June 2008

Presidential Nominations

Welcome to the 16th issue of the Central Illinois Teaching with Primary Sources Newsletter, a collaborative project of the Teaching with Primary Sources Programs at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and Eastern Illinois University.

With this issue and continuing through February 2009 the theme each month will reflect primary sources from our Abraham Lincoln Calendar. You can download and print a copy of the calendar at http://www.eiu.edu/~eiutps.

At the 1860 Republican Convention, Abraham Lincoln like James Polk before him was considered a “dark horse” contender with little chance of receiving his party’s nomination for President. Lincoln did not attend the convention but he sent supporters to campaign for his nomination. David Davis and Norman Judd are two who campaigned for Lincoln’s nomination. In the Lincoln Papers a search for “campaign strategies” will return letters by both Davis and Judd informing Lincoln of their progress.

Lincoln did win his parties nomination, and in a letter to the Republican National Convention president George Ashmun of Massachusetts, Lincoln drafted this acceptance of the party’s nomination and closed with these words: Imploring the assistance of Divine Providence, and with due regard to the views and feelings of all who were represented in the convention, to the rights of all the states, and territories, and people of the nation; to the inviolability of the constitution, and the perpetual union, harmony and prosperity for all, I am most happy to cooperate for the practical success of the principles, declared by the convention. Learning Page, Lincoln Papers Collection Connection accessed 5/27/08.

For a good part of his first term as president, Abraham Lincoln doubted that he would be elected to a second term. In a letter to his cabinet members, including Secretary of State William H. Seward and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, Lincoln dwells on the forthcoming election and the long hiatus between election and inauguration. Assuming that "this administration will not be reelected," Lincoln wrote "it will be my duty to so cooperate with the president-elect as to save the Union between the election and the inauguration, as he will have secured his election on such ground that he cannot possibly save afterwards." Lincoln was reelected, carrying 54 percent of the popular vote and all but three northern states--New Jersey, Delaware, and Kentucky. http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName=mal1/354/3549600/malpage.db&recNum=0

A presidential candidate’s road to the White House starts with their nomination. To get their parties nomination they must win the majority of support from their party’s delegates at the national convention. As we wait for the 2008 party conventions American Memory’s Chicago Daily News Collection has photographs from both the Republican and Democrat conventions of 1908, 100 years ago.

Most candidates, past and present, have fought hard for their party’s nomination. Today, many politicians make this their life’s work as they move from city, to state, to national office. This has not always been the case.
Beyond Lincoln

Many people don't know that our country's first presidential candidate, George Washington, was reluctant to accept the office. "I cannot describe, the painful emotions which I felt in being called upon to determine whether I would accept or refuse the Presidency of the United States," Washington revealed in a 1789 speech. Washington was not the only candidate to feel reluctant about the presidency. James K. Polk accepted the Democratic party's nomination as a duty "neither...sought nor declined." Learning Page Elections the American Way Accessed May 27, 2008.

Topic Connections

The Nineteenth Century in Print http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/moah.html
Nineteenth Century in Print includes over 900 volumes of periodicals and 1500 books. A search for presidential nominations will bring a plentiful supply of periodicals and books especially pertaining to Abraham Lincoln's nominations. Henry Brownell's War-lyrics and Other Poems (1866), takes a Southern perspective in chronicling events leading up to the Civil War, such as the 1860 Republican nomination of Abraham Lincoln in the de-risive "Honest Abe": http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/ncpm:@field(DOCID+@lit(ULA17058869)) "Honest Abe!" What strange vexation Thrills an office-armchair'd party! What impatience and disgust That the people should put trust In a name so true and hearty! What indignant lamentation For the unchosen—surely fitter Growl they than a rough rail-splitter— Most unheard of nomination! Collection Connection Accessed April 11, 2008

Abraham Lincoln Papers http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/malhome.html
In his preparation to obtain the nomination of this Republican Party for president, Lincoln received many correspondences with advice and strategies leading to the Republican convention in Chicago. He also received letters of support from American voters such as John Phillips who cast his vote for Lincoln. This doesn't seem too extraordinary except that Mr. Phillips was 105 years old and the first time he voted it was for George Washington. http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName=mal1/380/3807300/malpage.db&recNum=0 accessed April 14, 2008

Photographs from the Chicago Daily News http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/ichihtml/cdnhome.html
Chicago has hosted many Republican and Democratic Conventions where presidential candidates have been nominated. In fact no city has held more conventions than Chicago. The Republican Convention of 1860 that nominated Abraham Lincoln as the Republican candidate for president was the first presidential nominating convention for Chicago. Because of Chicago's popularity in political conventions the Chicago Daily News collections hold many photographs from both Republican and Democratic conventions. In these images you will find presidential candidates such as William Taft, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.

