Friend Morris:

I have heard it insinuated that Baker has been attempting to get you or Miles or both of you to violate the instructions of the meeting that appointed you to go for him. I have insisted and still insist that this cannot be true. Surely Baker would not do the like. As well might Hardin ask me to vote for him in the convention.

Again, it is said there will be an attempt to get up instructions in your county requiring you to go for him. This is all wrong again. Upon the same rule, why might not I fly from the decision against me in Sangamon and get up instructions to their delegation to go for me. There are at least twelve hundred whigs in the county, that took no part. And yet I would as soon put my head in the fire as to attempt it. I would feel myself strongly dishonored by it.

Besides, if any one should get the nomination by such extraordinary means, all harmony in the district would inevitably be lost. Honest whigs (and very nearly all of them are honest) will not quietly abide such enormities. I repeat, such an attempt on Baker's part can not be true. Write me at Springfield, how the matter is. Don't show or speak of this letter.

As ever yours

A. Lincoln
THE LINCOLN MASS OF AMERICAN PEOPLE

BY EDGAR R. HARLAN

Herewith we reproduce in facsimile all original letters from the hand of Abraham Lincoln known to be owned by the State of Iowa. They all came by gift to the Historical Department from those addressed or from their heirs. No comment, other than the explanatory notes we make, is needed. For everyone who is versed in Iowa history knows all to whom Lincoln wrote these letters. All others who are expert in Lincoln lore seek only the thoughts of Lincoln. These letters are authenticated by the script of the Lincoln hand.

It is interesting to note that by both land and water routes peoples had come into and gone from the area including the mouths of the Illinois and the Missouri rivers throughout untold generations prior to white men’s arrival. These paths leading to and from the Cumberland Gap and the Alleghenies and beyond, beginning like rivulets, then rose almost to flooded outlets from reservoirs of civilized society. Flowing by gravity along these ancient channels to their confluences, they finally commingle in the social lowlands of the Lincoln region. From the stuff for civilization they carried in suspension there slowly precipitated that solid character and consistency of purpose of a people for which the entire area is now historically known. As this mass rose and leveled back along the affluents of the Mississippi it formed a people of common level and uniform consistency, with neither strata nor fault of structure.

We feel that these letters support the proposition seldom exhaustively discussed if ever stated by accepted authority, that Lincoln was not different unless in height and breadth from those who composed society about him. The earliest of these letters reveals him clearly. It also reveals his correspondent no less
clearly. Lincoln drained through his quill and across the page into the mind of his correspondent, part of his own character. Had that letter been received by a weak hand and read only by a negative mind, it would yet have revealed Lincoln's purpose, process of thought and method of expression. His strength and style would have been as fully shown. But that letter reached its destination; bore into another's strong mind a part of Lincoln's, making of the matter mutual thought and moving two minds to act, and to act as one. And so it is with all the letters we have here set out.

Each letter is not only self-proved, but is addressed to a person who at the time of its receipt or afterward, was a citizen of Iowa. So Lincoln influenced, was influenced by and mutually performed or refrained from performing in association with these Iowa men. By other evidence, of course, immeasurably more was done by Lincoln and Iowa men in consequence of other contacts, direct or indirect. That helps one to see that there was no interval in time or space between the people of the settlements and between those of the states in the upper Mississippi Valley on and earlier than Lincoln's death April 15, 1865. There had been both constancy and consistency of Anglo-Saxon blood flowing into that area coursing through the heart of the English common law throughout the time after the English acquired the eastern, and the United States the western portion from the French. Society, as we conceive it, solidly established itself, filled that social vacuum with people such as Lincoln—a mass that might now or later be thought of as the Lincoln Mass.

It is true that Lincoln was distinguished beyond others of his mass. It was the mere difference of altitude and expanse. Facts and forces that actuated or impelled him worked throughout the mass. Lincoln was a rail splitter, but only one of thousands of them. Lincoln was a lawyer, a surveyor, a legislator, but neither alone, nor conspicuous as such. He was but second in all these to hundreds of his mass. Nor did he claim, or aim at fame through any of them. What he aimed at and what is here claimed for him is that, as shown by these letters and the thousands like them, he was with and of the mass and rose above without rising from it; remained of its grain and fiber; supported and was supported by the common genius and purposes of his mass. That
this mass was of Illinois is clear, but not clearer than that it was not all of Illinois, or that Illinois was not the whole of it. The mass was never cloven by boundaries of counties or states earlier than or during his time, as Lincoln's identity is not split today by the boundaries of nations, languages or cultures.

