

LincolnLore

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The Presidential Election — 1864

Editor's Note: To read the comments concerning the results of the Presidential election of 1864, which appeared in three of the leading magazines at that day, one is cognizant that the problems of government in 1864 do not appear much different from those of 1972. The editors wrote of "fierce excitements, jealousies and party wrongling" in the Presidential campaign, of "the moral effect of the election both at home and abroad," and how "it shows our foreign enemies that they have nothing to hope from the division of this country," that while there is a desire for "a cessation of hostilities" and "negotiations for peace," there is an "inflexible prosecution of this war" which is the "policy of the administration."

That this contest was "the most critical ordeal of a national election" and that the "lesson of the election is that every Constitutional Act and law must be absolutely respected" and that it should be the duty of citizens to "recognize that law is the indispensable condition of liberty."

R.G.M. FRANK LESLIE'S II.

R. G. M.

The Presidential election of

1864 occasioned considerable

comment in Harper's Weekly, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper and The Illus-

trated London News. How-

ever, the results of the election of November 8, 1864 were not treated by those

magazines as news releases.

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER.



JEFF DAVIS'S NOVEMBER NICHTMARE.

From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, December 3, 1864.

issue of Harper's dated November 12th did not carry the election results as that number came from the press in advance of its date which was before election day. However, the above issue did carry a double page spread by Thomas Nast which featured "Election-Day, 8th November, 1864." The pro-Lincoln vignettes depicted the allegorical figure of Liberty voting for Lincoln and Union, Soldiers Mailing Their Votes, The Veteran's Vote and Citizens Voting.

It was the November 19th issue of Harper's that carried on the editorial page the first announcement to its readers that Lincoln was reelected.

The Election.

"Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson have been elected, by enormous and

universal majorities in almost all the States, President and Vice-President of the United States for the next four years. This result is the proclamation of the American people that they are not conquered; that the rebellion is not successful; and that, deeply as they deplore war and its inevitable suffering and loss, yet they have no choice between war and national ruin, and must therefore fight on. In an unfortunate moment for himself General McClellan permitted his name to be used as the symbol of the cowardice and subjugation of his fellow-citizens, and from that moment his defeat was a foregone conclusion.

"The moral effect of the election both at home and abroad will be of the most impressive character. It shows our foreign enemies that they have nothing to hope from the divisions of this country, while the rebels will see in it the withering and invincible purpose of their loyal fellow-citizens, who ask of them nothing but obedience to the Constitution of the United States, and the laws and acts made in pursuance of it. Whenever they shall choose to overthrow the military despotism that holds them fast-whenever they shall see that no great section of this country can, under equal

any permanent and profound interest different from all the rest - then they will find that the loyal men of the country are longing to throw down their arms and cement a Union that shall be eternal.

"But the lesson of the election is, that every constitutional act and law must be absolutely remust be absolutely re-spected. There must be no threats, no revolts, and no hope of extorting terms by arms. The Constitution is the sole condition of the Government; and if citizens differ as to what is constitutional, that difference must be peacefully and constitutionally settled. This is what the people have declared by four years of war, and this is what they confirm by the re-election of Mr. Lincoln. In himself, notwithstanding his unwearied patience, perfect fidelity, and remarkable sagacity, he is unimportant; but as the representative of the feeling and purpose of the American people he is the most important fact in the world.

"One other of the most significant lessons of the election is, that the people are conscious of the power and force of their own Government. They expect the utmost vigor in the prosecution of the war by every legitimate method, and they naturally require that the authority of the Government, which is to be established by the continuance of the war, shall not be endangered by its end. When the authority of any Government is openly and forcibly defied it must be maintained unconditionally by arms. When that authority is established and unquestioned, every wise Government will be friendly, patient, conciliatory, but firm and just.

"Yet the grandest lesson of the result is its vindication of the American system of free popular government. No system in history was ever exposed to such a strain directly along the fibre as that which ours has endured in the war and the political campaign, and no other could possibly have endured it successfully. The result is due to the general intelligence of the people, and to the security of perfectly free discussion. Let that be maintained and jealously defended by all parties in the land, at every country cross-road, and in every city and State, and the Union and the Government are forever secure. They have been maintained by the authority of the Government itself, and we see the result. Thank God and the people, we are a nation which comprehends it priceless importance to human progress and civilization, and which recognizes that law is the indispensable condition of Liberty."

