The Lincolns at the Globe Tavern: Reminiscences of William G. Beck

Edited by Michael Burlingame, ALA President

William Gabriel Beck (1819-1901) of Fairfield, Iowa, was the son of Sarah Evans Beck (1792-1877), proprietress of the Globe Tavern, and James Beck (d. 1828). In 1896, he was interviewed by Effie M. Sparks (Mrs. Ralph S.) of Newton, Iowa. According to his obituary (Fairfield Ledger, 30 Jan. 1901), there “was a warm intimacy between the family of the great statesman and that of his landlord, and the Becks were very familiar with the domestic life of the Lincolns and with the peculiarities of Mr. Lincoln. On Mr. Beck’s mind, of course, the drolleries of Mr. Lincoln made the greatest impression, and he always had a fund of Lincoln stories at his command, many of which have never found their way into print.” Here are excerpts from that interview, which evidently never found its way into print. They are part of a larger manuscript by Effie Sparks, “Stories of Abraham Lincoln,” in the Ida M. Tarbell Papers at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

I interviewed Mr. Beck. He is a hale, hearty, old gentleman nearly seventy eight years old. He is proprietor of the principal hotel of Fairfield, though at the time I saw him, he was living entirely alone at his private residence and taking his meals at the hotel. He is very deaf but otherwise age sits but lightly upon him, and his figure is as firm as that of a man half his age. “Abraham Lincoln” is his favorite theme of conversation, and when he gets fairly started to talking about his beloved friend, his face lights up with all the fire of youth. “Yes I knew Lincoln,” he replied in answer to my question. “He lived in my mother’s house about two years. His first child Robt. T. was born there. I’ve eaten with him, slept with him, travelled with him, and loved him and consider him one of the greatest men the world has ever known or will ever. I believe he was intended by Providence for the work he did, was guided by a higher intelligence than man’s in the troublous times of our country. I well remember the first time I saw him. I was a young man then, and my widowed mother kept the “Tremont” house in Tremont, Tazewell County, Ills. It was the time of the Shields duel [in 1842].”

My mother moved to Springfield not long after that to keep a hotel there, and the next time I saw Lincoln, he had just been married, and with his wife had come to our house to board. There’s a great many untrue stories written about Mrs. Lincoln. I knew her intimately, and a better, truer hearted woman never lived. The story of Lincoln’s having deserted her on her wedding day before that is not true I believe. If it had been I know I would have heard of it, and I never did hear of it at all. She loved her husband passionately, but I never saw any signs of the mean jealous woman she is sometimes said to have been after that. Lincoln was always kind and gentle with her, and they were as loving and happy a couple as you ever saw. He was always considerate of her feelings, except in one way.

Their room (they had only one to themselves) was on the second floor at the front of the house. The pump was in front of the house. It was Lincoln’s habit to come down at bedtime to get a pitcher of water. He always came after partly undressing being usually attired only in shirt and breeches minus suspenders, though sometimes his “galluses” were worn improperly adjusted. After getting his pitcher of water if the night was pleasant, he would sit down on the steps of the porch, and tell stories to whoever happened to be near. If any one passed they stopped to listen also, and frequently there would be quite an audience gathered round him, listening attentively to his remarks. When it began to grow late, Mrs. Lincoln would begin to cough as a signal to him to cease talking and go to bed. When she began to cough it was understood by his listeners that it was growing late. In this way he was inconsiderate. He sometimes kept her coughing until midnight or after.

Lincoln never drank or gambled to my knowledge nor did he ever attend church that I knew of, while they boarded at our house. His favorite amusement (next to telling stories) was ball playing. Not the base ball we hear about now, but in the old fashioned “scoo” way. I’ve seen him and Judge Logan play until they were panting and perspiring with the heat and fatigue. They had a small ball ground next to the court house, and they would throw the ball against the side wall of the Court-house, and often we could hear his voice two blocks away calling “scoo”! He always said “scoo” instead of score.

