



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION
www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org

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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

ALA Supports LEAD Program For Youth

By George Buss and Sarah Watson

Looking for Lincoln hosted the fourth year of LEAD: Spirit of Lincoln Academy on the campus of Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois, June 9-14, 2019. LEAD is the anchor program of the Spirit of Lincoln Youth Academy, a partnership between the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area/Looking for Lincoln and the National Park Service/Lincoln Home National Historic Site that encompasses many youth programs. LEAD is a robust, one-of-a-kind youth leadership program that utilizes immersive experiences to empower emerging leaders to develop leadership qualities. Youth who have the potential to be leaders but may not see it in themselves are prime candidates.

LEAD provides emerging leaders an opportunity to learn about the character qualities of a leader by examining Abraham Lincoln's life, his ideals, his character and

his leadership capabilities through immersive experiences in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area. Thirty-nine participants were selected from throughout the state of Illinois working with Frontiers International and University of Illinois Extension 4H program. The group size for each Academy is limited to 40 emerging leaders. This is the optimal size for the trust and bonding necessary for maximum participation.



LEAD students pose on steps of Old State Capitol in Springfield Illinois

This weeklong residential youth leadership program was designed for youth who are entering eighth grade. Participants learned about leadership qualities like honesty, empathy, humility and perseverance. They engaged in discussions with the college age mentors about how people in the 21st century faced some of the same challenges Lincoln and other leaders of the 19th century faced – issues like racism. As part of the week-long experience participants developed an individual leadership plan to help them as they go forward with their education and into their adult lives.

(Continued on page 2)

New Salem Celebrates 100 Years of Restoration

On May 18, 2019, a crowd of nearly 3,000 people gathered at New Salem for a public celebration of the 100th anniversary of the May 22, 1919, William Randolph Hearst gift of the land we now know as "New Salem" to the State of Illinois. Hearst had purchased the land around 1906. In the 1930s, the village structures were recreated to look and feel like the village where Lincoln lived from 1831 to 1837. It is now one of the most visited historical sites in Illinois, but it badly needs to be re-restored.

On May 22, 2019, 60 people also gathered at the village to celebrate the anniversary and advocate for the much-needed maintenance of the village structures. The event was hosted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the state agency responsible for the site; the New

Salem Lincoln League; Looking for Lincoln; and The Abraham Lincoln Association.

Speakers included Senator Bill Brady of Bloomington, Illinois Senate minority leader, Colleen Callahan, DNR Director, Jack Alexander, site superintendent, and Rich Atkins, president of the New Salem Lincoln League.

Mark Pohlard and Michael Burlingame of the ALA spoke about the history of New Salem.

Restoration of New Salem is a high priority and focus of the ALA, and Kathryn Harris and Guy Fraker have led this effort. We look forward to future announcements about the State of Illinois budget provisions for this project.



Senator Bill Brady, DNR Director Colleen Callahan, and ALA New Salem co-chairs Guy Fraker and Kathryn Harris with a copy of an Illinois Senate Resolution honoring New Salem.

(Continued from page 1)

Each emerging leader leaves LEAD with a leadership goal for the immediate future. Longitudinal studies are planned with University assistance to track the youth through high school and later in life to see what impact LEAD had on their lives.

LEAD was developed by Looking for Lincoln, in partnership with Lincoln Home National Historic Site and the National Park Service, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and Illinois College.

The Abraham Lincoln Association, thanks to a generous bequest from long-time ALA member and Director Molly Becker, is a major contributor to LEAD. All the students receive a set of four books about Lincoln bearing book plates memorializing Molly. In addition, one student who has shown significant growth over the week and who exemplifies the leadership qualities of honesty, integrity, humility, and perseverance is named the Molly Becker Emerging Leader and receives a certificate so stating. Members of the ALA Board of Directors attended the closing session of the program and were impressed with the exuberance and interest shown by the students.

George Buss, Director for LEAD, brings nearly 40 years of experience as an educator and a Lincoln expert. For the past three decades, he has portrayed Abraham Lincoln around the United States.

Sarah Watson, Executive Director of Looking for Lincoln and the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, started her career 40 years ago as a teacher and carries that love for education into her current role.



