



# FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION  
[www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org](http://www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org)

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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

## *Changes at Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum*

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker fired Alan Lowe, Executive Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM) since 2016, on September 20. The Governor's office did not provide an explanation, saying only, "We cannot comment further on personnel matters." In the absence of a director, the agency will be managed by Melissa Coultas, recently appointed chief of staff, Toby Trimmer, chief operating officer, and Dave Kelm, general counsel.

Lowe was the fourth Executive Director since the Museum's opening in 2005; in addition, interim directors have headed the institution for three years.

Lowe spent much of his career at various Presidential Libraries within the National Archives. Before coming to Springfield he was the director of the George W. Bush Library in Dallas.

Lowe began his tenure with a promise of collaboration with others in the Lincoln community. In recent months, however, his relationships with other organizations began to deteriorate. He was at odds with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, the private fundraising arm established to bring resources into the ALPLM. There were also fissures in the century-old relationship between Lowe and The Abraham Lincoln Association.

For the past two years, Lowe ran the ALPLM without oversight. A Board of Trustees was established to set policy and advise ALPLM when it was set up as an independent agency in 2017, but members were never appointed. Governor Pritzker has now named eleven individuals who will, upon Senate approval, comprise the Board. Three of the Governor's nominees currently serve on the Board of The Abraham Lincoln Association: J. Steven Beckett, Kathryn Harris, and Dan Monroe. Prior to this law, the ALPLM was a



Graphic: ALPLM

constituent unit of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. The law, which sets out subject-specific qualifications for seven of the eleven Board members, also names the CEO of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation (Carla Knorowski) as a non-voting, ex-officio, member of the Board in order to "facilitate communication and cooperation" between the ALPLM and the Foundation. (Background on the governor's nominees appears on page 2). One of the immediate tasks facing the Board will be hiring a new Executive Director who must also be approved by the Illinois Senate.

Meanwhile, the ALPLM has received some very positive news on the funding front. A press release dated August 15 reported, "The Papers of Abraham Lincoln project at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has been awarded grants by two important federal agencies for the goal of building a 21st century research tool that can be used by Lincoln scholars and fans around the world. "The project, which aims to publish every document written by or to Abraham Lincoln, was awarded up to \$350,000 by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and \$87,125 by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)." Part of the NEH grant will be paid dollar for dollar to match gifts raised by the Foundation up to \$200,000.

**Late breaking news:** Newly nominated chair of the ALPLM Board of Trustees, the Honorable Ray LaHood, will be the principal speaker at ALA's 211th Abraham Lincoln Birthday Banquet in Springfield, Illinois on February 12, 2020. More details will appear in the Winter issue of *For the People*.



## *ALA Hires New Executive Manager*

My name is Amy Kwedar Budinger, and I am the new Executive Manager of the ALA. It is an honor and a pleasure to be an employee of this distinguished organization. I am still learning the ropes, but know I will be successful in assisting the organization and committees with their needs. I would like to place my primary focus on increasing membership and working in partnership with other Lincoln-related organizations.

I have returned to Springfield after living in various cities around the country for the past twenty-five years. My most recent move was from Woodbury, Minnesota. I lived in Minnesota with my family for twelve years. I am a recent widow and have three sons: Daniel 20, John 17 and Thomas 14. We live in Leland Grove, Illinois and love the area.

I have a Master of Arts Degree in Human Development Counseling and certification as a licensed Pre-k/age 21 Guidance Counselor and teacher. My undergraduate degree consists of a double major in Sociology and Cultural Anthropology from Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri.

I enjoy history and have always been a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln. I look forward to learning more about Abraham Lincoln, and feel fortunate to be amongst a group of informed Lincoln scholars. I look forward to meeting everyone who shares their time and energy to keep the legacy of this organization flourishing.

## *ALPLM Board of Trustees Nominees*

Ray LaHood will serve as Chairman of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Trustees (ALPLM Board). With a 36-year career in public service, former U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary LaHood oversaw 55,000 employees and a \$70 billion budget in charge of air, maritime and surface transportation. Before serving as head of DOT, he represented the 18th District of Illinois in the United States House of Representatives for 19 years, where he served on the House Appropriations and House Intelligence Committees. He earned his Bachelor of Science from Bradley University.



Photo: DLA Piper

J. Steven Beckett will serve as the Abraham Lincoln Historian on the ALPLM Board. Beckett is a frequent lecturer on the law practices of Abraham Lincoln and is a board member of The Abraham Lincoln Association. He previously chaired the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Advisory Board from 2012 to 2015. Beckett is a Practitioner-in-Residence and the former director of Trial Advocacy at the College of Law, and counsel to the Urbana firm Beckett & Webber, P.C. that he founded in 1988. Beckett is a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law.

Joan Brodsky will serve as the Historic Preservation Expert on the ALPLM Board. Brodsky is a former member of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. A lifelong librarian and conservator, she is the founder and sponsor of an annual lecture series and workshop on book and paper conservation. She earned her Master of Science in Library Science and her Bachelor of Arts in Latin and Education from Syracuse University.

