



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

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Abraham Lincoln's Cooper Union Address

By Richard Brookhiser



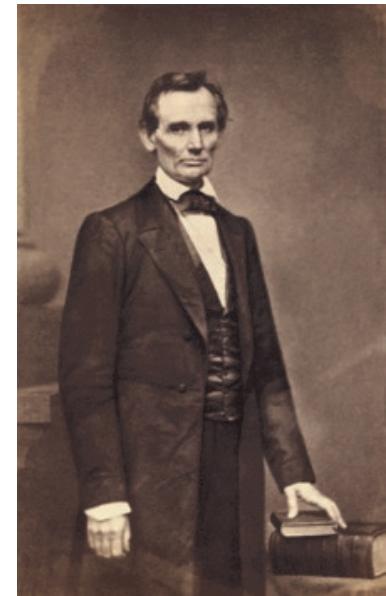
Richard Brookhiser is a biographer of the Founding Fathers (most recently author of James Madison, from Basic Books). His next book, also from Basic, is Founders' Son: A Life of Abraham Lincoln, due out in October. It tells Lincoln's story as a lifelong engagement with the founders—Washington, Paine, Jefferson—and their great documents—the Declaration of Independence, the Northwest Ordinance, the Constitution—and shows how America's greatest generation made its greatest man. In the course of his writing he found that Lincoln made three mistakes in the Cooper Union Address in his discussion of the signers of the Constitution and their views of slavery. One mistake is known, from his correspondence, and was corrected when the Address was printed as a pamphlet. But two seem to be unknown—he put one framer in Congress after he had retired, and he quoted a bogus letter by George Washington.

gines, are greater than anything that was available to Lincoln. Yet two of Lincoln's mistakes are little known today—which suggests a narrowness of modern scholarship.

The first half of the Cooper Union Address was a response to a speech by Stephen Douglas. Campaigning for a fellow Democrat in Ohio in September 1859, Douglas had said, “our fathers, when they framed the government under which we live, understood this question just as well, and even better, than we do now.” “This question” was whether the federal government could restrict the expansion of slavery into the territories. Douglas argued that federal control would violate the principle of self-government; each territory’s inhabitants should decide for themselves whether to allow slavery or not. Lincoln at Cooper Union agreed with Douglas that “our fathers” knew best what America’s founding principles were, but he proposed to show that they agreed with him—that the federal government could, and should, limit slavery’s expansion.

Lincoln defined “our fathers [who] framed the government under which we live” as the 39 men who signed the Constitution. He examined their careers for occasions when as lawmakers they had to decide “this question.” He concluded that 23 of the 39 had been in a position to vote or act on the expansion of slavery, and that 21—a clear majority—had chosen to restrict it, either by forbidding it or placing limits on it. “As those fathers marked it, so let it be again marked, as an evil not to be extended....”

His first mistake came in his discussion of the Northwest Ordinance, which organized the territory that would become Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin (plus a slice of Minnesota). The Northwest Ordinance was older than the Constitution: the one-house Congress of the Articles of Confederation, meeting at Fraunces’ Tavern in New York, passed it in July 1787, as the Constitutional Convention was meeting in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Several



Photograph of Abraham Lincoln taken in New York City by Mathew Brady on February 27, 1860, the day of Lincoln's Cooper Union Address

members of Congress were also delegates to the Convention and shuttled between New York and Philadelphia to tend to both duties. Lincoln said that three of them, William Blount, William Few, and Abraham Baldwin, had supported the Ordinance and signed the Constitution—“thus showing that, in their understanding, no line dividing local from federal authority...forbade the Federal Government to control as to slavery in federal territory.” But Lincoln was wrong about Abraham Baldwin. When Baldwin, a Georgian, got to Philadelphia in June he stayed put and thus was absent when Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance. When the Cooper Union Address was published as a campaign pamphlet in September 1860, this mistake was corrected.

Two other mistakes slipped through, however. The first concerned the law establishing the Mississippi Territory in 1798. The original Mississippi Territory covered what is now southern Mississippi and Alabama, minus the Gulf Coast (then still owned by Spain). The settlements that existed there had slavery since colonial times, and Con-

(continued on page 2)

In the Cooper Union Address, February 27, 1860, Lincoln gave the most elaborate statement of his conviction that the Republican policy of considering slavery an evil that should be contained and ultimately extinguished was also the policy of the founding fathers. Lincoln spent half of his ninety minute oration laying out this case, and when the Address was published in September it was accompanied by more than two dozen footnotes buttressing it.

But Lincoln made three mistakes about the founding fathers when he gave his speech. They did not weaken his argument, but they show how hard it was—especially for a busy politician—to do research in the 1850s. Our historical resources, from the published papers of the founders to internet search en-

(continued from page 1)

gress did nothing to change that status quo. It did, however, forbid the importation of slaves from abroad (this was at a time when the slave trade was still legal).

Lincoln said that three “fathers” serving in Congress approved this bill, with that restriction—John Langdon, Abraham Baldwin, and George Read. He was right about Baldwin this time, but George Read was not in Congress in 1798. After serving as a senator from Delaware beginning in 1789, he had gone home to be chief justice of the state supreme court in 1793 and died five years later.