(Clockwise from top-right) LEAD students meet with Lincoln author David Kent; classroom activity for LEAD students; Sarah Watson and “Mr. Lincoln” (George Buss) present Molly Becker Emerging Leader certificate to Pacificque Ntawuyamara of Rockford, Illinois; Mr. Lincoln poses with the LEAD mentors; one final group photo before the 2019 program comes to an end



Lincoln Roundup

By James Cornelius

Another **Bible associated with Lincoln** has turned up, this time a veritable story involving a large presentation (distinct from a reading) Bible given to the President in Philadelphia in 1864 by women associated with the Sanitary Fair there. Mary Lincoln kept it until 1872 when she gave it to old Springfield neighbor Rev. Noyes H. Miner, whose descendants held it ever since. It was donated to the Presidential Library and Museum and put on display in June 2019 with its original presentation inscriptions evident. Though no evidence exists that Lincoln ever read from it, this volume was certainly in the family’s possession for 8 years — unlike the 1861 “swearing-in Bible” also used by presidents Obama and Trump, never owned by the Lincolns and now in the Library of Congress.

Edward Steers, Jr., has completed his **Lincoln Slept Here** trilogy of short volumes with terrific genealogical research and photos, and excellent maps by Kieran McAuliffe. They cover the homes of ancestors, 1637-1808; the Kentucky and Indiana Years, 1809-1830; and now Illinois and Washington, 1830-1865.

A **young-adult novel** by Jan Jacobi, an award-winning history teacher in the St. Louis area who relied on the Herndon informants, is called *Young Lincoln* (Reedy Press, 2018). Yes, thoughts of and problems with parents, faith, career, and young ladies seem to have pre-occupied the young man, for just over 200 pp.

James Cornelius is a Director and Secretary of The Abraham Lincoln Association

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President's Message

In one of my favorite (and now hard-to-find) documentaries about my favorite president, Judy Leonard's and Bill Jersey's *Abraham Lincoln: A New Birth of Freedom*, there is a scene where the late governor of New York Mario Cuomo states simply, "Abraham Lincoln. He is my hero."

I think that is a sentiment that is shared by all the members of The Abraham Lincoln Association who receive this newsletter.

Merriam-Webster defines hero as "a person admired for achievements and noble qualities." Few people would disagree that Lincoln meets that test.

But I also see heroes all around us. I believe that every member of The Abraham Lincoln Association is a hero in the Lincoln community because they – you – make it possible for the ALA to deliver our promise set forth in our founding documents: to celebrate **Lincoln's birthday**; to preserve and promote **Lincoln landmarks**; and to advance **Lincoln scholarship**. We could not organize and publicize our two-day symposium, luncheon and banquet on February 11 and 12 without the dues, support, and volunteer efforts of our members. We could not work on the campaign to maintain New Salem or help maintain and improve the cemetery in which Lincoln rests, were it not for our members. This newsletter, *For the People*, and our widely respected *Journal of The Abraham Lincoln Association*, would be impossible to produce without member support. You are the heroes.

I am especially grateful for those of you who make a greater contribution. Whether it is by maintaining your membership at one of the higher categories or by contributing to our Endowment Fund, you make it possible to extend our reach and to react to unanticipated opportunities. So, I say thank you to our members. Thank you to our heroes.

On the subject of "heroic," I am delighted to report that the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum has just received its own heroic statue of Mr. Lincoln. The 30-foot-tall version of Seward Johnson's "Return Visit" has made its way across country with stops in Chicago and Peoria (see the Spring 2018 issue of *For the People*, page 7). Now it is installed at the entrance to the Presidential Museum and, in my opinion, it looks like it was meant to be there (see photo on page 8). As with most things in the Lincoln community, there is a range of opinion on this sculpture. Based on the number of photos, especially selfies, that have been taken since the June installation, the general public seems to enjoy the new attraction. It is scheduled to remain in Springfield until September 2020. I, for one, would be happy to see it remain much longer.

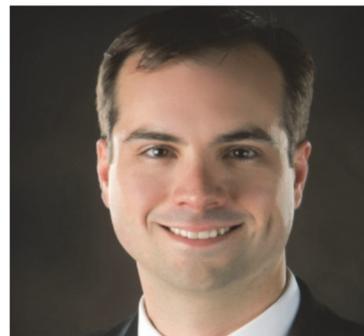
Bob Willard



ALA president Bob Willard and Looking for Lincoln director Sarah Watson at closing event for 2019 LEAD Spirit of Lincoln Academy.

Joshua A. Claybourn Joins ALA Board

Joshua A. Claybourn is an attorney residing in Newburgh, Indiana, a short 40 minute drive from Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home. He is the author or editor of several books, including the forthcoming *Abe's Youth: Shaping the Future President* (Indiana University Press, 2019), an annotated edition of the Indiana Lincoln Inquiry papers co-edited with fellow ALA board member William Bartelt.



