NEW RESEARCH ASSISTANT BEGINS WORK IN D.C.

The project has hired Melanie Miller as a research assistant to assist staff already in place at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. Miller began work in November. She is a graduate student at the University of Maryland and will work for the project on a part-time basis while she finishes a master’s degree in history. Miller earned her bachelor’s degree in history at Douglass College, the Women’s College of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. She has worked as an archives technician at the National Archives and Records Administration and was a Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity Scholar at the University of Maryland.

At the 2005 National Women’s Studies Conference, she presented a paper entitled “Intersections of Representations, Images, and Agency by Gender, Race, and Ethnicity.” A native of New Jersey, Miller resides in Silver Spring, Maryland.
During the fall, research teams wrapped up the season of travel, visiting more than twenty sites in five states to scan Lincoln documents. They visited twenty repositories and the homes of three private collectors. They traveled within Illinois and to Kentucky, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

**In October...**

Patricia Virgil of the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society provided digital images of the six Lincoln documents the society owns.

Chris Schnell and Erika Nunamaker visited five repositories in the Boston metropolitan area, from which they obtained scans of more than three hundred documents, including several previously unpublished documents. They are indebted to the following individuals for their gracious help: Leanne Hayden at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield; Irene Axelrod at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem; Ruth Rogers and Mariana Oller at the Clapp Library at Wellesley College in Wellesley; Christine Sullivan at the Captain Forbes House Museum in Milton; and Stephen Plotkin at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

Kelley Boston and Daniel Stowell traveled to North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky. They visited ten repositories and two private collectors and scanned thirty-one documents. They would like to acknowledge the assistance of Gerald R. Parnell at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington; Dr. Jeffrey Crow and Jesse R. Lankford at the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh; Linda McCurdy and Elizabeth Dunn at the Rare Book, Manuscripts, and Special Collections Library at Duke University in Durham, NC; Suzanne Porter at the Duke University Medical Center Library in Durham, NC; Gwen Erickson at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC; Steve Harrison and Lynn Savage at the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in Flat Rock, NC; George Comparetto at the Polk County Historical Association in Tryon, NC; Kendra Hinkle at the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Greeneville, TN; Tommy Hines at the Shaker Museum at South Union in Auburn, KY; Nick Wyman at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville; William Jayne III of Bowling Green, KY; and Laurie Warden of Russellville, KY.

**PROJECT TRAVEL CONTINUES**

In November...

Kelley Boston and Erika Nunamaker scanned documents at Knox College and the Galesburg Public Library, both in Galesburg, Illinois. They wish to thank Director Pam Van Kirk and Archivist Patty Mosher, both of the Galesburg library, and Carley Robision, curator of manuscripts and archives at Knox College.

Stacy McDermott and Erika Nunamaker traveled to Wheaton and Naperville in northern Illinois to digitize documents at Cantigny and North Central College. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center at Cantigny, the estate of the late publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, holds eight Lincoln documents, including two previously unknown letters from Lincoln to Charles H. Ray, co-publisher of the *Chicago Press & Tribune* in the 1850s. Special thanks to Eric Gillespie, director of the research center, who made the documents accessible and assisted the project in gaining access to a document on display at the Cantigny mansion. Thanks also to Ted Schwitzner, technical services coordinator at the Oesterle Library at North Central College, which holds a military commission signed by Abraham Lincoln.

Chris Schnell and Kelley Boston scanned two Lincoln documents at the home of collector Jeff Deremiah in Decatur, Illinois. Deremiah owns documents signed by all of the United States presidents and the Illinois governors. He was kind enough to provide access to his Lincoln documents and offered a tour of his house to view the collection.

Erika Nunamaker visited Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, and obtained scans of six documents, including a ca. 1855 notebook in which Lincoln recorded the names of all the Illinois legislators. The project thanks Special Collections Librarian Charles Frey for his assistance.

**DONORS**

The project acknowledges with deep appreciation the generosity of the following contributors:

- Benjamin Shapell
- Bill and Mary Shepherd
- Zeta Psi Fraternity, University of Illinois

**Abraham Lincoln to Joseph S. McIntire**

*November 14, 1851*

In November, Chris Schnell and Erika Nunamaker digitized this letter from Lincoln to Joseph S. McIntire at the Birks Museum at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois.
Sometimes Lincoln documents end up in the most unlikely places. The early nineteenth-century home of Robert Bennet Forbes, a China trade merchant and a developer of Boston as the second busiest American port in the 1830s, is home to eleven Lincoln documents.

The Lincoln collection in this house museum (pictured below), located in suburban Boston, consists of three letters written by Lincoln, three Lincoln endorsements, one deputy postmaster appointment signed by Lincoln, and four military commissions also signed by Lincoln.

In 2003, the museum had responded to a telephone survey conducted by the project. At that time, a member of the museum staff indicated that the museum had Lincoln documents but provided no details. So, when Assistant Editor Chris Schnell and Research Associate Erika Nunamaker traveled to Boston in October of this year, they added the museum to their list of libraries and repositories to visit.

Mary Bowditch Forbes, the granddaughter of Robert Forbes, was a collector of Lincoln artifacts and documents, which have become part of the collections of the house museum. The mansion boasts a Lincoln Room, which holds numerous busts and portraits of Lincoln. A clipped Lincoln endorsement is also on display in a curio cabinet in a corner of the room. In the backyard, there is a replica of the cabin Lincoln lived in as a boy. A sampling of document images (courtesy of the museum) appears below.

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**Abraham Lincoln to Harvey G. Eastman**
April 7, 1860

**Abraham Lincoln to Edwin M. Stanton**
January 14, 1863

**Commission of Nicolas Bowen as 2nd Lieutenant in the Topographical Engineer Corps**
August 19, 1861
How You Can Help:

- By advising project staff of known or reported Lincoln documents in your locality. We are seeking copies of any document, letter, or contemporary printed account that relates to Abraham Lincoln’s entire life, 1809-1865.
- By making a tax-deductible donation to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln in support of the project. Such gifts provide crucial support in furtherance of the project’s objectives.

This project has been supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency.