



important Chicago (and Illinois) were to the chain of events that led to the war. Thanks to the well written story (including some excellent pictures), I now have a much better understanding of the politics in Illinois at the time and how they affected Lincoln's decision-making and the events that led to the creation of the Republican party. In addition, and for example, the book also helped answer such questions as why did Lincoln support the Fugitive Slave Law while at the same time being against slavery. And, for the first time, I believe I finally understand why the Compromise of 1850 led, almost inexorably, to the Civil War. The best part of this book is its clarity of thought. It reads well and it takes the reader on a fascinating and straight-forward journey through time with the result that, I, at least, feel that I now have a good understanding of what was going on. In this year in which our first black President took office (having been a Senator from Illinois), this is a timely and excellent story that is exceptionally well told. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. "Fighting Slavery in Chicago" by Tom Campbell is a Must! By C. C. Moynihan The subtitle of Tom Campbell's book -- "Abolitionists, the Law of Slavery, and Lincoln" -- reflects the fascinating historical conflicts bearing on Abraham Lincoln's early career in Illinois, and the key activists whose commitment to the abolition of slavery culminated in securing his nomination for President. Well illustrated with photographs and documents, the story told by this research skillfully interweaves the details of those dangerous times, from the threats of violent mobs assassinating a newspaper editor and forcing the Mormons to leave the state, to the great risks faced by the individuals involved in the unlawful transport of fugitive slaves to safety in Canada via the network known as the "Underground Railway". This moving depiction of those passionate struggles is important for its illumination of the social and legal problems of the era, and how they contributed to the courses chosen by Lincoln and his supporters leading up to his tumultuous Presidency in the Civil War years. Highly recommended for all strong history buffs -- as well as for schools and libraries! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautifully Printed History of Abolition Movement in Chicago By E. Clinton This book is a thorough and thoughtful history of the abolition movement in Chicago. The book is beautifully printed with numerous photographs and reproductions of original documents from the abolition period such as the old Chicago Wigwam, where Abraham Lincoln was nominated for President of the United States, the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territories, an advertisement in a Chicago newspaper for the so-called Underground Railroad among others. This book allows the reader to have contact with many of the original source documents reviewed by the author. In that way it is a teaching tool for the next generation of Chicagoans. I learned a great deal from this book.

Charles Volney Dyer came to Chicago in 1835 as physician to the garrison at Fort Dearborn. Outraged at the assassination of abolitionist editor, Elijah Lovejoy, in Alton, Illinois, he rallied Chicagoans to form the Chicago Chapter of the Anti-Slavery Society. With them, he operated the Illinois Station of the Underground Railroad, freeing over 1000 slaves. Tracing Dyer's activities from 1835-1865, Campbell sweeps in the many players and steps in the fight against slavery. Dyer established newspapers, including "National Era" which first published "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and "Western Citizen" which became the "Free West" and later the "Chicago Tribune." He founded anti-slavery political parties--the Liberty Party, the Free Soil Party and the Illinois Republican Party, which hosted the first Republican Convention, at which Dyer helped secure the nomination for Lincoln in 1860 in Chicago. Lincoln is rightfully immortalized as the Great Emancipator and this book clearly demonstrates that Chicago abolitionists played a significant role in pushing slavery down the road to its ultimate extinction.

"Campbell masterfully reveals a resourceful circle of activists who made Chicago their base. This group influenced Lincoln, but the courage of Charles Volney Dyer and other Chicago abolitionists stands on its own as a proud chapter in the struggle against slavery." --Gary Johnson, President, Chicago History Museum "Tom Campbell gives the clearest account of the role of Chicago's abolitionists as they fought the Fugitive Slave Law and furthered Lincoln's political career. But it is the story of abolitionist Dr. Charles V. Dyer, his bravery and humor, that ignites these pages." --Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director, Abraham Lincoln Commission "Thomas Campbell reveals an important but largely unvisited part of Abraham Lincoln's life. Campbell makes history read like action/adventure which is one reason Lincoln is now more popular than ever. Add a heretofore missing piece of Lincoln's career." --Bill Kurtis, Journalist and President, Kurtis Productions About the Author Tom Campbell is an attorney who specializes in the trial of business disputes. One of the skills of a trial lawyer is the ability to express complicated ideas in a simple way. This was something Lincoln excelled at and something Campbell has emulated in explaining his arguments in a chapter of Illinois history that largely has gone unexplored to date. Campbell is a graduate of Dartmouth, received his D.J. degree from Cornell and has been named one of the Best Lawyers in America. He lives and works in Chicago.