



# For the People

A Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association  
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## Lincoln's Springfield The Underground Railroad Part 2

By Richard E. Hart

Part 1 of "Lincoln's Springfield: The Underground Railroad" focused on activity in and around what is now known as Farmingdale, Illinois, and began the story of Springfield's involvement in the Underground Railroad.

### Second Presbyterian Church and the Underground Railroad Erastus Wright

In 1837 thirty members of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield left the church over the issue of slavery and formed a new church, known as the Second Presbyterian Church (now Westminster Presbyterian Church).<sup>30</sup> Most of the thirty were New Englanders, and their new church was known not only as the Second Presbyterian Church but also as the abolitionist church.

In a 1916 speech to the Presbyterian Synod of Illinois, Clinton L. Conkling, a friend of Lincoln and an elder of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, made these observations:

After a while a stream of immigrants came from New York and New England. They were anti-slavery in feeling and practice. Springfield became one of the stations of the underground route as it was called, between bondage and freedom; between Kentucky and Missouri, the dwelling of the slave, and Canada, the haven of rest. A Saturday's holiday of one of our own members (family of boys) was once spoiled because during the preceding night the old family horse was used to take a runaway slave to the station further north on this under-

ground route and was not returned in time for the boys to use him.<sup>31</sup>

A 1956 history of Westminster Church states that, "More than one Second Presbyterian home was a station on the 'Underground Railway,' the organization which helped runaway slaves escape to Canada."<sup>32</sup>

Erastus Wright was one of the thirty who split from the First Presbyterian Church and organized the Second Presbyterian Church. He was born on January 21, 1779, at Bernardstown, Massachusetts, and came to Springfield on November 21, 1821. He taught school for many years and for ten years served as Sangamon County's school commissioner.<sup>33</sup> Paul Angle described Erastus in *Here I Have Lived*: "Erastus Wright was another personality . . . To the citizens, his outspoken abolitionism—he was a New Englander—was a strange and dangerous doctrine; while the youngsters found a perpetual source of wonder in the trained elk which he rode and drove in harness."<sup>34</sup>

Erastus Wright was Springfield's quintessential New Englander and abolitionist. He was "always fearless in advocating its [abolitionist] doctrines."<sup>35</sup> He signed Elijah Lovejoy's 1837 call for an antislavery convention at Upper Alton, Illinois.<sup>36</sup> He was also one of five Sangamon County delegates to the 1839 Illinois Anti-Slavery Society annual meeting.<sup>37</sup> Erastus lived at Wright's Grove, near Jefferson and Walnut streets, and his home was a station on the Springfield Underground Railroad. Henry Harrison Biggs "lives in a historical locality . . . Two hundred feet east was the home of Erastus

Wright, the co-worker of Wendell Phillips<sup>38</sup> in the establishment of the underground railroad, and the entire neighborhood was known as Wright's Grove."<sup>39</sup>

Wright was a friend of Zebina Eastman, the publisher of the *Western Citizen*, a Chicago-based abolitionist newspaper. Eastman stated that he and Cassius Clay visited Erastus in Springfield and described him as a "wealthy client of Lincoln's who served as an agent of the Underground Railroad."<sup>40</sup>

### Springfield African American Conductors on the Underground Railroad

Not all of the Springfield conductors on the Underground Railroad were white, New England abolitionists. At least four Springfield African Americans, Jamieson Jenkins, William K. Donnegan, Reverend Henry Brown, and Aaron Dyer, were also active Springfield conductors and assisted many runaway slaves on their trips north to freedom.

#### Jamieson Jenkins

Jamieson Jenkins, a mulatto, was born in North Carolina about 1810. In the summer of 1835 he was living in Wake County, North Carolina, as a freeman, and he was given a permit to visit Guilford County, North Carolina, a Quaker community that was the Grand Central Station of the Underground Railroad in the South.<sup>41</sup> The Quakers there most likely assisted

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Jamieson to begin his journey north from Guilford on the Underground Railroad, across the Ohio River and into Indiana. In Indiana he married Elizabeth Pelham, a Virginia-born mulatto, and in 1844 they had a daughter, Nancy. Sometime between Nancy's birth in 1844 and 1846, Jamieson and his family moved to Springfield, and in the fall of 1848, Jamieson and Elizabeth joined the Second Presbyterian Church, Springfield's abolitionist church.

