another "friend," it having been verbally decided by the seconds that each principal

could have three aids. In Alton they selected their third man, Dr. T. M. Hope. (13)

The duel was on.

They all went over onto the Missouri shore on the little old “blind-horse” ferryboat that was then owned by a Mr. Chapman, and quite a crowd went with tem. Among them a man named Jake Smith, who was a constable, a tall, lank, fellow, not unlike Lincoln, who was all legs and arms, while Shields was all body and no legs. (14)



They stood separated by space and friends. Shields postured, scowled ferociously, strutted about eager and anxious to begin the duel. On the other side, Mr. Lincoln was represented by good friends who meant to protect him. His dueling terms further protected him if he should have to fight.

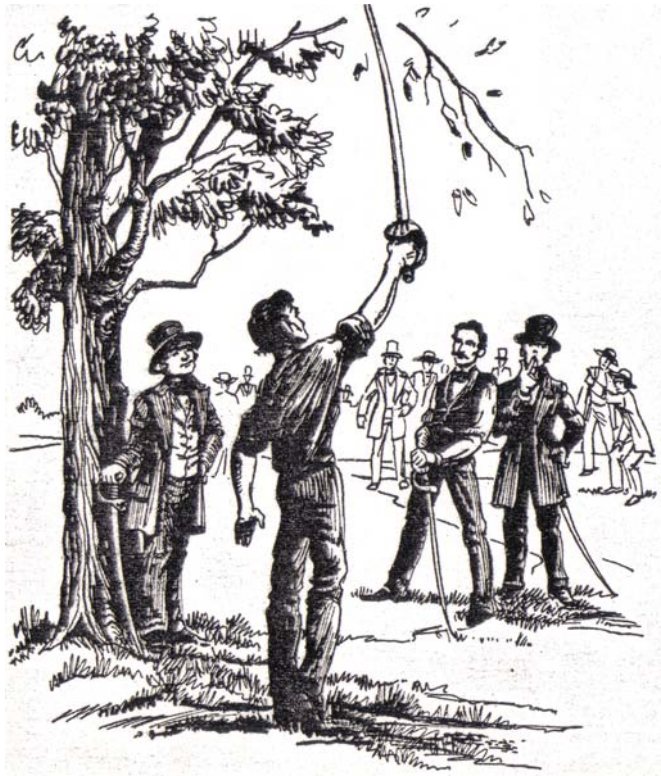
In desperation, vastly unsure of their man and their own position, they discussed how to proceed, Whiteside and his two “friends” knuckled under the inexorable, implacable Mr. Lincoln and altogether abandoned Shields,

refusing to sustain him further. They withdrew the notes, as Whiteside said, to give the friends of Mr. Lincoln an opportunity to explain. Even this slight concession was not allowed them by Merryman who later stated that the papers were withdrawn “to enable Mr. Shields’ friends to ask an explanation.”

The combative Dr. Merryman could stand pat over a single word.

At last peace was made although Shields never acceded to it. Without his consent, all parties declared the matter satisfactorily concluded, and James Shields was left hung high on the same hook Lincoln had used in Tremont. (15)

There is another version of the ending of the duel, and this one has the two men in the clever positions Lincoln had required, close enough for Lincoln to reach Shields but separated far enough so that if he chose to Lincoln could retreat out of reach of Shields. At this point, Lincoln was said to have reached incredibly high above his head and, with his sword, lopped-off a willow limb.



The act was far more revealing to Shields than any argument. His impossible, ludicrous position became quite suddenly apparent, and he burst

out laughing at Lincoln's clever, telling stroke. Laughter supposedly purged him of his anger so that he was ready to make peace and did.

In either case, the two men seem to have become friends again for, on the way back, they were seen talking in a friendly way. (16)

They all returned on Chapman's ferryboats and headed for the Alton shore. On the way across the river Jake Smith was bound to have his fun out it and laid down on a bench in the bow of the boat and covered himself up with General Shields' cloak and had three or four men with their coats off fan him with their hats to keep the flies off. They were standing near Lincoln and Shields who had become quite friendly again. The latter remarked to Lincoln, "As that fellow on the bench is about your size, they will think it is you." I did not hear what Lincoln's reply was. By that time it had been noised about the city that a duel had been fought and by that time a crowd of several hundred had gathered on the levee to learn the result. The boat landed directly in front of the warehouse where Lovejoy was killed.

