

FACT OF THE DAY #3

THE LOST LINCOLN SPEECH

At the inaugural meeting of the nascent republican party in Bloomington, Illinois, Abraham Lincoln was called on to give the closing speech. He supposedly spoke mostly about his opposition to the extension of slavery to the territories, with such force and magnetism as to practically hypnotise the gathered crowd. Indeed, the journalists present were reportedly so awe struck with the performance that no one made any notes and thus the speech went unrecorded, leading the oration to become known as "Lincoln's lost speech". Some thought the speech may have been deliberately unrecorded owing to its radical content. In 1896 a version was written by Chicago attorney Henry Clay Whitney and published in McClure's Magazine, though it was greeted with much skepticism. Little wonder, as it was written 40 years after the event.



DR JONES