The Jenkins family consisted of Jamieson—"Jimison Jarkins," a drayman, his wife, Elizabeth, and their daughter Nancy H., a washerwoman.<sup>42</sup> The family resided in Springfield on the east side of Eighth Street, between Jackson and Edwards streets, a block south of the Lincoln home<sup>43</sup>

On the evening of January 16, 1850, Jamieson Jenkins assisted seven runaway slaves move sixty miles north along the Underground Railroad from Springfield to Bloomington. During the week that followed, Springfield's *Illinois Journal* and *Register* newspapers printed five confusing and sometimes contradictory reports on the presence of the runaway slaves and called the events that transpired a "slave stampede." It was initially and incorrectly rumored around Springfield that Jamieson Jenkins had betrayed the slaves resulting in their capture.

On January 17, 1850, the *Register* reported that on the previous day Springfield citizens had captured eleven runaway slaves belonging to citizens of St. Louis. On the same day, the *Journal* reported that fourteen runaway slaves from St. Louis and Kentucky, were discovered in Springfield on their way north. Three men attempted to arrest them, but a fight ensued. Only one slave, a lame Negro, was arrested and placed in the City jail.

On January 18, 1850, the *Register* corrected its January 17 report that

eleven runaway slaves had been captured. It reported that only eight were caught, and that after publication of the January 17 paper, seven escaped. The remaining slave, the lame Negro, was "now in jail." Three days later, the *Register* reported that the captured lame slave had been brought before the Supreme Court upon a writ of *habeas corpus* and released.

On January 22, 1850, the *Journal* published a letter signed "Justice" concerning what he called the "slave stampede in our neighborhood." "We have received a communication in relation to the late 'slave stampede' in our neighborhood, of this tenor: Rumor may have it, that it was a colored person [Jamieson Jenkins] who betrayed the runaways last week. But unfortunately the one they accuse of having done so, started north with a part of the same gang the night before the capture. And this rumor was only to prevent, and may be save the 'underground car' from being upset or overtaken. Justice"<sup>44</sup>

On January 23, 1850, the *Journal* printed a letter of response from "A Friend to Justice" which stated that the rumor that the runaway slaves had been betrayed by a local African American [Jamieson Jenkins] was false and in fact, the rumor was a ruse "to prevent, and maybe, to save the underground car from being upset or overtaken." Jenkins had in fact gone north by stage to Bloomington with some of the runaway slaves. The affidavit of J. C. Goodhue, stagecoach agent, stated: "This is to certify that Mr. Jenkins left for Bloomington on the 16th day of January, 1850 in the stage." The letter reads as follows:

Messrs, Editors:—In your paper of the 22d inst., there is a communication signed "Justice" which refers to the slave stampede in this neighborhood on the 16th, saying "that it was rumored that a colored person had betrayed the slaves,

but, unfortunately, the one they accuse of having done so, started north with a part of the same gang the night before the capture; and this rumor was only to prevent, and maybe, to save the underground car from being upset or overtaken. Now, in order to correct public sentiment in regard to that man's conduct in this matter, I would refer them to the following certificate of the agent of the northern line of stages:

Springfield, January 22, 1850

This is to certify that Mr. Jenkins left for Bloomington on the 16th day of January, 1850, in the stage.

J. C. Goodhue, agent.

A Friend to "Justice"<sup>45</sup>

On August 29, 1851, Jameson Jenkins's membership in the Second Presbyterian Church was terminated due to his having failed to answer charges of not attending church meetings and licentiousness.<sup>46</sup>

On February 11, 1861, Jameson Jenkins drove President-elect Abraham Lincoln on his last Springfield carriage ride from the Chenery House at the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington streets to the Great Western Railroad depot to begin his trip to Washington.<sup>47</sup>

### William K. Donnegan

William K. Donnegan, an African American, was born in Kentucky circa 1832, and came to Springfield in 1845. In 1858 he was living on the north side of Jefferson Street, between Eighth and Ninth streets, just five blocks north of the Lincoln Home.<sup>48</sup> Donnegan was a shoemaker with his shop on the north side of Adams Street, between Seventh Street and the Public Square, just a block east of the Lincoln and Herndon law offices. He made shoes for Abraham Lincoln.