Claybourn is also the editor of *Our American Story: The Search for a Shared National Narrative* (Potomac Books, 2019), a collection of provocative essays by leading thinkers and public fig-

ures addressing the same central question--what is the unifying American story?

Claybourn has published widely on legal, political, and historical topics and has appeared as a guest on CNN, MSNBC, and NHK. He occasionally pens book reviews for *Kirkus Reviews* and he frequently presents to groups on Lincoln and the American Civil War. Claybourn's legal work focuses primarily on state and local government, intellectual property, utility regulation, and commercial transactions. You can visit his personal web page online at JoshClaybourn.com.

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Another View on “Abe”

by Erika Holst

In the last edition of *For the People*, Joshua Claybourn’s article “Abe Lincoln: An Acceptable Nickname?” argues that “a review of available source material provides no direct evidence that Abraham Lincoln hated or even disliked the nickname Abe.” While this is true, it is important to place Lincoln in his proper social and historical context when considering how he was addressed. In Springfield, Lincoln was an urban gentleman who moved in elite social and professional circles. Those circles abided by middle-class social etiquette, which dictated that servants were addressed by their first names while gentleman and ladies were addressed as “Mr.” and “Mrs.” or “Miss.” So while Lincoln may not have disliked the nickname “Abe,” he may well have disliked the presumed familiarity of being addressed as such.

John W. Bunn, a Lincoln associate since 1847, explicitly stated that Lincoln was not called “Abe” while he lived in Springfield. In 1911, Bunn was interviewed by Wayne Whipple at the behest of the Philadelphia North America for an article entitled “Lincoln as His Neighbors Knew Him.” Portions of that article were published on June 25, 1911 in the *Daily Illinois State Register*. In it, Bunn declared:

Let me say right here that those who profess to have been familiar with Mr. Lincoln, and speak of calling him “Abe” and so forth, are presuming on ignorance. The people of Springfield knew him as “Mr. Lincoln.” He was a young lawyer when he came here, in the spring of ‘37. He had been a

member of the state legislature two terms, and as leader of the “Long Nine” had done more than any other man to bring about the removal of the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield. They may have called him “Abe” in Indiana and out here in New Salem, where he spent his boyhood and youth, but not in Springfield. Naturally many have wished to make it appear that they were quite intimate with Mr. Lincoln - now that he is not here to deny or disprove their stories - so in their imaginary conversations which they repeat they disprove, instead of proving, by telling how they call him “Abe” and the like.

It seems clear that Lincoln’s early friends and relations from his Indiana and New Salem days did, indeed, call Lincoln “Abe” and likely continued to do so throughout their acquaintance with him. It is not clear, however, that he was called “Abe” by anyone who met him after he moved to Springfield. In letters written to Lincoln, or those in which he is mentioned, written by Springfield friends or professional acquaintances, he is addressed as or referred to variously as Mr. Lincoln, Mr. L, or Lincoln, but not “Abe.”

When he became a national political figure, the public at large started to refer to him as “Old Abe,” but one should be cautious about confusing a public political moniker with an acceptable form of address in personal conversation. Friends and acquaintances still called him “Mr. Lincoln” or “Lincoln.” Ozias M. Hatch had been a friend and political ally of Lincoln’s since

the 1850s. Note how he and Lincoln addressed each other in Hatch’s retelling of their famous exchange on the Antietam battlefield:

“Hatch – Hatch, what is all this?” “Why, Mr. Lincoln,” said I, “this is the Army of the Potomac.” He hesitated a moment, and then, straightening up, said in a louder tone: “No, Hatch, no. This is General McClellan’s body-guard.” Nothing more was said.

The suggestion that “Lincoln scholars and historians can freely deploy Abe as an appropriate moniker for Mr. Lincoln” ignores the fact that, in Lincoln’s time, calling a gentleman by a nickname of his first name was considered overly familiar and thus rude. Since we did not grow up with Mr. Lincoln or know him intimately, the safer bet is to follow the lead of Lincoln’s Springfield and Washington associates and instead call him “Mr. Lincoln” or “Lincoln.”

Mr. Claybourn’s response:

I wholeheartedly agree with the thrust of Ms. Holst’s letter. The nickname “Abe” certainly became less appropriate as Mr. Lincoln advanced in his legal and political career, as Ms. Holst correctly notes, and I did not intend to assert otherwise. But suggestions that Lincoln “hated” the moniker remain misplaced since it was commonly used during his childhood without objection and can be freely deployed when referring to his youth.

