

## The Editor's Page

It has been quite a while since the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* ran an issue devoted to Lincoln and his times.

Neither the Editorial Board nor the Editor planned this one. A number of interesting articles arrived within a few weeks of each other, and announced in chorus, "We are a Lincoln issue."

Only one of our contributors, Wayne Temple, has been publishing works on Lincoln for a long time. I await with considerable interest his reaction to an issue in which his recent work is so thoroughly discussed and utilized. The others, whether making new discoveries, or synthesizing earlier studies, are certainly in tune with the present phase of Lincoln Studies in Illinois: looking at the man chiefly before he became a national figure, and more particularly at the scene and supporting cast in Illinois which, improbably, sped him toward his national destiny.

A fine manuscript that has arrived in the last few days (too late to be in this issue) mentions a Robert Lincoln in Hancock County before and during the Civil War, and furthermore mentions his eligibility for public office, except for a certain problem: his Roman Catholic religion. Joe Nightingale's article discusses the Catholic Lincolns in Kentucky, including the parents of that same Robert Lincoln. And finally Wayne Temple's list of the delegates to the Illinois Republican Convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln indicates that Robert Lincoln of Hancock County helped secure the Presidential nomination for his quasi-Presbyterian second cousin.

Over the decades at meetings of the Illinois State Historical Society one could occasionally hear members say they were bored with Lincoln. I could not entirely agree, yet I thought I knew enough about Lincoln to teach 19th century US history. But I knew almost nothing of the scenes, activities, and characters in the pages that follow. I hope most of our readers find them as interesting as I do.