

# Lincoln's Sanctuary

Abraham Lincoln  
and the Soldiers' Home



MATTHEW PINSKER

OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

2003

750

at the  
Old S. Home  
The Mrs. and family  
had no formal protection

"Assassination is not an  
American practice or habit"  
Sec. of State Seward P50

---

Many often unwary in  
NY or Vermont  
Willie Lincoln 1862 - died  
Many Lincoln pushed for  
use of old soldiers home  
Tad 9 - speech  
impediment

Aug 62'

Story of John French  
and Colonel Scott  
who lost his wife  
in a ship collision  
P53 X

pivotal moment

Hamlin meets w. A.L. for dinner at cottage

June 18, 1862 - show first draft of Emancipation proclamation

story unlikely - comes from V.P.'s grandson  
Hamlin was anti slavery (radical wing)

Owens Browning diary - best source first few weeks at old S. Home

after Willie's death -

Funeral - most talk of his faith - many became more

spiritual - were black for a year - black border on stationing -  
no entertaining in W. H.

she held 8 seances in W. H. during the war.

Lots of people experience deaths in families - life expect. 40 is

Edwin Stanton - adjacent cottage ate breakfast w. A.L. - son  
James dies.

Chapter 2 -

A.L. appeared almost lost p38

in debt to northern governors - needed additional troops  
seven days fighting

Trip to Harrison's Landing to see McClellan progress - A.L. then  
wanted to make changes

trouble sleeping - many goes to NYC

Halleck named general in chief

drafted Emanc. in telegraph office p41

A.L. wrote most of his wartime speeches at the W. H.

Delaware  
Maryland  
Kentucky  
Missouri

} slave states that  
remained in the Union

July 22, 1862 - read first draft of Emanc. to cabinet off.

Jan 1, 1863 - Emanc.

(P5) - meeting with blacks (free from north) - one of \*  
his least impressive performances

many men on both sides do not care for you one  
way or the other.

he saves the Union - A.L. quote p 51 \*

BOOKNOTES  
BRIAN P. LAMB  
C-SPAN AIR DATE

749. Matthew Pinsker  
Lincoln's Sanctuary: Abraham Lincoln and the Soldiers' Home

Taped: 10/21/03  
Aired: 12/21/03  
Tape #: 179036

BOOKNOTES  
2003-12-21

**OXFORD**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford New York  
Auckland Bangkok Buenos Aires Cape Town Chennai  
Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi Kolkata  
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Mumbai Nairobi  
São Paulo Shanghai Taipei Tokyo Toronto

Copyright © 2003 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation

Published by Oxford University Press, Inc.  
198 Madison Avenue, New York, New York, 10016  
www.oup.com

Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,  
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means,  
electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise,  
without the prior permission of Oxford University Press.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
Pinsker, Matthew.

Lincoln's sanctuary : Abraham Lincoln and the Soldiers' Home /  
Matthew Pinsker.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0-19-516206-4

1. Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865—Homes and haunts—Washington  
(D.C.). 2. Cottages—Washington (D.C.)—History—19th century.  
3. United States Soldiers' Home—History—19th century. 4. Lincoln,  
Abraham, 1809-1865—Family. 5. Washington (D.C.)—History—  
Civil War, 1861-1865. 6. Washington (D.C.)—Buildings, structures, etc.  
7. United States—Politics and government—1861-1865. I. National  
Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States. II. Title.

E457.64 .P56 2003

973.7'092—dc21 2003001215

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the United States of America  
on acid-free paper

Lincoln used his daily trips bet. home and White House  
to assess what soldier we're thinking  
wrote a lot of emancipation proclamations  
might have met free black  
fugitive slave camp along the way (4,200)  
public announcement hit like a "thunderbolt"

---

George Briggs' cottage 1864 p128  
Mary Lincoln called Grant a leeches p131

Battle at Seventh Street / Ft. Stevens

Only time in history that a Pres. has enemy fire during  
combat  
(Ft. Stevens) Gen. Early

---

Willard Cutler's letters  
How many Generals did he remove?

Charles Merriam

David Merriam - spooning

The assassin's bullet - John Wilkes Booth returned at

Silas Bent p102 - A.L. - pathetic figure  
Army officer

Own Blacks - Emancipation Proclamation

George Bonett - p177 - Englishman goes to  
A.L. at cottage late at night p177

at Soldier Home -  
dealing with re-election crisis 1864 p157/8

Nothing Lows

meeting Judge Randall, Mills, and Cole - had to go to  
Historical Society of Wisconsin to find out meeting  
held at old sold. home p162

Important political meeting for 64' race - Aug 19

Lincoln's Sanctuary

Captain David Merichson p84

"Spoonin'" to keep warm  
committed w A.L. Sept 7 to early Nov. (to W.H.)  
1862

4 day trip to Antietam  
Virginia Fop (p85) "What Stuff"

Mary tough on General McClellan

62' - June to Nov - had at home

Mrs. Luthbert Aunt Mary (Dines)  
wanted permission from Mary in Boston to  
vacate the home

Footnote 32 Heidekoper - special thanks to  
Mary Beth Corrigan for funding item - text p84

Pres. shot at night 1864 - hole in hat p163

Confederate soldiers / loyalty oaths / serve in Union Army?  
Grant / Stanton argue with A.L.

McClellan - ran on a anti war platform 1864

Disabled residents expected to cook, clean, pick up grounds  
half of residents went AWOL

24% of soldiers in Civil War - foreign born

65% of residents at Soldier Home "

Democrats labeled as "domestic treason" - Rep for  
misregeneration

<sup>long</sup> Fernando Wood - a Democrat - met secretly at  
the Home former Mayor of N.Y. - corrupt - told Pres. they  
didn't expect McC. to be elected.

X English delegation visit Lincoln after Sp. - unannounced  
recites Pope poetry P 177

Fall of 1864 - security on full alert

A.L. wins 5% of vote - 80% of soldiers

Dear Edward year before (Eddie)  
Willie Feb 62'  
Tad  
Robert



1863

nearly cemetery -  
walking by gravestones

hard, practical edge with unusually deep and lateral  
450 wheel horses in D.C. padding

Man's wounds

John Hay shared bed with Robert T.

All were gone from home 1863 -

Colonel Thomas L. Alexander becoming friend

Hay calls him The Tycoon p110

Noah Brooks - Hay "His immediate subordinates  
are snobbish and unpopular

colored troops - he wanted to increase black

asked Douglass to help create mobilization  
army of Black American

Walt Whitman - his 40's - called A.L. rusty and dusty

A.L. read Shakespeare

Salmon Chase - Sec Treasury

William Seward Sec. State

Edwin Stanton Sec War

Admiral Welles - Sec Nav

Confederate General Benjamin Helm Inlect -  
brother in law of many  
widow Eunice Todd Helm visits W. H.

Emancipation proclamation

① A.L. stopped talk of  
Colonization

② omitted was call for  
gradual compensation

tension in cabinet -  
Seward and Chase  
offered to resign

Mary T.'s spiritualist  
Margaret Samir - Georgetown.

Habeas Corpus Act

David Derickson  
Company K.

Army of Potomac  
Burnside to  
Hooker to  
Meade

Willard Cutler's letters

Julia Burt - at O.S.H. - Lincoln

Pathetic Figure p 101

Mary T. Lincoln - July 2, 1863

jump from horse driven  
Carnage p 102

Gettysburg and Vicksburg

Mary Lincoln's infection  
spreads

Robert - His mother never  
completely recovered.

Charles Derickson - found  
Lincoln in bed together