When Robert was born he was as proud a man as I ever saw, and as kind and loving a husband. When Robert was about three weeks old, my mother (who always went in to assist in preparing him for the night before she went to bed herself, for Mrs. Lincoln being young and inexperienced in caring for babies needed assistance) went into their room at bedtime and found Lincoln walking up and down and round and round the room with the baby in his arms. Young Bob was screaming at the top of his voice, Lincoln looked worried and anxious and Mrs Lincoln was silently weeping. “Do you think he’ll die Mother Beck” (he always called Mother, “Mother Beck”) he inquired, anxiously. Mother examined the baby and seeing that it was merely experiencing an attack of colic replied that it was in no danger whatever of death. “Does it do him any good to pack him round this way?” he inquired, glancing at his wife. “None

(continued on page 6)
Abraham Lincoln and an Irish Pub in Dublin

By Bill Shepherd
ALA Board Member

My wife, Mary Shepherd, and I went on a two-week tour of Ireland in September 2019. The tour began in Dublin, then proceeded to the Atlantic West Coast, plus Northern Ireland. We had a few hours free before the formal tour started, so we took a self-guided walking tour of the area near our hotel, which was close to Trinity College. The neighborhood we explored was replete with nicely maintained town homes and a wide variety of commercial and cultural venues. Among the more attractive establishments on a Friday afternoon were a number of pubs, all of which seemed to claim to be the favorite drinking place of the icons of Irish literature: James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, William Butler Yeats, and others. But one pub was magnetic in its attraction to us: Lincoln’s Inn, at 19 Lincoln Way.

We entered Lincoln’s Inn, not knowing what to expect, and were pleased to see the understated but elegant Victorian décor. The restaurant side of the building used to be Finn’s Hotel, where James Joyce first met his future wife, Nora, who worked there. We were also quite pleased to read the brochure explaining the history of this pub, which stated that the pub was renamed The Lincoln Inn in 1862 to honor President Abraham Lincoln. Now Lincoln has many, many places named after him, and his statue can now be found almost anywhere in the world. But what compelled an Irish pub-owner in 1862 to commemorate an American president, whose greatness arguably was not yet then appreciated in the United States?

Logic and some knowledge of Irish history in the 19th century might suggest three possibilities. First, was the renaming due to the Emancipation Proclamation that was announced on September 22, 1862, to be signed 100 days later on January 1, 1863? After all, the Irish Potato Famine of 1846-50 was still fresh in the minds of the Irish — perhaps the idea of freedom and liberation had a strong appeal to the Irish, who were still beholden to their British landlords. Second, perhaps it was President Lincoln’s well-known admiration for the Irish patriot and republican rebel Robert Emmet that appealed to the pub-owner. Emmet’s final words before he was executed by hanging (1803) were memorized by Lincoln when he was young; and he used Emmet’s words in his own later orations. Third, perhaps the renaming was in recognition of Mr. Lincoln’s charitable donation to the Irish Potato Famine relief fund. This donation was likely better known in Ireland than in the United States, where it was forgotten by all until about 2015.

This mystery of history is fun to contemplate, but how much time and effort should be expended to factually pin down why President Lincoln has a pub named after him in Dublin? Perhaps it would be best to return to Dublin to resume the on-site research on the topic. Sláinte!

Ex Parte Milligan Reconsidered

A 2016 conference hosted by Illinois State University in Normal (sponsored in part by the ALA and by the Illinois State Bar Association) addressed topics in political science, military history, constitutional law, sociology, and executive/judicial branch interaction among other themes. The conference papers, Ex Parte Milligan Reconsidered, edited by Stewart Winger and Jonathan White, have been printed by the University Press of Kansas (392 pp., $45.00 h.c.). The landmark 1866 Milligan decision by the U.S. Supreme Court is clearly not a relic of the Civil War, as four USSC decisions have cited it in cases arising from recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Thus the Milligan case affords an opportunity to reevaluate the history of wartime civil liberties, from 1861 to our own time.

