Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Michael Burlingame

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Historians Speak Oral History project

Interview # HSL-A-L-2017-014

Michael Burlingame, a Professor of History and Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies at the University of Illinois Springfield, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Historians Speak - Lincoln* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Mar 22, 2017   Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Dr. James Cornelius, Lincoln Curator, Abraham Lincoln Pres. Library

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

<div style="border:1px solid">Transcript
being processed</div>

Total Pages: _____   Total Time: 1:52 / 1.87 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 9, 2017.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

Abstract
Michael Burlingame, *Historians Speak*, HSL-A-L-2017-014

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Michael Burlingame was born on September 13, 1941 in Washington, D.C. He studied at Phillips Academy – Andover; at Princeton University (B.A.), and at Johns Hopkins University (Ph.D., 1971), and taught history and other subjects at Connecticut College from 1968 to 2001. He joined the faculty at the University of Illinois Springfield in 2009, and is the Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies. As a psychohistorian, his *The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln* (1994) startled this subfield of Lincoln studies. Compiled editions of eight key volumes of unpublished letters, memos, anonymous writings, etc. by Lincoln's secretaries Hay, Nicolay, Stoddard, and Brooks (1996-2002) enormously expanded the published sources for studying Lincoln's behind-the-scenes personal life and wartime work. His discovery in 1994 and publication in 2000 of key passages about Mary Lincoln's stealing, censored from the Browning diary (1925), made national news. Related findings led him to assert that John Hay, not Lincoln, authored the famous Bixby Letter of 1864. Scholars and the public still debate many of these points. His 1,800-page, 2-volume biography *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* (2008) is now standard, the result of mining three dozen archives across the land for other unpublished material; it exists as the fuller, uncut version on the Knox College website. Later in 2017 his next compilation will appear, the signed or anonymous reports of Henry Villard, a reporter who followed Lincoln during his pre-inaugural months.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865); U.S. Civil War (1861-1865); John Milton Hay (1838-1905); John George Nicolay (1832-1901); Mary Lincoln (1818-1882); Doug Pokorski (1951-2004), reporter for the *State Journal-Register*; Orville Hickman Browning (1806-1881); Bixby Letter (1864); *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* (2008); *The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln* (1994)

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.