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## Smithsonian Lincoln Legacy Tour

On April 3 the Abraham Lincoln Association hosted a welcome reception for the Smithsonian Lincoln Legacy tour at the historic Elijah Iles House in Springfield. The tour group was lead by noted Civil War historian Edward Bearss. They traveled through Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois by bus, ending the trip in Springfield.

The evening was a great success. The thirty-member group was met at their hotel by ALA President Dick Hart and ALA Executive Assistant Mary Shepherd. They walked through the historic district with Bearss in the lead, providing interesting narrative. The highlight was a candlelight tour of the Iles house with light refreshments. Hart then gave a short talk about the Association, and provided the group with the ALA Newsletter as well as information about the Iles House and The Papers of Abraham Lincoln. The

Iles House Foundation's wonderful volunteers helped make the event special. Hart received several notes thanking the ALA; one attendee said the event was the highlight of the tour.



*Edward Bearss, "Elijah Iles," and Dick Hart*

## New Members

Ford's Theatre, Washington, DC

Mrs. Florence J. Baur,

Baldwinsville, NY

Peter A. Bunten, Takoma Park, MD

Chris Butler, Springfield, IL

Ray & Anne Capestrain,

Springfield, IL

Alisa Corsi, Elgin, IL

Carolyn Cronin, Springfield, IL

John & Claudia Fulton, Colfax, CA

Barbara L. Kay, Glen Carbon, IL

John & Betty Kay, Jacksonville, IL

Sr. Mary F. Kobets, Gweru,

Zimbabwe

Richard Koch, Monticello, IL

Jane Lawder, Springfield, IL

Maralee I. Lindley, Springfield, IL

Corrine Macauley, West Chester, PA

Brian, McGinty, Scottsdale, AZ

Floyd Marx Jr., St. Louis, MO

Donald Motier, Harrisburg, PA

Philip A. Nathan, Leesburg, VA

Charles Sahn, New York, NY

Fred Stericker, Springfield, IL

Richard Stewart, Chatham, IL

Mark J. Taylor, Normal, IL

## New Membership Dues Levels

On September 1, three levels of ALA membership dues will increase. The Railsplitter level will increase to \$50, the Postmaster level will increase to \$100, and the Lawyer level will increase to \$250.

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Recently, Curtis Mann, Manager of the Sangamon Valley Room at Springfield's Lincoln Library, discovered a William K. Donnegan reminiscence published in the Old Settlers Department of the May 1898 edition of Springfield's *The Public Patron*. Donnegan's reminiscence of his 1858 participation in Springfield's underground railroad deserves a complete publication.

I lived, in those days, on the north side of Jefferson, between Eighth and Ninth streets, in a story and a half house. It is still standing, and I could show you the garret yet in which many a runaway has been hidden while the town was being searched. I have secreted scores of them, I once had seven hundred dollars in gold and silver turned into my lap by the owner of a slave as a bribe for my assisting in his recapture. This took place in my shoe shop on Fourth street. The house is not now standing. Well, could not capture the fellow, and had to return the money; but all the same he was under a pile of leather in that very room when the money was paid.

One early morning in the summer or spring of 1858, I think it was, George Burreas [George Burras]<sup>49</sup>, a barber and a near neighbor of mine, came into my shop somewhat excited and wanted me to go home at once. He said that during the night a wagon had driven up to his house and hurriedly unloaded a runaway slave girl, the driver getting away as quickly as possible, explaining that they had been hotly pursued from Jacksonville, and that their pursuers could not be far away then. He also hurriedly explained that the girl must be concealed carefully and quickly as she was a dangerous character, being hard to manage. What was especially dangerous was that she had an excellent memory and could tell the name of every man, woman and baby along the route. She had come from St. Louis to Springfield. She was liable to give all of them away to authorities by her imprudence. You must recol-

lect that we didn't know another's names. It was best not. When a man unloaded one or more Negroes at my house or at any other station in the night (it was always done then) his name was not asked. But this girl had caught the names and would tell them. So George said I must take her and hide her.

