

Chapter 1 : How We Elected Lincoln

Section IV of How We Elected Lincoln, personal recollections of Lincoln and Men of His Time by Abram J. Dittenhoeffer, who was a campaigner for Abraham Lincoln in the election of and a Lincoln elector in

Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: When I called at the modest Lincoln home, in order to offer my congratulations , I found him eager to obtain every ray of light upon the prospects of the coming campaign. I stepped back and stood looking and wondering. How would he bear himself if called upon to direct the destinies of the Republic? Let me say frankly that, at this early day, no suspicion of his real greatness had ever entered my mind. I knew he was an able man, and I was content to hope that he might be strong enough to cope with the coming crisis in national affairs. The Republican campaign, which began in earnest by the middle of June and lasted until the night before election day in November, differed in many respects from any other in my recollection. I believe that there was more sincerity of soul put into the efforts to win by fair means than has appeared in more recent national contests. A few days before the election of I made a speech at Cooper Institute, which began as follows: How Lincoln Was First Elected 39 Memories of these parades, stump speeches, and bonfires linger with me vividly. Each man carried a swinging torch which maintained an upright position no matter how it was held. The Republican National Committee was not in possession of large funds, and each organization financed itself. Had it been necessary for Mr. Lincoln or his managers to raise a half-million dollars, or go down to defeat, Lincoln would have lost out. I threw all my energy into this campaign, and, though young, I was frequently making several 40 How We Elected Lincoln speeches during a day and evening. The temper of my hearers was not always encouraging. No attempt was made by the Republicans to campaign in the Southern States, where the breach existing between the Douglas and Breckenridge adherents was remorselessly unrelenting. The drift in those States was naturally unanimously in favor of Breckenridge, and it was early recognized that Douglas, though a Democrat, would not carry a single Southern State. In the North the contest lay between Lincoln and Douglas. Breckenridge and Bell counted comparatively few and scattered followers, and their names awakened no enthusiasm. You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

Chapter 2 : How We Elected Lincoln | Abram J. Dittenhoefer, Kathleen Hall Jamieson

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When I called at the modest Lincoln home, in order to offer my congratulations, I found him eager to obtain every ray of light upon the prospects of the coming campaign. Dittenhoefer is absolutely correct in his figuring," put in a bystander, and the glimmer of a smile of satisfaction passed over Mr. I stepped back and stood looking and wondering. Typically Western he seemed to be in face, figure, and dress. How would page Let me say frankly that, at this early day, no suspicion of his real greatness had ever entered my mind. I knew he was an able man, and I was content to hope that he might be, strong enough to cope with the coming crisis in national affairs. The Republican campaign, which began in earnest by the middle of June and lasted until the night before election day in November, differed in many respects from any other in my recollection. I believe that there was more sincerity of soul put into the efforts to win by fair means than has appeared in more recent national contests. A few days before the election of I made a speech at Cooper Institute, which began as follows: Memories of these parades, stump speeches, and bonfires linger with me vividly. The marching clubs were called "Wide Awakes," and upon the oil-cloth cloaks, cut amply long in order to protect their wearers from the weather, the words "Wide Awake," in tall, white letters, were painted. The campaign developed numerous parades of these "Wide Awakes" in cities and towns throughout the country. The Republican National Committee was not in possession of large funds, and each organization financed itself. There was no "yellow-dog fund" in those days. Had it been necessary for Mr. Lincoln or his managers to raise a half-million dollars, or go down to defeat, Lincoln would have lost out. Our "infant industries" had not yet been developed and "brought to a head by the poultice of protection. I threw all my energy into this campaign, and, though young, I was frequently making several speeches during a day and evening. I marched with the "Wide Awakes," and was sent to different parts of the State, where, with other speakers, I addressed large audiences. The temper of my hearers was not always encouraging. No attempt was made by the Republicans to campaign in the Southern States, where the breach existing between the Douglas and Breckenridge adherents was remorselessly unrelenting. The drift in those States was naturally unanimously in favor of Breckenridge, and it was early recognized that Douglas, though a Democrat, would not carry a single Southern State. In the North the contest lay between Lincoln and Douglas. Breckenridge and Bell counted comparatively few and scattered followers, and their names awakened no enthusiasm. Douglas was one of the best types of the American aggressive politician this country ever produced. I heard Douglas speak on several occasions. His figure was short and chunky, hardly measuring up to his popular title of the "Little Giant. In the free States the division of the popular vote was chiefly between Lincoln and Douglas, while the slave States were largely for Breckenridge, with a minority for Bell, the "Silver-gray Whig" candidate. The totals in the two sections are interesting as matters of record:

Chapter 3 : SparkNotes: Abraham Lincoln: Brief Overview

In How We Elected Lincoln, originally published in and appearing now for the first time in paperback, we have the only firsthand account of Lincoln's political campaigns. Here Lincoln emerges as a real human being, full of doubts and convictions, while the usual dry-as-dust recitation of political facts is transformed into heated, vivid.

