



# FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION  
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## *ALA Board Tours Lincoln's New Salem*

New Salem. Abraham Lincoln called the place home for six formative years of his life. In June the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association visited this important place, now called Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site. One of the principal missions of the ALA, as expressed in its corporate charter, is "to preserve and make more readily accessible the landmarks associated with [Lincoln's] life." At its February meeting, the Board was informed of the damage that time and weather are taking on New Salem, and resolved, as its contribution to Illinois's bicentennial, to support the repair and improvement of the log structures of the historic village.

The members of the Board gathered in the conference room of the Visitors Center at New Salem and engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of New Salem's history and needs. It was acknowledged that the immediate task must be to quantify the deficiencies at New Salem and obtain estimates of the repair costs. Preliminary government estimates indicate that up to \$10 million would be necessary. There is no expectation that ALA would be able to raise an amount of that size. Rather, ALA could play an important partnership role urging entities in Illinois and beyond to insure a stable future for New Salem. Primary responsibility belongs to the State of Illinois. New Salem is managed by the Department of Natural Resources, and the Illinois General

Assembly provides operational and capital funding. In addition, private entities, both individuals and organizations, can play a vital role. For example, the New Salem Lincoln League, a local non-profit group, has supported New Salem for four decades, funding educational and cultural events, including Candle Light Tours, Old Time Music Festival and outdoor theater. In recent years, the League has provided thousands of dollars to repair cabin roofs, steps and porches.

Joining the Board for a tour of New Salem was Tim Butler, a member of the Illinois House of Representatives whose district includes the historic site; Sarah Watson, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (known also as Looking for Lincoln); and Jack Alexander, the New Salem site manager. The tour was led by Terry Jones, the site interpretive coordinator, but instead of being told about how the buildings would have been used during Lincoln's time, the Board learned about the wear and tear suffered by these buildings. Rotting wood, water seeping through roofs, collapsing chimneys that prevent any fireplaces from being used in



Terry Jones, Site interpreter, describes deterioration of structures in Lincoln's New Salem.

the buildings – these are the types of problems that must be addressed if New Salem is going to be able to provide the visitor experience it has been known for for nearly a century.

ALA has established a Board committee, chaired by Bloomington, Illinois attorney Guy Fraker to lead the ALA New Salem efforts.

## *"A Sort of Backwoods Plato—Western Aristotle"*

### *James Quay Howard's Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln*

By Michael Burlingame



In May 1860, shortly after Lincoln won the Republican presidential nomination, the Columbus, Ohio firm Follett & Foster (which

had published the Lincoln-Douglas debates) commissioned one of its employees – twenty-three-year-old William Dean Howells – to write a campaign biography of the Republican standard bearer. In Howells's autobiography, he noted that the publisher had "the very just and reasonable expectation, that I should go to Springfield, Illinois, and gather the material for the work from Lincoln himself, and from his friends and neighbors." But, as he recalled, "this part of the project was distasteful to me," in fact it "was impossible; I felt that there was nothing of the interviewer in me, at a time

when the interviewer was not yet known by name even to himself." To help his shy author, Foster assigned Howells's law-student friend James Quay Howard to act as a research assistant and sent him to the Illinois capital. There, in late May and early June, Howard interviewed Lincoln and several of his friends in both Springfield and nearby Petersburg. Among them were William Butler; his first and second law partners, John T. Stuart and Stephen T. Logan

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Lincoln Twice Considered Quitting His 1858 Campaign

By Reg Ankrum



Although his friends might agree with Billy Herndon that his Springfield law partner, Abraham Lincoln, “was a little engine that knew no rest,” by September 1858 the Republican Party’s senatorial candidate was seriously tiring. Arriving in Jacksonville the morning of Monday, September 27, 1858, Lincoln admitted to Republican friend, Illinois College President Julian Sturtevant, who walked with him from the Great Western train station to his hotel, that he had considered quitting the race.

Although he had local committees, Lincoln was running his campaign, and the intellectual and physical demands were exhausting. His speeches usually ran at least two hours. He felt compelled to satisfy requests for appearances that often had him amending his calendar. He was stung by criticism of his tactic to speak where Douglas had spoken the day before—the opposition press charged he could not attract his own audiences. Accommodations often were inhospitable. His opponent’s supporters tended to be hostile.