Circumstances showing the consistency of the mass, recognized in early Iowa, are still apparent. Lincoln and Peter Cartwright were briefly in contact as politicians, but Cartwright's empire was Methodism, whose paths he trod to the uttermost limits of that expanse, even to camp meeting grounds in Van Buren County, Iowa. The widowed mother of Ann Rutledge took Presbyterian paths. Among her surviving children and among scores of the pioneers of this Lincoln mass of people she spent her last years in the same county. Mrs. Nannie B. Manning, George C. Duffield and others of Keosauqua attended Lincoln's funeral at Springfield, in frontier spirit of neighborly respect.

These letters, as mere utterances of Lincoln, were and remain vital. They established and now prove mutuality of thought and action by Lincoln with those receiving them. To an extent the recipients are shown to have added to the bulk of Lincoln. From a fragment of this Lincoln Mass two hundred years deep and a thousand miles across, our state was formed. The letters imply that whoever studies Lincoln but overlooks the Iowa portion of this Lincoln Mass, has not fully surveyed the Lincoln theme. Whoever knew or knows only Lincoln, yet knew none or few of the persons, processes and events of that whole mass from which Lincoln rose, is an unreliable leader of thought through the history, philosophy, tradition or romance of Abraham Lincoln. Interpretation of these letters will amply indicate that as Iowa was formed of the Lincoln Mass so Lincoln was of Iowa both in symbol and in fact.

Harrison Taylor, Esq.
My dear Sir,

Your of the 30th is just received. There is some mistake about my expectation attending of the 1st. I meant to go to your city on the 3rd of January, of the month— I have now no thought of being there— It is hard to be from— I shall go to the race for leisure and rest; if I neglect my business on this year as well as last it would please me much to see the last and good people of Indiana, but for this year it is better for than an infantry, I am constantly receiving invitations which I am compelled to decline. I pray you kindly agree to go to Minnesota, and if you have another invitation to go to Ohio. These last are from friends of yours, and I am ready to make a flying trip to Columbus for Congress. I do hope you will have no personal trouble in town— What thinks you of it? I have not known how to be mistaken about an election in Iowa— Repeat my respects to both ladies, and my felicitation yours truly.

Stephen A. Lincoln
Springfield, Ile., April 21, 1860

Hawkins Taylor, Esq.

My dear Sir:

Yours of the 15th just received—It purports, sir, that you have written twice, without receiving an answer— I have been answered, and I knew receive from you; and certain and since my return from the East—

Opinion here, as to the prospect of Douglas being nominated, are quite conflicting—some very confident he will, some others think he will not be— I think his nomination possible, but that the chances are of...

and him—

I am glad there is a prospect of your party passing this way to Chicago—Within to make your visit here as pleasant as we can, we wish you to notify us as soon as possible, whether you come this way, how many, and when you are coming.

Your very truly, 
Lincoln.
Springfield, Ill., Aug. 11, 1860
Mr. B. Trouser, Esq.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 11th inst.

Newspaper sent attached, i.e. receiving, and for which I thank you.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln.
Executive Mansion,
March 12, 1861

Hon. Postmaster General,

My dear Sir:

I understand that the outgoing and incoming Representatives for the London
District, having no recommendation
Edwin Lowe, for P. W. in that
City, that Senator W. was his
considered the case & decline
to interfere; he had (no other) to
interfere. Ronum then Circum-
stance, if correct, I think Mr.
Lowe, better his appointment.

Yours, truly,

A. Lincoln

NOTE: Letters addressed to Postmaster General were transmitted to John A. Kasson, Assistant Postmaster General, and were by him given to the State of Iowa.
Executive Mansion
March 13, 1861
Hun P. M. G.
Dear Sir,

The name of the
Mr. C. J. Kemper, is a
Virginian who wishes to get
for his son, a small place
in your Dept. I think
Virginia should have some
in such cases.