I went home at once and found a girl about sixteen years of age and weighing about one hundred and forty pounds. This man Burreas, you understand, lived right by me, and the girl has been left there by



*William K. Donnegan*

mistake in the excitement. I said, "See here, gal, they say that you're in danger of giving us all away, and if you don't do as I tell you, or if you threaten to get us into trouble, I'll shoot you. She replied that she hoped I'd shoot her if she was about to be recaptured. She said that a brother and a sister of hers had been caught again and burned. She was in earnest, too; but smart as she was, she was a fool. She had no judgment; she wanted to see everything. I sent her into the back part of the house and told

her to keep out of sight. I stayed around, and in about an hour I saw three men—one red-headed—coming down the street. As they approached, the girl peeped out of a window and exclaimed, "O, that's my young master and his father." I told her to go quick the back way to Burreas' house. She had hardly got out of sight when in came the three inquiring for a wash woman who lived there. I told them there was none there—they must be mistaken in the place. They seemed disappointed, and came on into the kitchen. Finding nobody, and having no excuse, they reluctantly went out again at the front door.

I knew they'd go to Burreas,' and as soon as they left the door I managed to slip back by the back way and come into the kitchen. So, as they entered the house, she left and came into mine. I hustled her into the attic, and told her to go away back and crawl in behind the chimney and stay there till I told her to come out. Well, the men came back and fooled around awhile and left disappointed.

Now what was to be done was a question. I knew the house would be watched all night. I heard in the afternoon that about thirty men had been engaged about town for that night. A full description of her had been given in the Springfield Register as she looked when she ran away, with an offer of, I think, \$500 for her capture. I knew she was a dangerous girl to keep about the place and finally hit on an expedient. Another girl, almost white, lived near named Hal, who was just about this girl's size and form, but this runaway was quite black. I went down town and got a pair of white gloves and a white false face, which I knew in the darkness would give the impression of whiteness. I told her what to call me, and what to talk about and instructed her to alter her voice, so that if her master heard he would not know her. I knew that the dog-fennel [A strong-smelling European weed naturalized in North America.] all around between me and Ninth street would probably be full of men watching who came to or left my house after night.

When it was dark enough I sallied out with her, talking to Hal loud enough to be heard, and she talking to me about things that happened days before. We started east, I intending to get her into a house in the east of town for awhile. We hadn't got far when three men passed us, one of whom I recognized as a Springfield man named Emmet. Immediately after passing they had stopped and were holding a consultation. I heard a man say:

"She moves exactly like my girl."

"No," said another, "this one's white."

"Well, I believe we ought to get her away—I believe it's the girl I'm after," was the reply.

I heard Emmet say, "You'd better be careful not to make a mistake. He carries bowie knife and a shooter that will kill at 150 yards, and he's the kind that uses them."

"Well, I won't risk my life for any nigger," was the reply.

They kept at a distance, but still knew where we went. I couldn't get the girl taken in at the house to which we went, so thought I'd take her up to the timber near the Converse school, [1437 North Eighth Street<sup>50</sup>] hoping to escape pursuit there. I went directly north on Ninth street, but they blocked my game, outflanked me and got there ahead. I began to think it was dangerous to get into the woods with those three against me, so I turned down the C & A track [Third Street was the right of way initially for the Alton and Sangamon Railroad and subsequently for a series of other railroads from 1852 to present] and went over to Third street, and back [south] towards town. The men still followed. Near Carpenter street [Third and Carpenter streets] a bulldog broke his chain and attacked us, catching hold of the girl's skirts. She screamed. I told her to be still, and placing my revolver to the dog's head I fired, splattering its brains over my hands. Then I turned to the men who were crowding still closer and shouted that I would kill any four-legged or two-legged dogs that bothered me much more. At this they fell back somewhat. I was going down Fourth street by this time, towards a Methodist church<sup>51</sup> [African Methodist Church on the northeast corner of Fourth and Mason streets] that stood there then, and in which there was a meeting that night. It all at once occurred that I might make this useful. I