Speakers were haranguing the people in every Northern State, but if Mr. Both Nicolay and Gideon Welles refer to the following note, which, indorsed on the back by all the Cabinet members, was sealed and committed to the keeping of the Secretary of the Navy, with instructions that it should not be opened until after election. I believe that the original has been presented by Miss Nicolay to the Library of Congress: This morning, as for some days past, it seemed improbable that this administration will be re-elected. Then it will be my duty to co-operate with the President-elect so as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration, as my successor will have secured his election on such grounds. It will be seen that this remarkable document bears date six days before the assembling of the Democratic convention at Chicago, on August At that time Mr. Lincoln was aware of the plan to nominate McClellan, and feared his strength. In the interval between the Republican convention, early in June, and the gathering of the Democrats at the end of August, the progress of the Federal arms had not realized expectations. Grant had not taken Richmond, and Sherman had not administered a decisive blow to General Johnson. Politically, the situation was somewhat more hopeful. McClellan developed more strength than was suspected. The best opinion is that, had the election occurred directly after his nomination and before people had had opportunity to study the platform upon which he had consented to stand, he would have been successful. Soon after the Democratic convention adjourned, however, the capture of Atlanta by Sherman was announced; then page These happy events completely changed the political attitude of the country. The Democratic managers at Chicago had committed the execrable blunder of declaring in their platform that the war had been a failure and that the public welfare demanded "an immediate effort be made for a cessation of hostilities, with a view to an ultimate convention of all the States. Lincoln himself took no active part in the campaign outside of a few addresses to soldiers, but mass-meetings were held every day and night of the week, and popular preachers with Republican sympathies filled their discourses with appeals in behalf of Lincoln and the necessity of his re-election for the preservation of the Union. Henry Ward Beecher became a tower of strength to the Lincoln cause, and in and out of Plymouth pulpit he advocated the duty of sustaining the administration that had already saved the Union and must ultimately put down the rebellion. I addressed meetings every night. The campaign soon became one of great acrimony on both sides. Night and day, without page A deal of oratory, elocution, rhetoric, declamation, and eloquence was hurled into the troubled air by speakers on both sides. Denunciation of Lincoln by Democratic spellbinders was of the bitterest character. Newspapers affiliated with the anti-war party criticized every act of the administration and belittled the conduct of the war by Federal generals in the fled. Therefore, Republican speakers did not mince words in criticism of the Democratic Presidential candidate, Gen. On September 27, five weeks before election day, I spoke to an audience that filled every seat in Cooper Institute, on the questions of the hour. Read in the calmness of to-day my language appears unwarrantedly aggressive, but at that time it seemed conservative. As an example of the spirit of the campaign I venture to quote a few extracts: The battle that will be fought in November between the Union and the Confederate forces north of the Potomac will end in the destruction or exhaustion of the Southern Confederacy. Abraham Lincoln is the commander of the Union forces. I will now prove that George B. McClellan is the leader of the Confederate forces. Every man in the North influenced by "Copperheads," who opposed the war, demanded that this "fighting general" be replaced at the head of our armies. He had become harnessed to the slave power, and he, with General Pendleton, candidate for Vice-President, became the incarnation of the Democratic peace platform. Every Southern sympathizer in the North, passive or active in his devotion to Jefferson Davis, will vote for McClellan. He says in his letter of acceptance that his sentiments are identical with those of the platform which pronounced the war a failure, and he promised, if the Democratic candidate were elected, an immediate cessation of hostilities. I called attention to the fact that such men as Fernando Wood,