If he was exhausted, Lincoln brought it upon himself. He had burdened himself with the strategy for campaigning in the nearly 57,000-square-mile state of Illinois. In July he analyzed 1856 Republican presidential, statewide, and congressional election results to determine the areas of strengths and weaknesses in his candidacy. It was painstaking research. Lincoln’s district-by-district tally of votes in the 1856 presidential race and the contest for state treasurer, an office elected statewide, filled eight pages of notes. They helped him understand where voters were likely to be for him and against him. In his own Sangamon County, for example, presidential candidates James C. Fremont and Millard Fillmore, whose voters Lincoln expected to win, had a total of 2,786 votes compared to 2,475 votes for Buchanan. Lincoln recorded, “311 nett for us.” On the other hand, Democratic treasurer nominee John Moore won 2,597 votes against Republican James Miller, who received 2,450 votes. Lincoln noted, “147 nett against us.” Using the Moore and Miller statewide contest, Lincoln calculated that he would win legislator’s votes in thirty-nine legislative districts. Presidential returns indicated he would win forty-eight districts. Lincoln concluded that Illinoisans tended to vote Democratic for local offices and Republican for national offices. By his analysis, he decided it was useless to struggle for twenty-two

legislators from twenty districts. But he believed he would win outright the vote of twenty-seven legislators from nineteen districts. He listed as uncertain twenty-six legislators from the twenty other districts.

Then, using the Miller-Moore contest as a conservative measure, Lincoln calculated the districts in which voters tended more often to select Democratic candidates. In the “doubtful districts,” Democrats had elected fourteen representatives. Added to the twenty-two Lincoln figured he could not win, that would be a total of thirty-six votes against his Senate bid. Adding the votes of the twelve Republicans elected in the doubtful districts to the twenty-seven Lincoln was certain he had, the tabulation showed he would win thirty-nine votes. He then listed county-by-county the votes in each legislative district. The results projected his strength in Eastern and Central Illinois where he would focus his campaign. He expected Douglas’s strength to be in Western Illinois areas, where his political career had been launched and sustained. For all his research, Lincoln knew Douglas and his campaign team would know, too, what Lincoln had learned.

The Douglas campaign got a two-month head start on Lincoln’s. From mid-June to mid-August, Lincoln continued to work on several legal cases he had undertaken. He believed he owed his clients his best legal representation and would not let his campaign violate that standard. The number and complexity of cases declined as the summer progressed. But a good number of court appearances required his attention. In June, Lincoln had to decline an invitation to be at the Clinton County Republican Convention, which started the day after the beginning of the U.S. District Court’s summer session. He appeared ten times for clients before Judge Samuel Treat in the United States District Court in Springfield. He appeared in the United States Supreme Court twice. In July, Lincoln handled two cases in Circuit Court, an appeal before the Illinois Supreme Court, and three U.S. Supreme Court cases. He handled no cases from August on, devoting full attention to his campaign.

With an understanding of the importance and power of the press, Lincoln included communications with editors from around the state in his arsenal of campaign strategies. At the beginning of the campaign, he pleaded with Joseph Medill, editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, to deny charges in the Douglas-leaning *Chicago Times* that he had voted as a congressman against supplying troops fighting the Mexican War. Although he strongly opposed resolutions supporting the war like those of Douglas’s Democratic protege, Congressman William A. Richardson of Quincy, Lincoln always voted for materiel for the troops. On July 2 Lincoln asked Robert Moseley, who was running for state representative from Edgar County, to get a

favorable story published in the Paris Beacon the following week. He was unable to get it done.

Lincoln would become increasingly alarmed as several of his friends and former Whigs affiliated themselves with Douglas’s party. John Todd Stuart, Lincoln’s mentor, first law partner, and his wife’s cousin, joined the Democrats. Others to stray included James W. Singleton of Quincy and Usher F. Linder of Charleston, influential Whigs on either side of the all-important Central Illinois electorate.

Former Whig Theophilus L. Dickey, a lawyer who once edited a Whig newspaper and with Lincoln in 1856 campaigned for James C. Fremont, thought Republicans by 1858 had become tools of the abolitionists. Dickey announced that he would support Douglas and run against Republican Congressman Owen Lovejoy, an avowed abolitionist, in Central Illinois.

A significant blow was Dickey’s arrangement to obtain an endorsement for Douglas from Kentucky Senator John J. Crittenden, successor to the mantle of Henry Clay. By 1858, Crittenden had served Kentucky, where Lincoln was born, as U.S. senator for four terms. Lincoln became acquainted with Crittenden during Lincoln’s single Congressional term between 1847 and 1848.

Lincoln launched his run for Douglas’s U.S. senate seat on June 16, 1858, with a speech that even his family and closest friends condemned. In his “House Divided” speech, he cast the morality of slavery as the singular issue of the 1858 Illinois senatorial contest and warned that the nation would become “all one thing, or all the other,” all slave or all free, if Douglas was re-elected.

Democrats and many of Lincoln’s own Republican Party believed Douglas’s proposition was right, that the nation could exist as the founders created it—free and slave. Many in Lincoln’s party seemed willing to endorse Douglas, whose doctrine of popular sovereignty would allow people to vote slavery up or down.