went to a man at the door and told him I was being followed, and asked him in a few moments to open the door widely and close it again, while we slipped around the building and out of sight. I thought the men would think we went in and while they were looking we might escape. And sure enough, that worked! They stopped, and while they were finding out that we were not in the house we doubled on our track as fast as possible, crossed the C & A going west, jumped over a fence and made away for the woods and down where the present O & M track [Probably present day Madison Street] is, towards the old West Shaft [probably on the west side of Lincoln Avenue near its intersection with Jefferson Street].<sup>52</sup> I was aiming to get to a Mr. Gardner's [Hiram E. Gardner of near Farmington] or Lyman's [Dr. John Lyman of Farmington], one of our stations near the Beardstown road, west of Bradfordton. As I drew near the bridge over the creek [Spring Creek] west of the city I thought I'd better be cautious, as it might be guarded. So, going off a few rods from the road, I made the girl climb up into the fork of a red-bud tree to wait until I went forward to look for enemies. The woods were full of wild hogs and cows, the latter being quite fierce when they had calves as many of them had, so I told her she must not come down till I came back. Some little distance from the bridge a dog growled at my side. I gave it some meat—I always carried a lunch on such occasions—and soon quieted it. Going cautiously forward I found the bridge at the old mill<sup>53</sup> [Hickox Mill north of the intersection of Veteran's Parkway and Jefferson Street on Spring Creek] guarded by a dozen with guns. I came back to where the girl was. She said she was afraid and must come down, and in fact did climb down. I made her get up, and again left her, going this time up to the bridge on the Beardstown road [Jefferson Street and Veterans Parkway, Springfield, Illinois]. It was guarded. I tried to find a place to cross but could not as the stream was full, so I went back again to where I left the girl. It was now getting on towards daylight. Presently I heard the clatter of horses' feet and the whole company swept by on horses toward town. They had left for the night. But it was too late for us to go on; daylight would catch us before we could get half way to our destination. I says to the girl, "Get down now, and follow

me quick." And we came into town right behind our pursuers. I went straight for my brother's house on Carpenter street<sup>54</sup> [Preston L. Donnegan who lived on the east side of Fourth Street, between Madison and Carpenter, near the African Methodist Church], and called him up. He said: "You'd better get in here quick. My house has been watched all night, and I think they just left."

So we hustled in, and began to plan how to get the girl out of the city. My brother said that John Stewart was going to take a gang of colored men out to the neighborhood of Lyman's to go plowing.

"That's all right," I said. "now, let us get her up a boy's rig and send her out with them as a boy. None but Stewart need know, and he can tell Lyman all about her." So we rigged her out and sent her to the country in that way in daylight."

One of our men down near St. Louis that helped run slaves off got shot about this time, and broke our line for nearly six weeks, during which time she remained at Lyman's. Finally he sent word that something must be done. She couldn't be restrained from showing herself, and they were in terror lest she give the whole underground railroad gang away. I sent word to Mrs. Lyman to tell the girl I was going to shoot her. And I did go and hunted the house over for her, shot my pistol off a few times and scared her nearly to death. Of course I couldn't find her, but she was so frightened that when she was told to go into the basement and remain hid she did so.

After some time we succeeded in getting her out of the country, off towards Canada.

"Oh," said our informant, after relating the above, "I could give you a whole lot of such scrapes. But I'll never forget the night I spent in trying to get that girl away."<sup>55</sup>

On August 16, 1908, during the Springfield Race Riot, a mob captured eighty-four-year-old William K. Donnegan, cut his throat and lynched him in a tree in the schoolyard of the Edwards School across the street from his home at the corner of Spring and Edwards streets.<sup>56</sup> The events surrounding the riot and Donnegan's

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murder led to the organization of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

[T]he mob merely changed direction and proceeded to march across the capitol grounds and headed for the home of William Donnegan. He was an elderly long time resident of Springfield. Donnegan was eighty-four years old and a cobbler by trade; a respected resident of the community who owned his own home outside the Badlands and also owned some adjacent properties which were occupied by members of his family. He was known to be a friend and the cobbler of Abraham Lincoln. Donnegan made a small fortune bringing southern blacks to Springfield to find jobs. He had never been accused of a crime. He had however, broken the unwritten mores of being married to a white woman for the last thirty-two years. The mob approached Donnegan's home. When he came out to find what they were up to, they grabbed him, cut his throat, dragged his body across the street, and lynched him in the Edwards School yard. He was still alive when the National Guard cut him down, but he died early the next morning. This lynching was the last mob action of the riot.<sup>57</sup>

\* The conclusion of "Lincoln's Springfield: The Underground Railroad" will appear in the autumn issue of *For the People*.