The editors of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper looked with favor on the candidacy of General George B. McClellan as the Democratic Party's nominee, who opposed Lincoln. It was their issue of November 26th that carried the first report on the November 8th Presidential election.

The Presidential Election.

"We have passed quietly through the most imposing, the most momentous, and in many respects, the most critical ordeal of a national election in the history of the United States. The general results are before the country, in the re-election of President Lincoln, by an overwhelming popular and electoral vote, and in the return of a two-thirds Administration majority in the popular branch of Congress.

"No elaborate exposition of causes and effects is here necessary to account for these results. They are simply due to the pressure of that paramount and all-absorbing issue upon the people of the loyal States, the inflexible prosecution of this war, until the rebellious States shall be brought to the point of submission to the supreme authority of the Union. This broad and comprehensive programme of the Administration has carried the day against the untenable positions taken by the Democratic party at Chicago, that the war for the Union is 'a failure,' and that 'immediate efforts' should be made for 'a cessation of hostilities,' in order that negotiations might be tried in behalf of peace. In the face of the oft-repeated and consistent declarations of the leaders of the rebellion, that they will have no peace, nor enter into any negotiations for peace, except upon the basis of Southern independence, those Chicago propositions were largely regarded by the people concerned in this late election as equivalent to overtures for a surrender to Jeff Davis. Thus the Democratic party, in blindly casting away a golden opportunity for a great success, have been signally defeated.

"The people of the loyal States have given their verdict in favor of the war policy of the Administration; they have decreed that there shall be no 'cessation of hostilities,' short of the overthrow and dispersion of the armed forces of the rebellion. The policy of the Government, under Abraham Lincoln as its chief executive officer, is thus established for the next four years. All doubts upon the subject are at an end. The opinion is also widely entertained among the rank and file of the dominant party, the moral influences of Mr. Lincoln's re-election will immediately and powerfully operate to unite and consolidate the loyal States, and to distract, divide and break up the so-called 'Confederate States.' The implacable feelings of hostility manifested on all occasions by the rebel chiefs and rebel journals of the 'Illinois despot,' and their anxiety expressed through a thousand channels for 'anything in the way of a change in the Yankee Government,' have been advanced as fully warranting these hopeful predictions. We congratulate all parties concerned, that the fierce excitements, jealousies and party wranglings of the Presidential campaign are over, and that the National Government and the loyal States have now a fair field before them for a 'short, sharp and decisive' campaign against the armies of the rebellion. We bow to the will of the people."

The same issue of Leslie's carried a second article entitled "The Great Presidential Election" that was profusely illustrated with woodcuts bearing the following titles; "Removing Ballot Boxes," "Ticket Booths," "Bringing Invalid Soldiers To The Polls," "Scene At The Polls," "A Liquor Store Closed," "The Process Of Voting," "The Man Who Voted 'Early And Often," and a "Night Scene At The N. Y. Herald Office—Displaying Election Returns By Means Of A Calcium Light."

The tenor of the article reporting on the election activities in New York City is one of good humor and resignation; namely, that our "Republican institutions have justified themselves," that as "the police had stopped the supply of liquor, there should be no want of water; and, as temperance men, we are glad to say there wasn't any want of either," that "it was, above all, easy to see that the good sense of the people had determined upon a quiet election, and that the only excesses would be those of a few industrious persons who would 'vote early and vote often,' voting, as Shakespeare says, 'not wisely but too well!'"

"These instances were, however, but few, and we question if there ever was an election in which there were so few fraudulent votes. One man, upon being challenged, said; 'That he thought he had a right to vote twice, because he had not voted last election!' While another argued that he had a perfect right to two votes, since he had a store as well as a private house! In fact, that he considered himself a double man. Another maintained that he had been married twice, and thought he had a good right to vote twice."

The writer of the article concluded that, "there is something very curious and ingenious in the method by which the silent resolve of a great nation is put into motion, and made practical in its bearing upon the government of the world."