Douglas’s feuds with his own president, fellow Democrat James Buchanan, over the Lecompton Constitution made Douglas an outcast among Buchanan partisans and an apparently worthy candidate for Republicans. At their 1856 convention, Democrats had installed Douglas’s popular sovereignty doctrine in the party platform. Elected president that year, Buchanan promised to let Kansas settlers vote on any proposed constitution. But what the Lecompton constitutional convention offered would have planted slavery in Kansas, no matter how Kansans voted. Douglas refused Buchanan’s order to support Lecompton. Some Republicans

(Continued on page 4)

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## President's Message

In 2005, I traveled 1,000 miles, from Lincoln's birthplace to his tomb over four weeks. I walked nearly 200 miles with the remainder covered by lifts from friends, taxis, car rentals, even hitch-hiking. One night I slept in a primitive cabin steps away from the memorial building that holds a Kentucky cabin that closely resembles Lincoln's birthplace. I visited Lincoln's boyhood home in southern Indiana where I was able to see re-enactors in reconstructed buildings perform the chores of early autumn that Lincoln and his family would have faced nearly two centuries earlier.

On one brilliant October day, I walked from Lincoln's New Salem to Springfield, a trip Lincoln would have made – maybe on foot, probably on horseback – numerous times. I avoided main roads, taking the route used by Scouts on their Lincoln Pilgrimage. Corn had already been harvested, and the prairie wind through the drying corn stalks played a one chord symphony to accompany my walk.

If I thought of it at the time, I would have realized it was nearly 39 years to the date since I first visited New Salem in 1966. I would have taken it for granted that I could wander the reconstructed village, enter the recreated homes and shops, and experience early 19th Century village life as a young Abraham Lincoln experienced it for six formative years. Even if my focus were not Lincoln, I could still see in these humble structures, the challenges our ancestors faced as they settled and expanded our Nation for all of us.

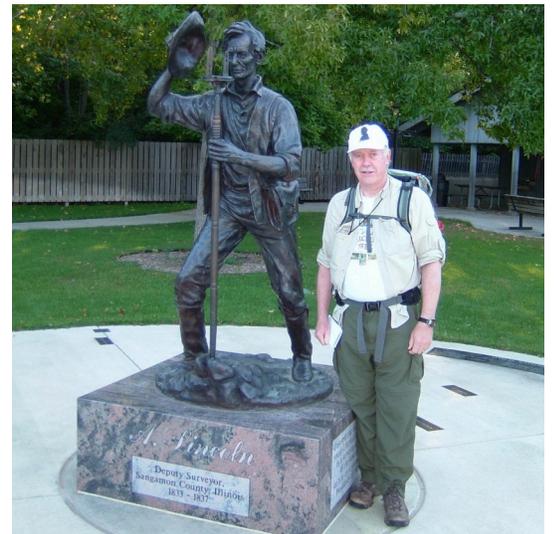
New Salem is important because it was where Abe Lincoln tried on a number of occupations and developed his mental and emotional skills. He emerged as a lawyer and legislator who would develop into a statesman with great intellect and instinctive empathy.

The reconstructed buildings that comprise the village that Lincoln loved, face the same reality as the original village. They will deteriorate and disappear unless they are constantly cared for.

As the State of Illinois observes its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, The Abraham Lincoln Association will support and work closely with the organizations – governmental and private – that are dedicated to the ongoing restoration, preservation, and interpretation of the village where Lincoln became Lincoln.

Your obt. servt.

*Bob Willard*



Future ALA President Bob Willard at Lincoln the Surveyor statue by John McClarey in Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site (October 2005).

## Directors News

The newest Board Member of The Abraham Lincoln Association, John T. Elliff died suddenly at his home on August 15. He had attended the June Board meeting in New Salem and was actively engaged in the ALA's efforts to support Lincoln's New Salem. John, an Illinois native who lived in Alexandria, Virginia, became a part of the Lincoln community in 2008 and over the past decade spearheaded many Lincoln programs including commemorations on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wigwam Convention, and the First and Second Inaugurals. He was a volunteer for the National Park Service at Ford's Theatre and was active in many Lincoln organizations. In addition to the ALA Board, he was a member of the Board of Advisors of The Lincoln Forum, and



John T. Elliff

served as Secretary and then President of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia. John's funeral was held in Mr. Lincoln's Church, the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.

Edna Greene Medford, professor of history at Howard University in Washington, D.C., resigned from the ALA Board of Directors. She was recently appointed interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Howard, responsible for over 500 faculty and more than 3500 students.

Robert J. Davis is resigning from his role as ALA Second Vice President but continuing to serve as a Director. Robert has begun a major genealogical study based on a trove of records including those describing his family's journey North in 1921 during the Great Migration.

