



FOR THE PEOPLE

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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Lewis E. Lehrman Receives Logan Hay Medal

Doctor's orders may have prevented Lewis Lehrman from traveling to Springfield on Lincoln's Birthday, but his presence was clearly felt by those attending The Abraham Lincoln Association's 2018 Banquet. Mr. Lehrman was the recipient of ALA's Logan Hay Medal, and a large video screen gave all in attendance the opportunity to see ALA Director (and newly elected 1st Vice President) Michael Burlingame present the Medal in Mr. Lehrman's Connecticut office a few weeks earlier.

Professor Burlingame read the accompanying citation, which said in part: "Few people in our time have done more to promote the study and appreciation of Abraham Lincoln than the venture capitalist, philanthropist, and author Lewis E. Lehrman. A graduate of Yale University with an advanced degree in history from Harvard, he has published several books, among them *Lincoln at Peoria: The Turning Point* (a history of Lincoln's anti-slavery campaign from 1854 to 1865); *Lincoln "by Little*s" (a collection of essays about the sixteenth president); and most recently *Lincoln & Churchill: Statesmen at War*, a comparative study of the leadership qualities of those two remarkable men.

"As a philanthropist, Mr. Lehrman has encouraged Lincoln scholarship in many ways, not least by his generous support of The Abraham Lincoln Association. In addition, he founded the Lincoln Institute, which for many years provided support and assistance to scholars and groups devoted to the study of Springfield's favorite son. The Institute promoted the development and dissemination of printed materials, conferences, and Internet resources on Lincoln. It encouraged scholars to cooperate with one another and to contribute to the development of historical materials and the transcription of primary sources for both physical and virtual display."

The Logan Hay Medal is the highest award presented by ALA. In the mid 1960s, the Association, with the enthusiastic support of the



Michael Burlingame shows Logan Hay Medal to video camera before presenting it to Lewis E. Lehrman.

Logan Hay family, established the award to recognize an individual who had made outstanding contributions to the purposes for which the Association was formed. Because Mr. Hay played so large a role in the formative years of the Association—including service as President from 1920 to 1942—and in developing Lincoln scholarship and research, the award was named in his honor.

In accepting the Medal, Mr. Lehrman said, "I have long admired and supported the work that The Abraham Lincoln Association has 'thus far so nobly advanced,' as the great man himself might have said – that is, to honor Mr. Lincoln's memory; to celebrate his achievements; to promote scholarship about his life and times; and to perpetuate his legacy."

The video of the entire presentation can be seen online at:
vimeo.com/247857311

Lincoln and Churchill: The Rhetoric of Leadership

By Lewis E. Lehrman

"I got into my bones the essential structure of the ordinary British sentence, which is a noble thing," recalled Winston Churchill of his school days.¹ Like Churchill, Abraham Lincoln became a master of the English sentence. Both understood the power of words. And, they understood that words could be abused and abusive. Writing and speaking were serious undertakings. Words mattered.

Familiarity with great English literature and speeches helped prepare Lincoln and Churchill for leadership. In the early 19th

century, readers of the *Columbian Orator* "included ... Abraham Lincoln, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Harriet Stowe. Although the book does not appear to have been printed in any state south of Maryland -- perhaps not surprisingly, given its overt antislavery sentiments -- it was certainly circulating in parts of the deep South," observed historian François Furstenberg.²

With help from *The Columbian Orator*, Lincoln had begun developing his speaking and writing style as a teenager. "From the start, his stylistic model served him well: plain speech -- the direct sentence, the building of rhythm and emphasis through

selective syntactical repetition, with climax as the moment of maximum sense rather than of the highest oratory," wrote Lincoln scholar Fred Kaplan. "He studied composition, continuing his analysis of model essays and speeches from the ancients to the moderns that his first anthologies had provided."³

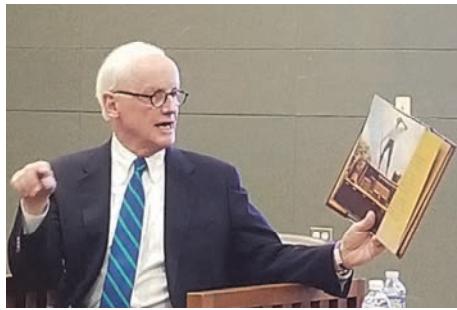
"Each selection [of *The Columbian Orator*], designed to be read aloud, was meant to 'inspire the pupil with the ardour of eloquence, and the love of virtue.' Most of the selections were speeches, though the book contained a number of dialogues as

(Continued on page 9)

Lincoln Roundup

By James Cornelius and Bob Willard

Frank Keating, former governor of Oklahoma and author of the children's book *Abraham*, with illustrations by Mike Wimmer (Simon & Schuster, 2017), visited Springfield in April 2018 for a reading to fifth-grade students from Ridgely Elementary School at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. Keating, with his son-in-law and grandson, also met with leaders from the ALA and other Lincoln organizations.



Governor Frank Keating

An 80-page Armenian book about Lincoln, published in the Georgian capital of Tblisi in 1885, and previously unknown, has come into the possession of a private owner in Illinois. Assistance from bibliographers and Armenian speakers in 3 states helped determine that the author was Anna Petrovna Valuev-Munt (1856-1902) a children's book author who wrote many biographies in a series called "Our Youth - Stories about Good People," including works on Columbus, Lincoln, Washington, and Franklin.