As she touched the bank 'Jake' jumped to his feet and gave a loud laugh. The crowd said that they had been sold out and joined in heartily and left in disgust. (18)

When the duelists landed they lost no time in getting into carriages and making their way up State street out of town. (17) The Springfield party and some others hurried to Charlie Uber's saloon and, amidst general rejoicing, soon consumed what champagne he had on hand, a fit ending to a farce."(20)

In 1865, writing to Mrs. Gideon Welles, Mary Todd recorded that she and a friend, Julia Jayne, had composed these rhymes concerning Shields, which, without her knowledge, were published later in the Sangamon Journal. (21)



SOME OF LINCOLN'S OTHER VISITS

It wasn't until March 27, 1849, that Lincoln again came to Alton. This time it wasn't as exciting as it had been on his previous visit. He was on his way home from the inauguration of President Zachary Taylor. (22)

While there he writes to Cyrus Edwards explaining that he has made no recommendation for the General Land Office because, while he is for Edwards, E. D. Baker is for Don Morrison, and unless one or the other will withdraw so that he and Baker can agree upon a recommendation, the appointment will probably go to some other state. If one will withdraw he and Baker will both recommend the other. (23)

On August 15, 1856, Lincoln was advertised in the Alton Weekly Courier as a guest speaker to attend the great Mass Meeting in Alton for Fremont who was running as a Republican candidate for President and Bissell for the Governorship of Illinois. The meeting was to be held on August 16, 1856, but Lincoln did not attend. He was in Oregon, Illinois, in the northern part of the state. The men in charge of the meeting may have been misinformed.

FREMONT & BISSELL!
Mass Meeting
At Alton,
SATURDAY AUGUST 16th!!

The Friends of Freedom, Free Labor and Free Territories; whatever may be their differences of opinion on other subjects, and all who are opposed to the extension of Slavery and the corrupt policy of the present Administration, are invited to attend a

MASS MEETING
OF THE PEOPLE AT
Alton, Saturday
AUGUST 16th.

The following able speakers will be present and address the Meeting:

COL. W. H. BISSELL,
Candidate for Governor.
GOV. KOERNER,
Candidate for Congress in the 9th District.
HON. F. HECKER and
HON. A. LINCOLN,
Fremont State Electors.
FRANCIS A. HOFFMAN, Esq.,
Of DuPage county.
HON. RICHARD YATES,
Of Morgan county.
HON. JO. KNOX,
Of Rock Is and county.
HON. J. M. PALMER,
Candidate for Congress in the 6th District.
F. S. RUTHERFORD, Esq.,
Elector 3rd District.
W. H. HERNDON, Esq.,
Elector 5th District, and others.

The speaking will commence at
2 o'clock.

The State Fair

On September 30, 1856, the Fourth Annual Illinois State Agricultural Fair was officially opened to the public. It was a grand affair with exhibits from farmers, stock-growers, mechanics, and artists not only from Illinois, but from neighboring states as well.(24)

It also became a political arena for the campaigners of Fremont and Buchanan during the Presidential Campaign of 1856. Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas both took advantage of the Fair and its vast crowds that it gathered during the four days it was open. Each spoke and campaigned for his man.

It was on April 9, 1856, that word was received from Colonel S. A. Buckmaster that the sight for the next Illinois State Agricultural Fair was to be in Alton. Since the Fair had been held in Chicago the previous year, it entitled the southern part of the state to it in 1856.(25) There was stiff competition for the sight, and after Alton was chosen, there was severe criticism from the other cities that were in the running for the sight. Here is one of the best examples:

The Salem Weekly Advocate...

To the astonishment of every sensible mind and (as the lawyers say) against pledges and gages, it has been determined by authority, to hold the coming State Fair at Alton. This announcement was scarcely believed, and yet it is true. The State Fair at Alton! Of all places in the world least eligible, and as far as Southern Illinois is concerned, the most impracticable point-why, it might have been held with equal advantage to "Egypt" in the moon!

The Advocat further says:

We promise these gentlemen a searching investigation of their conduct; and if it turns out, as we have reason to believe, that they have been bribed -yes, BRIBED- to do a monstrous injustice to the whole Southern Illinois, the amount of the money and sum total of the consideration shall be specifically stated, with appropriate remarks, illustratively, and condemnatory. (26)

Salem had offered \$3000 and a guarantee that a police force would be there to keep order. They would also allow the Committee to select the grounds.

Salem then had a population of about 1200 inhabitants, which could hardly accommodate the estimated 8,000 to 20,000 people that would attend the fair.

Jonesboro, another town who wanted to be the sight, had at the time of the Agricultural State Fair meeting in Springfield \$1,700 in donations with its representatives saying the amount could be increased to \$2000. They also said that the Illinois Central Railroad Company would contribute \$2000 in addition when the Agricultural Society had provided sleeping accommodations for 500 people and that the Union Grays would be on the grounds as a police force. Jonesboro had a population of a few hundred and, being situated in the extreme Southern part of the State it would not have been judicious.

