



FOR THE PEOPLE

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Serendipitous Discovery of Unknown Lincoln Drawing

By Erika Holst
Director, ALA
Curator, Illinois State Museum



A while back, when I was curator of historic Edwards Place, I received a phone call from a family who said they had discovered a box of old documents in their barn, and some of them related to the Edwards family.

Skeptical but eternally hopefully, I met with them to examine the documents. Lo and behold, some of them *were* related to the Edwards family: bills from the contracting firm of Sutton & Brother for an addition to the Edwardses' brick house in 1857. The rest of the documents seemed to be a collection of 1850s Springfield business invoices and receipts. Ultimately it was decided that the Edwards-related documents would go to the Springfield Art Association, which owns Edwards Place, and the rest would go to the Sangamon Valley Collection at Springfield's public library.

In the short term, before they were divided up, I had the opportunity to sit down and go through all the documents page by page. If my husband, Christopher Schnell, hadn't been sitting next to me, the Lincoln document in the pile would never have come to light.

I certainly didn't recognize what it was when I saw it. "Oh, look," I said to Chris, "Someone drew a sketch on this one." Chris took it and looked it over. (See next page for sketch.)

"That looks like Lincoln's handwriting," he said. There are only six and a half words on the document, but that was enough to catch his eye. Chris is something of an expert on Lincoln's handwriting, having spent 14 years looking for it among dusty files of antebellum court records for the Lincoln Legal Papers.

Still, at the time, neither of us thought the piece of paper he held in his hand could actually be a Lincoln document. Then Chris looked closer. The document in question is the bottom half of a sketch depicting a "West Counter" and "South Counter" at right angles to each other and an "East Counter" off to the side. Again, if anyone other than Chris had looked at this document, he might have missed the significance. But Chris happened to have been the editor of the chapter on *People v. Harrison* in *The Papers of Abraham Lincoln: Legal Documents and Cases* (4 vols., 2008), and he realized that he was looking at a diagram of the Pleasant Plains drugstore where Greek Crafton was fatally stabbed.

The assault took place in the summer of 1859, when a scuffle between Crafton and Peachy Quinn Harrison left Crafton with mortal wounds. Harrison was indicted for murder, and Abraham Lincoln was hired as part of the defense team. The case was tried in the Sangamon County Circuit Court from August 31 to September 3, 1859. Present in the courtroom was Robert Hitt, a shorthand reporter hired by the *Illinois State Journal* to make a verbatim transcript of the trial.

Thanks to Hitt's trial transcript, we know that the layout of the drugstore featured prominently in the case. At one point a prosecuting attorney drew a rough diagram of the store on the courtroom floor itself, and that diagram was referred to several times throughout the questioning. On being cross-examined by Lincoln, John