The Sangamon River Alliance, formed about a decade ago to promote the conservation and use of the historic stretch known to young Abraham Lincoln and his family, is moving ahead. Dedicated to upgrading the lands, water, and culture of the Lincoln National Historic Heritage Area, they have installed a canoe dock near the site of the Lincoln Homestead State Historic Site, in Macon County, Illinois. Plans exist for a dock near New Salem and other improvements in-between. The projects are a public/private arrangement.

The Illinois Governor's Mansion is the new name of the Illinois Executive Mansion with effect from July 1, 2018. "That's what everyone has long called it anyway," Gov. Bruce Rauner explained. It is the 3rd-oldest governor's residence in the nation. A privately funded restoration, costing about \$15 million, will be completed and the home



Illinois Governor's Mansion

will be open for public tours beginning on Saturday July 14th. A major component of the project was to stop the now-buried Town Branch creek – which was open for washing and swimming in the days when Lincoln visited the Mansion after 1853 – from overflowing into the elevator shaft of the mansion's basement and/or into neighborhood streets during very heavy rains. The yard is being re-landscaped, as is the empty block across Jackson Street on the north.

President Bush signed the **Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area** into law on May 8, 2008. The original legislation was sponsored by then-Representative Ray LaHood and Senator Dick Durbin. The Board of Looking for Lincoln took on the new responsibilities of the Heritage Area and forged ahead. On April 28, 2018 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum the 10th anniversary was celebrated with representatives of Lincoln sites all over the state of Illinois. In conjunction with the anniversary, the coalition released a new 32-page visitors guide which is available at tourist information locations around the state and can be downloaded from:

www.lookingforlincoln.com



Former Looking for Lincoln executive directors Nikki Stratton, Kay Smith, and Hal Smith, here with Lincoln presenter George Buss and current director Sarah Watson (right), were recognized and thanked for their early efforts.

April marked the first anniversary of the **Korean Abraham Lincoln Society**. ALA President Bob Willard was invited to Seoul where he gave three presentations on Lincoln; he was accompanied by Fred Martin, Jr. of San Francisco, who spoke on his book, *Abraham Lincoln's Path to Reelection in 1864: Our Greatest Victory*. Both Mr. Martin (in the 50s) and Mr. Willard (in the 60s) served as U.S. Army officers in South Korea.



Fred Martin

The **Abraham Lincoln Home National Historic Site** welcomed back Timothy S. Good, a former employee, as its newly named Superintendent in April. For the past eight years, Good was superintendent of the Grant historic site in St. Louis. During his nearly 30 years with the National Park Service, Good has been assigned to a number of locations including the National Mall and Ford's Theatre National Historic Site in Washington, D.C.; he worked at the Lincoln Home 1996 to 2001. He has written three books on Abraham Lincoln: *Lincoln for President: An Underdog's Path to the 1860 Republican Nomination* (2009), *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates and the Making of a President* (2007), and *We Saw Lincoln Shot: One Hundred Eyewitness Accounts* (1996).



Tim Good



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President's Message

It is my honor to be the newly elected President of The Abraham Lincoln Association. I look forward with eagerness and humility to the opportunity to lead this organization I so strongly admire and love.

When I spoke with our Board of Directors recently, I laid out three themes that I would focus on as ALA President – three themes linked by the letter “R” – Railroad, Reach, and Rescue.

The first theme, “**Running the Railroad**,” is just my shorthand way of stressing the importance of continuing to do the things ALA always does: the Birthday Banquet; the Benjamin Thomas Symposium; membership recruitment and renewal; the *Journal of the ALA*; the newsletter, *For the People*; the website; our participation in social networks; and seeking every opportunity to advance scholarship about Abraham Lincoln, his times, and his legacy. The previous Officers and Boards have set a great standard, and I am especially appreciative of the outstanding work of President Kathryn Harris these past years.

The second theme, “**Extending our Reach**,” is my commitment to broadening the base of ALA, both geographically and demographically. It is time to bring ALA to other cities across the Nation and to seek collaboration with other Lincoln organizations in developing our programs. We should also develop programs attractive to all age groups and ethnicities.

The third theme, “**Rescue New Salem**,” encompasses an initiative that I am happy to say that the ALA Board of Directors has agreed to take on. Mindful of our essential role in supporting the restoration and furnishing of the Old State Capitol in the 1960s, the Board has agreed to undertake a similar leadership role in stopping and reversing the deterioration that is taking place in the village that played such a prominent role in the development of the 16th president. I look forward to working closely with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as well as public and private funders. Starting the effort in this year of 2018 is a very appropriate way for ALA to participate in the Bicentennial of the State of Illinois.

I look forward to working with the members and the public over the next two years. I invite all to commit to the accomplishment of ALA’s 3-R’s and become engaged in one or more ALA activities in the months ahead. I welcome your suggestions and comments.



ALA President Kathryn Harris turns over the gavel to incoming President Bob Willard at Lincoln Birthday Banquet in Springfield.

Your obt. servt.