(Continued from page 2)

thought Douglas had come over to their side. That troubled Lincoln greatly. He charged that Douglas's stand against the Lecompton Constitution was demagoguery. Douglas had gallantly challenged his party's president over Lecompton, saying he wanted the people to have the opportunity to vote on the entire constitution. But, Lincoln pointed out, those voters had to be registered *and the deadline for registration had passed*. It was, Lincoln chided, "wonderful that Judge Douglas could be ignorant of these facts, which everyone else in the nation so well knew."

Lincoln also worried about the advantages of the Douglas incumbency. Many government workers owed their livelihoods to the man who at the age of 22 and an Illinoisan only two years created Morgan County's first Democratic Party. That apparatus was the seed of the first statewide political party, which elected Douglas chairman of the central committee. The fruits were political offices. Appointees were bound to work for Douglas to keep their offices.

If Lincoln sought to elevate the platform of principles from which he and Douglas spoke, he would be seriously challenged. The planks of Lincoln's platform were moral and lofty. Douglas had achieved his success from a platform built on pragmatism and practicality. Lincoln's challenge was to elevate the discourse of his fellow citizens, many who had left slave states not because they disliked slavery but because they disliked blacks and the unfair competition slavery created for their labor. That required him to walk a fine line, which Douglas exploited. At numerous campaign stops, Lincoln expressed frustration that Douglas kept forcing him to answer the same questions over and over. Douglas construed that Lincoln's view of the Declaration of Independence made blacks equal to whites. Lincoln rejoined blacks were unequal in some respects. Even free they would be unequal in social and political respects, he said. At Charleston, he said that just because he did not want a black woman for a slave did not mean he wants a black woman for his wife.

"Certainly, the negro is not our equal in color—perhaps not in many other respects," Lincoln

said in a speech in Springfield in July. "Still, in the right to put into his mouth the bread that his own hands have earned, he is the equal of every other man, white or black."

There were other aggravations along the way. Enroute to the first debate at Ottawa, Lincoln stopped at Beardstown to launch his campaign. Republicans who sought to welcome Lincoln with a blast from the cannon Democrats had used to welcome Douglas the day before found it plugged with bricks and useless. The day after the Jonesboro debate, Lincoln waited until midnight in the Illinois Central Railroad station at Centralia. When he boarded the train, he found every seat filled, reputedly by Democrats. Meanwhile, Douglas traveled in a luxury coach the Illinois Central Railroad furnished. Any other train, including any in which Lincoln rode, were switched to a siding to wait as Douglas's passed.

The pressures of planning and speaking, the distances traveled, days of heat that could quickly turn to rain and cold, the constant attention of the admiring and the not-so-admiring, costs of campaigning that would have to be repaid—none of it was easy. For either man. By the end of September, with still more than a month remaining, Lincoln was drained.

Sturtevant knew both Lincoln, who occasionally visited Illinois College, and Douglas, whose rise in politics began in Jacksonville 25 years earlier. He considered Douglas the great leader of the Democratic Party but regretted the "artifices (Douglas) used by which men win their way to the hearts of the multitude." Lincoln, too, knew human nature's passions and prejudices but chose truth to accomplish his ends.

Sturtevant had been on the skirts of Lincoln's campaign from its start. He had been at the Statehouse in Springfield on the evening of June 16 when Lincoln delivered his "House Divided" speech. Unlike those who had heard it earlier in the day, Sturtevant believed the speech one of the greatest he had heard. He remembered that the Democrats paraded noisily outside. But he was too quickly engaged by the power of Lincoln's words to be distracted.

"I shall never forget," wrote Sturtevant, "my emotions as the tall form of our leader rose

before us and he gave utterance to the memorable words: 'A house divided against itself can not stand . . .'"

Six weeks after he helped Lincoln launch his campaign at Beardstown, Sturtevant met Lincoln on his arrival at Jacksonville. Lincoln was scheduled to make a speech in Jacksonville that afternoon and two more at Winchester over the next two days. Sturtevant was alarmed at Lincoln's appearance.

"Mr. Lincoln you must be having a weary time."

Lincoln's answer was blunt.

"I am," he told Sturtevant, "and if it were not for one thing I would retire from the contest. I know that if Mr. Douglas' doctrine prevails it will not be fifteen years before Illinois itself will be a slave state."

Sturtevant believed it was more than small talk. He believed that Lincoln's concern about the spread of slavery that Douglas's doctrine portended was, indeed, the only thing that kept Lincoln in the race.

"So keenly did he feel that slavery must be arrested before it subjugated the whole nation. It was this conviction that impelled him," Sturtevant wrote.