Stewart L. Winger (Illinois State University) has been an ALA director, and Jonathan W. White (Christopher Newport University) is currently an ALA director.
Anna Hyatt Huntington’s Equestrian Statue of Lincoln at New Salem

By Mark B. Pohlad

Besides New Salem’s powerful evocation of the young Lincoln and its great natural beauty, the park also boasts some important American sculptures. Situated at the eastern base of the town’s bluff along Route 97 stands a bronze equestrian statue of Lincoln by the American sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington (1876-1973). It depicts Lincoln reading as he rides, his horse momentarily pausing to graze. Huntington’s slightly earlier, identical sculpture stands before the Bethel Public Library in Connecticut, which explains the theme of Lincoln reading. But placed in this location, the scenario demonstrates his passion for learning and self-improvement during his formative period in New Salem. Artistically speaking, the horse is much more accurately rendered than is the figure of Lincoln, whose proportions are slightly off. The horse’s anatomy and movement are, however, perfect.

Huntington was born into academic royalty and in a family that revered animals. She grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the daughter of noted Harvard paleontologist and zoologist Alpheus Hyatt (1838-1902). His influence consolidated her interest in becoming an artist who specializes in animal subjects (called an “animalier”). Huntington studied at New York’s progressive Art Students League, where besides training with Gutzon Borglum -- himself a famous Lincoln sculptor -- she spent countless hours at the zoo. She later had the distinction of producing the first public monument in New York City by a woman: Joan of Arc in 1915. It was also the city’s first monument to commemorate an historical woman. Art-making was no mere hobby for Huntington. She earned $50,000 in 1912 -- more than a million dollars in today’s currency—of only a dozen American women to do so.

At age forty-six she married the poet, philanthropist, and art patron Archer M. Huntington (1870-1955). Germane to the recent pandemic, between 1927 and 1937 Hyatt contracted and suffered through a bout of tuberculosis. She had always been deeply committed to the preservation of natural spaces and with her husband preserved thousands of acres for public use. Over time they helped establish nearly twenty museums and nature preserves, including America’s first sculpture garden, Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina. Comprised of four former rice plantations, it features many outdoor sculptures, including her own and those by her older sister, Harriet Hyatt Mayor (1868-1960), also an artist. The idea of New Salem as a sculpture garden of sorts, where artworks are placed in a natural setting, links it to the 20th-century movement Huntington did so much to inaugurate.

Altogether, she had a long, rich life made up of art, study, travel, and philanthropy. When Huntington was born in 1876, several of Lincoln’s former New Salem friends and neighbors were still alive, including Mentor Graham, Henry Onstot, and Parthena Nance Hill. In the year she died, Hal Holbrook was playing Lincoln on television and Doris Kearns Goodwin was working on her first book (on Lyndon Johnson). True to her character, in 1964 Huntington donated this sculpture to New Salem. Her gift reminds us that devoted women have always contributed to our experience of New Salem -- as organizers, staff, volunteers, and here, as artists.

At the ALA’s 2020 Lincoln birthday banquet in Springfield, a framed photograph of the sculpture (illustrated here) by the noted cameraman Robert Shaw was awarded to Bob Willard, outgoing president of the Abraham Lincoln Association.

Mark B. Pohlad is an associate professor of Art History at DePaul University in Chicago and a director of the ALA.

Photograph courtesy of Robert Shaw, Firelight Publishing

Lincoln News Notes

In 2019 the cable network CNN began work on an original 6-part series about the pressures and decisions of Abraham Lincoln’s world. The working title, from Glass Entertainment Group, is Lincoln: An American President. Using archival and re-created footage, along with expert commentary -- including from ALA president Michael Burlingame and board member Joshua Claybourn filmed in the Old State Capitol -- the network will air the 6 segments after the November 2020 elections and before the January 2021 swearing-in.

Guy Fraker contributed an article “Lost Lincoln Real Estate Case Discovered” to the Illinois Bar Journal for May 2020. The 1900 courthouse fire in Bloomington, Ill., destroyed unknown dozens of Lincoln legal case files, but a pleading he wrote in the previously unknown Funk v. Rutledge (1851) had left the building before that; retired attorney Fraker acquired the 2-page document on the private market in 2008 and donated it to the McLean County Museum of History in 2018. The suit centered on whether two parties had a ‘contract’ by dint of having signed notes for payment concerning 80 acres of land. Judge David Davis’s court ruled ‘no,’ and Lincoln’s client, who was a first cousin of Ann Rutledge, lost.