Alton's facilities and accommodations were as follows:

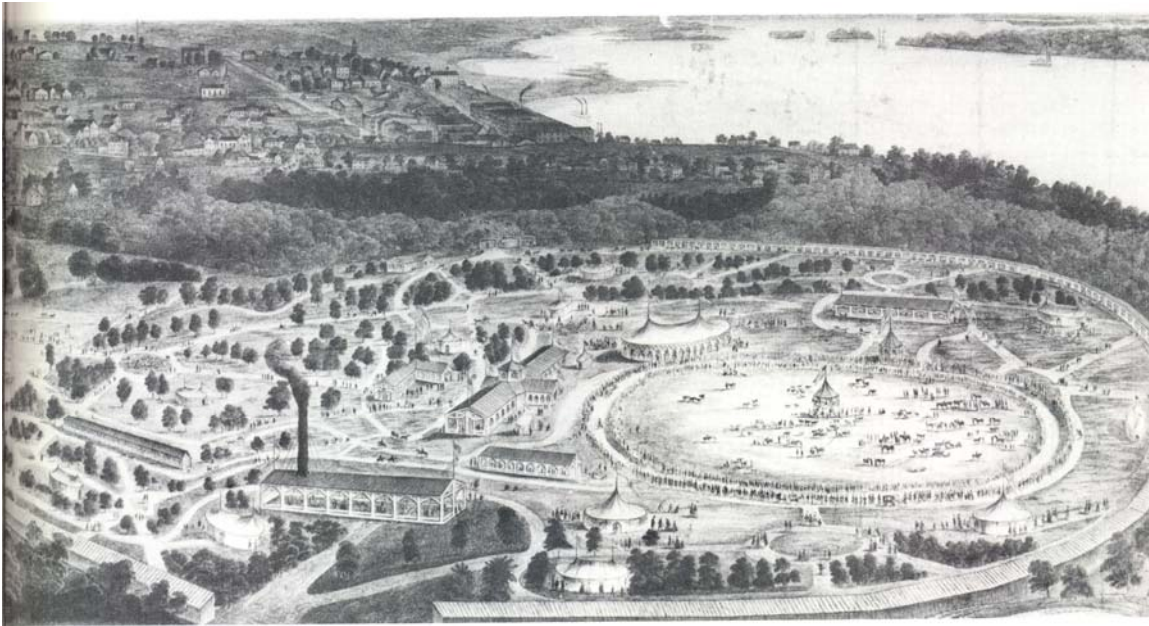
- 1- A railroad from Chicago, and one from the extreme eastern border of the State which terminated in Alton, with these roads crossing the Central line and connecting with roads from all parts of the State as well as States east of Illinois.
- 2- A railroad connection with St. Louis.
- 3- Accessibility by steamboats from the Illinois, Upper Mississippi, Missouri, Lower Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.
- 4- A population with the suburbs and Upper Alton of 12,000 which could furnish temporary accommodations for twice there number of people.
- 5- The Committee from Alton had raised nearly \$5,000 to prepare the grounds and fixtures at the time of the Societies meeting. Also guaranteeing to furnish any further sum which might be found necessary for construction of the Fair. (27)

Alton citizens had made no movement to secure the location of the Fair until a few days before the meeting of the Committee and, when the effort was made, it was in response to requests from other parts of the State, as it was evident that no place in Southern Illinois, besides Alton, could furnish the appropriate accommodations.

On Saturday, April 19, 1856, Dr. H. C. Johns, the President of the Illinois State Agricultural Society, in company with a committee of Alton citizens, began the visiting of the different proposed sites in the City of Alton. After a great deal of decision the Hopkins tract, later known as the Turner tract near Sempletown, immediately adjoining the northern boundary of the City of Alton, was selected just being one mile back from the river.

The piece comprised about thirty acres with twelve acres of the ground being entirely clear of timber, the balance of it being a fine open grove with firm blue grass sod, and to point of natural beauty far surpasses, so informed Dr. John's of the Society to the people of Alton, any piece of ground he had ever examined with the same view.

J. A. Miller, Esq. was chosen to draw up the plans, which would then be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Society for its approval.
(28)



The grounds were excellent with fine plank and pike roads leading directly to the grounds. They could be reached on foot, from the steamboat landing, the hotels, and the business part of the city, in a walk of fifteen minutes. (29) The supply of water was quite abundant with a fine spring and six wells; one eight feet in diameter. (30)

The buildings were quite outstanding. The immense "Palace of Industry," which was built in the form of a cross, was 55 by 280 feet, with the center being a rotunda 80 feet in diameter, with glazed sky-lights, and the corner walls being gratuitously papered with figures of immense deeds of daring horsemanship; of brave acrobats poising on a slack rope, high from the surface of the earth, and with all the other objects of gaping wonder, which a Barnum could conceive for the exhibition of the Fine Arts. Besides this, there were two substantial buildings, each 100 feet long, for heavy

implements, textile fabrics, and other paraphernalia. Another building, which was of the same length, was used for the displaying of motive power implements and machinery, while the society's tent was used for kitchen garden and dairy products. There were 250 stalls for cattle, horses, and other animals, each being 8 ½ feet, with 100 larger pens for sheep and swine, and abundant accommodations for poultry. There were also plenty of offices, a dining hall, 50 by 300 feet, with 12 refreshment stalls, plus a race track which had been plowed and conditioned for the races that were planned. (31) And surrounding the refreshment stands, the "Palace of Industry," the track, the pens, the stalls, and everything else, a high and extending board fence enclosed the seemly impenetrable growth of trees which surrounded the enter Fair.

