

LINCOLN LORE

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PROSPECTIVE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR 1860

The significance of the political conventions preceeding the presidential campaign of 1860 were anticipated far in advance of the crucial election year. At least two full sized cloth bound books were published submitting the names of possible candidates, one of 360 pages by D. W. Bartlett published late in 1859, and the other of 503 pages by John Savage brought out early in 1860. Bartlett's book was entitled *Presidential Candidates* and described in the sub-title as "Containing sketches, biographical personal and political, of prominent candidates for the presidency in 1860." It contained the names of twenty-one prospective candidates. Savage called his book *Our Living Representative Men*. Thirty-four different names were compiled in Savage's list but inasmuch as he used all of Bartlett's selections except two, the combined total of names for the two works was thirty-six.

The most interesting observation to be made about this joint list of three dozen potential presidential candidates is the absence of the name of Abraham Lincoln. Surely he was the dark horse in the 1860 political races for the presidential nominations. There is some consolation in the fact that neither was Hannibal Hamlin, who received the Republican nomination for the Vice Presidency, brought forth by either author. Although Bartlett referred to "the terrible ordeal in Illinois" through which Douglas passed in 1858 the name of his opponent, Lincoln, is not mentioned. Savage, in his chapter on Douglas, does mention the name of Abraham Lincoln as the defeated candidate in the "58" campaign for the Senate, so the name of Lincoln is indirectly mentioned in the text.

David W. Bartlett, a New York author and newspaper man, sympathetic with reform movements in America, already had published earlier in the year 1859 a book entitled *Modern Agitators or Pen Portraits of Living American Reformers*. The introduction to the book is in the form of a letter written to Thomas Box of England which clearly sets forth Bartlett's anti-slavery philosophy. William H. Seward is the only one of the twenty reformers named who is included in the later volume submitting *Presidential Candidates*. Bartlett apparently arranged his list of presidential aspirants in the order of their popularity, as he viewed it, with Seward first, followed by Douglas, then Chase and Bates. The length of his biographical sketches also shows a preference arrangement as but seven characters are discussed in the

first one-half of the book while fourteen are mentioned in the latter half.

John Savage was a newspaper man in Ireland who was active with the reformers there and upon reaching this country became affiliated with New York, and later, Washington newspapers. Although Savage states in the preface to his book that he is about "to give a graphic and comprehensive record of the public acts

tenden of Kentucky, Cushing of Massachusetts, Dallas of Pennsylvania, Dayton of New Jersey, Everett of Massachusetts, Fillmore of New York, Guthrie of Kentucky, Houston of Texas, Johnson of Tennessee, Read of Pennsylvania, Seymour of New York, Slidell of Louisiana, and Wool of New York. Most of these men were Democrats, a few Constitutional Union men, and but two Republicans.

It is fortunate that Bartlett and Savage, the authors of the two important books were of different political opinions as we may feel sure that the field of prospective candidates for both parties was well covered. Savage followed the alphabetical order in presenting his list and inasmuch as it contained all but two of the names submitted by Bartlett, Henry Wilson and John P. Hale, both Republicans, we are using his order for display in the center column of the bulletin with the inclusion of the above two names. Although the political alliances of some of the men were in transition about the time the Bartlett and Savage books were published as far as can be ascertained the party allegiances at the beginning of the presidential campaigns of 1860 are designated.

A compilation of the entire list as with respect to their political affiliation indicates Democrats, 21; Republicans, 10; and various others such as Constitutional Union, etc., 5. A tabulation of their residences indicate that of the thirty-six candidates both the old North and the old South claim fifteen each, while the new West is credited with six.

While the success of Lincoln, the dark horse candidate, offered the surprise in the Republican convention ranks, it was the disintegration of the Democratic Party into three hostile camps which provided the most sensational results. All three of the successful candidates for the "Democratic," "National Democratic" and "Constitutional Union" parties, Stephen A. Douglas, John C. Breckenridge, and John Bell, respective, appeared in both the Bartlett and Savage lists. Bartlett names one of the Vice-Presidential nominees, Joseph Lane, the running mate of Breckenridge, while Savage mentions both Lane and Everett, the last named, the candidate with Bell.

Later on when the Federal Union was established at Montgomery, Alabama, the provincial President and Vice President, Jefferson Davis and Alexander Stephenson, respectively, were chosen and their names had also appeared in the lists of both Bartlett and Savage.

PROSPECTIVE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES — 1860

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Banks, Nathaniel P.* | Mass. | Rep. |
| Bates, Edward* | Mo. | Rep. |
| Bell, John* | Tenn. | Const. |
| Botts, John Minor* | Va. | Dem. |
| Breckenridge, John C.* | Ky. | Dem. |
| Brown, Albert G. | Miss. | Dem. |
| Cameron, Simon | Penn. | Rep. |
| Chase, Salmon P.* | Ohio | Rep. |
| Cobb, Howell* | Ga. | Dem. |
| Crittenden, John J. | Ky. | Const. |
| Cushing, Caleb | Mass. | Union |
| Dallas, Geo. M. | Penn. | Dem. |
| Davis, Jefferson* | Miss. | Dem. |
| Dayton, Wm. L. | N. J. | Rep. |
| Dickinson, Daniel S.* | N. Y. | Dem. |
| Douglas, Stephen A.* | Ill. | Dem. |
| Everett, Edward | Mass. | Const. |
| Fillmore, Millard | N. Y. | Union |
| Fremont, John C.* | N. Y. | Const. |
| Guthrie, James | Ky. | Rep. |
| Hale, John P. | N. H. | Dem. |
| Hammond, James H.* | S. C. | Rep. |
| Houston, Sam | Texas | Dem. |
| Hunter, R. M. T.* | Va. | Dem. |
| Johnson, Andrew | Tenn. | Dem. |
| Lane, Joseph* | Oregon | Dem. |
| McLean, John* | Ohio | Rep. |
| Orr, James L.* | S. C. | Dem. |
| Read, John M. | Penn. | Dem. |
| Seward, William H.* | N. Y. | Rep. |
| Seymour, Horatio | N. Y. | Dem. |
| Slidell, John | La. | Dem. |
| Stephens, Alexander H.* | Ga. | Dem. |
| Wise, Henry A.* | Va. | Dem. |
| Wool, John E. | N. Y. | ? |
| Wilson, Henry ^o | Mass. | Rep. |

*Named by Bartlett

^oNot named by Savage

of our public men free from any partisan influence" a reading of his chapter on Douglas, of whom he was an ardent supporter, indicates his Democratic viewpoint. In fact he was the proprietor of *The States*, the Douglas organ in Washington. The fifteen additional men Savage submitted, not used by Bartlett, were Brown of Mississippi, Cameron of Pennsylvania, Crit-