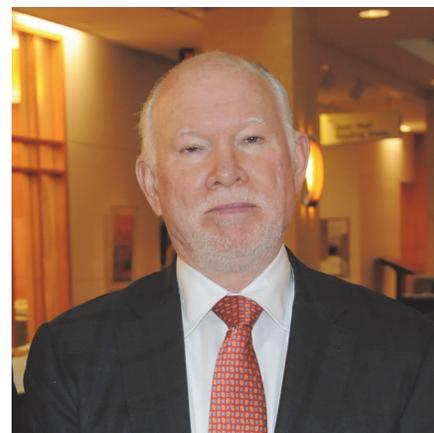
Ms. Holst and Mr. Claybourn are Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association.

Russell Lewis (1951-2019)

Long-time ALA director Russell Lewis died of pancreatic cancer in Chicago on April 19, 2019. He had served as Executive Vice President and Chief Historian of the Chicago History Museum as part of a 36-year career there and was nationally known for his roles in collection development and display. At a lavish CHM retirement party on March 28, where his wife and son were also present, the hand-shaking line of 200 people lasted for 2 hours. Daniel Weinberg of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop and Mark Pohlad of DePaul University, also ALA directors,

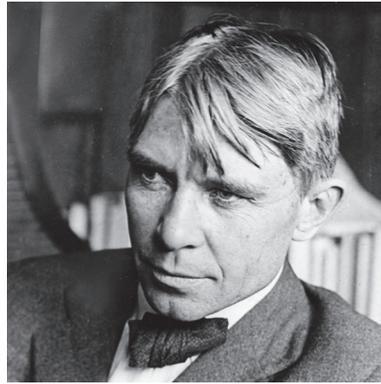
were present. Professor Pohlad reports that Russell “was awarded Emeritus status and given an award; he was also informed that a seat in the auditorium now bore his name. Aided by his son, Russell rose to his feet and spoke briefly, describing how much he loved the CHM and his friends and colleagues in attendance.” A card from the ALA joined many others in Russell’s scrapbook of the event.

Russell Lewis had also recently served as president of the Illinois State Historical Society.



Letter to Carl Sandburg Found in an Old Book

Here's an interesting exchange between Albert H. Morrill and Carl Sandburg, recently discovered in an old book. Morrill was president of the Cincinnati-based Kroger Grocery & Baking Company, one of the largest and most innovative grocery chains in the U.S. at the time. Morrill was writing an unabashed fan letter about Sandburg's six-volume history of Abraham Lincoln.



Carl Sandburg
Photo: National Park Service



Albert H. Morrill
Photo: Cincinnati Enquirer

February 28, 1941.

[To:] Dr. Carl Sandburg
Harbert, Michigan.

My dear Doctor Sandburg:

I am not at all sure that you are a doctor, but if you are not, you certainly ought to be. I have had in mind writing you this letter for some time and recent reference in Lemuel F. Parton's column to a visit he paid you has brought it to my mind.

"There ought to be a law" against anyone perpetrating what you did in your six volumes on Lincoln. I am a very hard-pressed, hard-worked man and my sleep is precious. I bought your six volumes some months ago. I thought I had reading matter for the next twelve months. In three months I had finished the six volumes but at the expense of many hours of sleep, for your monumental work intrigued me. Hence, I say, "there ought to be a law" against such writing.

I fancy that for centuries hence your "Lincoln" will be studied and devoured, not only because it is an intensely interesting recital of a great man's life but chiefly because in these volumes you have re-created the atmosphere of Lincoln's time and made it live and breathe, and the thoughtful reader will feel that he, himself, is actually living those times. Biography's real purpose should be to re-create the picture of a particular period and fit the life of a great personality into the picture. This you have done with unusual and superb skill.

Of the many men I do not know in the world, it seems to me I would like to know Carl Sandburg rather than anybody else.

I did want you to know the impression you had made on one quite illiterate and Babbittish business man.

Sincerely yours, Albert H. Morrill

Here is Carl Sandburg's response:

Dear Mr. Morrill
Thank you for so kind and
thoughtful a letter. I hope
we meet one of these days -
yrs
Carl Sandburg

Benjamin P. Thomas Writes of Henry Horner at New Salem

Sarah Thomas, daughter of Benjamin P. Thomas, found an untitled two-page typescript while examining some of her dad's papers. It is a very moving and rather poetic description of Governor Henry Horner visiting Lincoln's New Salem. It is very possible that no one has ever seen it before, she thought. She knew she had never seen it.