Vallandigham, and Horatio Seymour, once Governor of New York, supported McClellan, thus indorsing the letter of acceptance, in which he promises to enforce the policy set forth in the peace platform of his party. Is it not then true that McClellan heads, in this campaign, the Confederate forces North? I then read the following excerpt from the Democratic platform: Resolved, that this Convention does explicitly declare, as the sense of the American people, that after four years of failure to restore the Union by the experiment of war during which, under the pretense of a military necessity for a warpower higher than the Constitution, the Constitution itself has been disregarded in every part; and public liberty and private right alike trodden down, and the material prosperity of the country essentially impaired, justice, humanity, liberty, and the public welfare demand that immediate efforts be made for the cessation of hostilities, with a view to the ultimate convention of the States or other peaceful means, to the end that at the earliest practicable moment peace may be restored on the basis of Federal Union of the States. Resolved, that the direct interference of the military authorities of the United States in the recent elections held in Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, and Delaware was a shameful violation of the Constitution and a repetition of such acts in the approaching election will be held as revolutionary and resisted with all the means and power under our control. In other words [I resumed], it was a bold and pernicious declaration of hostilities that war should close at once and that a convention should be called at a later period, to revise the Constitution. But it is easy to comprehend that when such a convention should be called, Jefferson Davis would refuse to enter its doors, and be prepared to enforce his refusal. Jefferson Davis, his resources crippled and with his last levies on the firing-line, is naturally anxious that Lincoln be defeated, for he knows, by this time, that with Lincoln as President the Confederacy will be compelled to abandon a hopeless contest. Davis cannot, and will not, continue the fight if Lincoln is re-elected, notwithstanding his threat to "fight to the last ditch. A firm and everlasting peace will follow, based upon a reconstructed Union and freedom everywhere. The American Union, strong, powerful, and freed from slavery, will be honored the world over. Some of the publications were elaborately designed and illustrated. Recently one of the Lincoln and Johnson posters has been presented to me, and the miniature reproduction on the following page should be of interest. The names of the electors for the State of New York include that of the writer. The poster is printed in several colors, it is five feet high and three and one-half feet wide. It is in a perfect state of preservation. As I have indicated, the victories of Sheridan and Sherman produced a revulsion against peace sentiment throughout the North that literally swamped McClellan. The popular vote was large, Lincoln securing 2,, votes, and McClellan 1,, votes. Except among the troops from Pennsylvania and Kentucky, the soldier vote was overwhelmingly in favor of Lincoln. This was a surprise. It is interesting to illustrate the growth of our country by a comparison with the popular vote of when Nilson received 6,, votes, Taft 3,, and Roosevelt 4,, Of the electoral votes, Lincoln received , and McClellan only Until the defeat of Mr. Taft by Woodrow Wilson in , this was a record of defeat. In the latter year Mr. Wilson received votes, Mr. Taft 15, and Mr. The electoral ticket for Lincoln having been successful in New York State , the thirty-three electors, of whom I was one, met at Albany and cast the votes of the State for Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. The ballots were inscribed on wooden blocks, and read as follows: President Abraham Lincoln and underneath, in brackets, [Abram J. Dittenhoefer] Elector A few weeks later I took one of these wooden block ballots with me to Washington and showed it to the President. Lie asked me if I would not give it to him as a souvenir, which I was very glad to do. Horace Greeley and Preston King were the two electors-at-large. Although Greeley had violently opposed the renomination of Lincoln, wise page Greeley told me highly gratified him, in view of his previous attitude toward the President. I was present at the second inauguration and heard the address the great President delivered. It is a wonderful piece of English composition, which will continue to live when the monuments of bronze and marble erected to his memory have crumbled to dust. In it occurred these unforgettable words: Greeley became the Democratic candidate for President in and many Republicans seceded from the Republican party, Mr. Greeley requested me to act as chairman of the executive committee of the Liberal Republican Central Committee in New York City, and I consented to do so. Depew, who also identified himself with the Liberal Republican organization, became the candidate of the party for Secretary of State of New York. I afterward regretted that I had joined in that move- page During the last ten years of his career he was the greatest of all living men. As statesman and reformer he belongs not alone to

America, but to the whole world. George Washington established this Republic, but the curse of human slavery adhered to the otherwise splendid Government he was so largely instrumental in creating. Abraham Lincoln eradicated this curse. One of the few, the immortal names That were not born to die!

Chapter 4 : How we elected Lincoln | Open Library

Abram J. Dittenhoefer's How We Elected Lincoln is a first-hand account of the campaigns that twice secured the presidency for Lincoln. Known as a "Southerner with Northern principles" (p.1), Dittenhoefer's account testifies to the importance of rhetoric in the country's conflict over slavery.

Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: IX The Campaign of The campaign for the Republican ticket began before the name of the Democratic candidate was known. Speakers were haranguing the people in every Northern State, but if Mr. Both Nicolay and Gideon Welles refer to the following note, which, indorsed on the back by all the Cabinet members, was sealed and committed to the keeping of the Secretary of the Navy, with instructions that it should not be opened until after election. I believe that the original has been presented by Miss Nicolay to the Library of Congress: This morning, as for some days past, it seemed improbable that this administration will be re-elected. Then it will be my duty to co-operate with the President-elect so as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration, as my successor will have secured his election on such grounds that he cannot possibly save it afterwards. At that time Mr. Lincoln was aware of the plan to nominate McClellan, and feared his strength. In the interval between the Republican convention, early in June, and the gathering of the Democrats at the end of August, the progress of the Federal arms had not realized expectations. Grant had not taken Richmond, and Sherman had not administered a decisive blow to General Johnson. Politically, the situation was somewhat more hopeful. McClellan developed more strength than was suspected. The best opinion is that, had the election occurred directly after his nomination and before people had had opportunity to study the platform upon which he had consented to stand, he would have been successful. These happy events completely changed the political attitude of the country. Lincoln himself took no active part in the campaign outside of a few addresses to soldiers, but mass-meetings were held every day and night of the week, and popular preachers with Republican sympathies filled their discourses with appeals in behalf of Lincoln and the necessity of his reelection for the preservation of the Union. Henry Ward Beecher became a tower of strength to the Lincoln cause, and in and out of Plymouth pulpit he advocated the duty of sustaining the administration that had already saved the Union and must ultimately put down the rebellion. I addressed meetings every night. The campaign soon became one of great acrimony on both sides. Night and day, without cessation, young men like myself, in halls, upon street corners, and from cart-tails, were haranguing, pleading, sermonizing, orating, arguing, extolling our cause and our candidate, and denouncing our opponents. A deal of oratory, elocution, rhetoric, declamation, and eloquence was hurled into the troubled air by speakers on both sides. Denunciation of Lincoln by Democratic spellbinders was of the bitterest character. Newspapers affiliated with the anti-war party criticized every act of the administration and belittled the conduct of the war by Federal generals in the field. Therefore, Republican speakers did not mince words in criticism of the Democratic Presidential candidate, Gen. On September 27, five weeks before election day, I spoke to an audience that filled every seat in Cooper Institute, on the questions of the hour. You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

Chapter 5 : United States presidential election, - Wikipedia

How We Elected Lincoln has 2 ratings and 1 review. Kevin said: At 95 pages this is a very clear and concise record of how Lincoln was elected president.

The Journey to the Capital VI. Stories and Incidents VII. The Campaign of Excerpt [uncorrected, not for citation] Foreword Kathleen Hall Jamieson Just after the election of , the Supreme Court, in the Dred Scott case, stepped into an ongoing Congressional debate to rule that Congress could not bar slavery in the territories. Nor, said the decision, could the legislatures in the territories themselves. In there were four major candidates for president: Abraham Lincoln, heading the Republican ticket; Stephen A. Breckinridge, the nominee of the Southern Democrats. Breckinridge favored protecting slavery in the territories. The contest came down to Lincoln vs. Indeed, Lincoln and his running mate, Hannibal Hamlin, did not even appear on ballots in the South. After a bitter election Abraham Lincoln won the Electoral College decisively by carrying the states of the West and North. But, taken together, the three other contenders garnered a larger popular vote than did "the Rail Splitter" from Illinois. The composition of the vote forecast the future. Here was a nation divided by region. Eighteen slave-free states supported Lincoln; eleven slave states backed Breckinridge. Douglas, who memorably had debated Lincoln over slavery and union in their earlier contest for the Senate, received only 12 electoral votes. In December , after the ballots had been cast but before Lincoln had been officially notified of his election, South Carolina seceded from the union. On February 26, , Abraham Lincoln replied to the Committee of Congress reporting the Electoral Count by writing "with deep gratitude to my countrymen for this mark of their confidence; with a distrust of my own ability to perform the required duty under the most favorable circumstances, now rendered doubly difficult by existing national perils; yet with a firm reliance on the strength of our free government, and the ultimate loyalty of the people to the just principles upon which it is founded, and above all an unshaken trust in the Supreme Ruler of the nations, I accept this trust. Until the advent of radio more than a half century later, political speech created its impact when it was read by the public in newspapers. Of the first inaugural, one observer noted, "Mr. Lincoln was pale and very nervous, and did not read his address very well. His spectacles troubled him, his position was crowded and uncomfortable, and, in short, nothing has been done to render the performance of this great duty either dignified in effect or, physically speaking, easy for the President. The great crowd in the grounds behaved very well, but manifested little or no enthusiasm. His voice sounded shrill, but he was talking at high pitch in order that he might be heard by as many as possible of the immense crowd. Little by little his auditors warmed toward him, until finally the applause became overwhelming, spontaneous, and enthusiastic. Then, for the first time, it dawned on me that Lincoln. Barely four years later, on April 14, , Lincoln was shot. Known as a "Southerner with Northern principles" p. Marching clubs, known as "Wide Awakes," paraded through towns. The link between electioneering and entertainment was strong, with barbecues being "the usual accompaniment of a political campaign" p. Money mattered as well. Had it been necessary for Mr. Lincoln or his managers to raise a half-million dollars, or go down to defeat, Lincoln would have lost out" p. Newspapers affiliated with the antiwar party criticized every act of the administration and belittled the conduct of the war by Federal generals in the field" p. So, too, do accusations of pandering. Then, as now, candidates offered subtle and obvious allusions to their religious faith. The corruption of the system that concerns us has parallels in the past as well. So, for example, Dittenhoefer decries the presence of "commercial grafters and alleged statesmen, every one of whom was in politics for personal profit" p.

