



An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays

An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays

John C. Nicolay, who had known Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, served as chief White House secretary from 1861 to 1865. Trained as a journalist, Nicolay had hoped to write a campaign biography of Lincoln in 1860, a desire that was thwarted when an obscure young writer named William Dean Howells got the job. Years later, however, Nicolay fulfilled his ambition; with John Hay, he spent the years from 1872 to 1890 writing a monumental ten-volume biography of Lincoln.

In preparation for this task, Nicolay interviewed men who had known Lincoln both during his years in Springfield and later when he became the president of the United States. "When it came time to write their massive biography, however," Burlingame notes, "he and Hay made sparing use of the interviews" because they had become "skeptical about human memory." Nicolay and Hay also feared that Robert Todd Lincoln might censor material that reflected "poorly on Lincoln or his wife."

Nicolay had interviewed such Springfield friends as Lincoln's first two law partners, John Todd Stuart and Stephen T. Logan. At the Illinois capital in June and July 1875, he talked to a number of others including Orville H. Browning, U.S. senator and Lincoln's close friend and adviser for over thirty-five years, and Ozias M. Hatch, Lincoln's political ally and Springfield neighbor. Four years later he returned briefly and spoke with John W. Bunn, a young political "insider" from Springfield at the time Lincoln was elected president, and once again with Hatch.

Browning shed new light on Lincoln's courtship and marriage, telling Nicolay that Lincoln often told him "that he was constantly under great apprehension lest his wife should do something which would bring him into disgrace" while in the White House. During their research, Nicolay and Hay also learned of Lincoln's despondency and erratic behavior following his rejection by Matilda Edwards, and they were subsequently criticized by friends for suppressing the information. Burlingame argues that this open discussion of Lincoln's depression of January 1841 is "perhaps the most startling new information in the Springfield interviews."

Briefer and more narrowly focused than the Springfield interviews, the Washington interviews deal with the formation of Lincoln's cabinet, his relations with Congress, his behavior during the war, his humor, and his grief. In a reminiscence by Robert Todd Lincoln, for example, we learn of Lincoln's despair at General Lee's escape after the Battle of Gettysburg: "I went into my father's office ... and found him in [much] distress, his head leaning upon the desk in front of him, and when he raised his head there were evidences of tears upon his face. Upon my asking the cause of his distress he told me that he had just received the information that Gen. Lee had succeeded in escaping across the Potomac river. . ."

To supplement these interviews, Burlingame has included Nicolay's unpublished essays on Lincoln during the 1860 campaign and on Lincoln's journey from Springfield to Washington in 1861, essays based on firsthand testimony.

 [**Download** An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicola ...pdf](#)

 [**Read Online** An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nico ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays

From reader reviews:

Hyacinth Mills:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even an issue. What people must be consider while those information which is in the former life are difficult to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen within you if you take An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays as the daily resource information.

Charles Valentine:

Typically the book An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays will bring that you the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to see, this book very acceptable to you. The book An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from your official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

Gavin Wilkins:

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world may share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire all their reader with their story or maybe their experience. Not only situation that share in the guides. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some research before they write to the book. One of them is this An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays.

Beverly Ingram:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside together with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by studying a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book will surely hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, having everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's find.

**Download and Read Online An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln:
John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays #1NQI3VMB6ZL**

Read An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays for online ebook

An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays books to read online.

Online An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays ebook PDF download

An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays Doc

An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays Mobipocket

An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay's Interviews and Essays EPub