Lincoln’s second mistake concerned George Washington. Washington appeared in Lincoln’s list of the 21 “fathers” because of an act he took in his first year as president: in August 1789 he signed a bill unanimously passed by the new Congress confirming the Northwest Ordinance. But at Cooper Union Lincoln also cited a letter Washington wrote Lafayette in 1798 that praised the Northwest Ordinance as “a wise measure.”

But the letter is bogus. Washington did write Lafayette in 1798, congratulating him on his release from an Austrian jail where he had been held as a prisoner of war. In this letter Washington made some comments on current American politics but said nothing about the Northwest Ordinance.

How did Lincoln go astray? There was a Read in Congress in 1798, who approved the bill organizing the Mississippi Territory—Jacob Read, senator from South Carolina. Lincoln, probably checking for surnames against a list of the 39 “fathers,” evidently assumed he was George Read.

The false Washington letter was quoted by Lyman Trumbull in a speech in the Senate on December 8, 1859 (Trumbull was the Illinois Republican who had nosed Lincoln out of a Senate seat in 1855 but who later became an ally). However, Trumbull was not the first person to quote it. Dr. Nicole Seary of the Gilder Lehrman Institute has found nine earlier citations of the false Washington letter in northern newspapers, going back to 1855 (one was in *Frederick Douglass’ Paper*, published in Rochester, New York). So the letter was fairly common knowledge in anti-slavery circles; Lincoln could have gotten it from Trum-

bull’s speech, or from his own reading in the anti-slavery press. Interestingly, Dr. Seary also found articles in two anti-Lincoln newspapers, the *Boston Post* and the *Columbian Register* (New Haven), which questioned the letter’s authenticity after Lincoln had been elected president.

Lincoln’s mistakes in the Cooper Union Address were minor and did not undermine his argument. Abraham Baldwin spent eighteen years in the new post-Constitution Congress (ten in the House, eight in the Senate), during which he voted to restrict slavery three times. George Read was a senator in 1789, and thus one of the “fathers” who confirmed the Northwest Ordinance that George Washington signed into law. And Washington, besides signing that historic bill, wrote several authentic letters deplored slavery. The footnotes to the Cooper Union Address quoted one of them: “there is no man living who wishes more sincerely than I do to see a plan adopted for the abolition of it” (Washington to Robert Morris, April 12, 1786). Washington put his convictions into practice in 1799 when he freed his slaves in his will.

These fly-specks on one of the rhetorical and political monuments of Lincoln’s career highlight the difficulty of doing research in one’s spare time, especially with the spottier records and cruder facilities of the mid-nineteenth century. Lincoln owned a set of *Elliot’s Debates*, an 1836 collection of documents concerning the writing and ratifying of the Constitution. The state library in Springfield owned a copy of James Madison’s *Papers*, published in 1840, which included his copious notes on the Constitutional Convention. It also owned copies of the debates and proceedings of early Congresses and early biographies of the more famous founding fathers. Lincoln had to page through these volumes himself, in moments stolen from legal work and politicking, to find the nuggets he needed; he may have sent his law partner William Herndon to the state library to look for him.

When the Cooper Union Address was published in September 1860, it was meant both to help Lincoln’s presidential campaign and to serve as an arsenal of historical information for Republicans. By the time the pamphlet was being prepared for the press, Lincoln had disposed of whatever notes he had taken: “I could not now re-examine, and make notes, without an



The Great Hall of The Cooper Union Institute (now the Cooper Union) has stood for more than a century as a bastion of free speech and a witness to the flow of American history and ideas.

expenditure of time which I can not bestow upon it,” he wrote (Lincoln to Charles C. Nott 5/31/60). So Charles C. Nott and Cephas Brainerd, two young Republican lawyers in New York, had to do his research over again to compile the pamphlet’s footnotes (Lincoln looked over their work and approved it). Nott and Brainerd caught the Baldwin error, but let the wrong Read and the bogus Washington letter through.

We have less excuse. Lincoln’s correspondence with Nott about publishing the address is in the *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, and in it the two men hash out the Baldwin problem but the *Collected Works* makes no mention of the other mistakes. I discovered them almost by chance. I found that George Read had not been in Congress in 1798 by looking him up to see which house of Congress he sat in. I was suspicious of the Washington letter because I had written three books about him and I did not recognize it. I did a few online searches, and I contacted Theodore J. Crackel, former editor-in-chief of the University of Virginia’s *Papers of George Washington*, who confirmed that the letter was inauthentic. I then sought the help of Dr. Seary.

Interest and affection make specialists of us all. As a result, Founders World and Lincoln World are rather like different planets; explorers make occasional visits back and forth, but there is not much regular communication. They ought to pay more attention to each other.

With less time and fewer resources, Abraham Lincoln tried to do just that.



Harold Holzer Describes Lincoln's Process of Writing the Cooper Union Address

I asked our good friend and author of Lincoln at Cooper Union to comment on Richard Brookhiser's article. Harold cited pages 50 through 54 of his award-winning book Lincoln at Cooper Union. Those pages are reproduced below without footnotes. Holzer explains the historical resources available to Lincoln with regard to the Founders and his process of writing the Cooper Union Address. Thank you Harold for providing these pages of very helpful background.



Harold Holzer—former ALA Board Member and author of the award-winning book Lincoln at Cooper Union

Lincoln composed his speeches slowly, meticulously, laboriously. Over the years, a contemporary noticed, he grew “more and more in the habit of revising all he had written down to the latest hour possible before delivery” of his formal talks. Striving for simplicity, his speeches became “more eloquent,” observed Herndon, as Lincoln worked to forgo “gaudy ornamentation ... dropping gradually the alliteration and rosy metaphor of youth.”

Ward Hill Lamon remembered, “When Mr. Lincoln had a speech to write ... he would put down each thought, as it occurred to him, on a small strip of paper, and, having accumulated a number of these, generally carried them in his hat or his pockets until he had the whole speech composed in this odd way.” Only then would he “sit down at his table, connect the fragments, and then write out the whole speech on consecutive sheets in a plain, legible handwriting.”

Where Cooper Union was concerned, first came the research—more than he had ever undertaken to write a political address.

“My father, of course, had some books at home. I remember well a large bookcase full of them,” Robert Lincoln testified as an old man. “... After my mother’s death, when I rounded up such things as well as I could, I found myself in possession of twenty odd books, which I now have ... among them ... a book called ‘Lives of the Signers,’ which I have no doubt my father used in preparing his Cooper Institute speech.”

The book to which Robert referred was undoubtedly John Sanderson’s *Biography of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence*. Although Lincoln did not own the original five-volume edition, he did possess the one-volume abridged version edited by Robert Taylor Conrad in 1847. Lincoln turned to it now for further insight into the lives and opinions of the founders. Douglas had insisted in *Harper’s* that the heroes of the Revolution had reserved to the states the right to decide the future of slavery. Now Lincoln sought an avenue for rebuttal. What did these founders really think—both before and after the constitutional convention? Did they ever publish their later views? More to the point, did they ever have the opportunity, the responsibility, to vote on the issue? And if so, how did they come down?

Here Lincoln found his opening theme: How had the framers voted on subsequent matters related to the slavery question? If they had sided with federal authority, as Lincoln increasingly suspected, he would have the perfect antidote to Douglas’s own arguments in *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*.

As Lincoln knew, “the scenes of the revolution ... like every thing else ... must fade upon the memory of the world, and grow more and more dim by the lapse of time.” To refresh his recollection, Lincoln began with Jonathan Elliot’s *The Debates in the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitu-*

tion as Recommended by the General Constitution at Philadelphia, in 1787, his own sheepskin-bound two-volume set of the original multivolume edition published in 1836. (He eventually gave his copy to his law partner Herndon, who years later sold it at auction.)

Conveniently, the Lincoln-Herndon law firm owned the four volumes of James Kent’s *Commentaries on the Constitution*. Page by page in these and other books, Lincoln studied the words of the men whose names were now “transferred to counties and cities, and rivers and mountains,” as he had noted in his lyceum lecture twenty-four years earlier, “revered and sung, and toasted through all time.”

Patrick Henry, for example, he found had once declared that “it would rejoice my very soul that everyone of my fellow-beings was emancipated.” Unfortunately, Henry also thought, as Douglas now did, that slavery was “a local matter, and I can see no propriety in subjecting it to Congress.” But here in *Elliott* was evidence that at least two signers of the Constitution, William Blount and William Few, had later voted to prohibit slavery in the Northwest Territories. Others had cast similar votes. The more Lincoln searched, the more framers he discovered to have been opposed to the extension of slavery, or at least aware of federal authority to govern extension. By the time he finished, he had determined that of the thirty-nine signers of the Constitution who had gone on to express themselves on the issue, twenty-three had registered votes that showed that they believed the federal government had the power to regulate slavery.

For up-to-date statistics he used his 1859 edition of Charles Lanman’s *Dictionary of the United States Congress*. He had purchased it new, he later told its author, and found it “both interesting and valuable.” Lincoln also read Hinton Rowan Helper’s new book, *The Impending Crisis of The South*, to which his Cooper Union speech would refer. The explosive volume, which infuriated Southerners, called

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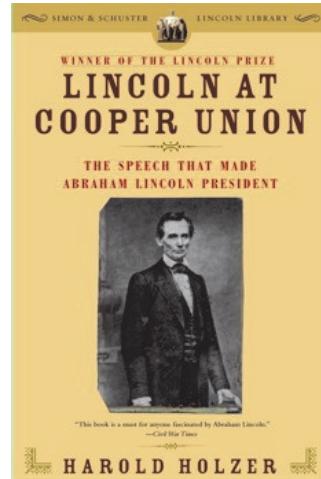
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slavery “a great moral, social, civil, and political evil—a dire enemy to true ... national greatness.”

The law library at the state capitol boasted a number of crucial books that Lincoln did not own: copies of Jefferson’s autobiography, *The Letters of George Washington*, *The Papers of James Madison*, and the *Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787*. In these volumes he found more evidence for his theory, as well as powerful, agonized denunciations of slavery from the leaders of the previous century. As Washington himself had convincingly admitted, “There is no man living who wishes more sincerely than I do to see a plan adopted for the abolition of it.” What was more, Washington had foreseen that slavery could indeed be controlled “by legislative authority,” just as Lincoln would argue now.

Lincoln searched scrupulously, too, through the dust-filled annals of *Congress* and *Congressional Globe*—the early versions of what today is called the *Congressional Record*—for the texts of every relevant slavery debate and vote.

He probably consulted, too, a life of the Marquis de Lafayette, and likely examined the works of Alexander Hamilton. He reread Benjamin Franklin’s petition against slavery. He looked through accounts of the great slave uprisings, including Nat Turner’s insurrection in 1831. And he studied back issues of the Chicago and Springfield newspapers,



along with the weekly national editions of the *New York Tribune*, in search of fresh evidence of Douglas’s moral indifference to slavery. He read and reread Douglas’s *Harper’s* article, and reviewed the newspaper reprints of his own speeches, including the 1858 debates.

Working to develop arguments that would connect this newly assembled mountain of facts into a coherent narrative, Lincoln hit upon a novel device. The best way to record the fruits of his research was to make the facts themselves the core of his speech. A political demagogue like Douglas, he believed, might try to convince the public that the federal government had no right to control slavery in the federal territories. “But he has no right,” Lincoln now wrote in his draft, “to mislead others” who have less access to history, and less leisure to study it, into the false belief that the founders believed any such thing. He would incorporate that sentiment into his manuscript. It was prelude to his famous comment to Con-

gress two years later: “Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history.”

With no researchers to assist him, no professional scholars to feed him documents, no secretary to take dictation, Lincoln sought his own “access to history,” and, amidst the pressures of law and politics, the “leisure to study it.” And now, armed with history, he was ready to answer Stephen A. Douglas one last time.

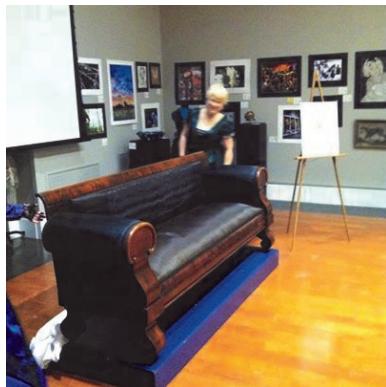
Although he apparently, inexplicably told sculptor Leonard Wells Volk a few months later a fantastic story—that he “arranged and composed this speech in his mind while going on the cars from Camden to Jersey City” on the final leg of his journey to New York—the truth was that never in his life did Lincoln labor over an address so diligently, over such an extended period of time, and in the face of such wrenching distractions.

As one of the young men who invited him would later observe, Lincoln produced “the most carefully prepared, the most elaborately investigated and demonstrated and verified of all the work of his life.” Yet notwithstanding all his labors, “When at last he left for New York,” Herndon remembered, “we had many misgivings—and he not a few himself—of his success in the great metropolis.”

“What effect the unpretentious western lawyer would have on the wealthy and fashionable society of the great city,” admitted Herndon, “could only be conjectured.”



ALA PROJECTS COMPLETED



Restored Courting Couch Unveiled

On the evening of February 11, 2014, ALA members and Board members gathered at Edwards Place, home of the Springfield Art Association, to unveil and rededicate the couch where Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd sat while courting. The ALA contributed to the restoration cost. The couch has its original fabric.



Old State Capitol New Sound System Dedicated

The 2014 Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium was the occasion for the first use of the new sound system in the House of Representatives of the Old State Capitol. The ALA initiated this project and contributed financially.

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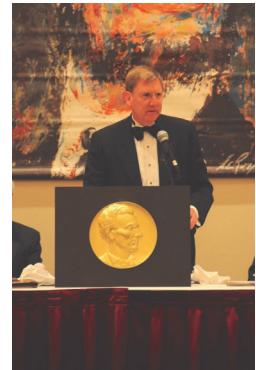
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PRESIDENT ROBERT A. STUART'S GREETING

Fellow members of the Abraham Lincoln Association,

After the celebration of the 100th anniversary of our Association in 2009, we immediately became involved with the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Civil War.



The Association continues to exemplify the highest standards in the promotion of Lincoln scholarship in academic and literary circles in our *Journal* and *For the People*. We further enhance the study by providing our annual Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium to the public. Our essay contests, our Watch Night and the United Colored Troops activities, our partnerships and funding for the Lincoln Legacy Lecture at UIS and the Colloquium, and our press conferences with Lincoln—all of these programs emphasize our commitment to making Lincoln relevant to today's society.

The Board is cognizant that we need to take a long look at who we are, what our mission is, and the paths that are available to achieve our mission. The purpose and goals remain the same, but is there a better method of delivering our ultimate product of reverence for Lincoln and his continuing place as relevant to us today?

