

**JULY 2024**

**Newly discovered material adds important pieces to the Lincoln at City Point story.**

For the longest time Lincoln biographers went from the dramatic events of Lincoln's April 4 visit to Richmond to his late morning April 5 meeting about the U.S.S. *Malvern* with two Southern leaders. The unspoken assumption was that nothing of importance happened before the President's "guests" arrived.

In my book, *Lincoln's Greatest Journey*, I marshal the evidence to show that he actually went ashore for several hours. You'll find my reasoning for making this statement on pages 279-280 in the book. Key pieces of the puzzle were postwar statements involving two junior officers aboard the *Malvern* on April 5, 1865, that they participated in such an event. My only disappointment from my research was that I was unable to provide any corroboration from the Marine detail that accompanied him.

This is no longer the case.

On June 10, 2024, I received an email from a self-described "historian, writer and former journalist" named Tom Shoop, who had taken on the tedious task of working through the roster of Marines aboard the *Malvern* that day that I had included in my book. With a few edits from yours truly, this is what he had to say:

"I happened to find a Philadelphia Inquirer article from May 31, 1903, about a monument to Lt. William I. Givin...being erected at West Laurel Hill Cemetery. It said Givin 'took part in many of the most prominent naval battles of the Civil War. When Abraham Lincoln entered Richmond, Va., he had charge of the guard of honor.'"

Shoop continues: "I then did newspaper searches for the other names on the muster roll, and came up with one other obituary of a Martin Leonard from the Boston Globe on April 3, 1920, that says he was 'chosen as a bodyguard to President Lincoln on his entry into Richmond.'"

Tom Shoop assures me that he's still digging through that *Malvern* Marine roster.

I consider this a critical corroboration of what I believe to be true, that on the morning of April 5, 1865, Abraham Lincoln went ashore and visited Richmond a second time.

-- Noah Andre Trudeau