Bob Willard

ALA Welcomes New Directors

At its regular meeting on February 11, 2018 the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association was joined by five new members. **Devin Hunter** of Springfield, Illinois, Assistant Professor of History at University of Illinois Springfield, had been elected in October to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Ronald Thunman. Three Board members—Barbara Hughett, Lucas Morel, and Stewart Winger—did not seek re-election. Three individuals were named by the Nominating Committee to these vacancies and approved by the Board. **Chris DeRose** of Phoenix, Arizona is a Lincoln author and attorney; he was recently appointed by the Arizona governor to the position of Clerk of the Arizona Superior Court for Maricopa County and will run for a full four-year term in the coming election. **Daniel Monroe** of Decatur, Illinois is Associate Professor and John C. Griswold Distinguished Professor of

History at Millikin University. He is also chair of the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council for the 2017-2019 term. **Mark Pohlad** of Chicago, Illinois is Associate Professor of History at DePaul University; he has an interest in art and photography associated with Abraham Lincoln. The Nominating Committee also proposed, and the Board approved, an individual to succeed Nancy Chapin who resigned from the Board. **Barbara Wysocki** of Urbana, Illinois is a retired high school history teacher active in a number of volunteer organizations. Finally, in the weeks following the Board meeting, Amy Hathaway left the Board and the Nominating Committee recommended and the Board elected a person to complete her term. **John Elliff** of Alexandria, Virginia, is a former college professor and retired U.S. Senate staff member. Most recently, he was president of the Lincoln Group of D.C.

2018 Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium



Jason Emerson



Guy Fraker



Kate Masur



Representatives Hall, Old State Capitol



Lincoln Atrium, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library



Jason Emerson, Michael Burlingame, Kate Masur, and Guy Fraker in closing panel session



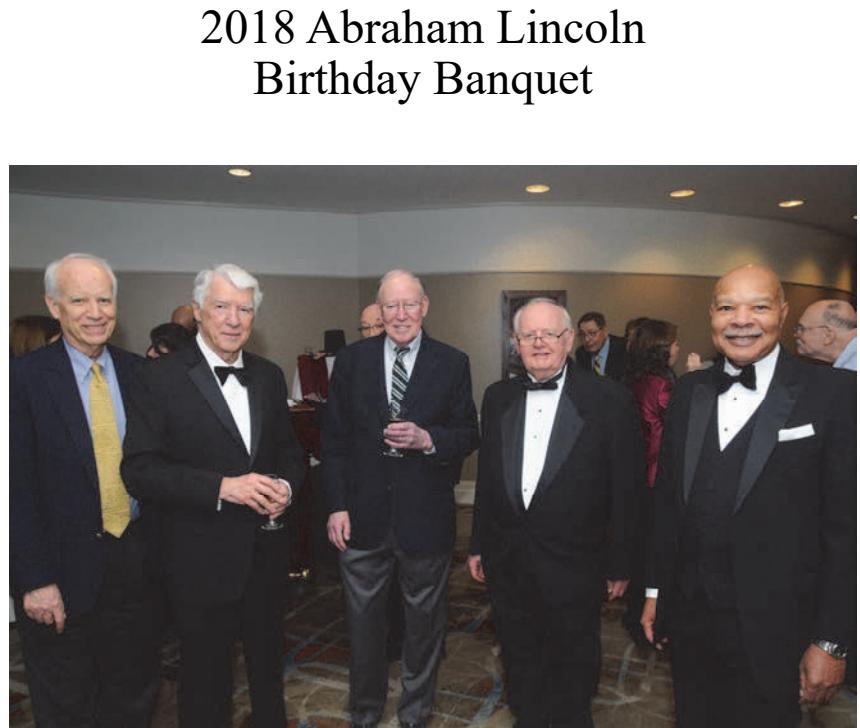
Incoming and outgoing ALA Presidents
Bob Willard and Kathryn Harris



Craig Moots, Lincoln Presidential Museum docent; retired judge John Coady; ALA Director Ron Spears



John Elliff, president, Lincoln Group of D.C.;
Dawne Vandiver, Little Rock, Arkansas;
Robert Blaemire, Bethesda, Maryland



Michael Burlingame, Bob Lenz, Lauren Madden, Roger Bridges and Robert Davis
Burlingame and Davis are current ALA Vice Presidents;
Lenz and Bridges are former ALA Presidents



LEAD Leadership Academy students
Dylan Hembrough and Kalise Gregory with
educator and Lincoln presenter George Buss



Lincoln Essay winner John Stegeman
leading Pledge of Allegiance;
ALA Director Jim Patton with 114th
Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment,
Reactivated



ALA Director William Read, Toronto, Canada;
ALA President Kathryn Harris;
Hon. Preston Manning, Calgary, Alberta, Canada



The 2018 Banquet program featured winter images of Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, courtesy of the photographer, Robert Shaw/Firelight Publishing. The photos underscored the ALA's commitment to working with interested organizations and individuals to assure a sound future for this national treasure.

**Abraham Lincoln's
209th Birthday Celebration**

February 12, 2018




The Abraham Lincoln
Association
Established 1908

Lincoln at 209

Continuing a tradition established in 1909, members and friends of The Abraham Lincoln Association gathered in Springfield, Illinois on February 11-12, 2018 to celebrate the 209th birthday of President Abraham Lincoln.

Board Meeting

The ALA Board of Directors met on Sunday, February 11 to elect new officers and Board members. Bob Willard (Oxnard, California) was elected president and Michael Burlingame (Mystic, Connecticut) and Robert Davis (Springfield, Illinois) were elected first and second vice presidents. James Cornelius and Douglas Barringer, both of Springfield, were reelected to their positions as secretary and treasurer, and Kathryn Harris, also of Springfield, assumed the role of immediate past president. Chris DeRose, Dan Monroe, Mark Pohlad and Barbara Wysocki were elected to the Board.