Coming in the Summer issue of Journal of the ALA: Part 1 (first of 2) on Leonard Volk’s many sculptures (and others’ replicas) of Lincoln; an analysis of Lincoln’s eulogy of Henry Clay; and Michael Burlingame’s summary (1st of 2) of African-Americans at Lincoln’s White House receptions. Plus book reviews of: Elizabeth Brown Pryor’s Six Encounters with Lincoln; the first-ever comparison of the Whig philosophy of Lincoln and Edmund Burke; a new biography of Edwin Stanton; Douglas Wilson on Lincoln and Shakespeare; and 4 more.
Could It Be?

An article by Thomas Schwartz, “Mary Todd’s 1835 Visit to Springfield, Illinois,” published in the Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association (26:1, Winter 2005), uncovered documentation that Mary Todd came to Springfield along with her sister Frances, accompanied by their father, Robert S. Todd. This was two years earlier than Mary’s previously assumed first visit to Springfield, as recorded by William H. Herndon in his 1866 interview with Mary Lincoln. The first Todd to settle in Springfield had been Robert’s brother Dr. John Todd, arriving in 1827 to assume the appointment by John Quincy Adams as register of the General Land Office. In addition to seeing her Uncle John, Mary was afforded time during that 1835 visit to see three of her Springfield cousins, John Todd Stuart, Stephen T. Logan, and John J. Hardin.

The Todd entourage, though, came mainly to visit Robert’s oldest daughter, Mary’s sister Elizabeth, who in 1832 was married to Ninian W. Edwards. The couple had recently relocated from Belleville to Springfield. There are no records as to how long Robert, Mary, and Frances stayed in Springfield or when they returned to Lexington. Tradition holds that Robert “sent” his daughters to Springfield in hopes of finding husbands. That being the case, did Mary Todd stay long enough to fall in love, seeking marriage as an escape from the tension in her Lexington home?

My historical mind pondered over this August 11, 1835, application for a marriage license. Meanwhile, for Abraham Lincoln of New Salem, this month of August proved to be challenging. Ann Rutledge was ill with probable typhoid fever and would die two weeks later, on August 25, 1835. Did this episode, and Mary’s engagement, affect the direction of each of their lives? About 4 years before she was known to have met Lincoln, Mary Todd’s fiancé named on the application was Thomas Morris. The document was witnessed and signed by Eliza Jane Todd. Could this be Mary Todd’s first cousin Elizabeth Jane Todd, the daughter of Dr. John Todd? (In 1846 Eliza Jane Todd would marry Harrison J. Grimsley, and years later she made extended visits to the Lincolns in the White House.)

This document holds a related interest in that the request to issue a marriage license was addressed to Mordecai Mobley, County Clerk of Sangamon County, Illinois. Why is it not addressed to Charles R. Matheny, the incumbent clerk and the father of James Matheny who would be Lincoln’s “best man” at his wedding with Mary Todd in 1842? Charles Matheny’s position as circuit court clerk was being contested by Mordecai Mobley, who on April 25, 1835, was appointed by the newly elected judge of the Circuit Court of Sangamon County, Stephen T. Logan — Mary Todd’s distant cousin. For months it was harshly contested, with Stephen A. Douglas defending Matheny, filing a demurrer for Matheny in order to prosecute an appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court. It was filed on August 10, 1835, the day before this marriage license application was drawn up. A few years later, rumors circulated that Douglas may have developed a romantic interest in Mary Todd. Some readers today hold that romance to be possible, or even probable, while for others it is unlikely, claimed Catherine Clinton in her 2009 biography of Mary Lincoln. By December the court re-instated Charles Matheny to his office as clerk.

