

Lincoln's Departure for Washington—Interview with Thomas
Ross, of Springfield, Ill., who was brakeman on
the Lincoln train.
(Date of interview, August 29, 1898.)

"I was brakeman on the special train which carried Lincoln out of Springfield on the morning of February 11, 1861. At that time passenger coaches were equipped with only hand-brakes, and the brakeman had to attend pretty strictly to business. I was counted one of the best brakemen on the road, although I was then a ~~baggage~~ baggageman. I was taken from the baggage-car by order of the superintendent of the road, Mr. F. W. Bowen, who said to me: "Tom, I want you to do your best today". "You know I will do that", said I, and I certainly tried. I donned my best suit of clothes, and taking my position on the car-platform never left it until the train crossed the state line, where my duties ended.

"I remember well the scene at the Springfield station. There was quite a crowd—just how many I can't say, but perhaps 300 or 400 ^{persons}. The President made his way through the crowd to the train, and when he had ascended the steps turned and made his farewell speech. I was standing right behind him. I remember he held his tall silk hat in his hand ~~when he spoke~~ as he spoke. There was much emotion in his voice, and there were many long faces in the assemblage. Lincoln did not stand on the rear platform, but on the platform at the front end of the coach.

"The train was composed only of a coach and baggage-car, hauled by the locomotive "Wylie". The train sped along at a pretty lively rate, stopping only at a few places. The enthusiasm all along the line was intense. As we whirled through the country villages, we caught a cheer from the people and a glimpse of waving handkerchiefs and of hats

Departure for Wasgtn.—3

arriving on the morning of the 12th only a few seconds before the special train left. She remained with Mr. Lincoln on the rest of the journey as far as Harrisburg, from which point Mr. Lincoln made his famous night journey to Washington.

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J. W. "Cur Davis"