Lincoln's response had not been flippant. Only three weeks later, Lincoln in Quincy talked again about the physical strain of the race and, again, talked of quitting.

Lincoln's schedule during the remaining month of the campaign would be no less demanding. That September afternoon after his walk with Sturtevant Lincoln delivered his speech in Jacksonville. The next day, he spoke to a crowd in Winchester, where Douglas had taught school, then attended a large barbecue in his honor. The following day, Lincoln spoke once again in Winchester.

Lincoln's campaign went on.

*Reg Ankrom of Quincy, Illinois, is working on a multi-volume study of Stephen A. Douglas. Volume 1, "The Political Apprenticeship, 1833-1843," appeared in 2015*

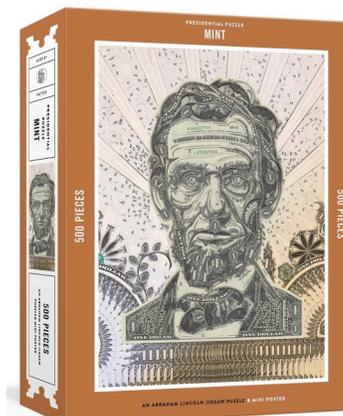
*Footnotes available on request.*

## Presidential Puzzlemint

Looking to fill some spare time? Penguin Random House has a suggestion.

For puzzlers and history buffs here is a fiendishly difficult 500-piece jigsaw puzzle depicting Abraham Lincoln, created by Brooklyn-based collage artist Mark Wagner and rendered in deconstructed dollar bills. Whether you are a die-hard puzzler or just looking to unplug and chill, this puzzle will

provide hours of entrancing (and mind-boggling) entertainment. The puzzle features Abraham Lincoln and patterns from a piece of American currency, broken down into fragments that become a difficult jigsaw puzzle. The puzzle when completed measures 18 x 24 inches.



(Continued from page 1)

respectively; and several friends from his days in New Salem, including William G. Greene, Mentor Graham, Henry McHenry, Lynn M. Greene, Royal Clary, L. M. Smith, and George Close.

Howard's notes of those interviews, which Howells called "very admirable" but "by no means great in quantity," are among the Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress and were published in the *Abraham Lincoln Quarterly*. The editor of those notes, Roy P. Basler (also the future editor of *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*), was unaware that in 1884 Howard had, under the pen name "Tuscan," written an account of his time in Springfield and Petersburg. Thomas Horrocks, author of *Lincoln's Campaign Biographies*, was similarly unaware of Howard's recollections.

Howard's notes were used not only by Howells but also by Josiah G. Holland, whose *Life of Abraham Lincoln* appeared in 1866. In addition, Howard himself wrote a campaign biography soon after returning to Columbus in June 1860. (He or his publisher – or both – evidently felt that Howells had taken too little advantage of the evidence in the Springfield-Petersburg interviews and had engaged in too many flights of literary fantasy.) In his version of Lincoln's life, Howard portrayed him thus: "His form is slightly bent; his frame angular and wiry; his arms are long, hands large, and his general appearance that of one who has endured severe physical and mental labor. In

walking, he steps deliberately, with his eyes upon the ground. His countenance when in repose, has a sad, care-worn expression, but in conversation is exceedingly animated and expressive – almost making known his thoughts before their utterance. If there is anything more striking than another about Mr. Lincoln, it is his power as a logician. Every sentence has a logical connection and relation with what precedes and succeeds, and he talks in the form of a syllogism, because he seems unable to do otherwise. The premises are stated cautiously and timidly, but the conclusion with a smile of triumph, which annihilates the answer you have prepared. His hair is black, thin and obstinate. His head resembles that of Henry Clay, as also his mouth. His eye is clear, and has the fire which God gave it. His complexion is not dark, but has the appearance of being tanned by exposure to the sun."

In that same campaign biography, Howard also described a visit to the president-elect's office: "He sits alone in his antiquated room in the State House, at Springfield, and receives his friends with the same simplicity with which, as a clerk [in New Salem], he received his customers; [and] as a lawyer [in Springfield], his clients. You open a rickety door at his call, and, with or without letters or friends to introduce you, [you] are received with sincere warmth and conversed with on terms of perfect equality."

In 1861, Lincoln appointed both Howells and Howard to foreign consulates: the former to Venice, Italy, the latter to St. John, New

Brunswick, Canada. (He also rewarded Frank E. Foster, whom Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase had recommended for a patronage job.) Sixteen years later, Howard parlayed another presidential campaign biography – of Rutherford B. Hayes – into a government post (appraiser in the New York Custom House). He also worked on newspapers in Columbus and New York; his final years he spent as custodian of reference works at the Library of Congress. Howells had a more notable career, acclaimed as "The Dean of American Letters" for such novels as *The Rise of Silas Lapham*, *A Modern Instance*, and *A Hazard of New Fortune* as well as for his editorship of *The Atlantic Monthly*.