Was Mary Todd engaged to be married to Thomas Morris? Yes, she was! And the marriage did take place the next day, on August 12, 1835. However, it is a case of mistaken identity! She was not the Mary Todd (Lincoln). Several of the names of persons associated with this application for a marriage license ride parallel to the names of persons associated with the Lincolns’ early years in Springfield. Both were Mary Todd with the middle initial “A.” Both were born in Kentucky, in the neighboring counties of Fayette and Woodford. Both, at the time, were about sixteen and a half years old. Both had relatives named Eliza Jane Todd — Eliza on the document was a sister of Mary Todd (Morris), and Elizabeth Jane Todd (Grimsley) was a first cousin to the other Mary. Seldom called Eliza, she was more affectionately referred to by the Lincolns as “Cousin Lizzie.” And Abraham was the name of the deceased father of Mary Morris, while, as we all know, Abraham was the name of Mary Todd’s later husband. The remaining name on the document, Thomas P. Pettus, was the other Mary Todd’s stepfather, who was requesting a marriage license for her and Thomas. In 1835 frontier Springfield, with a population of about 1,100 people, what were the odds of two persons with the name Mary Todd and with parallel associations?

There is also the familiar Ann Rutledge story, and Lincoln’s questioned engagement to her. Had historians been distracted, and missed a secret engagement for the enigmatic Mary Todd? The dual accounts would be enough for an 1800’s National Enquirer gossip story. Given the possibility that this engagement between Thomas and either Mary may have been broken, and an actual license never issued, how could something so momentous escape historians? Perhaps we need to conclude, as one observer did upon seeing this document, “Not all Todds turn out to be Lincolns!”

By Gary Erickson

You can imagine my thoughts when George Seipp of Minneapolis, who specialized in the binding of county courthouse records, showed me an application for a marriage license for Mary Todd. That name is boldly present. It is even more captivating that the application was drawn in Sangamon County on August 11, 1835. Could it be the Mary Todd?

Could It Be?

Mr. Mobley,
Clk. of Sangamon Cty., Ill.
August 11th 1835

Sir
Mr. Thos. Morris wishes to obtain a marriage licence to marry Mary Todd, which you are requested to grant him by

Yrs Respectfully &c

Test

Eliza Jane Todd

Gary Erickson of Wisconsin is a long-time Lincoln researcher.
Eddy Lincoln’s Image: Wrong, Lost, or a Fabulous Find?

The editor of For the People recently interviewed tireless researcher Donna D. McCreary about a new observation she has made concerning the photo seen in column two.

JMC: What evidence exists that the photo (right) is actually Eddy Lincoln? (By the way, his father spelled it ‘Eddy’ in an 1848 letter to his mother, not ‘Eddie,’ a mistake long made by many historians.)

DDM: In 1998, Lincoln historian Lloyd Ostendorf created a stir of excitement by including an unknown photo of Abraham and Mary Lincoln’s second son, Edward “Eddy” Baker, in his book, Lincoln’s Photographs, A Complete Album (Dayton, Ohio: Rockywood Press, 1998). Until then, one could only imagine “dear little Eddy’s” features by looking at photos of his brothers and speculating which of the Lincolns Eddy most favored.

The photo in question is a daguerreotype. Depending on which website, or publication checked, the side of the photo’s case is inscribed “Edward,” “Eddie,” or “Eddy,” Lincoln in period ink. While this is intriguing, it does not prove the photo is Eddy. The handwriting has not been identified as belonging to any member of the family. If the inscription is “Eddie,” it would less likely be the Lincolns’ son because both of his parents spelled his name “Eddy” as did other members of the family.

Other evidence that the photo is Eddy is that it was part of the Herbert Wells Fay collection – one of the largest private collections of historical memorabilia ever assembled. Fay served as the custodian, historian, archivist, and tour guide of the Lincoln Tomb from 1921 until 1948. Known as “the man with a million relics,” he kept his Lincoln material in a storage room at the Lincoln Tomb, tucked between furnace ducts, and stored in boxes and wooden crates when not on display in the Tomb’s rotunda. Fay claimed to have more than 200 different settings of Lincoln, but historians have identified fewer than 120 photographs. His ability to properly identify images is questionable. And where all that stuff came from was never recorded.

Upon Fay’s death, his collection was purchased, split, and ended up in a variety of dealer catalogs. It is impossible to know who cataloged what piece or what evidence was used for identification of the artifacts.

JMC: What first led you to consider the possibility that this photograph might be Robert Lincoln, and not his little brother Eddy?