A large welcome banner was displayed at the main entrance of the Fair, which was 50 feet long and 6 feet wide, but the grandest welcome banner of all was erected by Superintendent Ezra Miller. Placed on pillars 25 feet high and 1600 feet apart on the face of the bluffs, where all riverboat passengers could see and read it, appeared the announcement of

**1856 STATE FAIR
TO BE HELD AT ALTON,
SEPTEMBER 30 AND OCTOBER 1, 2 AND 3. (33)**

The City of Alton, itself also went to extremes to prepare for the Fair. The Gas Company, with its regiment of employees, did a wholesale business at pipe lying to throw a glaring light upon the dark streets of Alton. The Alton House built an addition to it, which presented from the river an imposing front, excelled by none upon its banks. (34) The Franklin was designated as the official center for information and schedules of activities. It was remodeled, providing ladies' entrance to the parlor, and a lookout tower was added to provide the special entertainment of watching all the activities on the river.

The hotels were known for delicious meals, so they brought in monstrous supplies of fresh foodstuffs. (35)

For further accommodations nearly all the public halls in town had been engaged, to be occupied for lodging purposes during the Fair and several large steamboats, the Reindeer, the Baltimore, the Jennie Deans, and the Winchester, made tow trips per day to St. Louis and Alton. Meals were furnished at all hours, on all of these boats, and three of them remained at Alton's Levee over night, to furnish sleeping accommodations. (35) The

charges of all being fixed by agreement with the Society. And then for further accommodations the people of Alton threw open their doors in open hospitality. (37)

Highly satisfactory arrangements had been made with the railroads. Visitors to the Fair would only be charged one way, being passed back free, on having their railroad tickets stamped by the Recording Secretary on the Fair grounds. Animals and articles for exhibition, would go free both ways; in freight being charged, but again refunded on the return of the articles. (38)

The Chicago, Alton and St. Louis Railroad Company ran a special train between Springfield and Alton, during the Fair, to accommodate more fully people living between all these points. The train commenced on Tuesday morning, September 30th, from Springfield, and ended on Saturday night October 4th, up from Alton. It would leave Springfield at 6:15 a.m., and reached Alton at 9:40 a.m. Returning it left at 5:15 p.m., and reached Springfield at 8:45 p.m. This arrangement was a great convenience to the people on the line. Mr. Moore, the Superintendent, was responsible for this arrangement. (39)

It was on October 2, that the politicians started arriving. Abraham Lincoln arrived by train to speak for the Fremont for President cause. The Alton Weekly Courier, October 9, 1856, writes:

Hon. A. Lincoln, finding it necessary to return by the evening train, spoke in the afternoon to a large audience in front of the Presbyterian Church. He made, as he always does, an earnest, argumentative, patriotic and exceedingly able speech. The crowd continued to increase till the conclusion of his speech, and the cheers that went up for free labor, free territory and Freemont, were an unequivocal certificate that the hearts of the masses are right on the issue.

Lincoln's entire speech is presented below:

FROM A SPEECH ON SECTIONALISM MADE DURING THE FREMONT CAMPAIGN

The charge of sectionalism, which was to be the dominant note used against Lincoln during his own Presidential campaign, was often made during the Fremont-Buchanan canvass. This reply to the charge was made by Lincoln, during the State Fair that was held there.

October [2?], 1856

The thing which gives most color to the charge of sectionalism, made against those who oppose the spread of slavery into free territory, is the fact that they can get no votes in the slave States, and also a large number in the free States. To state it in another way, the extensionists can get votes all over the nation, while the restrictionists can get them only in the free States.

This being the fact, why is it so? It is not because one side of the question dividing them is more sectional than the other, nor because of any difference in the mental or moral structure of the people North and South. It is because in that question the people South have an immediate palpable and immensely great pecuniary interest, while with the people of the North it is merely an abstract question of moral right, with only slight and remote pecuniary interest added.

The slaves of the South, at a moderate estimate, are worth a thousand millions of dollars. Let it be permanently settled that this property may extend to new territory without restraint, and it greatly enhances, perhaps quite doubles, its value at once. This immense palpable pecuniary interest on the question of extending slavery unites the Southern people as one man. But it cannot be demonstrated that the North will gain a dollar by restricting it. Moral principle is all, or nearly all, that unites us of the North. Pity't is, it is so, but this is a looser bond than pecuniary interest. Right here is the plain cause of their perfect union and our want of it. And see how it works. If a Southern man aspires to President, they choke him down instantly, in order that the glittering prize of the Presidency may be held up on Southern terms to the greedy eyes of Northern ambition. With this they tempt us and break in upon us.

The Democratic party in 1844 elected a Southern President. Since then they have neither had a Southern candidate for election nor

nomination. Their conventions of 1848, 1852 and 1856 have been struggles exclusively among Northern men, each vying to outbid the other for the Southern vote; the South standing calmly by to finally cry "Going, going, gone" to the highest bidder, and at the same time to make its power more distinctly seen, and thereby to secure a still higher bid at the next succeeding struggle.