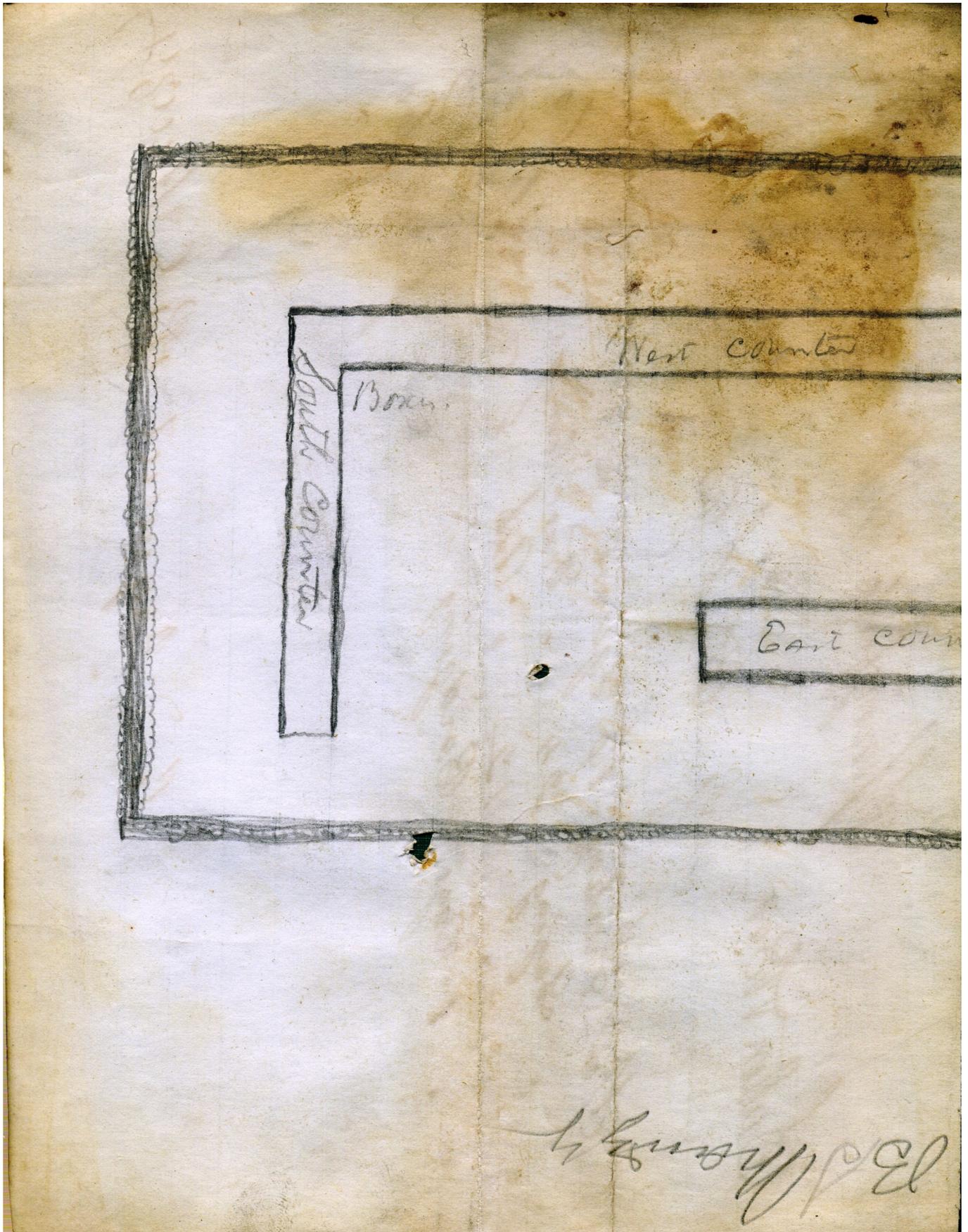
Crafton, brother of the deceased, described the drugstore thus: "the [east] corner ... is only about half way across the room. It don't go down & join. The west counter comes down near the south end of the room & there has a cross piece."

The document we had in our hands seemed to be Lincoln's attempt to sketch out the scene in order to better visualize what happened. He even made note of "Boxes" at the juncture of the south and west counters, which Greek Crafton fell over just before he was stabbed.

Chris and I showed the document to John Lupton, veteran of the Lincoln Legal Papers and a nationally recognized expert in Lincoln's handwriting, and to James Cornelius, then Lincoln curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. Both concurred that it was Lincoln's handwriting and that the document was related to the Harrison case.

But how did this paper wind up among a pile of unrelated business receipts? The likely answer lies on the other side of the document, which contains an account of payment owed to B. S. Mauzy by Sutton & Bro. for services rendered. It is dated September 3, 1859 – the last day of the Harrison trial. By our best guess, one of the Sutton brothers was in the courtroom to watch the trial, happened to pick up Lincoln's discarded sketch, and used its blank verso to conduct business.

That Lincoln should go on to become the 16th President; that this paper should survive among Sutton & Brother's receipts; that 150 years later it should fall into the hands of someone who just happened to be familiar with both Lincoln's handwriting and the Harrison case; and that the author of a bestselling book about the Harrison case, Dan Abrams, should be the ALA 2019 banquet speaker ... is simply a series of very fortunate coincidences.