<sup>30</sup>"Minutes of Session and Church Register, Second Presbyterian Church, Vol. 1, 1835–1867," Westminster Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Ill. (hereafter cited as Second Presbyterian Church Minutes).

<sup>31</sup>"Speech of Clinton L. Conkling to the Members of the Presbyterian Synod of Illinois, Springfield, Illinois, October 19, 1916," 8–9, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

<sup>32</sup>Frances Fowler Allen, *The Story of Westminster* (Springfield, Ill., 1956), 6.

<sup>33</sup>*Power*, 788.

<sup>34</sup>Angle, 27.

<sup>35</sup>*Power*, 788.

<sup>36</sup>The Springfield signers were: Erastus Wright, Z. Hallock, E. B. Hawley, R. P. Abel, Roswell Abel, W. M. Cowgill, Isaac Bancroft, Jr., J. C. Bancroft, Oliver B. Culver, J. B. Watson, J. Stephenson, C. B. Francis, J. G. Rawson, Joseph Taney [Torrey], Edmund R. Wiley, James Pratt, Josiah Francis, Elisha Taber, Geo. N Kendall, S. Conant, and E. and W. Thayer.

<sup>37</sup>*Genius of Universal Emancipation*.

<sup>38</sup>Wendell Phillips (1811–1884) of Boston, Massachusetts, was an orator and reformer, and became famous as a supporter of abolition. In Boston in 1837 Phillips delivered an address rebuking those who upheld the mob murder of Elijah P. Lovejoy. Phillips's address became one of the most famous speeches in history for its protest against mob rule. Unyielding in his opposition to slavery, Phillips gave up his law practice in 1837 to join William Lloyd Garrison's group of abolitionists. He fought courageously against any individual, institution, or law that he thought prevented abolition. Phillips favored ending slavery even at the cost of breaking up the Union. He severely criticized the Lincoln's administration during the Civil War.

<sup>39</sup>Joseph Wallace, *Past and Present of the City of Springfield and Sangamon County, Illinois* (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1904), 1:220.

<sup>40</sup>Zebina Eastman, *History of the Anti-Slavery Agitation, and the Growth of the Liberty and Republican Parties in the State of Illinois, in Discovery and Conquests of the North-west, With the History of Chicago* (Wheaton, Ill.: R. Blanchard, 1879), 671.

<sup>41</sup>Jamerson Jenkins recorded his Certificate of Freedom with the Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Deed Record Book 4, 21, on March 28, 1846.

State of North Carolina

Wake County this 12th April 1838

Dear Sir certify that the son of the above Nancy Jenkins was known by me to be a freeman of colour and further certify that I gave him a permit to leave this Country for him to make a visit to Gilford County some time in the summer of 1835.

Ezra Gill

<sup>42</sup>1850 *United States Census*, 194; 1860 *United States Census*, 122; C. S. Williams, comp., *Williams' Springfield Directory, City Guide and Business Mirror, for 1860–61* (Springfield, Ill.: Johnson & Bradford, 1860) (hereafter cited as 1860–1861 *Springfield City Directory*); B. Winters & Co., comp., *Springfield City Directory, For 1857-'58* (Springfield, Ill.: S. H. Jameson & Co., 1857) (hereafter referred to as 1857–1858 *Springfield City Directory*); *Power*, 303; Edwin C. Bearss, "Historical Base Map, Lincoln Home, Springfield, Illinois," Nov. 30, 1969, 84–86, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. On April 9, 1861, William LaRue Flourville, the son of William "Billy the Barber" and Phoebe Florville, married seventeen-year-old Nancy Jenkins, the daughter of Jameson and Elizabeth Pelham Jenkins.