Lincoln
Executive Mansion,
Washington, April 24, 1862

Mr. Post Office Department

My dear Sir,

The matter of law

From the District including
Tiffin O is a call on me about the
Port of Martin at that point. I
believe I turn over a department
to you from some persons this week
a suspension, as is for them to
be removed, or something of the
sort. If nothing, or nothing amounting
to anything, has been done,
I think the suspension might now
be suspended, and the Commi-

From yours truly,

A. Lincoln
Executive Mansion,
Washington, July 31, 1862

Hon. Joseph A. Wright
My Dear Sir,

Our mutual friends R. W. Thompson, and
John P. Atherton assure me that they believe you, more certainly than any other man, can carry the Farmington District for the Union cause. Please try. The effort shall not go unappreciated, so far as I am concerned.

Yours truly,
A. Lincoln
Executive Mansion,
Washington, Aug. 21, 1865.

Honor. Mr. Lincoln

My dear Sir,

I have determined

to appoint you Collector. I
now have a very

special

request to make of you which
is that you will make known

how Mr. Marilyn, when
also my friend of long

standing, is to go. I
shall now be obliged if

you can do something for

him of leisure.

Yours, etc.,

Lincoln.
ANNALS OF IOWA

A. N. ACT to regulate the duties of the Clerk of the House of Representatives in preparing for the organization of the House.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That before the first meeting of the next Congress, and of every subsequent Congress, the Clerk of the next preceding House of Representatives shall make a roll of the representatives elected and place therein the names of all persons, and of such persons only, whose credentials show that they were regularly elected in accordance with the laws of their States respectively, or the laws of the United States.

Approved March 3, 1863.

Executive Mansion

Yours, James N. Greene.

My dear Sir,

I suppose, for the purpose of putting out improper papers, I may take the name of the House of Representatives, and after this in some danger that at any be asking to that at proper one. I have reason for this, having in another, having it been by the Governor, that all the names of the members. I beg that they come on with them; but that, for greater caution, the Governor, as there is no assurance, the papers are according to the form on the left hand of this sheet, and that another set, if you can by summarizing the law, that of a form that will give you proper power, considerable security, and quite bring the whole on with you to be read in case of necessity. But what you are to keep at your time.

A. Lincoln.
Executive Mansion
Washington, July 15, 1864

Dear Thomas Greeley,

New York,

I suppose you received my letter of the 9th, and I have just received yours of the 13th, and am disappointed by it. I was not expecting you to write me a letter, but to bring me a man, or men. Mr. Hay goes to you with my answer to yours of the 13th.

A. Lincoln

Abraham

Received 17th, 25th, and 17th of August

By

Occupy Ex-Mon
having served four years in the depths of a great and yet undefined national peril, I can view this call to a second term, in no wise more flattering to myself, than as an expression of the public judgment that I may better finish a difficult work, in which I have labored from the first, than could any one less severely schooled to the task.

In this view, and with assured reliance on the Almighty Ruler who has so graciously sustained us thus far, and with increased gratitude to the generous people for their continued confidence, I accept the renewed trust, with its yet onerous and perplexing duties and responsibilities.

Please communicate this to the two Houses of Congress.

The above is the original manuscript of Abraham Lincoln's acceptance of his second presidential term in his own hand writing, delivered to the joint committee of Congress appointed to inform him officially of his election.

The committee consists of
Senator Lyman Trumbull of Ill.,
O Captain! my Captain!  
Our fearful trip is done,  
The ship has weathered every rock.  
The brace we sighted is won.  
The final count is near.  
My Captain!  
Rise up and hear the bells;  
Rise up for you the flag is flung—  
For you the bugles are hushed,  
For you the drums are silent;  
For you the band plays.  
A Wailing mass, their eager faces turning,  
Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.  

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;  
Rise up for you the flag is flung—for you the bugles still—  
For you the band plays.  
A Wailing mass, their eager faces turning,  
Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.  

With best wishes prayers & love for the  
People of Iowa — W.W.