Symposium

The Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium started on the evening of February 11 in the Old State Capitol. Guy Fraker, an attorney and ALA Director, discussed Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit and showed photos of structures and routes used by attorney Lincoln that are still present today. The next morning Kate Masur, a Northwestern University history professor, talked about the long-out-of-print book *They Knew Lincoln* by John E. Washington. Dr. Masur's new edition of the book brings to light Washington's descriptions of Mr. Lincoln's relationship with African Americans during his presidency. ALA Vice President Michael Burlingame provided additional material about other African Americans Lincoln knew. The luncheon speaker, New York journalist and historian Jason Emerson, spoke about Mary Lincoln.

Banquet

The Birthday Banquet took place on the evening of February 12 in the President Abraham Lincoln DoubleTree Hotel. In addition to the presentation of the Logan Hay Medal (see page 1), the ALA also acknowledged the life-time contributions of Professors Rodney O. Davis and Douglas L. Wilson, co-directors of the Lincoln Studies Center at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. The Center is devoted to study of the life and work of Abraham Lincoln. Its principal focus has been on producing scholarly editions that make significant primary source material more accessible.

Spirit of Lincoln Award

Professors Davis and Wilson received the Spirit of Lincoln Award. The award was established to recognize individuals who have displayed the spirit of Abraham Lincoln in their professional careers for the betterment of humanity. The award itself is a bust of Abraham Lincoln by Illinois sculptor John McClarey specifically created for this award. President Harris presented the awards to Professor Wilson and to Anne Davis who accepted for her father, who was unable to attend the Banquet.



Banquet Speaker

The Banquet concluded with a lively speech by Professor Richard Carwardine, retired professor of history and former president of

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Thank you, Mary Shepherd!

At the meeting of the ALA Board of Directors in October, 2017 ALA's Executive Manager, Mary Shepherd, announced her plans for retirement after the Birthday Banquet.

Mrs. Shepherd began part-time contract work with ALA in February, 2006 and was the first ALA staff person in many decades. She organized and attended to the day-to-day operations of ALA, managed the information technology (website, social networks, email, etc.), represented the Association at book fairs, concerts, historical society meetings and other events, and maintained the financial affairs of ALA in good order. For many members, she was the face of The Abraham Lincoln Association.



A resolution of appreciation was unanimously approved by the Board and a framed copy of it was presented to Mrs. Shepherd at the Birthday Banquet by President Kathryn Harris in a heartfelt ceremony.

Fortunately, Mrs. Shepherd will continue to help ALA as a volunteer; she has agreed to chair ALA's Web & Social Media Committee.

Welcome, Jessica McPeek

In March 2018, Jessica C. McPeek, a Springfield resident, was hired as Executive Manager. Mrs. McPeek received her Bachelor of Architecture (B.Arch) degree from the University of Kansas, School of Architectural Design and Urban Planning. She has a Master of Arts in Environmental Studies, Environmental Planning and Management from the University of Illinois Springfield's College of Public Affairs and Administration. She has work experience with both commercial organizations and government, and she has served in various leadership roles within her national sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. She is experienced with modern information tools. She also has a Lincoln connection: her husband, Michael, is the Supervisory Park Ranger & Acting Chief of Interpretation of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. The McPeeks have two young sons.



Lincoln—The Towering Giant

It started as a simple and small idea, but like so many things in the world of Abraham Lincoln, it grew.

The Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania commissioned a life-sized statue of Abraham Lincoln to be placed in the town center of Gettysburg. It was created by Seward Johnson, dedicated in 1991, and named “Return Visit.” Joining President Lincoln was a contemporary man holding a copy of the Gettysburg Address (some wags noted a resemblance to Pat Boone). Lincoln gestures toward the room at the Wills House in which he put the finishing touches to his “few appropriate remarks.” According to the Fellowship, “The statue represents ‘the common man’ with Abraham Lincoln, showing that the Gettysburg Address is as relevant today as it was in 1863.”



So, if life size was a good idea, 30 feet tall would be even better. In 2014, sculptor Johnson unveiled the new work at his studio in New Jersey. The painted bronze giant statues made their way west with public exhibits in Troy, Ohio; Crown Point, Indiana; and Chicago, Illinois (pictured here). The most recent installation is at the Riverfront Museum in Peoria, Illinois, accompanying a 4-month-long Illinois Bicentennial exhibit (February 3 to June 3). The sculpture is scheduled to remain in Peoria until March, 2019. Throughout its travel, the statues have generated a lot of selfies posted on Twitter with the hashtag #Lincolnandme.

Seward Johnson’s “Return Visit” at Pioneer Court Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

Honors in the World of Lincoln

A number of prestigious awards and prizes were presented by Lincoln organizations in the beginning of 2018.

The 2018 Gilder Lehrman **Lincoln Prize** was awarded to Edward Ayers for his book, *The Thin Light of Freedom: The Civil War and Emancipation in the Heart of America* (W.W. Norton and Company). Ayers was recognized during an event hosted by Gettysburg College and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History at the Union League Club in New York City on April 26. In addition to a \$50,000 prize, Professor Ayers also received a bronze replica of Augustus Saint-Gaudens’s life-size bust “Lincoln the Man.”