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Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763–1900, Illinois State Archives, <http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/marriage.html>

<sup>43</sup>Douglas L. Wilson and Rodney O. Davis, eds., *Herndon's Informants: Letters, Interviews, and Statements about Abraham Lincoln* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1998), 597; Jesse W. Weik, interview of Margaret Ryan, Oct. 27, 1886, Jesse Weik Papers, box 2, memorandum book 1, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

<sup>44</sup>*Illinois Journal*, Jan. 22, 1850, p. 3, col. 1.

<sup>45</sup>*Ibid.*, Jan. 23, 1850.

<sup>46</sup>Second Presbyterian Church Minutes.

<sup>47</sup>*Washington Star*, Feb. 12, 1861; Thomas D. Jones, *Memories of Lincoln* (New York: Press of the Pioneers, 1934), 16; Jay Monaghan, *Diplomat in Carpet Slippers: Abraham Lincoln Deals with Foreign Affairs* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1945), 28.

<sup>48</sup>11 Jefferson according to the 1875 City Directory. Julius Babeuf, comp., *Babeuf's Directory of Springfield, Illinois for the Year 1875*, 3d ed. (Springfield: Illinois Journal Company, 1875), 90, 160, 162 (hereafter cited as 1875 Springfield City Directory); David B. Gould & Co., *Gould's Springfield Directory for 1873–4* (Springfield, Ill.: Journal Co., 1873) (hereafter cited as 1873–1874 Springfield City Directory); Babeuf, comp., *Directory of Springfield, Sangamon County, by Township, For the Years 1874–75* (Springfield: Illinois Journal Co., 1874) (hereafter cited as 1874–1875 Springfield City Directory).

<sup>49</sup>On Monday, November 8, 1852, Springfield African Americans met and adopted a resolution saying “we must speak in bold terms.” The resolution opposed the Wood River Colored Baptist Association’s proposal for separate, state-funded colored schools, and stated that they would not ask for state funded support for separate, colored schools. The resolution was signed by twenty Springfield African American men, including Aaron Dyer and William Donnegan.

Springfield, Nov. 8, 1852.

At a meeting of the colored citizens of this city, on the 8th instant, after having deliberated over the matter concerning our interests, common schools, etc. had occasion to notice the following, which we must speak of in bold terms; and which, after a vote was taken, was unanimously adopted:

The undersigned having just noticed an article written for the paper entitled, the “Western Citizens,” by the “Wood River Colored Baptist Association,” and also the Minutes of the same, wish to make the following reply:

Whereas the “Wood River Colored Baptist Association,” having met at Jacksonville, Illinois, devised ways and means for the purpose of establishing a system of

common school education, under the cloak of the colored people of the State of Illinois;

We, as a portion of the colored people of this State, in Springfield, do not desire any such system of common school education, under the name of one distinct sect or denomination; nor will we join in with it; nor give our support to it; but will do every thing that is in our power to indemnify ourselves against any of the above proceedings that may have been conjured up in this association;

That we deem it an injury to our present established schools, and that it will hinder the energy of those who are willing to aid, and have already aided in the support of our respective schools; and that we do not wish to give our aid in any measure that will hinder our progress that has already begun;

That we, as a portion of the colored population, representing its claims, feel a deep, very deep interest, in our schools, and think it the only sure way to redeem ourselves from the bondage we are now in, sympathize with our race, and will do every thing that is in our power to educate our children by our exertions, and without the boldness to ask aid from the people of the State;

And that in examining the Minutes of the Association, we notice an article proposing to establish a press, which will be attached to the Institution, and put into operation as soon as the amount of funds necessary for its support can be raised. In

*continued on page 8*

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please enroll me as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association in the category indicated:

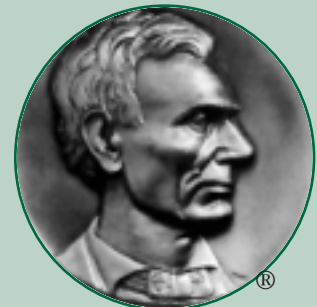
Railsplitter \_\_\_\_\_ \$35  
 (\$25 Student)  
 Postmaster \_\_\_\_\_ \$75  
 Lawyer \_\_\_\_\_ \$200  
 Congressman \_\_\_\_\_ \$500  
 President \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000

*Members residing outside the U.S. add \$3.00.*

Mail this application (or a photocopy) and a check to:

The Abraham Lincoln Association  
 1 Old State Capitol Plaza  
 Springfield, Illinois  
 62701

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip \_\_\_\_\_



Website: [www.alincolnassoc.com](http://www.alincolnassoc.com)

## Lincoln's Springfield The Underground Railroad Part 2

*continued from page 7*

regard to this we can say, that it reminds us of the bill which was handed into the Legislature two years ago—coming, in part, from the same source; and consequently we do not feel willing to embark in any such enterprize; ner shall we.