"Actions speak louder than words" is the maxim, and if true the South now distinctly says to the North, "Give us the measures and you take the men." The total withdrawal of Southern ures and you take the men." The total withdrawal of Southern aspirants for the Presidency multiplies the number of Northern ones. These last, in competing with each other, commit themselves to the utmost verge that, through their own greediness, they have the least hope their Northern supporters will bear. Having got committed in a race of competition, necessity drives them into union to sustain themselves. Each at first secures all he can on personal attachments to him and through hopes resting on him personally. Next they unite with one another and with the perfectly banded South, to make the offensive position they have got into "a party measure." This done, large additional numbers are secured.

When the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was first proposed, at the North there was literally "nobody" in favor of it. In February, 1854, our legislature met in called, or extra, session. From them Douglas sought an indorsement of his then pending measure of repeal. In our legislature were about seventy Democrats to thirty Whigs. The former held a caucus, in which it was resolved to give Douglas the desired indorsement. Some of the members of the caucus bolted-would not stand it-and they now divulge the secrets. They say that the caucus fairly confessed that the repeal was wrong, and they pleaded the determination to indorse it solely on the ground that it was necessary to sustain Douglas. Here we have the direct evidence of how the Nebraska bill obtained its strength in Illinois. It was given, not in a sense of right, but in the teeth of a sense of wrong, to sustain Douglas. So Illinois was divided. So New England for Pierce, Michigan for Cass, Pennsylvania for Buchanan; and all for the Democratic party.

And when by such means they have got a large portion of the Northern people into a position contrary to their own honest impulses and sense of right, they have the impudence to turn upon those who do stand firm, and call them sectional. Were it not too serious a matter,

this cool impudence would be laughable, to say the least. Recurring to the question, "Shall slavery be allowed to extend into United States territory now legally free?" This is a sectional question –that is to say, it is a question in its nature calculated to divide the American people geographically. Who is to blame for that? Who can help it? Either side can help it; but how? Simply by yielding to the other side; there is no other way; in the whole range of possibility there is no other way. Then, which side shall yield? To this, again, there is no other way. Then, which side shall yield? To this, again, there can be but one answer-the side which is in the wrong. True, we differ as to which side is wrong, and we boldly say, let all who really think slavery ought to be spread into free territory, openly go over against us; there is where they rightfully belong. But why should any go who really think slavery ought not to spread? Do they really think the right ought to yield to the wrong? Are they afraid to stand by the right? Do they fear that the Constitution is too weak to sustain them in the right? Do they really think that by right surrendering to wrong the hopes of our Constitution, our Union, and our liberties can possibly be bettered?

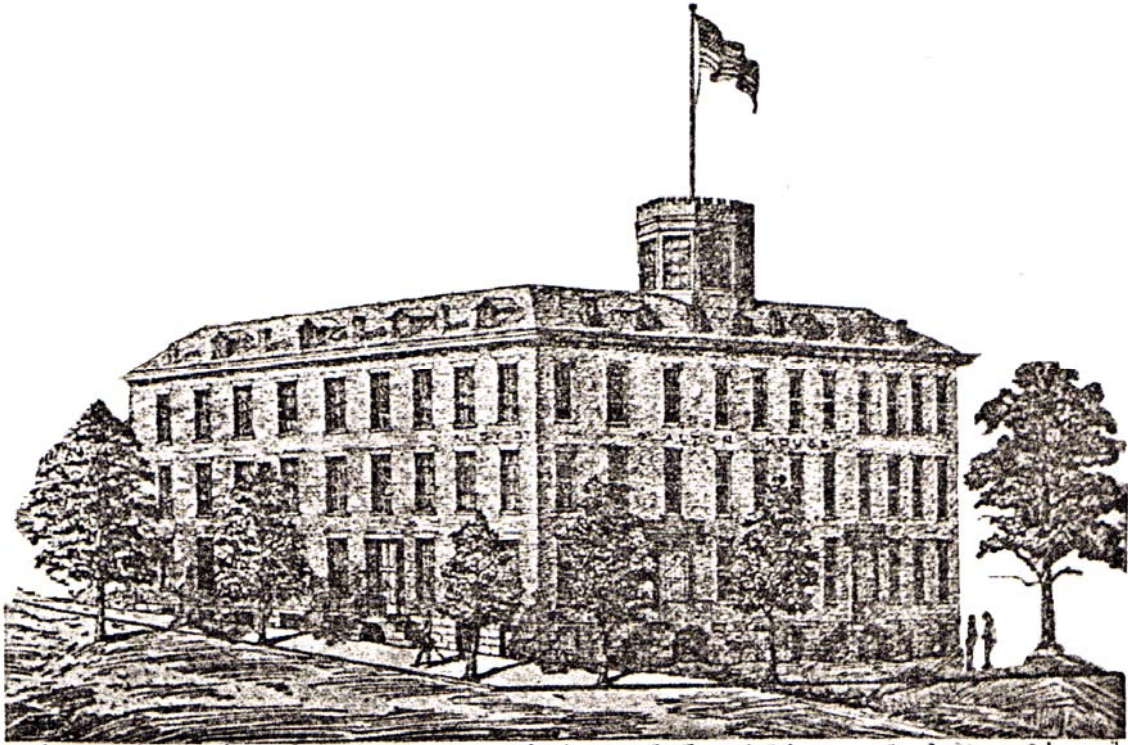
Stephen A. Douglas also spoke at the Fair. His candidate, Buchanan. His visit wasn't as beneficial as Lincoln's. The Alton Weekly Courier, October 9, 1856, writes about Douglas' campaign:

Judge Douglas spoke yesterday, near the fair grounds, to a slim audience. The highest estimate of the audience we heard was 500. In view of the facts that his handbills were distributed throughout the Fair Grounds, and a crier was sent round the ring, where thousands upon thousands were assembled, announcing the hour and place of speaking, and giving him more laudatory superlatives than is justifiable in auctioneers' parlance, it is apparent that our Senator, whose name was once "dear to fame," has lost his power with the people... The fact is also significant that Douglas evaded to appointment made for him weeks ago, by his party origins to speak here on Wednesday, and resorted to occupy time, which his opponents had designated for their demonstration. His signal failure to call out the people shows that they understood and properly appreciated his intrigue.

History of course shows us that Buchanan won, but Lincoln and Douglas were to speak in Alton again, this time in a debate over slavery.

The Lincoln / Douglas Debate At Alton

Leaving Quincy on Thursday, October 14, 1858, on board the steamer City of Louisiana, Lincoln and Douglas arrived in Alton with the dawn at 5:00 a.m. Friday, October 15th. (40) They had debated in Quincy on the thirteenth, remaining in that city until the following day.



When the boat docked, both men were escorted to the Alton House, on the corner of Front and Alby streets, which had been selected as Democratic headquarters.

The men breakfasted and later a committee of Republicans led Mr. Lincoln from that citadel of Democracy to their own headquarters on State Street in the Franklin Hotel, later changed to the Lincoln Hotel in his honor. (41)



Samuel Pitts recalls that morning: *

It was the lot of my good wife and me to set at the table at the right and left with Lincoln and Douglas at my father and mother's table. The conversation between the two great men was very friendly, but they would occasionally resume their individual sides of the questions with much spirit and as both orators were of marked ability, strong points were brought out by them.

* *"Though Mr. Pitts does not say it was at breakfast; It is my belief that it was at this time because I don't think Douglas ate with Lincoln for lunch, nor does Mr. Pitts mention Mrs. Lincoln. She would have been there in time for the noon meal and would have eaten with her husband."*

As my wife and I were married diagonally across the street from Lincoln's home in Springfield, we felt more freedom than other guests at the table.(42)

It was here at the Franklin Hotel that Mr. Lincoln visited and "politicked" with his friends, including Alton's own republican, United States Senator Lyman Trumbull. (43)

As the morning progressed, with indications of rain, the people began to arrive. They had been arriving for several days by the steamboats from up and down the river. Boats from St. Louis, bringing visitors with long black hair, goatees, and stolid, Indian-like faces. Slave -owners and slave dealers, from the human marts of Missouri and Kentucky. The northern visitors arrived by boat or rail abolitionists and Republicans, with a cast of features distinctly different from the types coming from the South.

They came from villages, townships, the prairies, from all the adjoining counties, from across the Mississippi, from faraway cities, from representative societies north and south, from congressional committees in the east, from leading journals of all political parties, and from every religious denomination within hundreds of miles. (44) They came on foot, on horseback, by carriage, by wagon sitting on hickory-bottomed kitchen chairs and in the wagon beds, by lumber wagon, by train, and by boat. (45)

From St. Louis, one crowd went up on the Terre Haute railroad, another took the steamboat Baltimore at seven o'clock, and a third detachment followed on the White Cloud, which left at ten o'clock.(46)

The Missouri Republican advertised:

"the fine passenger steamer White Cloud will leave the Union Railroad Line wharf boat, foot of Olive Street, at half past nine o'clock, returning in the evening, after the speaking. Fare for round trip one dollar. Come one, come all."(47)

As it turned out, three hundred people did come on this voyage and as a reporter wrote later of the trip over:

There were fierce and furious friends of Douglas, whose admiration for the "Little Giant" knew no bounds: steady old Adamantive Administration Democrats, who supported the President at all hazards and to

the last extremity; rampant Republicans, and neutral Americans. Of course, such an assemblage contained the elements of boundless and endless political disputes, and the boat was no sooner afloat than whole crowd got ciferous in praises of the “Little Giant.” ...the cabin of the White Cloud was as uproariously interesting and fondly instructive as one of the midnight seasons of the last Congress, when the Kansas question was up. The disputation was vigorously kept up until the boat arrived at half past twelve. (48)

Upon arriving into the City of Alton one of the first things they would see would be the banners which both parties hung all over the city. Some of the banners were:

**“FREE TERRITORIES AND FREE MEN
FREE PULPITS AND FREE PREACHERS,
FREE PRESS AND FREE PEN,
FREE SCHOOLS AND FREE TEACHERS.”**

Harry Lea, son of Mr. Henry Lea went to great troubles to hang several banners and flags on his father’s store. Some of his handy work was:

**“Illinois, Born Under the Ordinance of ’87
SHE WILL MAINTAIN ITS PROVISIONS!”**

“LINCOLN NOT YET TROTTED OUT”

alluding to Douglas’ saying that he would trot Lincoln down in Egypt. Mr. E. H. Goulding notified everybody in this style:

“SQUAT ROW FOR OLD ABE AND FREE LABOR”

A cord stretched from the store of I. Scarrit to that of DeBow and Barr sustained a large flag, bearing the mottoes:

“OLD MADISON FOR LINCOLN”

“TOO LATE FOR MILKING”

The Douglas men concentrated their whole energies in one grand, magnificent, superb, right-royal banner, which was suspended between the store of Mr. Henry Lea and Bank building. The words:

“POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY, NATIONAL UNION!”
Stephen A. Douglas, the People’s Choice.

Were surrounded by five stars, intending to represent the four states of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Iowa, which had already supported Douglas’ policies, and saying Illinois would do so in November.

Other banners were:

“ADD MADISON FOR LINCOLN”

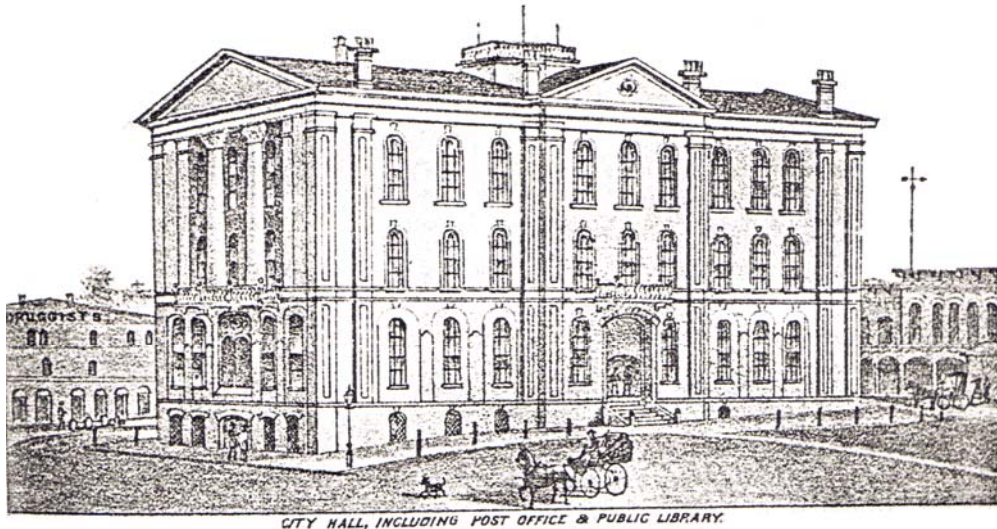
“MADISON FOR ABE AND FREE LABOR”

There were also flags streaming from the two hotels to denote the headquarters of the two politicians.

Ever since the Alton State Fair, Alton had been known for its banners. Again the people of Alton did not disappoint the crowds of people that came to Alton.(49)

At 10:30 a train of eight cars on the Chicago, Alton and St. Louis railroad arrived, freighted with its passengers from Springfield, Auburn, Girard, Carlinville, Brighton, and who knows how many more towns. Other trains arrived during the morning hours and early afternoon, but this train was special. For this train had as passengers on it Mrs. Lincoln and her older son Robert Lincoln who accompanied the Springfield Cadets.

This military company upon arriving formed into their designated groups and , preceded by Merritt’s Cornet Band, marched through the streets playing to the visitors delight. (50) This along with the banners were the only attraction getters Lincoln had in Alton. Senator Douglas had a six-pound traveling swivel which was kept blazing to impress the Altonians with a proper sense of the respect due the “big gun” who was its master. (51) By the hour of twelve, the great American people were showing magnificent enthusiasm carrying banners, flags, and all kinds of devices to show the strength of their side. Gradually the scores of people headed for the speakers’ platform that was located on the northeast corner of the new City Hall. (52)



The speaking platform had no banners on it but the Stars and Strips, which had been prearranged. The platform was about sixteen feet long by twelve feet wide with a railing made of two by fours, about four feet high, which reached nearly to Douglas' shoulders.(53)

As the hour of two approached the masses of people began to gather, to the first floor of the City Hall Building and ground between that and the Presbyterian Church. Then Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Douglas made their appearance upon the platform.(54)