In 1884, *Frank Leslie's Weekly* published Howard's reminiscences, which shed new light on Lincoln in the immediate aftermath of his nomination, on the Chicago Convention that nominated him, and on the publication of his 1858 debates with Stephen A. Douglas. It also offers a fuller, more textured version of his interview with Lincoln, which is rather cursorily recounted in his notes.

Howard's reminiscences appear below.

*Michael Burlingame is the Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies, University of Illinois Springfield and a Director of The Abraham Lincoln Association. Professor Burlingame is the author of the prize-winning Abraham Lincoln: A Life (2009)*

## Recollections of Lincoln

### Some Unpublished Facts Concerning his First Nomination

By James Quay Howard

I first heard of Lincoln while a student of law at the capital of Ohio. My preceptor, Hon. Samuel Galloway, known for his wit and oratory in and out of Congress, began to call almost daily attention to the extracts from Lincoln's speeches delivered during the now famous Lincoln and Douglas debates. Many of these joint debates were published in full in the journals of Cincinnati. This was in the Fall of 1858. The effect of this publication was exceedingly favorable to Mr. Lincoln. The Republican journals of Ohio put the case in this way: Stephen A. Douglas is now conceded to be the ablest debater in the United States Senate. Abraham Lincoln proves himself in these joint discussions to be more than a match for Douglas. Therefore, as Lincoln is an abler man than Douglas, the leader of the United States Senate, he must be a very able man himself and one of the leading minds of the country. Early in 1859, Mr. Galloway, who had kept up a correspondence with Lincoln for some time, and R. P. L. Baber, a partner of [his uncle]

Judge Noah H. Swayne, subsequently elevated to the Supreme Bench, conceived the idea of bringing Lincoln forward as a candidate for the Presidency. Mr. Galloway was opposed to Seward, then the leading Republican candidate, because he thought him too radical on the slavery question, and Mr. Baber, being a Virginian by birth, was opposed to the negro suffrage advocate for the same reason. Both thought it impolitic to make negro suffrage the issue in 1860. Mr. Lincoln had three times declared against it; Mr. Seward had three times expressed himself in favor of manhood suffrage.

The first serious, significant step towards the nomination of Lincoln for the Presidency was the publication in book form of the Lincoln and Douglas debates. This was engineered by Mr. Galloway and Mr. Baber, the former the most influential, the latter the most active, politician in Columbus. These "original Lincoln men" drew up two letters addressed to Lincoln, requesting authentic copies of his speeches and those of Mr. Douglas for publication, to one of which they obtained the signatures of Governor [William] Den[n]ison and all the State officers, and to the other the names of all the members of the State Board

of Equalization, then in session at Columbus. Ten days from the transmission of these letters, Mr. John G. Nicolay, afterwards Lincoln's private secretary, made his appearance at Mr. Galloway's house, bearing a reply from Lincoln, in which he said that his Columbus friends would be handed by Nicolay printed copies of his own speeches as reported in newspapers friendly to him, and copies of the speeches of Mr. Douglas as printed in Democratic journals. Nicolay was sent on this mission because he was a practical printer, and because, as a clerk in the office of the Secretary of State at Springfield, he had already established friendly relations with the great man whose biographer he has since become. These joint debates, including Lincoln's first and most famous speech, were published at once by Follet[t], Foster & Co., of Columbus. There was no large sale at first, but the book was read and favorably commented on by the newspaper fraternity. The whole edition published was exhausted the day after Lincoln's nomination at Chicago. Horace Greeley ordered two hundred copies by telegraph.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

A series of editorial articles in the *Columbus Gazette*, setting forth the facts, dates and specifications to prove Mr. Seward's record in favor of the odious doctrine of negro suffrage were extensively republished, and may have had some influence on public opinion. They were used in all the delegations at Chicago, and whether they had half the influence Governor [John] Greiner claimed for them, one fact is certain that John Greiner, the editor of the *Gazette*, who was not the author, was made the Governor of New Mexico on the strength of them. The author is a present contributor to the *Graphic*.

Upon the nomination of Mr. Lincoln for the Presidency, the publishing house of Follet[t], Foster & Co., at once claimed the right, or at least the privilege, of publishing the campaign life of the Republican candidate, basing their claim on the ground that their publication of the joint debates had been mainly instrumental in bringing about the nomination. Because of his acquaintance with Nicolay and relations with Galloway, the writer of this sketch was equipped with letters and credentials from the Governor and principal State officers, and was posted off to Springfield to obtain the materials for a "Life of Mr. Lincoln," to be written by W. D. Howells, then one of the editors of the *Ohio State Journal*.