The editor of *The Illustrated London News*, November 19, 1864 wrote that: "We had hoped that the *New York* or the *City of Glasgow* would have brought us news of the results of the Presidential election. Both these steamers have, however, arrived without bringing the eagerly desired intelligence. They were off Cape Race on the 9th inst., a day after the election, but the weather, unhappily, was too thick to communicate. Possibly we shall be able to give the information in our town edition."

Once the editors of The Illustrated London News received the results of the Presidential election, they gave it adequate coverage with a lead story entitled "The American Presidency" in its issue of November 26th. The article was not editorial in nature, rather it was an historical review of Lincoln's first term of office and the attendant Civil War. In the conclusion of the long article, the statement is made that: "It is possible that, after all, the prolongation of Mr. Lincoln's tenure of office will be productive of ultimate benefit to the people over whom he has been selected to rule for eight years; and that, by means which he never intended and the concurrence of events which he never contemplated, he may become the involuntary saviour of his country."

In the same issue of The Illustrated London News, under the heading "America," the following information concerning the Presidential election is to be found:

"Mr. Lincoln has been re-elected President by a large majority. According to the *Times*' correspondent, who telegraphed on the 10th inst., 'Mr. Lincoln has at the lowest estimate a numerical majority of 400,000 votes;' and another correspondent telegraphs that 'Lincoln has 213 out of the 234 electoral votes.' Mr. Andrew Johnson, Military Governor of Tennessee, has been elected Vice-President. There were no serious disturbances during the elections in any of the States.

disturbances during the elections in any of the States.

"On the night of the 8th inst., President Lincoln was serenaded by a company of Pennsylvanians, and on the night of the 10th he was serenaded by the Columbian Republican Clubs. Mr. Lincoln declared that the peaceable consummation of the recent elections in the midst of a great civil war proved the ability of a Republican Government to maintain its existence in a great emergency, and at the same time preserve the liberties of its people. Now that the elections were over, he appealed to all parties to unite in a common

effort to save the common country; and, while expressing his gratitude to Almighty God for directing the mind of the country to what he considered a right conclusion, he added that it afforded no satisfaction to think any other man might have been disappointed by the result."

Note: Slightly more than 4 million votes were cast in the 1864 Presidential election. Lincoln got approximately 400,000 votes more than McClellan. Percentage-wise Lincoln received about 55% of the popular vote. Lincoln carried every state in the Union except Delaware, New Jersey and Kentucky with 234 electoral votes. McClellan received 21 electoral votes.

The Fourth of March

Editor's Note: The editors of Harper's Weekly. March 11, 1865, published a lead editorial entitled "The Fourth Of March," and the following week, March 18, 1865, their lead editorial was entitled "The Inaugural Address." The editorial writer or writers was/were very enthusiastic about Lincoln's re-election and there was nothing but praise for the topics covered (and not covered) in the Inaugural Address.

R. G. M.

The Fourth Of March.

"On this day President Lincoln enters upon his second term amidst the benedictions of the loyal citizens of the United States. No man in any office at any period of our history has been so tried as he, and no man has ever shown himself more faithful to a great duty. His temperament, his singular sagacity, his inflexible honesty, his patient persistence, his clear comprehension of the scope of the war and of the character and purpose of the American people, have not only enabled him to guide the country safely in its most perilous hour, but have endeared him forever to the popular heart.

"Party hate has dashed itself to pieces against his spotless patriotism. Friendly impatience has long since hushed its hot criticism. Foreign skepticism and affected contempt at length recognize in him a purely characteristic representative of that America which conquers by good sense and moral fidelity. The history of the first term of his administration is the story of a desperate and prodigious civil war waged over a continent, and revealing the unprecedented power of a Government founded upon the popular will.

"Such a war necessarily clothes the chief executive magistrate with extraordinary power. Yet it is the most significant tribute to the character of Mr. Lincoln that his exercise of that power has been so temperate and so purely patriotic that after four years' experience of it parties crumble away, and he is continued in his high office by the hearty confidence of the vast body of the people.