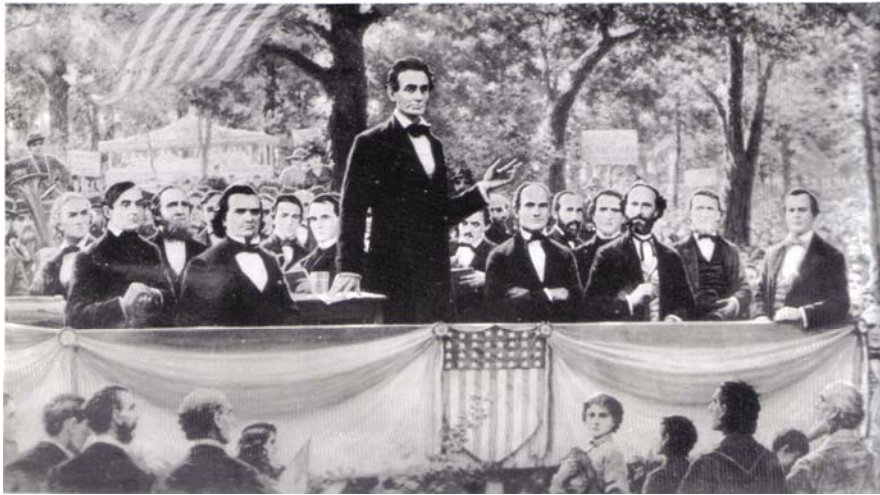
On the platform itself sat no fewer than four future aspirants for the Presidency – Lincoln, Douglas, Lyman Trumbull, and Major-General John M. Palmer. Near them were grouped Norman B. Judd, Henry S. Baker, and Dr. George T. Allen; whose opposition to Lincoln when Trumbull and he were candidates for the Senate, probably saved him to the nation. Ex-Governor John Reynolds, Lieutenant-Governor Koerner, and many other notables and local officials were also present at this closing scene of the seven-days' battle, and the representatives of at least six important newspapers reported the proceedings in detail from tables which were placed in front of the stand.(55)

It had been prearranged before hand that Senator Douglas was to speak first for an hour, then followed by Mr. Lincoln who would speak for an hour and a half, finally concluded by a half hour rejoined by Senator Douglas.

As the Senator started to speak his voice could hardly be heard. It was very indistinct. It seems that the wear and tear of the campaign had taken its toll on the Senator. Lincoln, however, seemed to gain strength as the campaign progressed. Horace White noted that Lincoln did not appear to be affected by the strain of the canvass and added that Lincoln was able to

speak as clearly at the end of the campaign as he had at the beginning but that Douglas had become quite hoarse.(56)

During Douglas' speech Lincoln sat at the rear of the platform, leaning back against the wall of the City Hall, close to the spot where the Memorial Tablet was placed. He did not look up, nor did he make notes of any remark that Douglas making, but after Douglas finished speaking, Lincoln rose in a dignified manner, stood in about the same place that Douglas had stood, and looked over the audience. He appeared like a giant in comparison to Douglas. (57) He was loudly cheered by a portion of the crowd, while a magnificent bouquet of dahlias and roses, thrown at his feet, bespoke the admiration which the tall Republican had inspired in the bosom of one of the ladies in the crowd. (58)



When Lincoln sat down Douglas made a last attempt to answer Lincoln's remarks, but Lincoln in reply to a spectator who manifested some apprehension as to the outcome, rose, and spreading out his great arms at full length, like a condor about to take wing, exclaimed, with humorous indifference: "Oh! Let him go it!"(59)

As the debate ended Lincoln bundled up his papers and withdrew. Excited crowds followed him about, reporters caught his slightest word, and by nighttime the barrooms, hotels, street corners, and prominent stores were filled with his admirers, fairly intoxicated with the exciting triumph of the day.

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3. William E. Baringer, Lincoln Day by Day; a chronology, 1809-1848, Vol. 1, (Washington, Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, 1960), pg. 142.
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10. James E. Myers, The Astonishing Saber Duel of Abraham Lincoln, (Springfield, Illinois: Lincoln-Herndon Building Publishers, 1968), pg. 11.
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18. James E. Myers, The Astonishing Saber Duel of Abraham Lincoln, (Springfield, Illinois: Lincoln-Herndon Building Publishers, 1968), pg. 18.
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25. The Next State Fair to be at Alton, Alton Weekly Courier, 10 April 1856.
26. Schism, About the Location of the State Fair, Alton Weekly Courier, 24-April, 1856, pg. 2, col. 1.
27. Schism, About the Location of the State Fair, Alton Weekly Courier, 24-April, 1856, pg. 2, col. 1.
28. Selection of the Fair Ground, Alton Weekly Courier, 24 April 1856, pg. 2, col. 2.
29. Selection of the Fair Ground, Alton Weekly Courier, 24 April 1856, pg. 2, col. 2.
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48. Alton Weekly Courier, 16 October, 1858.
49. Alton Weekly Courier, 16 October, 1858.
50. St. Louis Evening News, 16 October 1858.
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(All illustrations from the book: The Astonishing Saber Duel of Abraham Lincoln by James E. Myers were drawn by Betty Madden, after sketches by Mary Flatt)

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