DDM: A group of friends and I have discussed this photograph on many occasions. We always ask one another the same questions. If this is Eddy, where is the companion photo of little Robert ‘Bobby’ Lincoln? Even though Mary did occasionally throw away some photographs, she treasured photos of her children, so why would the only photo of Eddy have been removed from the family albums? If we do not believe it is Eddy, who could the little boy be?

I decided to blow up the image to better compare it to images of Eddy’s brothers. The first thing I noticed was the little boy’s right eye. It appears to turn inward. Of course, without being able to examine the daguerreotype, it is impossible to tell if there is shadowing, a reversed image, or other factors which may contribute to the appearance of a crossed eye (strabismus). Neither Lincoln parent, nor anyone else, mentioned that Eddy had issues with his eyes. But Robert Lincoln did have the problem.

Robert as a young boy was teased about his lazy, or crossed eye, until, we learned in 2014, that it seems his parents had it surgically corrected by Dr. E.S. Cooper of Peoria in about 1850. He continued to have eye problems for the rest of his life.

The photograph is of a little boy who appears to be about four years of age. It is claimed that N. H. Shepherd, who took the companion daguerreotypes of Abraham and Mary in 1847, prior to leaving Springfield for Washington, they also had a photograph of Robert taken. He would have just celebrated his 4th birthday at the time. Perhaps it was too difficult for 1-year-old Eddy to sit still long enough; thus, there would not be a companion photo of the little tike.

There is no evidence to prove that the photograph is Robert instead of Eddy. Robert never identified a photo of himself as a young child. But if this photo truly is one of the Lincoln boys, Robert is a more likely candidate.

JMC: Are there other updates to what Lloyd Ostendorf printed in his 1998 revised edition of photographs?

DDM: Yes. For example, the five views of Abraham, called O-56-60, by Brady, which Ostendorf guessed were “probably 1862,” were in fact taken on May 16, 1861. This was documented by Tom Schwartz in about 2005 from a sketch artist’s notes who rented a room in Brady’s studio.

JMC: Is our knowledge evolving of Mary Lincoln photographs, too?

DDM: Absolutely! Let’s cover that next time, in Part 2 of this discussion of Lincoln family photos.

Let us believe, as some poet has expressed it: -- “Behind the cloud the sun is still shining.”

Abraham Lincoln at Tolono, Illinois, February 11, 1861. These are his last words spoken in Illinois.
Abraham Lincoln Association Launches New “Lincoln Log” Podcast

The ALA has announced the launch of its first original podcast, Lincoln Log. The podcast series is hosted by various ALA directors interviewing leading historians and other officials about their stories, research, and wisdom. Initial episodes will include guests James Swanson, Michael Burlingame, David Blight, and Allen Guelzo. Lincoln Log will be available by mid-June 2020, free for download from Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other podcast platforms.

Averaging about 45 minutes to an hour in length, each episode explores the background of leading historians, examines their latest scholarship, and expands listeners’ knowledge of Abraham Lincoln’s life and legacy. The first episode, Michael Burlingame’s interview of historian and author James Swanson, was broadcast live on Zoom and Facebook on June 2. Audiences can subscribe to Lincoln Log on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever they get their podcasts. A trailer is also available at the same locations and on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hz4B18mVOaU

Joshua A. Claybourn, ALA director and chairman of the committee creating the podcast, said, “Podcasting is a critical medium that allows the ALA, which excels at producing high-quality content, to meet new audiences and existing supporters in fresh ways.”

Abraham Lincoln Institute and Ford’s Theatre Society Online Symposium

The Abraham Lincoln Institute (ALI) and Ford’s Theatre Society will present a free symposium focused on the life, career, and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln. The free event, broadcast online, will take place every other Monday beginning June 8, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. ET and ending at 4:35 p.m. ET. Each presentation will be broadcast live on Ford’s Theatre website, the ALI Website, and Ford’s Theatre social media outlets, i.e. Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. Here is the schedule of events:

June 8, 2020: Dr. Carl Guarneri: Lincoln’s Informer: Charles A. Dana and the Inside Story of the Union War
June 22, 2020: Dr. Joseph A. Fry: Lincoln, Seward, and US Foreign Relations in the Civil War Era
July 6, 2020: William E. Bartelt: Abe’s Youth: Shaping the Future President
July 20, 2020: Dr. James M. Lundberg: Horace Greeley: Print, Politics, and the Failure of American Nationhood
August 3, 2020: Jason Emerson: Mary Lincoln for the Ages