Seven little words in Lincoln's hand, 1859. *Courtesy of the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois*

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President's Message

Abraham Lincoln sometimes captured his thoughts on a simple piece of paper without any context. Later the concepts might show up in speeches or letters. For others, we have no idea why, or even when, Lincoln penned them. One can find numerous examples of these “fragments” in The Abraham Lincoln Association’s landmark publication, *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*.

One of the most well-known – indeed, the text on which President Barack Obama based his address to the ALA at the Bicentennial Banquet in 2009 – deals with the role of government. “The legitimate object of government,” Lincoln wrote, “is to do for the people what needs to be done, but which they cannot, by individual effort, do at all, or do so well, by themselves.”

I’ve been thinking about this quotation a lot lately. Much of the current political debate is an attempt to define the proper boundaries between government action and that of the private sector. Every one of the governmental functions encapsulated in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution – justice, domestic tranquility, defense, welfare – rely on both the government and the private sector for completion. The same can be said for that most ephemeral function, forming a more perfect union. A key component of this task is creating and maintaining the means for passing along the history and culture of our great Nation. Certainly there are private institutions (libraries, museums, historical societies, even ALA itself) which play a role here, but it is the public sector – institutions such as the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, the National Archives, and the National Park Service, as well as state agencies devoted to historic preservation – that provide access to the information and experiences that allow us to understand our common heritage, our attempts to become part of a more perfect union.

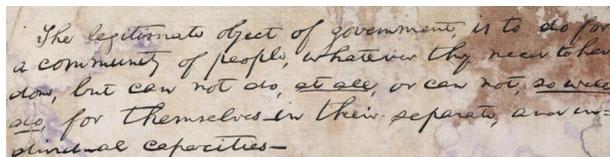
When I became ALA president in February 2018, I said that one of my themes was “Rescue New Salem.” I know our members appreciate the importance of the six formative years young Lincoln’s spent in that village on the Sangamon River, but they may not be aware of the fiscal shortfalls and physical deterioration that threaten New Salem’s very future. There is, of course, no way that ALA alone could underwrite the costs of rebuilding the staff or repairing the structures. But we can be a messenger about the need, especially the need for intervention by the State of Illinois.

That is why I was so pleased when the new Governor of Illinois, JB Pritzker, attended our Banquet celebrating Lincoln’s 210th birthday. He heard our concerns about New Salem, and he was able to tell the audience, “I hope to be of service to you with New Salem and with the many other activities of the Association.”

In 1906, the famous publisher William Randolph Hearst bought the land where the village once stood and donated it to the Old Salem Chautauqua Association. With his approval, the property was transferred to the people of Illinois on May 22, 1919. This year on May 22, the ALA along with its partners, the New Salem Lincoln League, the Looking for Lincoln Coalition, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, will gather in Lincoln’s New Salem Village to celebrate the centennial of that transfer. Save the date and look for more details to come. I hope to see a great turnout.



ALA President Bob Willard and Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, at the 2019 Banquet



Bob Willard

What Did Booth Say at Lincoln's April 11, 1865, Speech?

By Terry Alford

There appear to be two sources for Booth's remarks at Lincoln's last public speech. They differ, but are of the same cloth.

The more extensive remarks come from George Alfred Townsend, a nationally prominent journalist. In his novel *Katy of Catoctin. Or, the Chain-Breakers. A National Romance* (New York: Appleton, 1886), p. 490, Townsend writes that Booth and Herold were present at the White House for the speech. Hearing what Lincoln said about limited black suffrage, Townsend writes: "That means nigger citizenship,' Booth said to little Herold by his side. 'Now, by God, I'll put him through.'"

Objection is made to the "nigger citizenship" remark due to the fact is that it appears in a novel. A very proper objection.

We should notice, however, that Townsend additionally records in a footnote at the bottom of the same page his source for the statement: "Frederick Stone, counsel for Herold after Booth's death, told the author that this was the occasion of the deliberate murder being resolved upon by Booth, and in the words above."