The morning after my arrival I called with Jessie K. Dubois, then Auditor of State, at Mr. Lincoln's modest two-story frame dwelling, to leave my letters of commendation and introduction. My youthfulness rendered it proper and becoming that the talking should be done by Mr. Dubois, who proceeded to say that, as the agent of Follet[t], Foster & Co., I had simply called to pay my respects, leave with him my letters, and inquire when and where it would be convenient for him to see me on the business to which the letters related. After reading slowly two of these letters Mr. Lincoln said that, in view of the smallness of his house, and the rapidly increasing number of his visitors "since a certain event at Chicago," his State House friends had kindly given him a room in the State Capitol, where he could better receive all that might choose to call upon him. He said that he would see me the next morning at ten o'clock if I would call at his room in the State House. In contrast with the perfect poise, the unbending dignity and repose of [Ohio] Governor [Salmon P.] Chase, the only truly

great man I had thus far had the honor to know, I thought I detected in Mr. Lincoln's manner the appearance of a feeling that there existed a certain incongruity between his plain appearance and humble surroundings and the greatness of the office for which he was a candidate. Calling punctually at ten, I found the modest candidate already surrounded with visitors. He came towards me immediately, and, calling Nicolay to come with him, he led the way to the doors of several rooms on the same floor of the State House, which he tried to open, but found locked. The last door he tried proved to be that of Nicolay's bedroom, which he found open. Pointing to a couple of rickety chairs, he seated himself upon the bed. He began at once to talk business; said he had a most friendly feeling for Follet[t], Foster & Co. They had done him a great service in publishing the Lincoln and Douglas debates. He was inclined to give them whatever advantage might result from publishing a campaign life, which he supposed was expected to appear.

"But," said he, "there is nothing to write a 'life' about. I have done nothing."

This he repeated several times with accumulating emphasis. I referred to his record in the State Legislature and in Congress. He said I might possibly find something in the legislative journals in the State library that could be made use of, but he doubted it.

As to his protective tariff record in Congress and since, that would have to be treated with great delicacy. What would please the Pennsylvanians, he said, would offend William Cullen Bryant in the same degree. He likened the situation to that of three men in bed with a blanket too narrow to cover all. If number one pulled it over him, he pulled it off number three. With a view to accuracy, I requested for Mr. Howells's use a skeleton sketch giving material facts and authentic dates. He replied that Nicolay could, perhaps, prepare some rough notes in a few days. A somewhat full sketch was soon handed me in the handwriting of Nicolay, which, with some other memoranda made at the time, after their use by Mr. Howells and Dr. [Josiah G.] Holland, were some years since returned to Lincoln's chosen biographer [Nicolay], at his own request, to be availed of if necessary by him.

After this interview, during which Lincoln would occasionally drop back on his elbows in an almost recumbent posture on the bed—

a position which struck me at the time as a little grotesque for a future President of the United States—I had but two conversations with him: one of which related to the announcement by the Columbus publishers of the forthcoming book; and the other of which was brief and formal. While the lack of dignity of the Chase type and the absence of the grand manner were at all times apparent, I was not for a moment unconscious of the fact that I had been under the magic influence of an extraordinary man.

What struck me first and most was his power as a logician. He seemed a sort of backwoods Plato — a Western Aristotle — whose reasoning powers were irresistible and overwhelming. I was next amazed to find with what reverent and manly affection he was regarded by men and neighbors who had known him from boyhood. John T. Logan [Stuart], his first law partner; William Butler, State Treasurer; Dr. [John] Allen, of Petersburg Menard, County; and [Illinois Governor] Dick Yates, seemed to know most about him. When I asked old Dan [George] Close if he was not surprised that a man who once split rails with him should be a candidate for President of the United States, he replied, with rough emphasis: "No! Abe Linkurn was the best man God ever made, and he ought to be President!"

In conclusion, what is Lincoln's place among our historical men? His rank is very high, but not first, as Nicolay and others insist. He was not a statesman of the vast acquirements and versatile genius of Hamilton, the great organizer and executive man, the creator of American credit and our whole financial system, and the great writer upon constitutional law. Lincoln was not so well-read or so many-sided as this peerless statesman. Washington had a weight, dignity, and solidity of character which no public man in our history has possessed. In prudence, foresight, wisdom, soundness, and sobriety of judgment he is first among our historical men. I would, therefore, rank the Founder higher than the Preserver of the Republic. While we have the sanction of such learned students of our history as [James A.] Garfield and E[win] P[ercy] Whipple in placing Lincoln third, we must not forget that this high rank implies that he was greater than [Chief Justice John] Marshall and greater than [Massachusetts Senator Daniel] Webster.