Friends of Lincoln Collection Launches New Website

Friends of the Lincoln Collection of Indiana, Inc., has launched a new website serving as an additional gateway to the thousands of digitized Lincoln-era letters, photographs, newspapers, books, and other items from the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection. In addition, it will soon post searchable archives from the more than 1,900 issues of “Lincoln Lore.” The site will also offer other items of interest, including links to Collection items displayed in the Fine Book Room of the Allen County Public Library.

(continued from page 1)

whatever” replied Mother, “and moreover he will get into a habit of wanting to be carried and will cry to be carried colic or no colic.” “Well, Mary” said Lincoln, glancing again at his wife, this time in a manner as though he expected her to protest. “If it don’t do him any good, I’m damned if I don’t put him down!” And he did put him down. And that is the only time we ever knew Lincoln to swear.

After they came to board with us her health was not very good and she never walked out very much but nearly every day took a long ride in a buggy. On these occasions my brother, a boy about fourteen years old at the time, acted as driver and escort for her when Lincoln was otherwise engaged. She grew quite fond of my brother and after she became mistress of the White House, and he had grown to be a man and was living in Kentucky, he had occasion to visit Washington. He called at the White House to pay his respects to his old friends, but neither the president nor Mrs. Lincoln were at home. Mrs. L. had gone out for a drive, so brother Will left his card, and went back to his hotel. He had been back but a short time, when the White House carriage drove up and Mrs. Lincoln alighted. She had returned just after he left, and had immediately come to see him. She greeted him warmly, and insisted upon his getting into her carriage and returning to the White House with her. He did so, and had a most enjoyable visit with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln.

In my opinion, Mrs. Lincoln made Lincoln what he was. At least she was the instrument in the hands of Providence. I remember well the convention in which Gen. Hardin was first nominated for Congress [in May 1843]. It was Lincoln’s turn to be nominated, and he could have been if he hadn’t given up for Hardin. Mrs. Lincoln was anxious to go to Washington and had counted on Lincoln’s being nominated, though Lincoln himself had but little ambition at that time. When she was told he had given up to Hardin, her anger got the better of her, and Lincoln had an unpleasant time in consequence. His subsequent efforts to get elected to congress, were largely the result of her ambition instead of his own. It was reported about the hotel that Mrs. Lincoln “shed buckets full of tears” when Gen. Hardin started for Washington. I believe Mrs. Lincoln realized better than any one else did at the time, the greatness of Lincoln’s mind. At least her conversation led us to infer that she accepted it as a fact that her husband must eventually attain greatness. It is open to question whether her belief was based on her knowledge of the wonderful powers of his mind, or simply a desire and determination to attain distinction for herself as his wife.
In the past, the ALA Membership List was printed in the Winter ALA Journal. Printing in the ALA quarterly newsletter makes it more timely. Either way, thank you to all members!

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Allentown, Pennsylvania  
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Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Benjamin Shapell  
Beverly Hills, California  
Louise Taper  
Beverly Hills, California  
Don Tracy  
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Carlock, Illinois  
Darrel Bigham  
Evansville, Indiana  
Michael Burlingame  
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Duane Downey  
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The Abraham Lincoln Association.

Becky Thomas took this photograph of a Lego
Lincoln in Carlsbad, California.
Welcome, New ALA Directors

Michelle A. Krowl

Michelle A. Krowl is the Civil War and Reconstruction specialist in the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress, where she currently oversees the papers of Presidents from James K. Polk to Theodore Roosevelt. She received a B.A. in History from the University of California, Riverside, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in History from University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of several articles and books on topics relating to the Civil War, as well as Quantico, Virginia and the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. She has worked as a Library Assistant at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., an Assistant Professor at Northern Virginia Community College, and as a Research Assistant for historian Doris Kearns Goodwin.