At the same event, it was also announced that a new **Gilder Lehrman NEH Professorship of Civil War Era Studies** was established at Gettysburg College. The Professorship will be held by Civil War historian, ALA Director, and longtime Gettysburg professor, Allen C. Guelzo.

The 2018 **Abraham Lincoln Book Award** was presented to Professor Richard Carwardine for his *Lincoln's Sense of Humor* (SIU Press).

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation (ALPLF) awarded its prestigious **Lincoln Leadership Prize** to former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Tony Blair during a gala event in Chicago, April 24. Mr. Blair is the first British citizen to receive the Lincoln Leadership Prize, an annual award that recognizes outstanding individuals for a lifetime of service in

the spirit of the 16th president of the United States. The award honors individuals who manifest great strength of character, individual conscience and unwavering commitment to the defining principles of democracy.

The **Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize** is co-sponsored by The Abraham Lincoln Association and the Abraham Lincoln Institute to recognize and encourage young scholars to conduct research on Abraham Lincoln and his times. The 2018 Prize went to Zachery Fry for his dissertation, *Lincoln's Divided Legion: Loyalty and Political Culture of the Army of the Potomac 1861-65*. Dr. Fry received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University and is Assistant Professor in Military History with the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.



Zachery Fry (left) is presented the Hay-Nicolay Prize by Rodney Ross, an Abraham Lincoln Institute Director at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.



Tim Connors, Phil Darius Wallace, George Buss, and Harold Holzer

Lincoln Douglas(s) Debates

The National Archives in Washington D.C. was the scene of a Presidents Day/Black History Month program that allowed the audience to recall a very real debate that took place between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas (played by George Buss and Tim Connors) and a debate that never happened between Lincoln and Frederick Douglass (played by Phil Darius Wallace). The two-part program was skillfully emceed by Lincoln author Harold Holzer who also scripted the imagined discussion between the president and Mr. Douglass.

The program was presented on February 22, 2018 in partnership with the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia with support from The Abraham Lincoln Association, the Illinois State Society, the Lincoln Forum, and the Pascal Collection, in commemoration of the bicentennials of Illinois statehood and the birth of Frederick Douglass.

The entire 90-minute program can be viewed on the National Archives YouTube channel:

youtu.be/77E11tjZgjg

R-Lou Barker: An Appreciation

By Sue Massie

R-Lou Barker, a grand dame of the Springfield community and a former ALA Director, passed from our lives in April this year. She is missed.

R-Lou embodied the civic pride and community spirit that created our city. As a wife and mother, R-Lou guided her family by example, participating and supporting a great variety of organizations. As a result, two sons live and work in Springfield, adding their business acumen and leadership skills to the community. By reading family documents and writing about her own ancestors, the Shepherd family, R-Lou contributed to preserving the historic family farmstead, the Strawbridge-Shepherd House, now part of the University of Illinois Springfield.



R-Lou Barker waits for her inscribed copy of Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals*

R-Lou was inquisitive, eager to learn about a great many things. She traveled widely on every continent in the world, learning about foreign cultures, histories and natural

sciences. She read books, attended lectures, and probed matters with the experts. Not surprisingly, R-Lou revered the Illinois State Museum and was on the Board of its foundation for many years. Not long ago she had chuckled, saying that she could hardly get to meetings any more, but that they wanted her to continue on the Board.

R-Lou was a smiling face in the crowd, easy to approach and keen with conversation. For me, the relationship went back over thirty years, but I'm willing to guess that those meeting her only recently feel the same. She left the world a better place and she left those who knew her better people.

Sue Massie is a partner in the Springfield landscape architectural firm of Massie+Massie. She is an active volunteer in a number of Springfield charities, including the African American Museum of Sangamon County and the Sangamon County Historical Society.

In Memoriam

John R. Eden of Athens, Illinois, died at the age of 84. In the 1980s he opened and was still operating the Long Nine Museum there, in the original building where Lincoln and his Whig colleagues from Sangamon County celebrated the 1837 vote that moved the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield. He authored two books related to that era. The building is for sale.

Richard N. Goodwin, the husband of 42 years to ALA Distinguished Director Doris Kearns Goodwin, died on May 20, 2018, at his home in Concord, Massachusetts. He was recognized as one of the greatest Presidential speechwriters of the 20th century; he crafted Lyndon Johnson's 1965 "We Shall Overcome" address to Congress following Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama. He was 86 years old.

When **Paul Pascal**, 80, died at his home in Bethesda, Maryland, on April 9, 2018, ALA President Bob Willard said, "I have lost a friend and the Abraham Lincoln community has lost a leader." The long-time ALA member was an inveterate collector of Lincolniana, his home was like a museum. He served as President

of the Lincoln Group of D.C. and President of the Abraham Lincoln Institute. More important, he was always volunteering to do whatever needed to be done, to help any way he could. He lived the past three years with the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, but shrugged it off with a "life goes on" attitude. He was a frequent attendee at The Lincoln Forum conference in Gettysburg, always with his beloved wife and inseparable companion, Brenda. LGDC and ALI publicly recognized the many contributions of Paul and Brenda from the stage of Ford's Theatre at the ALI symposium in March. Paul asked that memorial contributions be made to the President Lincoln Cottage.



