

Lincoln's Departure--Interview with George C.Latham  
of Springfield, Ill.

Mr. George C.Latham, of Springfield, Ill., was one of the party which accompanied Lincoln from Springfield to Harrisburg on the journey to Washington. In an interview August 1, 1898, Mr.Latham said:

"My presence on the train was due to the fact that I was a school-mate of Robert T.Lincoln at Exeter, New Hampshire. I went as his guest and companion. As to the departure I only remember that there was a big crowd at the station to see Lincoln off. I was busy getting ready and did not see much of Mr.Lincoln until he had gotten aboard the train. In the depot he shook hands with many people. After ~~he~~ the train started, I do not remember that he made any attempt at seclusion. He walked back and forth through the train and chatted pleasantly with those on board. I recall no important incident of the journey not recorded in the newspapers of the period. One thing, I remember, which caused a great commotion for a time was the disappearance of the inaugural address. It was in a valise which had been entrusted to Bob, and Bob lost the valise. He did not know that the valuable document was inside. There was considerable uneasiness until it was recovered."

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J. McCan Davis.