Chapter 6 : Table of Contents: How We Elected Lincoln

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Table of Contents Brief Overview Abraham Lincoln was born in rural Kentucky in 1809, to parents of low social standing and little education. During his childhood and early youth, the family would move several times, first to Indiana and later to Illinois. Lincoln got his start in life after a pair of flatboat journeys to New Orleans. Soon afterward, he moved to New Salem, Illinois and set up as a store clerk there. When the Black Hawk War broke out in 1812, he became the captain of his volunteer company, serving for three months but seeing no active duty. Two years later, he ran again and was victorious, becoming a fixture of the Whig party in the General Assembly for the next eight years. He was admitted to the bar in 1836, and moved to Springfield, the new state capital, later that same year. Lincoln married Mary Todd in 1841. The couple had four sons together, two of whom would die tragically while still children. Then, in 1846, Lincoln was elected to U. Congress, and moved to Washington to serve out his term, where he spoke out against the Mexican War and unsuccessfully attempted to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. In 1849, Lincoln returned to Springfield to resume his career as a lawyer and devote more time to his family. His political life seemed to be over. But when the slavery question heated up in the middle 1850s, Lincoln took to the stump again, running unsuccessfully for Senate in 1858. Despite these losses, Lincoln gained national exposure due to his flair for oration. Such talent was especially evident during the series of debates he engaged in against Stephen Douglas during the campaign of 1858, when Lincoln established himself as a leading opponent of popular sovereignty. A combination of luck, manipulation, and talent won Lincoln the Republican nomination for president in 1860. An especially fragmented race, featuring four major candidates, resulted in a victory for Lincoln despite the fact that he won less than 40 percent of the popular vote. An initial wave of secession led by South Carolina brought about the establishment of the Confederate States of America, a self-declared independent nation apart from the United States of America. When Lincoln called for a sizeable militia to quash the rebellion, several more states, led by Virginia, also seceded. While Lincoln insisted that the Civil War was being fought to preserve the Union, the fate of slavery also played a major role. Lincoln took an overpowering role as commander-in-chief in a time of war. Controversially, he suspended several rights as defined by the Constitution and expanded the powers of both the executive and the federal government considerably. In addition, Lincoln signed several significant pieces of legislation into law, including policies relating to currency, homesteaders, railroads, and taxes. He also became noted for his pithy way with words, giving such memorable speeches as the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural. The Civil War proved long and costly for both sides, and though the Union enjoyed superior numbers and stores, they were often overwhelmed by the superior military minds of the Confederacy. Despite heavy criticisms from all sides, Lincoln maintained enough support to win re-election in 1864. As the war drew to a close, Lincoln made preparations for a charitable reconstruction plan to help unify the nation once again. Less than one week after the Confederate surrender, while attending a Washington theater, Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. The nation mourned as he lay in state, and Illinois wept when her favorite son was interred at Springfield a few weeks later. For his work in preserving the union and bringing an end to the "peculiar institution" of slavery, Abraham Lincoln would come to earn a place of honor among the greatest of American heroes.