We have indeed been fortunate to have so many outstanding individuals involved in the past. We hope that we can count on each of you to continue your support. As we move forward, we hope you will share with the Board and its officers your thoughts on exactly what steps we can take to make the ALA even more of a force in keeping Lincoln's legacy strong and relevant today and in the future.

Robert A. Stuart, President



Lincoln Heritage Museum

Grand Opening

Lincoln Center at Lincoln College, 1115 Nicholson Road, Lincoln Illinois

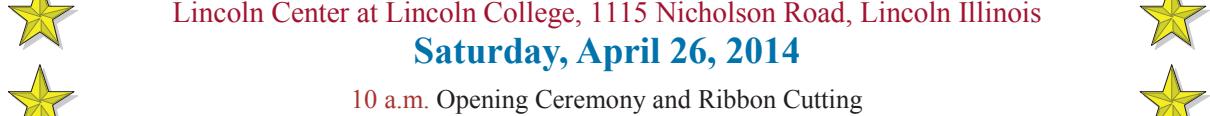
Saturday, April 26, 2014



10 a.m. Opening Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting

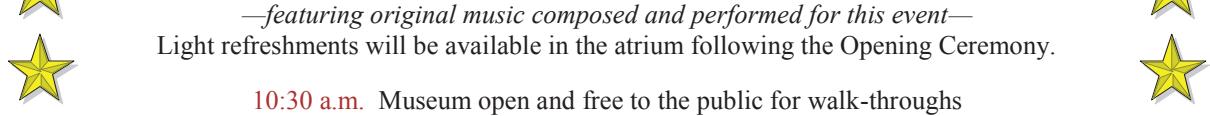
—featuring original music composed and performed for this event—

Light refreshments will be available in the atrium following the Opening Ceremony.

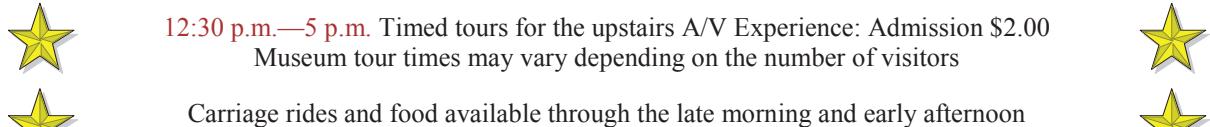


10:30 a.m. Museum open and free to the public for walk-throughs

12:30 p.m.—5 p.m. Timed tours for the upstairs A/V Experience: Admission \$2.00
Museum tour times may vary depending on the number of visitors



Carriage rides and food available through the late morning and early afternoon



Distinguished Directors

Mario M. Cuomo

Poet John Knoepfle Meets Mr. Lincoln on Sixth Street



John Knoepfle is the author of 17 books of poetry, as well as an autobiography and other prose works. His most recent book, *Shadows and Starlight*, was published by Indian Paintbrush Poets in 2012.

John likes to begin the day by striking lines on his fractious computer. These sometimes become poems.

He is a professor emeritus of literature at University of Illinois Springfield. His awards include the 2012 Mayor's Award for the Arts, given by the Springfield Area Arts Council.

A Pacific theater veteran of World War II, Knoepfle began writing in the 1940s. His poetry focuses on what he sees around him in the Midwest. He favors the poetry of ordinary speech, storytelling, and local history. At 91, he says he is preoccupied with being 91. Knoepfle has four children and four grandchildren and lives with his wife, Peggy, in the village of Jerome, Illinois.

Abraham Lincoln Walks in the Morning

by John Knoepfle

Meeting Mr. Lincoln

here in springfield
that is to say the one in illinois
not a massachusetts town
on the eastern seaboard
no the one in illinois
where vachel lindsay imagined
the president walked at midnight

well he does as I can witness
only a week ago as I remember
yes early in april – I met him
on sixth street just to the south
where the old capitol is
it was in the morning though

will mrs lincoln be having
her strawberry levee soon
I said just to say something

he said why yes but you know
you have to wait on the season
yes you have to know
where the strawberries are growing
and when it is time for picking them

yes he said thoughtfully
you have to know when they are ready
and when they are not

I wished him the best of times
this one moment and forever
he touched the brim of his hat then
and said goodbye with a smile

I thought he might be going
for a roll call or a vote
sequestered in the state house
or perhaps to tell country stories
all afternoon in his law office

but when I turned to wave
goodbye to this great man
I knew would be president one day
no one walked the streets
that cold morning in springfield

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ALA

We welcome our 22 new members from seven states.