"And that he is to-day inaugurated amidst universal applause, that the nation has not been deluded by the vehement party assaults which every civil war makes so practicable and specious, but has known and approved a man so just and faithful, is the noblest proof of the truly conservative character of that popular Government with which the name of Abraham Lincoln will henceforth be associated."

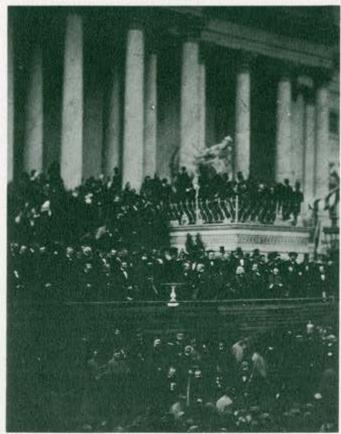
The Inaugural Address.

"The inaugural address of the President is characteristically simple and solemn. He neither speculates, nor prophesies, nor sentimentalizes. Four years have revealed to every mind the ghastly truth that the Government of the United States is struggling in a deathgrapple with slavery; and as a new epoch of the Government opens in civil war, its Chief Magistrate states the vital point of the contest, and invokes God's blessing upon the effort of the country to finish its work in triumph. With a certain grand and quaint vigor, unprecedented in modern politics, the President says: 'Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may soon pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid with another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so, still it must be said: "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

"We are especially glad that the inaugural does not, as the New York Tribune wishes it did, 'appeal to the rebels for a cessation of hostilities as pleadingly as its

prototype (the first inaugural) urged forbearance from beginning them.' Such a tone would have been neither politic nor humane. When the President speaks of 'the progress of our arms upon which all else chiefly depends,' every man is reminded of the peace-history of the last year, and of the terms which have been constantly repeated, and which are perfectly well known to the rebels and to the world. Those terms are unconditional submission to the laws of the United States.

"We are equally glad that the President indulges in no observations upon Mexico, England, France, and things in general. He was taking the oath to continue the work in which his conduct has so satisfied the country that he is continued in his office by general assent. With a fine sense of propriety he says, in the gravest and most impressive way, that he accepts the trust and prays for strength to do his duty. And all true American hearts say, Amen!"



(0-122) Lloyd Ostendorf-Western Reserve Historical Society.

Photograph of Lincoln's Second Inaugural made by Alexander Gardner on Saturday, March 4, 1865. This newly discovered photograph appears to be the only one of the series (0-105, 0-106 and 0-108) to bear the A. Gardner, 511 Seventh St., Washington, D. C. imprint.

Numistamps

Numistamp is a newly coined word to describe a replica, United States coin manufactured in the form of a plaquette, having the appearance of a large (1%" x 24") postage stamp. Each plaquette is struck in metal closely identified with that of the coin it portrays, but avoids any composition that could encourage misuse of the coin impression.

Three of the United States Numistamps acquired by the Foundation are of the small cent series, namely, the one cent dated 1909, the war-time steel cent issued in 1943 and the newly designed cent issued in 1959. The obverse and reverse of all three coins are shown on each plaquette.

This series is produced with the knowledge and consent of the General Counsel for the United States Department of the Treasury, and all dies are destroyed upon completion of a limited edition of 4,000 serially numbered pieces in each series.

CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1971-1972

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Dr. Kenneth A. Bernard, Boston University, 725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.; Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Rd., Garden City, N. Y.; Carl Haverlin, 8619 Louise Avenue, Northridge, California; James T. Hickey, Illinois State Avenue, Library, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois; E. B. (Pete) Long, 607 S. 15th St., Laramie, Wyoming; Ralph G. Newman, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Illinois; Hon. Fred Schwengel, 404 Union Arcade Bldg., Davenport, Iowa; Dr. Wayne C. Temple, 1121 S. 4th Street Court, Springfield, Illinois. New items available for consideration may be sent to the above persons, or to the Lincoln National Life Foundation. Foundation.

1971

ANDERSON, LAVERE.

1971-23

Abe Lincoln/and the/River Robbers/By LaVere Anderson/Illustrated by Cary/Garrard Publishing Company/ Champaign, Illinois/ [Copyright by LaVere Anderson. All rights reserved.]
Brochure, stiff boards, 9½" x 6½", fr., 63 pp., illus., price, \$2.95.