John Eden, Richard Goodwin, Paul Pascal with wife Brenda

(Continued from page 6)

Corpus Christi College at Oxford University. He talked about the subject of his most recent book, *Lincoln's Sense of Humor*.

Using a number of examples of Lincoln's jokes, Professor Carwardine showed how humor helped Lincoln as a lawyer, a communicator, and a politician. He also noted that during Lincoln's lifetime, his political enemies would turn his humor against him, for example, spreading the rumor about the President telling jokes while touring the battlefield of Antietam.

Professor Carwardine acknowledged that some colleagues had wondered why he had chosen a subject so lacking in gravitas and so marginal to the big issues associated with Lincoln and the Civil War. At the conclusion of his studies, however, he summed it up this way:

"Lincoln's sense of humor has to be taken seriously. It was an essential element in the thought and practice of both man and president. We should recognize its rich variety and complexity of purpose, understand its ethical dimension, and remain aware of the political risks that Lincoln ran in 'retailing' jokes while the nation – a 'republic of suffering' – was engaged in an existential struggle costing at least three-quarters of a million lives. As the nation suffered, so, of course, did the president. Humor was his lifeline."



Richard Carwardine

(Continued from page 1)

well," observed Furstenberg. "Although a few selections were biblical, the majority dated from the eighteenth century."⁴ The cadences of the Bible, William Shakespeare, and their favorite poets were important to both Lincoln and Churchill.

To know his listeners was as important to Abraham Lincoln as knowledge of literature. The intended hearers and readers of his prose were never far from his mind. Lincoln scholar Ronald C. White, Jr., wrote: "Lincoln used his annual messages as an opportunity to speak through Congress to the American people. Of all of his regular and special messages to Congress in his four years as president, the annual message of 1862 rose to the zenith of his presidential eloquence. 'As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew.'"⁵

Norman Brook, the Cabinet Secretary, spoke of Churchill's ability to coin memorable phrases at cabinet meetings: "I'd rather be right than consistent."⁶ The Prime Minister observed: "During a long life I have had to eat my own words many times, and I have found it a very nourishing diet."⁷ Such seemingly extemporaneous wit might have incubated in Churchill's brain before he spoke. Oliver Lyttelton noted Churchill's "fastidiousness over the English language, and from the desire not to leave to history some phrase or sentence unworthy of him, or less than his best. It limited his powers of improvisation in making big speeches. This was not due to a lack of the power of repartee or an inflexible mind. This is proved when, for example, he was answering questions in the House: there he improvised readily and turned other men's swords to reeds. It would be fair to say, however, that some of the answers ... had been previously recruited, and drilled ready to go into action should the occasion for them ever arise."⁸

Both leaders were pacers. Churchill paced while talking. Lincoln pacer while thinking. Abraham Lincoln wrote out notes that he collected into a finished manuscript, but Winston Churchill tended to dictate a speech as a whole document. Churchill wrote for the ear. His rhetoric was muscular. Churchill's secretary Elizabeth Layton recalled taking dictation from the Prime Minister on the morning of August 3, 1941, as he lay in bed dictating "a two or three page telegram" that she took down in shorthand before Anthony Eden came in. "Now, Miss Layton, read to the Foreign Secretary. And don't gabble--

read slowly--and don't whisper--read out loud." After a few seconds, Churchill interjected: "No, No, *much* louder--he wants to be able to hear it; and much slower. Come on now, Miss Layton, *come on*."⁹

"When Mr. Churchill decides to compose a speech, he usually gives his secretary good notice of it," recalled bodyguard Walter Thompson, whose wife worked as a Churchill stenographer. "She clears away all other work and settles before the typewriter. Sometimes Winston forges ahead with little



Prime Minister Winston Churchill speaking at Royal Albert Hall in London on the occasion of American Thanksgiving, November 23, 1941.

apparent effort for many pages before inspiration seems to run out. On other occasions he will pace up and down the room, murmuring words and phrase over and over, trying them out on himself, before he is satisfied that the exact meaning has been put into words which cannot be misunderstood or misinterpreted. Warming to his subject, Mr. Churchill will even enter so completely into what he is dictating that tears will sometimes literally stream down his solemn face during the evolving of a particularly dramatic passage. All of Churchill's writings have measurable emotional content. Similarly, when composing some of his famous epigrams--the humorous ones--a wholly delighted expression will come over his face and he will chuckle at his own invention and look gleefully at his secretary to see if he is being adequately appreciated."

"Nothing is allowed to interrupt his train of thought when he is dictating," recalled Thompson. "One summer evening in the country when he had opened wide the windows to let in the cool night air, a bat flew in. The room was large and it would be reasonable to suppose it could accommodate Mr. Churchill, his secretary, and the invading bat. The secretary, however, found it difficult to concentrate on typing with a large bat diving about over her head....Continued instinctive ducking bats on her part caused

Mr. Churchill to ask her what was the matter. On its being explained to him, he said: 'Surely you're not afraid of a bat, are you?' On being told bluntly that that was the exact trouble and no other, he replied grandly: 'I'll protect you! Get on with your work!' She went on ducking while he went on dictating."¹⁰

As President, Lincoln was more interested in persuasive argument than emotional argument. "Passion has helped us; but can do so no more," Lincoln had said in his 1838