Dr. Tofig Arjmand

Springfield, Illinois

Cliff Berg

Sacramento, California

John Coady

Taylorville, Illinois

Chris DeRose

Phoenix, Arizona

Robert Govier

Mission Viejo, California

Trey Holland

Indianapolis, Indiana

Sarah Jennings

Springfield, Illinois

Bill and Julie Kellner

Springfield, Illinois

William King

Bellevue, Ohio

Walter Kubon

Wheaton, Illinois

Brent McGucken

Charleston, West Virginia

Michael McCuskey

Champaign, Illinois

Mike Newmeister

Springfield, Illinois

David Pruitt

Haverhill, New Hampshire

Daniel Reigle

West Chester, Ohio

Julian Rogus

Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Francie Staggs

Springfield, Illinois

Traci Stahl

San Jose, California

Dr. Michael Alan Stutz

River Forest, Illinois

Ryan Lincoln Stutz

River Forest, Illinois

Mark Trapp

Glenview, Illinois

David Wiegers

Gurnee, Illinois

JOIN THE ALA

Your membership is essential to the ALA's success. It allows the ALA to provide you with the *For The People* newsletter and the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* and to sponsor many worthwhile programs related to the life of Abraham Lincoln. Please join.

William G. Shepherd,
Membership Chairman

Mail this application (or a copy) and a check to:

The Abraham Lincoln Association
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____



Robert A. Stuart, Jr. Elected President of The Abraham Lincoln Association

Robert A. Stuart, Jr. was elected to serve as President of the Abraham Lincoln Association at the annual meeting of its Board of Directors held on February 11, 2014, in Springfield, Illinois. While most of our members know Bob, it will be of interest to all to know a little about his outstanding professional career and generous public service.

In 1970, Bob received the B.A. from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. In 1973, he received his J.D. from the University of Illinois at Champaign.

Bob is a partner in the Springfield law firm of Brown Hay & Stephens, the oldest law firm in the State of Illinois. The firm was founded by Bob's great-great-grandfather John Todd Stuart in 1828. The firm was once titled Stuart and Lincoln.

Bob's professional specialty has been in the field of estate and succession planning. He is a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and of the American Bar Foundation. He has served as chair of Illinois State Bar Association Estate Planning Section and he is

the current president of the Sangamon Valley Estate Planning Council. He also serves as an advisor to the Leading Lawyers Network.

Bob has had a generous record of public service to his community, his nation, and the world. In Springfield, he serves as an elder in his church and has chaired the Chamber of Commerce, the United Way Campaign, and the United Way Foundation. For his service in masonry, he has been awarded the 33rd degree.

The Illinois Association of Park Districts presented him its lifetime appreciation award. He is the First Vice President of the National Recreation Foundation.

Bob has been Rotary Club president, district governor, and one of 17 directors on the international board of Rotary International. He chaired Rotary International's Constitution and Bylaws Committee, raised funds for Rotary's 7 global Peace Centers, and sits as chair of the Operations Review Committee. He has immunized children in Rotary's campaign to eradicate polio, opened water wells, de-

livered wheelchairs, dedicated new schools following the 2004 tsunami, and worked with clubs along the Gulf Coast in post-Katrina relief efforts and with Haiti Earthquake Relief. The Rotary Foundation has given him its Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award.

Bob has served as President of the Abraham Lincoln Council of the Boy Scouts and as a Trustee of its endowment. He has served as Area President, assisting 12 councils in four states. For two years, he was presented with the outstanding area trophy out of seven areas. He is currently a member of the Boy Scouts of America national committee for Alumni Relations/NESA and its Central Region chair. He has been awarded the Distinguished Eagle, the Silver Beaver, and the Silver Antelope.

Bob's daughter Cori received a Master's in public history from the University of Illinois Springfield under Phil Paludan and was an intern at the Lincoln Legal Papers. His son Todd is a landscape architect outside of Northampton, Massachusetts.

Kathryn M. Harris Elected Vice President of The Abraham Lincoln Association



Kathryn M. Harris was elected to serve as Vice President of the Abraham Lincoln Association at the annual meeting of its Board of Directors held on February 11, 2014, in Springfield, Illinois.

Kathryn serves as Library Services Director at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library (ALPL), formerly the Illinois State Historical Library (ISHL), in Springfield, Illinois. She joined the ISHL staff in 1990 as the Supervisor of Refer-

ence and Technical Services and was named ISHL Director in 1996. With the opening of the ALPL in 2004, Kathryn assumed her current title.

Kathryn's previous library experience includes positions at the Illinois State Library, the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Library, Florida International University, and the Lincoln Library, Springfield's public library.

She has served on various boards including: the Rolling Prairie Library System, the Illinois Library Association, the Illinois Humanities Council, the Sangamon County Historical Society, CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois), and The Abraham Lincoln Association.

Kathryn has appeared on stage as "Sadie Delany" in local productions of *Having Our Say*. She has also portrayed

"Elizabeth Keckly" in *The Last of Mrs. Lincoln*. Both performances have been presented in the Union Theater at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. In addition, she performs as "Harriet Tubman," Underground Railroad conductor, for school and community groups.

In September 2012, Kathryn was honored and humbled to introduce "Harriet" to participants at the Annual Leadership Conference sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C. In September 2013, "Harriet" participated in the Mentoring Summit sponsored by the National Alliance of Faith and Justice in Washington, D.C.