After reading the above, what patriot, as he is called, can enlist in the resolutions which that Association have gotten up, without the consent of any persons but themselves?

James Reynolds, David Callyhan, Gilbert Johnson, Isaiah Chambers, Michael Millington, Wm. McCoslin, John Handson, J. W. Hill, Aaron Dyre, A. J. Petete, John Lee, Spencer Donnigan, Andrew Broadwaters, James Hendrix, William Lee, Wm. Donnigan, Patterson Bannister, George Burras, Benjamin Williams, James Blanks.

<sup>50</sup>*Illinois Capitol Illustrated* (Springfield: Illinois State Register, 1898), 148.

<sup>51</sup>Springfield African Methodist Episcopal Church, east side of Fourth Street, between Gemini (Carpenter) and Madison streets. 1858 Sides Map,

Wooden rectangle and small wooden rectangle at rear: Name: "African Church." Lot 2 and S. 1/2 of Lot 3, Cook's (Edwards?) Addition. "[T]he colored children were compelled to attend school in a shanty in the rear of the African church, on North Fourth street." See *History of Sangamon County, Illinois* (Chicago: Inter-State Publishing, 1881), 588. See also *Illinois State Journal*, Sept. 6, 1859, p. 3, col. 1, Apr. 21, 1860, p. 3, col. 1; 1860–1861 Springfield City Directory.

<sup>52</sup>Power, in *History of Springfield, Illinois, Its Attractions as a Home and Advantage for Business, Manufacturing, etc.* (Springfield: Illinois State Journal, 1871), 49, references Starne and Shutt's Mine, known as the West End Shaft. The *1872 Perspective Map of Springfield, Illinois* (Milwaukee: Beck & Pauli, 1872), shows the West End Coal Shaft marked with the number 39.

<sup>53</sup>Curtis Mann, *Watermills of the Sangamo Country* (Springfield, Ill.: Under the Prairie Foundation, 2004), 18–19.

<sup>54</sup>John C. W. Bailey, comp., *Sangamon Co. Gazetteer* (Springfield: Bai-

ley, 1866); R. L. Dudley & Co., *Springfield City Directory, for 1869–70* (Springfield, Ill.: Daily State Register Steam Printing House, 1869) (hereafter cited as 1869–1870 Springfield City Directory).

<sup>55</sup>*The Public Patron* (Springfield), May 1898, p. 3.

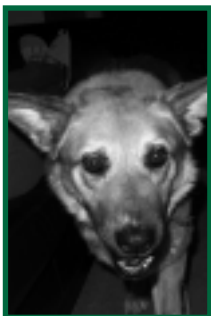
<sup>56</sup>Roberta Senechal, *The Sociogenesis of a Race Riot, Springfield, Illinois in 1908* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1990), 43–46, 96, 99, 131, 136, 138–39, 169–71, 174.

<sup>57</sup>Deepak Madala, Jennifer Jordan, and August Appleton, "The Springfield Race Riot of 1908," <http://library.thinkquest.org/2986/Killed.html>. For other interesting Websites concerning Donnegan and the 1908 Springfield Race Riot, see "Ruth Ellis's Tale of Two Cities: A Modern Fairy Tale in Black & White," <http://www.keithboykin.com/author/ruth1.html>; Toby Mac and Michael Tait, "Under God, The Dark Side of Lincoln's Home: Springfield Riot (August 1908)," [http://www.cbn.com/special/BlackHistory/Under-God\\_Springfieldriot.asp](http://www.cbn.com/special/BlackHistory/Under-God_Springfieldriot.asp).

## For the People

A Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association  
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