Lyceum speech. "It will in future be our enemy. Reason, cold, calculating, unimpassioned reason, must furnish all the materials for our future support and defence."¹¹ Lincoln had little use for emotional constructions that would be lost when his words were read. The President warned against rhetorical arson, and he himself was careful not to inflame passion. "In times like the present, men should utter nothing for which they would not willingly be responsible through time and in eternity."¹²

Both were masters of the metaphor. Describing his opposition to an Allied landing near the toe of the Italian peninsula, Churchill argued for

landing farther up the coast: "Why crawl up the leg like a harvest bug, from the ankle upwards? Let us rather strike at the knee." In December 1941, responding to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Churchill told Parliament: "We have at least four-fifths of the population of the globe upon our side. We are responsible for their safety and for their future. In the past we have had a light which flickered, in the present we have a light which flames, and in the future there will be a light which shines over all the land and sea."¹³

"Must I shoot a simple-minded soldier boy who deserts, while I must not touch a hair of a wily agitator who induces him to desert?" Lincoln asked this in an 1863 letter defending his policies. "I think that in such a case, to silence the agitator, and save the boy, is not only constitutional, but, withal, a great mercy."¹⁴

After the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863, Lincoln described Union General William Rosecrans as "confused and stunned like a duck hit on the head."¹⁵ In a letter to General Joseph Hooker in June 1863, Lincoln wrote: "I would not take any risk of being entangled upon the river, like an ox jumped half over a fence, and liable to be torn by dogs, front and

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

rear, without a fair chance to gore one way or kick the other.”¹⁶

Churchill’s metaphorical powers were conspicuous in the spring and summer of 1940. Of the cabinet meeting on May 28, colleague Hugh Dalton wrote that in talking to junior cabinet ministers, Churchill “was quite magnificent. The man, and the only man we have, for this hour. He gave a full, frank, and completely calm account of events in France.”¹⁷ Churchill said: “I have thought carefully in these last days whether it was part of my duty to consider entering into negotiations with That Man ... And I am convinced that every man of you would rise up and tear me down from my place if I were for one moment to contemplate parley or surrender. If this long island story of ours is to end at last, let it end only when each one of us lies choking in his own blood upon the ground.”¹⁸

The Prime Minister told Harrow School students in October 1945 that “eventually, after a great deal of perseverance, I rose to be conductor of quite a considerable band. It was a very large band and it played with very strange and formidable instruments, and the roar and thunder of its music resounded throughout the world.”¹⁹

Both liked the tools of the speakers’ trade -- rhythm, alliteration, assonance. In a speech to Commonwealth representatives on June 12, 1940, Churchill declared: “Hitler may

turn and trample this way and that through tortured Europe. He may spread his course far and wide, and carry his curse with him: he may break into Africa or into Asia. But it is here, in this island fortress, that he will have to reckon in the end. We shall strive to resist by land and sea. We shall be on his track wherever he goes. Our airpower will continue to teach the German homeland that war is not all loot and triumph.”

He continued: “We shall aid and stir the people of every conquered country to resistance and revolt. We shall break up and derange every effort which Hitler makes to systematise and consolidate his subjugation. He will find no peace, no rest, no halting-place, no parley. And if, driven to desperate hazards, he attempts the invasion of the British Isles, as well he may, we shall not flinch from the supreme trial. With the help of God, of which we must all feel daily conscious, we shall continue steadfast in faith and duty till our task is done.”²⁰

Lewis E. Lehrman, co-founder of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, is author of Lincoln & Churchill: Statesmen at War (Stackpole, 2018) and Lincoln at Peoria: The Turning Point (Stackpole, 2008).

Endnotes

- 1 Martin Gilbert, *Winston S. Churchill: A Life*, p. 24.
- 2 François Furstenberg, *In the Name of the Father: Washington's Legacy, Slavery, and the Making of a Nation*, p. 156.
- 3 Fred Kaplan, *Lincoln: The Biography of a Writer*, p. 103.

4 François Furstenberg, *In the Name of the Father: Washington's Legacy, Slavery, and the Making of a Nation*, p. 156.

5 Ronald C. White, Jr., “Lincoln and the Rhetoric of Freedom,” p. 135, in Harold Holzer and Sara Vaughn Gabbard, eds., *Lincoln and Freedom: Slavery, Emancipation, and the Thirteenth Amendment*.

6 Lord Moran, *Churchill: Taken from the Diaries of Lord Moran: The Struggle for Survival, 1940–1965*, p. 746.

7 Lord Moran, *Churchill: The Struggle for Survival 1945–60*, p. 410.

8 Oliver Lyttelton, Viscount Chandos, *The Memoirs of Lord Chandos*, pp. 184–185.

9 Martin Gilbert, *Winston S. Churchill: Road to Victory 1941–1945*, p. 157.

10 Walter H. Thompson, *Assignment: Churchill*, pp. 185–187.

11 *Collected Works*, Vol. I, p. 115 (Lyceum Address at Springfield, January 27, 1838).

12 William Lee Miller, *President Lincoln: The Duty of a Statesman*, p. 300.

13 Martin Gilbert, *Winston S. Churchill: Finest Hour, 1939–1941*, p. 127 (December 8, 1941).

14 *Collected Works*, Vol. VI, pp. 266–267 (Letter to Erastus Corning et al., June 12, 1863).

15 Michael Burlingame, *Lincoln and the Civil War*, p. 86.

16 *Collected Works*, Vol. VI, p. 249 (Letter to Joseph Hooker, June 5, 1863).