Chapter 7 : How We Elected Lincoln IV

How We Elected Lincoln Personal Recollections of Lincoln and Men of His Time, a Campaigner for Lincoln in and a Lincoln Elector in by Abram J. Dittenhoefer Personal Recollections of Lincoln and Men of His Time, a Campaigner for Lincoln in and a Lincoln Elector in

Mary did return in November , and Lincoln courted her for a time; however, they both had second thoughts about their relationship. On August 16, , Lincoln wrote Mary a letter suggesting he would not blame her if she ended the relationship. She never replied and the courtship ended. Mary Todd Lincoln kept house, often with the help of a relative or hired servant girl. Edward died on February 1, , in Springfield, probably of tuberculosis. Abraham Lincoln suffered from " melancholy ", a condition which now is referred to as clinical depression. Lincoln was close to the Todds, and he and his family occasionally visited the Todd estate in Lexington. In , at age 23, Lincoln and a partner Denton Offutt bought a small general store on credit in New Salem , Illinois. That March he began his political career with his first campaign for the Illinois General Assembly. He had attained local popularity and could draw crowds as a natural raconteur in New Salem, though he lacked an education, powerful friends, and money, which may be why he lost. He advocated navigational improvements on the Sangamon River. At his first speech, when he saw a supporter in the crowd being attacked, Lincoln grabbed the assailant by his "neck and the seat of his trousers" and threw him. Of his learning method, Lincoln stated: He won election to the state legislature; though he ran as a Whig , many Democrats favored him over a more powerful Whig opponent. He partnered with Stephen T. Logan from until Then Lincoln began his practice with William Herndon , whom Lincoln thought "a studious young man". He first articulated this in , saying, "[The] Institution of slavery is founded on both injustice and bad policy, but the promulgation of abolition doctrines tends rather to increase than abate its evils. House of Representatives, 1849 Lincoln in his late 30s as a member of the U. From the early s, Lincoln was a steadfast Whig and professed to friends in to be "an old line Whig, a disciple of Henry Clay". House of Representatives in , but was defeated by John J. However, Lincoln won support for the principle of rotation, whereby Hardin would retire after only one term to allow for the nomination of another candidate. Lincoln hoped that this arrangement would lead to his nomination in He was the only Whig in the Illinois delegation, but he showed his party loyalty by participating in almost all votes and making speeches that echoed the party line. Giddings , wrote a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia with compensation for the owners, enforcement to capture fugitive slaves, and a popular vote on the matter. He abandoned the bill when it failed to garner sufficient Whig supporters. The war had begun with a Mexican slaughter of American soldiers in territory disputed by Mexico and the U. Polk insisted that Mexican soldiers had "invaded our territory and shed the blood of our fellow-citizens on our own soil". One Illinois newspaper derisively nicknamed him "spotty Lincoln". List of cases involving Abraham Lincoln Lincoln in Lincoln returned to practicing law in Springfield, handling "every kind of business that could come before a prairie lawyer". As a riverboat man, Lincoln initially favored those interests, but ultimately represented whoever hired him. The idea was never commercialized, but Lincoln is the only president to hold a patent. Barret, who had refused to pay the balance on his pledge to buy shares in the railroad on the grounds that the company had changed its original train route. The decision by the Illinois Supreme Court has been cited by numerous other courts in the nation. Based on this evidence, Armstrong was acquitted. Instead of holding Lincoln in contempt of court as was expected, the judge, a Democrat, reversed his ruling, allowing the evidence and acquitting Harrison. Slave and free states and Abraham Lincoln and slavery Lincoln in , the year of his debates with Stephen Douglas over slavery The debate over the status of slavery in the territories exacerbated sectional tensions between the slave-holding South and the North, and the Compromise of failed to defuse the issue. Douglas of Illinois proposed popular sovereignty as a compromise measure; the proposal would take the issue of slavery out of the hands of Congress by allowing the electorate of each territory to decide the status of slavery themselves. The proposal alarmed many Northerners, who hoped to stop the spread of slavery into the territories. I cannot but hate it. I hate it because of the monstrous injustice of slavery itself. I hate it because it deprives our republican example

