

Civil War Museum Theatre Program Cast of Characters

Cordelia Harvey – Wisconsin Angel (1824-1895) Wisconsin's Representative in the Western Sanitary Commission

Cordelia Harvey was born in New York and resettled in Kenosha, Wisconsin. It was here that she met her husband, Louis Harvey.

As governor of Wisconsin, Louis Harvey was interested in the well-being of Wisconsin soldiers. After his untimely death while visiting wounded soldiers near Shiloh, Cordelia was appointed Wisconsin's representative to the Western Sanitary Commission by Governor Salomon. She traveled up and down the Mississippi River visiting Union hospitals and helping thousands of soldiers from Wisconsin and other northern states.

During her travels, she became a passionate believer in the need for hospitals away from the battlefields and the hot, humid South. She traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with President Lincoln who was opposed to the idea of northern hospitals. Through perseverance and determination, she was able to convince President Lincoln of the merits of northern hospitals. Lincoln ordered three hospitals constructed in Wisconsin.



William Herndon – The Man Who Knew Lincoln (1818-1891)
Abraham Lincoln's law partner in Springfield, Illinois

Abraham Lincoln was William Herndon's law partner in Springfield, Illinois. The two friends worked side by side and got to know each other quite well.

After Lincoln's death, Herndon undertook the enormous project of writing Lincoln's biography. He interviewed many people from Lincoln's childhood and collected stories about him. Through Herndon's recollections, we get a sense of what Lincoln's childhood was like, how his views were influenced by his experiences as a young man, and how Lincoln interacted with his children as a father.

Herndon also explains what might be Lincoln's abolitionist roots when Lincoln traveled to New Orleans by riverboat and saw a slave auction.



Ida B. Wells – Child of the Civil War (1862-1931)
Early civil rights leader who migrated to Chicago, Illinois

Ida Wells was born to slave parents in Mississippi during the Civil War. Her parents died from yellow fever when she was 16. As a journalist living in Memphis, Tennessee, Wells became committed to ending segregation, lynch mobs, and the destruction of African American property in the South.

After a threat against her life, Wells migrated to the North. In Chicago, she co-wrote with Fredrick Douglass the pamphlet *The Reason Why the Colored American is Not in the World's Columbian Exposition*. The pamphlet examines why three decades after the Civil War African Americans were still not considered equal to whites. Wells stayed in Chicago after the World's Fair to promote African American rights.



Caroline Quarlls – My Independence Day (1826-189?)
Escaped slave traveling through Wisconsin and Illinois

In 1842, Caroline Quarlls, a 16 year old, light-skinned St. Louis slave, makes the choice to run away. She rides a stagecoach with slave catchers in pursuit to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Once in Milwaukee, she meets people who help her travel to freedom in Canada.

Years later, after the Civil War, Caroline Quarlls receives a letter from Lyman Goodnow, the man who escorted her from Wisconsin to Canada. This theatrical performance is based on the letters from Caroline to Mr. Goodnow (one of which is displayed in the Museum's main exhibition), and on the account Mr. Goodnow subsequently writes about their shared experience.