Townsend's novel contains extensive fictionalized scenes and characters. At the same time, he quotes directly from interviews he did in the 1870s and 1880s with the principals in the assassination story. The book is therefore an odd mix of fiction and fact. As an illustration of that, there are other instances where a character in the novel makes a statement and Townsend – perhaps realizing the remark is controversial – supplies a footnote to back it up. In

that way his novel is highly unusual.

Other examples:

Booth in Canada. "Related to the author by Marshal John P. Kane, of Baltimore, to whom Martin gave a letter of introduction to Booth." p. 431n.

Booth stage accident. "Nearly literal transcript from an observer's reminiscences of Booth." p. 462n.

Shooting of a dog. "Related to the author by Thomas A. Harbin, who was in the abduction secret." p. 473n.

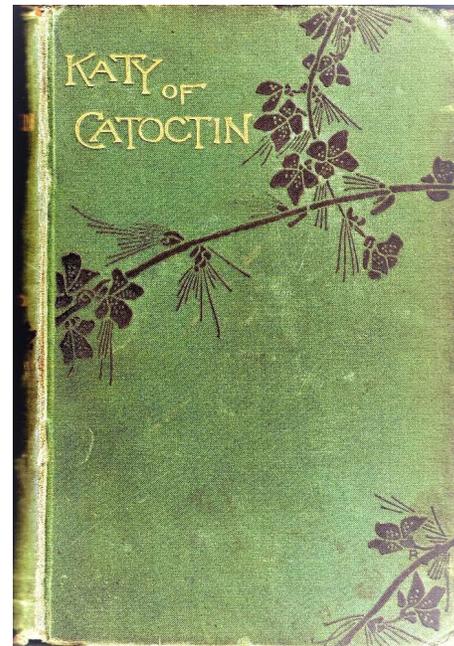
Booth's escape route. "John McCullough told me that Booth put him on a horse and took him to Benning's Bridge, months before the murder, saying, 'If a man was in a scrape, here would be a good lane to get out.'" p. 518n.

Townsend interviewed dozens of detectives, actors, witnesses, soldiers, prosecutors – you name it. His knowledge of the assassination by the 1880s probably exceeded that of any other person.

Townsend's papers are at the Maryland Hall of Records in Annapolis. I have been through them. The "nigger citizenship" remark appears on page 995 of the original manuscript of the novel as a footnote.

Townsend's diary for 1883, also present among his papers in Annapolis, reveals that he spent June 1 and 2, 1883, with lawyer Stone and interviewed him at that time.

A second source of Booth's remarks that day reflects a conversation that Lewis Powell had with Major Thomas Eckert



while the former was imprisoned. Powell said that Booth remarked, "That is the last speech he will ever make." *Impeachment Investigation*, p. 674.

Given Townsend's knowledge of the murder plot and the clear manner in which he sources his "nigger citizenship" statement (as well as his documented access to Stone, the source), I feel comfortable that the statement is authentic.

I notice it has also been accepted by earlier writers like Ed Steers, Michael Kauffman, and James O. Hall.

Professor Alford is the author of Fortune's Fool: The Life of John Wilkes Booth (Oxford University Press, 2015). For many years, he taught at Northern Virginia Community College.

Helm Place Makes Gift of Thomas Lincoln Table to the Lincoln Homestead National Park

On February 17, 2019, dozens of historic items from the ca. 1840s Helm Place in Lexington, Kentucky, were sold at auction. Mary Lincoln's youngest half-sister, Emilie Todd Helm, and/or her three children lived there from 1912 to 1946. Tom Eblen of the Lexington *Herald-Leader* reported that lawyer and historian William H. Townsend bought the home from a daughter, Elodie Helm, in 1946. In 2012, his daughter gave the house to the Kentucky Mansions Preservation Foundation. Prior to auction, the

Foundation gave many historic items to 16 regional museums and archives in Kentucky. Some key portraits, including one of Robert Smith Todd, stayed in Lexington. A small table made by Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, was given to the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park near Hodgenville. (See picture to right.) Officials stated that this auction was step one, while sale of Helm Place and grounds will require any new owner to preserve the interior and exterior fabric.