of its just influence in the world Reflecting the demise of his party, Lincoln would write in , "I think I am a Whig, but others say there are no Whigs, and that I am an abolitionist [Trumbull was an antislavery Democrat, and had received few votes in the earlier ballots; his supporters, also antislavery Democrats, had vowed not to support any Whig. As the elections approached, Lincoln abandoned the defunct Whig Party in favor of the Republicans. The convention platform asserted that Congress had the right to regulate slavery in the territories and called for the immediate admission of Kansas as a free state. Lincoln gave the final speech of the convention, in which he endorsed the party platform and called for the preservation of the Union. Lincoln strongly supported the Republican ticket, campaigning for the party throughout Illinois. The Democrats nominated former Ambassador James Buchanan , who had been out of the country since and thus had avoided the debate over slavery in the territories, while the Know Nothings nominated former Whig President Millard Fillmore. Though Lincoln did not himself win office, his vigorous campaigning had made him the leading Republican in Illinois. Lincoln denounced the Supreme Court decision in Dred Scott v. Sandford as part of a conspiracy to extend slavery. Eric Foner contrasts the abolitionists and anti-slavery Radical Republicans of the Northeast who saw slavery as a sin, with the conservative Republicans who thought it was bad because it hurt white people and blocked progress. Foner argues that Lincoln was a moderate in the middle, opposing slavery primarily because it violated the republicanism principles of the Founding Fathers , especially the equality of all men and democratic self-government as expressed in the Declaration of Independence. The opinion by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney held that blacks were not citizens and derived no rights from the Constitution. While many Democrats hoped that Dred Scott would end the dispute over slavery in the territories, the decision sparked further outrage in the North. Lincolnâ€™s Douglas debates and Cooper Union speech Douglas was up for re-election in , and Lincoln hoped to defeat the powerful Illinois Democrat. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolvedâ€™I do not expect the house to fallâ€™but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other. Lincoln warned that " The Slave Power " was threatening the values of republicanism, and accused Douglas of distorting the values of the Founding Fathers that all men are created equal , while Douglas emphasized his Freeport Doctrine , that local settlers were free to choose whether to allow slavery or not, and accused Lincoln of having joined the abolitionists. Douglas said that Lincoln was defying the authority of the U. Supreme Court and the Dred Scott decision.

Chapter 8 : Abraham Lincoln - Wikipedia

How We Elected Lincoln. A.J. Dittenhoefer >. page IX. THE CAMPAIGN OF THE campaign for the Republican ticket began before the name of the Democratic candidate was known.

Lincoln Runs for President, Citadel Press, Harvard University Press, Sewell, Richard H, Ballots for Freedom: Antislavery Politics in the United States. Halstead, Murat , Murat edited with an introduction by William B. Abraham Lincoln and the Election of Abraham Lincoln and the Election of The polls had barely closed on the election when Jeriah Bonham wrote an editorial for the Illinois Gazette predicting the candidates for the presidential nomination: These two men have fought the battles over the plains of Illinois. What so proper as their being the champions of the two principles on the national field? Lincoln was simply one of many Republicans who were mentioned as a possible alternative to the frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination: New York Senator William H. But several actions occurred in and early which helped advance Mr. The first was the selection of Chicago as the site of the Republican convention – a decision shrewdly engineered by the Illinois Republican chairman Norman B. Judd to give Mr. Lincoln the home court advantage. The second was reaction to Mr. Republicans who sought an alternative to Senator Seward had a new option. Presenting his case for why he should allow his name to be promoted as a Republican presidential candidate in , friend Jesse W. Lincoln received an invitation to lecture at the Brooklyn church of Henry Ward Beecher, a noted abolitionist. Lincoln partner William H. Lincoln to go by all means and to lecture on politics. Lincoln had maintained in the Midwest during He was astute in picking states like Ohio where he might score political points for the nomination. Chase was less astute. The Lincoln speech at Cooper Union was the product of unusually exhaustive research by Mr. Lincoln – and built on his studies of slavery and the Founding over the previous six years. He was prepared and effective – surprisingly so for his sophisticated New York audience. It was – and invitations to speak followed. Lincoln was less prepared for the subsequent speeches he was implored to give through New England on his way to visit his son Robert in Exeter, New Hampshire. The difficult was to make nine others, before reading audiences who had already seen all my ideas in print. Have you ever watched the turning of the tide – a slow, resistless motion in one direction and a moment later a slow resistless motion in another? That was what you could see in the East as the result of that speech. Men said as they read it: Here is a strong man – a man of grasp and force. Why, this man would do for the Presidency. Lincoln nurtured his candidacy with increasingly direct professions of his interest. You may confidently rely, however, that by no advice or consent of mine, shall my pretensions be pressed to the point of endangering our common cause. Lincoln added a personal warning: You better write no letters which can possibly be distorted into opposition, or quasi opposition to me. There are men on the constant watch for such things out of which to prejudice my peculiar friends against you. While I have no more suspicion of you than I have of my best friend living, I am kept in a constant struggle against suggestions of this sort. I have hesitated some to write this paragraph, lest you should suspect I do it for my own benefit, and not for yours; but on reflection I conclude you will not suspect. Lincoln was then escorted into the wigwam and to the platform by a committee selected by the chair. His appearance before the convention was the signal for another outburst of most hearty welcome. He received it without a smile, but the benignant expression of his eyes and face, and also his whole attitude, disclosed to every man in that multitude the affectionate gratitude of his heart. Fellow Republican Richard Oglesby struggled with this dilemma. He brilliantly solved it at the Illinois state convention. At the convention, Oglesby interrupted the proceedings to announce: Lincoln was lifted bodily from the back of the gathering to the dais. Then, Oglesby staged part two of his plan by claiming that Hanks wanted to make a presentation. Hanks and a confederate then marched into the gathering with a sign: The Rail Candidate for President in The convention repeatedly demanded that Mr. Hanks and the committee, and looking at the rails, Mr. However, it is possible I may have split these rails, but I cannot identify them. The rails were seized upon and pieces of some of them were sawed off for souvenirs. Lincoln was scrupulous with the truth. Later as President, Mr. Seward could not win key battleground states in the North such as Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Indiana. And without those states, Seward could not win the

