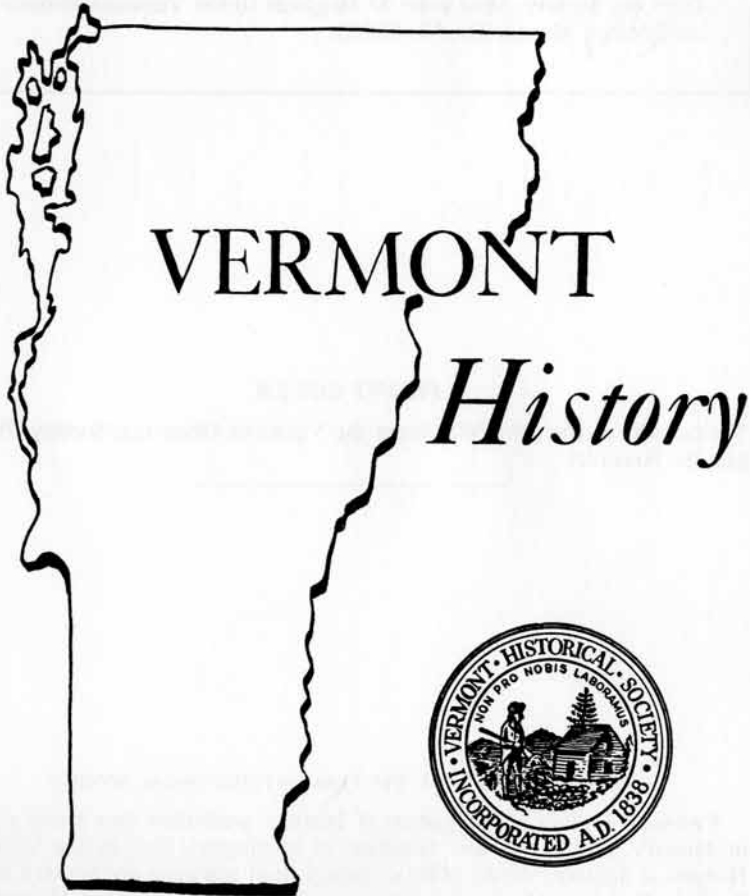


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A Lost Lincoln Telegram

By JOHN A. WILLIAMS

MARY GREEN NYE, the editor and compiler of the collection of Governor Erastus Fairbank's Papers contained in Volumes 81 and 82 of the manuscript *Vermont State Papers*, has left a note with this collection of important research material that presents a tantalizing mystery. The note tells us that the only telegram signed by President Lincoln in the Fairbanks' Collection was sent to Vermont early in the Civil War. A copy of the telegram survives in the Fairbanks Papers and it reads:

Strictly private and confidential

Gov. Erastus Fairbanks,
Montpelier, Vt.

Washington is in grave danger. What may we expect of Vermont?

A. Lincoln

Mrs. Nye tells us that on the back of the telegram is written in the Governor's handwriting what was probably his reply:

Vermont will do its full duty.

The location of the original from Lincoln and the date of its transmission remain unknown.