



Minutes of the 1858 Rally Restaging Committee

January 30, 2008

Present: Paul Beaver, Wanda Lee Rolfs, Ron Keller, Darlene Begolka. Leigh submitted ideas via e-mail. Mayor Davis-Kavelman absent.

The Restaging Committee was directed by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of Lincoln, IL to plan for a restaging on the courthouse lawn of the October 1858 rally in which Abraham Lincoln addressed the crowd and some 5000 people attended.

Various newspaper accounts of the event, and a few pictures were distributed. The committee decided on the following:

- ✓ The event is to be held on Thursday October 16, 2008 at 2 PM, on the west side of the courthouse.
- ✓ To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event, and to better capitalize on the building momentum before the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's birth, the committee decided to host the event in 2008, rather than 2009.
- ✓ The most important element to pull this off will be to find a suitable Abraham Lincoln who can look, gesture, and talk like the real Lincoln. The search begins.
- ✓ Research will be done into what Lincoln possibly said. Though he spoke for several hours that day, perhaps a 25 minute speech would be in order.
- ✓ We might have a reception as they did in 1858.
- ✓ There should be decorations and/or flowers around the courthouse and the speaker's platform. The elevated platform might also be flag-draped. John Sutton and Habitat for Humanity might be involved
- ✓ Lincoln might possibly get off the train, then to the courthouse with a procession.
- ✓ On the platform might also be persons portraying Samuel Parks, and perhaps Robert Latham and John D. Gillette.
- ✓ Delegations in 1858 came from Bloomington, Atlanta, Pulaski, Salt Creek and Lake Fork, Williamsville, and Delevan. Thus a crowd is needed in period clothing who will be energetic and enthusiastic.
- ✓ Lots of costuming will be needed.
- ✓ A wagon or two near the stage is needed, with perhaps a wagon or two and horses in the street. Perhaps auctioneers have wagons; John Gehlbach has one. Wanda Lee will check on this.
- ✓ There needs to be a call for volunteers for this event from all pertinent organizations and societies.
- ✓ Can a canon firing be replicated somehow
- ✓ Plenty of signs to be made: "Lincoln and Trumbull the Champions of Freedom," "Honorable Abraham Lincoln the Choice of the Germans," "Abe the Giant Killer,"
- ✓ Several period bands are needed as they had in 1858. Darlene will check into the community choir and community bands.
- ✓ Young ladies in white needed (perhaps have each town select two girls from their community, and have around 30.)

- ✓ Local schools might be administered a curriculum the week before—Paul Gleason is developing this.
- ✓ This also could be worked into the school calendar.
- ✓ Have onlookers on roofs of nearby buildings?
- ✓ Permission from the city to block off Broadway Street, and from the county to use the courthouse lawn will be needed.
- ✓ The sign/marker noting the event could be dedicated the same day following the event.
- ✓ Leigh Henson might portray Samuel Parks; Daris Knauer might be Gillette. Both could talk with Parks introducing Lincoln.

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