A native of Carbondale, Illinois, Kathryn is a graduate of Southern Illinois University Carbondale and of the University of Illinois Urbana Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Lincoln Essay Contest Revived: 2014 Winners Announced in House of Representatives of Old State Capitol

Farrell and Ann Gay are the benefactors of the Museum of Springfield History in the Elijah Iles House. The Museum is home to Farrell's world class collection of watches manufactured by the Illinois Watch Company in Springfield from 1870 to 1932. The company was founded by a number of prominent Springfield citizens including John T. Stuart, the first president, and John Whitfield Bunn. The company made some of the finest watches in the world and was once Springfield's largest employer, employing 1,250 at its peak.

In 2009, Farrell revived the Lincoln Essay Contest originally sponsored by the Illinois Watch Company in the 1920s. For the last several years, the first place winner of that contest has led the Pledge of Allegiance at the ALA annual banquet on February 12. What follows is Farrell's account of the revival the Lincoln Essay Contest.

By Farrell Gay

In 1924 the Lincoln Essay Contest was inaugurated by the Illinois Watch Company on a nationwide basis with America's high schools. In the first year of the contest about 5,000 essays were judged. Unfortunately, the contest ended a few years later with the sale of the watch company (1928) to Hamilton Watch Company, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

In a way, what I do with the Lincoln Essay Contest is sort of a giveback for something a man from my church did for me back in 1951 — a scholarship to college. I have never forgotten that.

Of course, having known the history of the Illinois Watch Company, I also knew of the Lincoln Essay Contest and I decided to revive it for the six high schools of Spring-

field. We have patterned the contest as closely as possible according to the company's original essay booklet.

It was a little difficult getting this contest started. I can't believe how hard it was to give away scholarships and Illinois wrist-watches for writing an essay. It took a while, but I finally got it moving.

The essays are hand written in the classroom under teacher supervision and on Illinois Watch Company reproduced stationery. Students must be seniors in honors classes or advanced placement.

The contest of February 2014 produced 196 essays. All essays are coded by school and student for complete anonymity. We have two sets of judges. Preliminary judges will normally be former English or history school teachers. Their specific task is to select the three best essays from each of the six high schools. Those 18 essays go to the final judges.

The final judges are from Springfield's Lincoln historic sites, including the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The first place winner from each of the six high schools gets to pick an Illinois wrist watch of the 1920s from extras in my collection. In addition, the first place winner from each high school will receive an original 3-inch bronze Lincoln medallion that was minted for the original Lincoln essay contests of the 1920s. Most of the medallions still bear the name of the original winner from the 1920s and the date engraved on the reverse. In 2014, the name of the winner, Sarah Struck of Springfield High School, was engraved next to that of the 1920s contest winner.

The twelve runners-up receive an original Abraham Lincoln watch fob that came



*Joseph W. Mocharnuk
University of Chicago Student
2013 Winner of Lincoln Essay Contest
Leading the Pledge of Allegiance
at the 2014 ALA Lincoln Day Banquet
on February 12, 2014*

with each sale of the Abraham Lincoln pocket watch. It is hung on a plaque with a red, white, and blue ribbon with the name of student and his or her school.

The first place winner receives a scholarship of \$1,500. The second place winner receives a scholarship of \$750. The third place winner receives a scholarship of \$500. Knowing how difficult school budgets are these days, each participating essay teacher receives a \$50 gift certificate to be used for their classroom's supplies.

I've had a lot of encouragement from two former teachers, and without the voluntary support of these two great friends, Linda Denk, our contest coordinator, and her husband, Mike, there probably would not be a Lincoln Essay Contest. They get things done.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Do you have an article that would be suitable for publication in the newsletter? Don't be shy as this newsletter is a forum for the exchange of new material and viewpoints. Also, if you have a student who has written a particularly fine paper, consider submitting that paper. All are invited to make a submission to:

Richard E. Hart
Editor, *For The People*
217-553-0055 rhart1213@aol.com

Vermilion County Museum Society Exhibit of “Lincoln in Illinois”



By Susan Richter
Curator of the Vermilion County Museum Society

The Vermilion County Museum Society has been excited to have the "Lincoln in Illinois" photographic exhibit on display during February and March of this year. It has been warmly received by visitors, who have found the many images of Lincoln sculpture, from traditional to modern, very interesting. Students from school groups, who have toured the facility while the exhibit has been on display, have even pointed out to the docents the sculptures they have seen while traveling in the state.

Because the exhibit was set up as a “road trip” starting from Danville, guests have been encouraged to travel the state and see the sculptures first hand this summer. It has been a great tool for showing Lincoln’s influence across Illinois, and how he has been defined in different locations.

Soon after the exhibit opened, the Society was able to host an evening reception for First Midwest Bank, the area sponsor who supported the exhibit coming to Danville. Having the Abraham Lincoln Association President, Robert Lenz, present to give inside information on some of the sculptures, and to talk with guests, made for an interesting and informative program.



The Vermilion County Museum Danville, Illinois

EXHIBITS AVAILABLE

If you or your organization would like to participate in the *Traveling Exhibits Program* of the Abraham Lincoln Association/Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, contact Mary Shepherd. Exhibits available are: "Lincoln in Illinois," "Lincoln and Juarez," and "To Kill and to Heal." maryshepherd.ala@gmail.com Toll free: 866-865-8500

The exterior of the Vermilion County Museum was designed to resemble the old Vermilion County Courthouse of 1833. The main building is located directly behind the Fifthian Home, which is a Lincoln Site on the National Register of Historic Places.