17 Martin Gilbert, *Winston S. Churchill: Finest Hour, 1939–1941*, p. 419.

18 Hugh Dalton, *The Fateful Years, Memoirs 1939–1945*, pp. 335–336 (May 28, 1940).

19 Martin Gilbert, *Winston Churchill: A Life*, p. 20.

20 Martin Gilbert, ed., *The Churchill War Papers: The Ever-Widening War*, 1941, p. 799.

Lincoln Papers Go Online

On April 19, 2018, it was announced that the first batch of digital copies of papers related to Abraham Lincoln were available online owing to the efforts of the documentary editors at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

The *State Journal-Register* quoted the Illinois state historian: “Today, we’re sharing our results with the world,” said Samuel Wheeler, “We’ve built an online publishing platform where the public will be able to freely access not only documents related to the life of Abraham Lincoln, but also transcriptions and the annotations that bring these documents to life. This is not a finished product, but this is early access.”

The files are comprised of two parts: a digital edition and a digital archive. According to the Library’s website, this first release of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln Digital Library encompasses documents from Lincoln’s early life through the end of his tenure in the Illinois House of Representatives (1824–1841). The digital edition includes over 300 documents. The digital archive includes approximately 5,000 documents deemed complementary, supplemental, or related to

documents in the digital edition. This material joins the legal material related to Lincoln’s law practice that was put online about two decades ago.

The Abraham Lincoln Association has long supported efforts to digitize Lincoln material and has been a co-sponsor of both the legal papers and the recently released documents. Indeed, it was the ALA that created and published the *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* in the mid 1950s. In 1999, the full text of the *Collected Works* was made available at no cost to the public through the ALA website.

The recently released papers are available at:

papersofabrahamlincoln.org

The legal papers are at:

lawpracticeofabrahamlincoln.org

The *Collected Works* are at:

quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln/

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Mark your Calendar—Upcoming Lincoln Events

Bicentennial Pageant September 1-2, Reenactments of Lincoln's New Salem years with patriotic imagery and fanfare. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site, 15588 History Lane, Petersburg, Illinois: lincolnsnewsalem.org

The Annual Lincoln Colloquium September 29, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Indiana Historical Society, Indiana History Center, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana: indianahistory.org/events/annual-lincoln-colloquium

20th Annual Conference on Illinois History October 4-5, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois: www.illinois.gov/alplm

Lincoln Legacy Lecture, October 18, Slavery and Race in Illinois History, Student Union Ballroom, University of Illinois Springfield, One University Plaza, Springfield, Illinois: www.uis.edu/clas/center-for-lincoln-studies

Lincoln and Shakespeare November 2-3, 7:00 pm, Starring Fritz Klein as Abraham Lincoln. Directed by Kevin Purcell, Old State Capitol, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois: hcfta.org

23rd Annual Lincoln Forum Symposium November 16-18, Lincoln and the Civil War in Fact, Fiction and Memory, Wyndham Hotel, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: www.thelincolnforum.org/our-symposium

** Last Chance - Exhibit Closes October 15 ** "Lincoln: History to Hollywood," is on display daily at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. The exhibit presents key sets, costumes and props from the award-winning Steven Spielberg film, *Lincoln*. Highlighted in the exhibit are Abraham Lincoln's office, a vignette of Mary Lincoln's bedroom, and costumes and props used by star Daniel Day-Lewis. The items are all on loan from Spielberg and DreamWorks Studios.

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and other programs and events throughout the year.

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Center for Lincoln Studies

Members of the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association met in April to learn the latest developments for the University of Springfield's Center for Lincoln Studies. (See *For the People*, Fall 2017, page 6 for the initial announcement.)

Senior academic leaders from the university sketched out their vision of the newly established Center in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Susan Koch, Chancellor; Dennis Papini, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; and Jeff Lorber, Vice Chancellor for Advancement each made brief introductory remarks and then engaged in extensive Q&A.

Chancellor Koch reminded all about the role that the University of Illinois played in Lincoln studies when James G. Randall was on the faculty, but noted that in his absence the program faded away. She asked what better place there could be to revive such a program than Springfield. She also stressed the importance of working closely with other Lincoln oriented organizations.

The Chancellor then laid out the goals of the new Center.

Education: Provide undergraduate and graduate studies related to the life, times and leadership of Lincoln and the impact of his contributions to society during and since his Presidency.

Research: Advance research in Lincoln Studies and prepare the next generation of Lincoln scholars.

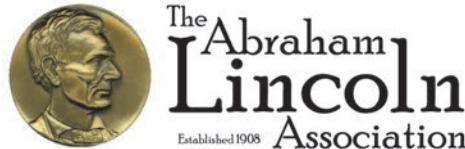
Collaboration and Outreach: Partner with other Lincoln-oriented organizations and educational institutions on projects and programs to enhance public education about Lincoln's life and impact.

Discussion focused on the complexity of modern problems; there was an appreciation that "learning from Lincoln" can better equip us to tackle these problems, but it would not be easy.

The meeting ended with discussion on how the Center and ALA could collaborate. Ideas such as internships, information technology support, and enhanced scholarly publishing were proposed.



UIS Chancellor Susan Koch and ALA President Bob Willard discussing the future of Lincoln studies.



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