Presidency. This itself was a major job since Seward was considered the clear frontrunner. The second was to convince the delegates that Mr. Lincoln was the natural alternative "and better than competitors Salmon P. Chase, John McLean, Edward Bates or Simon Cameron who were variously, too radical, too old, too conservative or too corrupt to be elected. The third was to create an emotional atmosphere in which Mr. It was not obvious when the Republican convention delegates started assembling in Chicago that Mr. Lincoln was the clear alternative to Seward. Lincoln biographers John G. Nicolay and John Hay wrote: It needed only the slightest comparison of notes to show that Dayton had no strength save the New Jersey vote; Chase little outside of the Ohio delegation; Cameron none but that of Pennsylvania, and that Bates had only his Missouri friends and a few in border slave-States, which could cast no electoral vote for the Republicans. In addition to the delegates, there was room in the Wigwam for thousands of others. The parquet below was occupied by alternates and holders of special tickets distributed by the delegates. The galleries were reserved for ladies accompanied by gentlemen, and the miscellaneous public to the number of four or five thousand stood in the aisles and all the available unoccupied space. The peculiarity of this arrangement, it will be seen, was in its breaking the convention proper in two, and seating it on each side, instead of in front of the presiding officer. The advantage of it was that the convention was staged so that the delegates could be seen from all parts of the auditorium and none of the proceedings lost by the audience. Something of convenience was sacrificed to dramatic effect. About 12, were then inside and more out. Stores were closed, and, seemingly the whole city was there. First opening the war, was the nomination of Seward. It was greeted by a deafening shout, which I confess appalled us a little. As one Seward-supporting delegate wrote: Seward, did more to damage him at Chicago than those who opposed him. In view of this, his friends damaged him by their overbearing manner in asserting his claims to the nomination, and by the freedom with which they boasted, as it was said, fo the votes they had secured by management, and their offers of money to influence votes for him. A key target was the neighboring and larger delegation from Indiana. Together with Illinois, Indiana would cast a block of 48 votes. Seward was undermined by one of his former top allies, New York Tribune editor Horace Greeley, who served as a delegate from Oregon, which was short on bodies to fill its delegation. Incongruously, Greeley supported Edward Bates, the most conservative of the Republican hopefuls. Scholar William Lee Miller wrote: Lincoln was anxiously awaiting news from Chicago and tempted to break tradition by showing up in person at the national convention. One of the delegates from the Springfield congressional district, N. We have got Seward in the attitude of the representative Republican of the East "you at West. We are dealing tenderly with the delegates taking them in detail and making no fuss. Be not too expectant, but rely upon our discretion. Again I say brace your nerves for any result. Lincoln sent a message to his campaign team: Make no contracts that will bind me. What was to be done? The bluff Jesse W. The coarse nature of the Seward supporters that he had imported to Chicago did not improve his image while the enthusiastic nature of Illinois Republicans grew to a crescendo as the day to vote neared. Indiana seconded the nomination of Lincoln, and the applause was deafening.

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Soon, Dittenhoefer became a member of Lincoln's political circle, and he helped direct both of Lincoln's successful bids for the presidency. In How We Elected Lincoln, originally published in and appearing now for the first time in paperback, we have the only firsthand account of Lincoln's political campaigns.