Panoramic Photographs http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/panoramic_photo/index.html
Conventions served as a perfect event to use panoramic photographs. This collection contains photographs from both the Republican and Democratic. The Labor Party and Progressive Party images are also represented in images.
Lesson Plans, Activities and Resources

America’s Library
America’s Story:
Meet Amazing Americans:
James Polk The First “Dark Horse” Candidate http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa/presidents/polk/horse_1
William Henry Harrison The Log Cabin Campaign of 1840 http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa/presidents/harrison/whharrison_1

Wise Guide:
June 2006: He was as Strong as a Bull Moose http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/jun06/moose.html
May 2003 It’s the Stupidest Tea Party http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/may03/tea.html
October 2006 On the Campaign Trail http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/oct06/campaign.html
May 2006 The First Woman to Run for President 50 Years Ago? http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/may06/women.html

Today in History:
November 5 http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/nov05.html
June 22 http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/jun22.html

Exhibitions:
Top Treasures Lincoln’s Nomination http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trt042.html

What’s New at LOC.Gov

Historic Baseball Resources at the Library of Congress
The rich and unique holdings of the Library of Congress include many items that document the history of baseball and Americans’ fascination with the game. Through photographs, personal accounts, official games guides, newspaper accounts, films and memorabilia—including baseball cards dating from 1887—the Library’s collections offer a first-hand look at the development of baseball in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

America’s Library salutes America’s favorite pastime with the launch of a new resource page: www.loc.gov/topics/baseball/. Highlighted are select Library resources on the popular sport, including player profiles, historical news and events, collection guides and presentations and more.

The multimedia Web site also offers easy access to a sampling of visual images, including photographs of notable baseball figures and subjects. There are selections of audio and video presentations, such as Webcasts of lectures, as well as unique sound artifacts. These resources are only a small portion of the 134 million items in the Library’s extensive holdings.

Text from News from the Library of Congress May 21, 2008
Test Your Knowledge...

**Presidential Nomination Word Search**
Answer the questions below then find the answer in the puzzle. All answers come from this newsletter or links in this newsletter

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  s o e n e h i o i m r o u n d
  o o c e g e c r o e u i o g n
  l w e o e c m r c d k r w s h
  w o w d l o o e a c u u b o i
  i l w d l o s i e o r w e l a
  h a c w o o d h u l l e w a r
  e t u e c h o a b u e o o l i
  r m c r l a l k r o w l r o e
  t s e w a r d o o k t l w i t
  o e h o r r c g w g h g e l d
  r a o n o i t a n i m o n g o
  n e t a t s i c e s g o r l e
  i n a i c o a i l n a w a s h
  c e e c e n r h l b i d a e e
  e d o m l t g c i o s w e m l
  n o g r e u w s s i r w c l g
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1. In the 1860 Republican Convention, Lincoln was considered a ___ ___ contender.

2. William ___ was considered the front runner for the Republican nomination in 1860.

3. For a candidate to win their parties ___ they must win the majority from the parties delegates.

4. President Lincoln nominated William Seward his opponent for the 1860 Republican nomination for the position of Secretary of ___.

5. This city has hosted the most political conventions.

6. For the 1860 Republican Convention a new convention center was built, what was it called?

7. War-Lyrics and Other Poems includes the poem "honest Abe" was written by Henry ___.

8. This president was the first to campaign actively for office with his Log Cabin Campaign.

9. ___ ___ was established by the founding fathers as a compromise between election of the president by Congress and election by popular vote.

10. First woman to run for president. She was selected by the Equal Rights Party for the 1872 election.
Image Sources

Library of Congress
Chicago Wide-Awake Republican Club to Abraham Lincoln, Friday, June 01, 1860 (Certificate of membership)
Abraham Lincoln Papers

Library of Congress
Labor Party, First National Convention, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 22, 1919
Panoramic Photographs

Library of Congress
Retained copy of letter, James K. Polk to the Committee of the Democratic National Convention accepting the Democratic presidential nomination, [12 June 1844]. Words and Deeds in American History

Library of Congress
Hon. Abraham Lincoln, Republican candidate for the presidency, 1860 / Grozelier ; painted by Hicks ; lith. by L. Grozelier, Boston. Prints and Photographs

Library of Congress
Abraham Lincoln to William Dennison, et al., Monday, June 27, 1864 (Acceptance of nomination)
Abraham Lincoln Papers

Library of Congress
The "wigwam" grand march : dedicated to the Republican presidential candidate, Hon. Abrm. Lincoln.
We'll Sing Our Songs To Abe: Sheet Music about Lincoln, Emancipation, and the Civil War

Library of Congress
National Union Republican nomination. For president Gen. U.S. Grant. For vice president, Schuyler Colfax
Prints and Photographs

Library of Congress
Convention Hall in Denver, Colorado, crowded with convention participants standing on the main floor and in the balconies during the 1908 Democratic National Convention
Photographs from the Chicago Daily News 1902-1933

Library of Congress
Chicago Stadium filled with delegates at the 1932 Republican National Convention, looking toward press booths for WGN and WCFL
Photographs from the Chicago Daily News 1902-1933

Library of Congress
Elihu B. Washburne to Abraham Lincoln, Sunday, May 20, 1860 (Response to nomination)
Abraham Lincoln Papers

Library of Congress
President Coolidge making his speech of acceptance. Prosperity and Thrift: The Coolidge Era and the Consumer Economy 1921-1929

Library of Congress
Yogi Berra, New York Yankee catcher, safe at third base as he eluded attempted tag of Eddie Miksis (34), Brooklyn Dodger third baseman ... The umpire was Art Passarella
Print and Photographs

Library of Congress
The ball game / Thomas A. Edison, Inc.
Early Motion Pictures 1897-1920

Library of Congress
Take Me Out to the Ball-Game Sheet Music
Performing Arts Encyclopedia

Library of Congress
Full seating inside the Coliseum building during the 1908 Republican National Convention, looking toward a balcony on the right of the image
Photographs from the Chicago Daily News, 1902-1933