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single issue, \$1.50,

ZILVERSMIT, ARTHUR. Lincoln on Black and White:/A Documentary History/ Arthur Zilversmit/Lake Forest College/Editor/Wadsworth Publishing Company, Inc., Belmont, California/ [Copyright 1971 by Wadsworth Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved.]
Book, paper, 9" x 5%,", (xiv) p., 187 pp., price, \$3.95.
MACON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Lincolns/The Hanks/And Macon County/ [Privately published by the Macon County Historical Society and the Decatur-Macon County Heritage Committee, Inc. with the permission of the Illinois State Historical Society.]

Book, cloth, 8%" x 5%", (134) pp., insert page attached, illus., price, \$3.00. (Book consists of articles; namely, Lincoln And Macon County, Illinois, 1830-1831 by Edwin D. Davis, The Hanks Family in Macon County, Illinois 1828-1929 by Edwin D. Davis, Oglesby's Fence Rail Dealings And The 1860 Decatur Convention by James T. Hickey, Lincoln Becomes The Railsplitter by Wayne C. Temple, Macon County's First Courthouse by Otto R. Kyle and Lincoln's First Political or "Lincoln Square" Speech.)

1972

BASLER, ROY P. 1972-2 (Profile of Lincoln facing left)/Lincoln's Gettysburg

Address/in Translation/Compiled by Roy P. Basler/Library of Congress/Washington/1972/ [Contains translations of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in 29 languages as well as English. Issued by Library of Congress.]
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ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY Illinois/History/Volume 25/Number 5/February 1972/ Abraham Lincoln/(Picture)/Black Hawk War Uniform— A/Protest Group—Without/Revenge—Lincoln in Southern/Illinois—Between Election and/Inauguration—A Plan for/Restoration—The Emancipation/Proclamation—That Famous/Gettysburg Address—The Second/Inaugural—Old Abe versus Old/Commoner—Pennsylvania Avenue/Zoo—A Memorial Totem Pole/The Great Emancipator/[Cover title] [Copyright 1972 Illinois State Historical Society. Published by the Illinois State Historical Library for the Illinois State Historical Society, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62706.]
Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10" x 7¼", pages 99-119, illus., price, 20¢. LOYAL LEGION, MILITARY ORDER OF THE 1972-6 50th Anniversary/of the/Dedication Of The Lincoln Memorial/1922-1972/ [Caption title] Folder, paper, 11" x 8%", 4 pp., illus.

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Lincoln Tribute-72/Lincoln/Almanac/Friday, February
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(Profile of Lincoln facing right)/ [Cover title] [Published by the Michigan Republican Committee.]

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MOCHIZUKI MASAHADU

MOCHIZUKI, MASAHARU

(Device) No. 14/Tokyo Lincoln Center/Report No. Fourteen/February 12, 1972/Tokyo Lincoln Center/Masaharu Mochizuki, Director/2-1, Sarugaku-cho 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan/Phone 291-1860/[Cover title] [Printed in Tokyo, Japan in both Japanese and English languages.]

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Title: Abraham Lincoln: Vol. I by Carl Sandburg. Copyright 1972 Noboru Sakashita. Printed in Japan. Published in Japan by arrangement with Harcourt Brace Joranovice, Inc. through Charles E. Tuttle Co. Inc., Tokyo.]

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Folder, paper, 11" x 8½", 4 pp., illus. Number 1607, Brig.-Gen. Ben Hardin Helm, Mrs. Lincoln's "Rebel" Brother-In-Law, January 1972; Number 1608, Brig.-Gen. Ben Hardin Helm, Mrs. Lincoln's "Rebel" Brother-In-Law, February 1972; Number 1609, The Attempt To Steal Lincoln's Body, March 1972; Number 1610, Lincoln National Life Foundation, Background And Origin, April 1972; Number 1611, The Plot To Steal The Lincoln Corpse, May 1972; Number 1612, The Most Significant Lincoln Cartoon And The Most Timely Lincoln Editorial, February, 1972, June 1972.