Proceeds will be used to help support the Mary Lincoln House.



2019 Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium



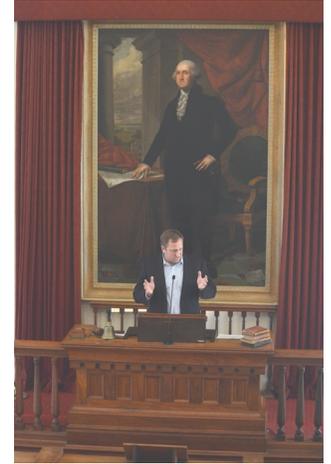
Ron J. Keller speaks at the Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium in the House of Representatives of the Old State Capitol



John Lupton speaks at the Thomas Schwartz Luncheon in the Atrium of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library



Sarah Thomas, benefactor of the Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium, speaks in the House of Representatives of the Old State Capitol



Matthew Pinsker speaks at the Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium in the House of Representatives of the Old State Capitol



The Old State Capitol Singers



Roundtable Discussion Held in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. Left to right: John Lupton, Ron J. Keller, Michael Burlingame, Matthew Pinsker, and Brian Dirck



The audience at the Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium in the House of Representatives of the Old State Capitol



Dan Abrams and Floyd Abrams at the book signing in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

All photographs were taken by David Blanchette.

Thank you to our co-sponsors: The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Old State Capitol State Historic Site

The 2019 Abraham Lincoln Birthday Banquet



*Emily Ducaji,
Lincoln Essay Prize Winner,
Led the Pledge of Allegiance*



*Dan Abrams, the
Banquet Speaker*



Governor JB Pritzker



*Debbie Ross Led the
Singing of the National
Anthem and Battle Hymn
of the Republic*



*Steve Beckett, Bob Willard, and
Floyd Abrams*



Dan Abrams, Floyd Abrams, and Julie Cellini



*Judge Richard W. Maroc, and
Bill Bartelt*



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Dr. Don Graham, Judge Stuart Shiffman, and Don Tracy



*JB Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, and
Kathryn Harris,
Former ALA President*

Floyd Abrams Honored with Lincoln the Lawyer Award

By Steve Beckett



*Steve Beckett presents the Lincoln the Lawyer
Award to Floyd Abrams*

At the Abraham Lincoln Association banquet on February 12, 2019, Steve Beckett, chair of the Awards Committee, conferred

the 2019 ALA Lincoln the Lawyer Award to Floyd Abrams.

Abrams of New York is a nationally renowned apostle of the First Amendment. His appearances before the U.S. Supreme Court in *The Pentagon Papers* case (*New York Times* and *Washington Post* release of documents critical of U. S. Government involvement in Vietnam War is protected speech under the First Amendment), the *Citizens United* case (corporations' campaign donations are protected political speech), and *Nebraska Press Association v. Stuart* (press coverage of criminal trials is protected speech under the public's right

to know about the judicial system), among many others.

Like Abraham Lincoln, Abrams's private practice is varied and client-centric, sometimes putting Abrams on opposite sides of issues, but demonstrating an overall legal acumen second to none. Just as Lincoln developed Illinois law regarding railroads where precedent was lacking, Abrams's efforts have created a body of First Amendment law for our nation.

In his gracious acceptance, Abrams cited Lincoln as a prime model for lawyers today to take principled stands for clients, including unpopular ones.

Lincoln and the ALA on Facebook

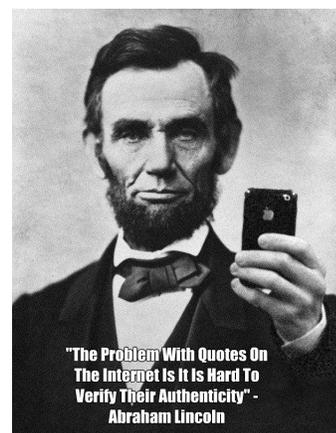
You've probably seen them. The memes on Facebook, or on other social media outlets, often using the 1863 "Gettysburg" photograph, depicting Lincoln taking a selfie, with a caption to this effect: "Don't believe everything you read on the internet." While not Lincolnian, it is good advice. But when it comes to Lincoln-related quotations and facts, the new Abraham Lincoln Association web-site (abrahamlincolnassociation.org) and Facebook page are notable exceptions.