Scott T. Schroeder

Scott is a native South Dakotan and an independent historian and researcher. He is a professional Physical Therapist and Certified Athletic Trainer currently working in clinical practice in southern Indiana. He holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in his professional field and serves as an adjunct faculty member in professional programs at two universities. He speaks regularly on Lincoln-related topics, serves as a tour leader for Lincoln-related sites, and is actively involved in research and manuscript preparation for Lincoln-related article and book projects. He is in the process of developing and/or co-developing multimedia projects related to the life and legacy of Lincoln. He is involved with numerous historical organizations and currently serves as President and Program Coordinator for the Monroe County (Indiana) Civil War Roundtable.

Stephen M. Young

I recently graduated with a Master’s degree in Public History from Northern Kentucky University, after a B.A. in history there. My focus in graduate school was Abraham Lincoln, through a variety of projects. I have always been fascinated with him and have been reading and studying him for the past few years, and plan to do so for the rest of my life. Currently I am a middle school Social Studies teacher.

In graduate school, I helped design and complete an exhibit called “Culture Bites” for the Behringer Crawford Museum in Covington, Kentucky. I designed and put together museum panels for the Ulysses S. Grant Birthplace in Point Pleasant, Ohio. Its title was “A Friendship Formed by War: The Relationship Between Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant.” I wrote a research paper on the friendship of Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. I planned a historic marker for Lincoln’s Cincinnati Speech on September 17, 1859, along with a Lincoln walking tour of Cincinnati about his three visits there. In the future, I want to work at a Civil War or Lincoln site or museum and write a few books on Lincoln.

Ulysses S. Grant on TV

By Jill E. Youngken

This past Memorial Day weekend, history enthusiasts were treated to Grant, a new television miniseries based on the New York Times #1 bestseller by Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer Ron Chernow. It was directed by Malcolm Venville and produced by Appian Way Productions, for telecast on the History channel.

The 6-part miniseries examines the whole life: his boyhood in Ohio, studies at West Point, service in the Mexican-American War, rise from Captain to Commanding General of the U.S. Army during the Civil War, and finally as 18th President of the United States. It concludes with his death and historical legacy.

The combination of dramatic reenactments with historic photographs and scholarly commentary keeps the viewer engaged.

Through this impressive examination, the accomplishments of Grant are recognized. The viewer sees Grant’s human frailties as well as his achievements on the battlefield. A clear picture emerges of a leader with one purpose: to win the Civil War and preserve the Union. Grant understood that the cost of this war was high, but that the cost of losing would be much greater.

An underlying theme is the strong bond that developed between President Lincoln and General Grant, one based upon mutual respect and trust. They united to defeat the Confederacy in order to preserve the Union and abolish the institution of slavery. In this production, Grant’s commitment to freedom for enslaved people is made clear. It is this partnership of two leaders with resolute goals that changed the course of history and saved our country.

For too long, U. S. Grant has been marginalized as a butcher, a drunk, and a corrupt politician. This docuseries has restored his rightful place in the annals of American history.

For the perfectionist, there are points in the series to quibble over; there always are. Uniforms and fighting tactics are sometimes incorrect, and some viewers may think there are not enough scenes with Lincoln. These are all minor points.

We should congratulate the History channel for their seminal achievement. They have delivered a major corrective to the historical record, and in doing so have brought us closer to understanding the complex and brutal truth of the Civil War and its aftermath. Ulysses S. Grant now takes his place among the pantheon of American heroes.

Jill E. Youngken is an ALA member and a museum curator in Allentown, Pennsylvania.
This is a special place on the Sangamon. The large horseshoe bend in the river is not far north of Springfield, easily seen on topographic maps.

A couple of years ago in late April, I kayaked the river to “scout” for locations to photograph. I discovered the site I wanted to make this photograph, but would have to come back when the lighting and wind conditions, and dynamic skies, were favorable for a good photograph. I GPS’ed the coordinates and later studied maps. Days later, I backpacked in with the needed equipment, and on the second attempt I was able to make this panorama.

A bald eagle’s nest is in a large tree in the distance. The tree hangs over the river, and the kayak floated almost directly below the nest. While making this photograph, I could see an eagle active in the distance, near the nest. It is a truly spectacular location. Envisioning Lincoln paddling his canoe past this area adds to the realization that this is a very special place.

Robert Shaw