TUSCAN [James Quay Howard]

*Footnotes available on request.*

### *ALA has a new address and phone number*

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## Mark your Calendar—Upcoming Lincoln Events

**Lincoln Legacy Lecture**, October 18, 7:00 pm, Lincoln vs. Douglas—Slavery and Race in Illinois History, featuring Dr. Michael Burlingame, Dr. Graham Peck, and Dr. Roger Bridges. Student Union Ballroom, University of Illinois Springfield, One University Plaza, Springfield, Illinois: [www.uis.edu/clas/center-for-lincoln-studies](http://www.uis.edu/clas/center-for-lincoln-studies)

**An Evening with Doris Kearns Goodwin**, author of *Leadership in Turbulent Times*, October 29, 5:00 pm, Fundraiser to benefit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation “Permanent Home” campaign. Tickets priced from \$25—\$1,000, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, Illinois: [www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov](http://www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov)

**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](http://hcfta.org)

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

Plan now to attend the Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium and the 210th Lincoln Birthday celebration, February 11-12, 2019, in Springfield, Illinois. The banquet speaker will be **Dan Abrams**, chief legal affairs anchor for ABC news and author of the New York Times bestseller *Lincoln’s Last Trial—The Murder Case that Propelled Him to the Presidency*. Also scheduled is Dr. Brian Dirck, professor of history at Anderson University, to discuss his book *Black Heavens—Abraham Lincoln and Death*.

### Membership Matters



Dear Friends and Members,

When U.S. Senator Paul Simon (1928-2003) spoke about Abraham Lincoln, he frequently recounted an important true story. He said that while writing his book, *Lincoln’s Preparation for Greatness: The Illinois Legislative Years*, his daughter would arrive home and see him wading through piles of research papers and drafts of his manuscript. When his daughter’s friends asked, “What does your daddy do?” she would answer by saying, “My daddy works on Abraham Lincoln.”

Senator Simon said, “That was not true. In truth,” said Simon, “Abraham Lincoln works on all of us. He works by teaching us compassion, tolerance, statesmanship and how to live.” According to Simon, we are all made better by studying and learn-

ing about Lincoln’s life. His challenges and the tragedies he overcame teach us how to deal with troubles in our own lives, and ultimately how to act in positive and compassionate ways.

For me, and I believe for many students of the Lincoln story, the senator’s thoughts deftly illustrate why membership in the ALA matters. It keeps us in touch with one of the most inspiring and positive forces in American history, Abraham Lincoln.

**Joseph Garrera**  
Membership Chair

P.S. Membership in the ALA is a great gift to a friend or colleague.

### New ALA Members

**John Carl**, Evansville, Indiana  
**Michele Smith**, Chicago, Illinois  
**Rob Spear**, Newburgh, Indiana



#### Did you know?

The Abraham Lincoln Association was founded in 1908 to celebrate Lincoln’s 100th birthday in the following year.

In the 1920s, its mission was expanded to preserve and protect Lincoln landmarks and to advance Lincoln scholarship.

## Join The Abraham Lincoln Association Today

Mail this form (or a photocopy) and a check to:

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## *Penny Drive-Funded Lincoln Artifact*

An historic Abraham Lincoln artifact purchased through the Illinois Proud Penny Drive by Sangamon County schoolchildren is now ready for viewing at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum to help celebrate Illinois's 200th birthday this year.

The children of Sangamon County gave the Sangamon County Minute Book to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. In the April of this year, the students raised more than \$18,000 during the Illinois Proud Penny Drive to use toward the purchase and preservation of this historic document that had belonged to a private owner in New York. If only pennies were collected, there would have been 1.8 million coins, or five to six tons of pennies.

State Representative Sara Wojcicki Jimenez, who helped organize the Illinois Proud Penny Drive, said the Sangamon County Minute Book includes the written certification to Abraham Lincoln's "good moral character", which was a necessary certification for a person to become a lawyer in Illinois in the 1860's.

"When Abraham Lincoln was a young man here in Sangamon County the testament to his 'good moral character' was required for him to begin his law career and was recorded in the Sangamon County Minute Book," Representative Jimenez said. "I am so proud of the children and our local partners whose efforts have allowed us to bring home this important piece of our history to kick off our bicentennial year celebrations!"

From October 1 through December 31, 2018 the Minute Book of Sangamon County from July 1835 to July 1838 will be on display in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. It may be viewed with regular museum admission near the Lincoln Law Office scene in Journey 1, Lincoln's life before the presidency.



"The Minute Book also includes information about some of Abraham Lincoln's first legal cases, which is truly a treasure for generations to learn from and enjoy. It's a wonderful birthday present that can now be enjoyed by everyone who visits the Museum," Rikeesha Phelon, Illinois Bicentennial Commissioner added.