



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 150th anniversary of the event, and to better capitalize on the building momentum before the 200th 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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