The Abraham Lincoln Association uses its Facebook page to share Lincoln-related news and events. The ALA also uses its Facebook page to share some of the day-to-day events in Lincoln's life. Some of those events are significant: elections to public offices, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, Inaugural Addresses, as well as births and deaths. But many of Lincoln's days were filled with the routine work and correspondence of a state representative, congressman, lawyer, and family man.

Building on the earlier work of the Abraham Lincoln Association and the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum have compiled and built a searchable database of the daily chronology of Lincoln's life called "The Lincoln Log." A link to this database can be found on the ALA website. Using excerpts from this database, the ALA Facebook editors try to provide glimpses into those notable, and not so notable, days of Lincoln's life.

If you're not already a follower of The Abraham Lincoln Association on Facebook, please "Like" and "Follow Us." We also value comments on and shares of our post. And when you share our post, please encourage your friends to "Like" and "Follow Us" and, more importantly, ask them to join and support the Abraham Lincoln Association.

Brian Steenbergen, ALA Director and Facebook Editor



Join The Abraham Lincoln Association Today Membership Matters!

Dear Friends and Members,

There is much we can all learn from the actions and statesmanship Abraham Lincoln displayed as president. Every generation, in fact each person, needs mentors. We need leaders from all walks of life who inspire and set the standard, just as President Lincoln did.

The history of Abraham Lincoln's presidency represents the sterling ideals of America, ideals that must be reintroduced and nurtured by all people.

Your membership support allows the ALA to serve as a beacon in the field of Lincoln studies. It's important to say that we couldn't do it without you. That's why membership matters, and we are grateful for every member.

Joseph Garrera, Membership Chairman

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CLE (and CME) Events on Lincoln

By Roger Billings



The ALA's five-seat committee for Continuing Legal Education promotes recognition and membership of the ALA, as well as broader knowledge. Initially it planned to give CLE programs only for lawyers, but recently it expanded its scope to include a program for physicians – continuing medical education, or CME.

Thus, a birthday double-header took place at Memorial Medical Center in Springfield, Illinois, on February 12th, 2019. Dr. Donald Graham gave the CME portion, focusing on the hypothetical treatment of Lincoln when he contracted

varioid (a mild form of smallpox) in 1863, by using present-day medical standards. The present author followed, with an overview of some of Lincoln's medical-malpractice cases. The one-hour program attracted nearly 100 medical staff and members of the general public. It will soon appear online for personnel at 17 Illinois hospitals.

Lawyers and physicians must annually attend CLE or CME programs in order to maintain their licenses. They are a captive audience at these programs which tend to offer practical information, some of it served up in rather dull fashion. We had the idea that ALA-sponsored programs could focus on aspects of Lincoln's career that are both interesting and informative. Word reaches us that these programs are a welcome relief to some participants from the heavier subjects usually presented.

The first CLE / ALA program was arranged by Judge Ron Spears for the Illinois State Bar Association in

September 2017 and presented at Lincoln College. The ISBA was so pleased with the result that it invited him to do programs in 2018 and in 2019. Each time, Judge Spears travels to a different town where Lincoln practiced. He also arranges for short essays on Lincoln to appear in the *Illinois Bar Journal*.

Expanding our reach in the legal community, Judges Ken Anderson and Rich Maroc along with the present author gave a program for the Lake County (Indiana) Bar Association in November 2018. It, too, was so well-received that another program in Lake County will be given on December 6, 2019. The Indianapolis Bar Association also has scheduled an ALA-sponsored CLE program for the previous day, December 5.

Professor Roger Billings, an ALA Director, teaches in the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University.