Lincoln Day Events

The Evening Reception and Banquet



Longstanding Springfield members of the ALA and loyal attendees of the Lincoln Day Banquet are Judith Stephens, Jeanne Pittman, Betty Kay, and Mary Ann Singleton.



The head table, left to right: Kathryn M. Harris, Thomas Schwartz, Robert J. Lenz, Brooks D. Simpson, Roger D. Bridges, and Robert A. Stuart.



ALA Board Member N. Ron Thunman, Owsley Brown Thunman, and Sarah Thomas, benefactor of the Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium.



Robert Willard, Cori Stuart, daughter of President Robert A. Stuart, and Fred J. Martin, Jr.



ALA Board Members James M. Cornelius and Thomas Schwartz.



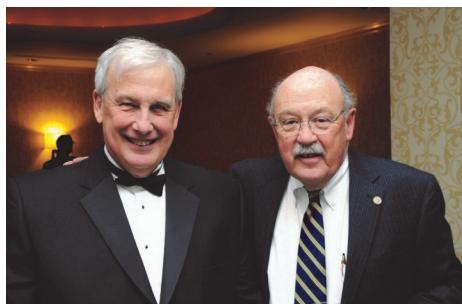
Judy Flickinger, Ted Flickinger, IHPA Director Amy Martin, and Tony Leone.



Karen Gietl, Jessie Helm and Elizabeth Simpson



Outgoing President Robert Lenz



ALA Board Members J. Steven Beckett and Guy C. Fraker at the ALA Banquet.



Mary Patton and newly elected ALA Vice President Kathryn M. Harris at the ALA Lincoln Day Banquet.



1911 Lincoln Banquet at State Armory



114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Reactivated. Left to right: Corporal Ron Clark, Regimental Q.M. Sgt. Troy Gilmore, Sgt. Richard Schachtsiek, Pvt. Ricky Reed, Cpl. Lee Shafer, 1st Sgt. Duane Carrell, Lt. Col. Jim Patton.

The photograph of Abraham Lincoln on page 12 was taken between mid-February and late March 1864, by Wenderoth and Taylor, in Washington, D.C. Lincoln had changed the part in his hair in late January 1864; it had always been combed from left to right; but he switched it over to right to left; and then put it back to normal by early April. Worried about his campaign? Looking nice to meet Grant on March 8th? Mary's idea?

—James M. Cornelius, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library



The head table at the ALA Banquet. Left to right: banquet speaker Thomas Schwartz, outgoing President Robert J. Lenz, newly elected Vice President Kathryn M. Harris, Brooks D. Simpson, and Roger D. Bridges.



Thomas Schwartz giving the principal address to the 2014 ALA Lincoln Day banquet.



Newly elected President Robert A. Stuart presents a photograph of Abraham Lincoln to outgoing President Robert J. Lenz.



Susan Harris leading ALA Banquet attendees in singing *The Star-Spangled Banner*.



Sunderine and Dr. Wayne C. Temple. Dr. Temple is an ALA Distinguished Director.



ALA Directors Thomas S. Johnson and Professor Mark A. Plummer. Tom is also the President of the Lincoln Academy.



Kathryn and William E. Bartelt and Richard W. Maroc enjoy the reception preceding the Banquet. William and Richard are ALA Directors.



Incoming President Robert A. Stuart addresses the Lincoln Day Banquet.



Ryan Ross and Bob Lenz, ALA outgoing President, and Roland Spies.



ALA Directors Judge Kenneth L. Anderson and Dr. Brooks D. Simpson. Dr. Simpson is the Chairman of the ALA Speakers Committee.



Professor Kate Mazur speaking at the Schwartz Luncheon on February 12, 2014



Ted Grossnickle and ALA Director Roger Billings

FOR THE PEOPLE

The Abraham Lincoln Association
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512

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For a description of this photograph, see page 10.
Courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund of the Abraham Lincoln Association was established in 2004. From a small seed it has grown to a young tree, and with your assistance, will one day be a mighty oak.

The Fund now pays for the Benjamin P. Thomas Lectures given on February 12 of each year. It has allowed the ALA to expand its support for a number of programs of outreach. Perhaps the most important of the new programs has been the commemoration of the Emancipation Proclamation in 2013. More are planned for the future.

As the ALA moves forward and expands its outreach to a larger community of the young and those not otherwise engaged in the traditional ALA programs, we will need financial assistance. A growing endowment will allow these new efforts and assist the ALA in fulfilling its mission in the 21st century.

Won't you plan now to make a gift to the Endowment Fund in 2014?

Send your check made payable to the Abraham Lincoln Association Endowment Fund to:

The Abraham Lincoln Association, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62701

Thank you.
The Endowment Committee

Richard E. Hart, Chair Nancy L. Chapin
Douglas M. Barringer Robert Lenz
Robert A. Stuart, Jr.