Henry Horner was governor during the Depression, so the time that he was visiting was during and soon after the CCC had reconstructed the New Salem village.

Horner served as the 28th Governor of Illinois, from January 1933 until his death in October 1940. His administration was



Gov. Henry Horner

marked by integrity and a strong commitment to both conservative fiscal management and the needs of the indigent and those in state institutions. His insistence on stopping graft and keeping state payrolls free of non-working patronage appointees put him at odds with the Chicago Democratic political organization run by Patrick Nash and Mayor Edward Joseph Kelly. They backed a rival candidate in the 1936 primary, whom

Horner defeated with the help of a large downstate vote.

With the last sentence, it sounds like he wrote this when his *Lincoln's New Salem* was published by ALA (1934). But the more one looks at the first sentence, it seems it must have been written in the 40's, maybe 50's, after Mr. Horner passed away.

Horner's extensive collection of Lincolniana became the foundation of the Lincoln Collection at the Illinois State Historical Library (now the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library).

Illinois had a bachelor governor not so very long ago, a good man, who wanted to govern with goodness, and justice, and mercy. Being a bachelor, he was often lonely. And being humble, he sometimes felt in need of guidance. Again, there were times when he was pained by what men said of him unfairly.

More than once, when Henry Horner felt that way, he would have a state policeman bring a car to the great, rambling state mansion, where he lived alone, and together they would set out in the night along a highway that led northwestward out of Springfield. After some twenty miles the highway dipped down to continue on beside the Sangamon River, but they would turn off there, and take a narrow, winding road that climbed back to the prairie. And at the top they would stop before a long, low, man-made mound.

There the governor would get out, and walk alone into the night to the end of the mound; and passing around it, suddenly he would step back a century in time. Before him, in the blackness or the moonlight, as the case might be, was a log village brought back from the past.

The governor would wander there, alone with the night noises, pausing, perhaps, before the blacksmith shop, or the cooper shop, or the tavern, or one of the dark, empty cabins, as his thoughts went back to the people who, in the long ago, had come there from the east and from the south, hoping that there the promise of new life in a new land would be fulfilled.

Perhaps he lingered longest before a store, overhung by a big tree, where a young man, Abraham Lincoln, had failed and gone in debt, but had risen from that and other failures to go on to greatness. The lonely, troubled governor remembered that Lincoln had been lonely, too, most of all, perhaps, in his greatness. And the governor also remembered that it was in this little prairie village that Lincoln had gained faith in himself and in the people - those twin faiths without which a democratic ruler cannot govern wisely. And did it mean something additional to Henry Horner that Lincoln's hopes for human betterment embraced all men, without distinction of race, or creed, or color: For Henry Horner was a Jew.

We may well believe that as Henry Horner pondered, he no longer felt alone. Out of the past, out of the night, an unseen presence had come to walk beside him. And at last, as he retraced his steps to return to the empty vastness of that mansion, he took with him new faith and new courage.

I never talked to Henry Horner about his nighttime visits to New Salem; and I have conjectured about his feelings. But I believe I am not far from the truth about them, because I know how much I gained myself in studying the story of the village and its restoration, and in learning what the years there meant to Lincoln. And I hope my book, *Lincoln's New Salem*, will bring something of those feelings and that meaning to its readers.

*The Abraham Lincoln Association is a national nonprofit organization, headquartered in Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, Illinois, and dedicated to celebrating **Lincoln's birthday**, preserving and promoting **Lincoln landmarks**, and advancing **Lincoln scholarship**.*

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Mark your Calendar—Upcoming Lincoln Events

Lincoln Legacy Lecture, October 15, featuring Dr. Michael Burlingame with Mark Steiner, Professor of Law at Houston College of Law, and Jason Silverman, Professor Emeritus of History at Winthrop University. Student Union Ballroom, University of Illinois Springfield (UIS), One University Plaza, Springfield, Illinois. The fall meeting of the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association will take place on the UIS campus preceding the Lecture. ALA Members are welcome to attend Board meetings. For more information, contact ALA Executive Manager Jessica McPeck (jessicamcpeek.ala@gmail.com or 217-546-2656).

24th Annual Lincoln Forum November 16-18, "The Leader, The War, The Legacy: Lincoln at 210," Wyndham Hotel, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: www.thelincolnforum.org/our-symposium

NOTE: The **Lincoln Colloquium** (originally slated for early fall at the Knox College Lincoln Studies Center) will not take place this year. Instead, the organizers will be meeting to consider the future direction of this venerable event.

Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium and the 211th Lincoln Birthday celebration, February 11-12, 2020, in Springfield, Illinois, presented by The Abraham Lincoln Association.

Timely Lincoln Quotation

Lincoln supports women’s right to vote 84 years before the 19th amendment to U.S. Constitution is ratified.

I go for all sharing the privileges of the government, who assist in bearing its burthens. Consequently I go for admitting all whites to the right of suffrage, who pay taxes or bear arms, (by no means excluding females.) - June 1836

Membership Matters



Dear Friends and Members,

I believe that Abraham Lincoln saved America. When we study his life and epic presidency, our lives are improved by living his ideals.

Membership in the Abraham Lincoln Association is a great help in the study of his life.

Member benefits include the ALA Journal, this newsletter, and the opportunity to participate in the many ALA programs and activities.

As a member of the ALA, I am also honored to support this organization that is a leader in important Lincoln projects, including an effort to re-restore Lincoln’s New Salem. As a member, you make the ALA mission possible. Whether you are a member in Boston, Boise, Santa Monica, Springfield, or anywhere else, your support means a great deal.

Thank you to our members.

Joseph Garrera
Membership Chair

New ALA Members

- Ginette Aley, Manhattan, KS
- Doyll H. Andrews III, Crown Point, IN
- Peter B. Canalia, Munster, IL
- John R. Carman, Bridgeton, NJ
- Julie R. Glade, Merrillville, IN
- Terry Goddard, Phoenix, AZ
- Michael W. Griffin, Highland, IN
- Timothy Hansen, Meridian, ID
- Thomas Kernan, Oswego, IL
- David Shurtleff, Boise, ID
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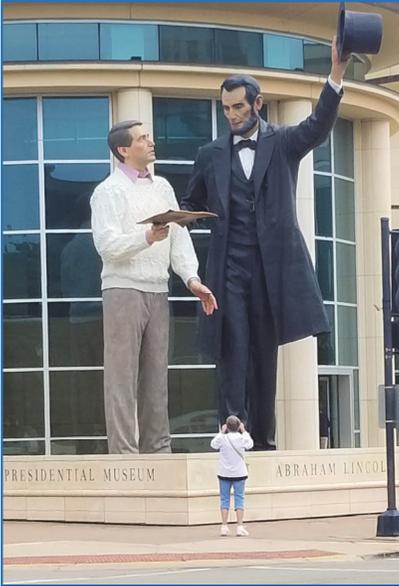
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"Return Visit" by Seward Johnson

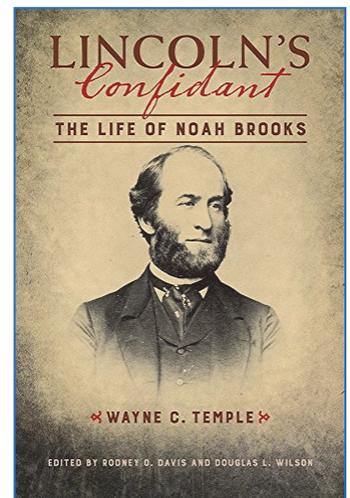
Dissertation Published Seven Decades After Start

In March 2019 Dr. Wayne C. Temple achieved what may be a record in the annals of publishing history: the dissertation he had begun to research under Professor James G. Randall, at the University of Illinois in 1949, was published exactly 70 years later. "Doc" deposited the work in 1956 as 437 leaves of typescript. It is now a trim 220 pages, plus illustrations, careful notes, and bibliography, from the University of Illinois Press, as part of the Knox College Lincoln Studies Center project on original sources for the Lincoln field; Michael Burlingame provides an introduction. The jacket photo is one that Temple found in the course of his research; he also found scores of unknown letters by Brooks that Prof. Randall had supposed did not exist.

Brooks (1830-1903) was to have been Lincoln's personal secretary in the second administration, after John G. Nicolay took a consular post in Paris; but assassination intervened, and Brooks continued his highly active and interesting journalistic career. His residence in Illinois for a few years before Lincoln's presidency made acquaintances of the two men, and his reporting in Washington for the *Sacramento Daily Union* gave Lincoln the highest personal regard for the young man. Brooks's later writings on Lincoln are also fundamental.

At the age of 95, "Doc" — a longtime Distinguished Director of the ALA — gave a talk on the book to an appreciative and crowded

room at Books on the Square, in downtown Springfield. He signed books afterwards, and reports that he is starting no new projects. What's first was last, and it is very good.



Wayne Temple and his newest, oldest book