Jessica Harris will serve on the ALPLM Board. Harris currently serves as the Interim Provost for Inclusive Academic Excellence at Southern Illinois University. She is a member of the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education, Association for the Study of African American Life and

History and Association of Black Women Historians. Harris earned her PhD and Master of Arts in history from Cornell University and her Bachelor of Arts from Dillard University.

Kathryn Harris will serve as a Library and Museum Expert on the ALPLM Board. Harris brings 25 years of experience as the former Library Services Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois State Historical Library. In her 43 years of service, Harris has also been the Head of Reference for the Illinois State Library and Public Services Librarian for the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Harris serves on the Springfield and Central Illinois African American Arts History Museum Board. She is a board member and former President of The Abraham Lincoln Association. She earned her Master of Science from the University of Illinois and her Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University.

Gary Johnson will serve on the ALPLM Board. Johnson became the President of the Chicago History Museum after 28 years as a lawyer and partner in international law at Mayer Brown and Jones Day. Under his leadership, the Chicago History Museum has received the National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest award for museums and libraries. Johnson earned his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School, his Master of Arts from Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar and his Bachelor of Arts from Yale College. He also holds an honorary doctorate from Lake Forest College.

Jason Lesniewicz will serve as a Cultural Tourism Expert on the ALPLM Board. Lesniewicz currently works as the Director of Cultural Tourism at Choose Chicago. Previously, he was a Senior Associate for the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture. Additionally, Lesniewicz serves on the Chicago Cultural Alliance Board as the Co-Chair of the Fundraising and Strategic Partnerships Committee. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Dan Monroe will serve as the Illinois Historian on the ALPLM Board. Currently, Monroe is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of History and Political Science at Millikin University. In 26 years of experience as a researcher, consultant and professor, Monroe has worked for the

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Historical Survey of UIUC and the Abraham Lincoln Historical Digitization Project. He is President of the Illinois State Historical Society and a board member of The Abraham Lincoln Association. Monroe earned his PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, his Master of Science from Illinois State University and his Bachelor of Science from Bradley University.

Martin Sandoval, C.P.A., will serve as a Business Administration Expert on the ALPLM Board. With over 25 years of experience in business, strategic planning and financial management, Sandoval is the founding partner of Compass Associates. Sandoval is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Illinois CPA Society. Sandoval earned his Master of Science in Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Commerce from DePaul University.

Eunice Santos will serve on the ALPLM Board. Santos is a Professor and Dean of the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, specializing in the areas of distributed processing, cybersecurity, complex adaptive systems and human modeling. Santos was the founding director of the Institute of Defense & Security and department chair of Computer Science at the University of Texas, El Paso. She earned her PhD in computer science from the University of California, Berkeley.

Melinda Spitzer-Johnston will serve as a Digitization, Conservation and Historic Preservation Expert on the ALPLM Board. Spitzer-Johnston is currently the Digital Media Assets Manager at Encyclopedia Britannica. She has also worked for the Harvard Law School Library's Historical and Special Collections Division, and in a variety of roles for the Chicago History Museum. In addition, she served as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum study panel. Spitzer-Johnston received her Master of Arts in American History from DePaul University and her Bachelor of Arts in American History from Northwestern University. She became a certified archivist in 2018.

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## President's Message

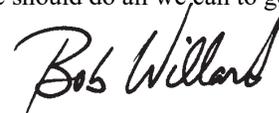
The recent departure of Alan Lowe from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum serves to remind us of the unwelcome events that can arise when members of the Lincoln community fail to work together.

I spent most of my life in the East, but retired to the California coast. I live not far from Simi Valley, site of the famous Rodney King trial, and I often think of King's quotation, "Can't we all just get along." Lincoln said the same thing—using more words but soaring rhetoric—when he said, "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature." (First Inaugural, March 4, 1861)

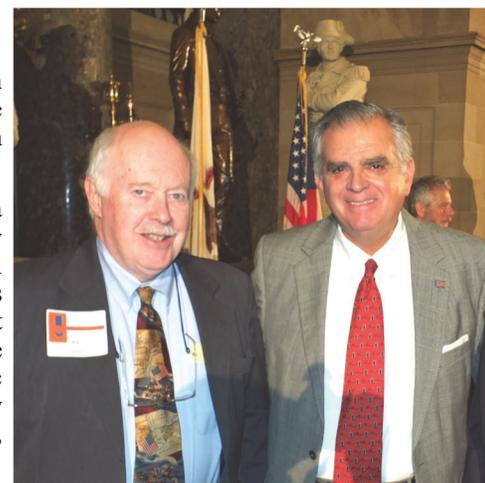
In his unparalleled biography, *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*, ALA Vice President Michael Burlingame, in the opening paragraph, recounts an episode in Lincoln's life demonstrating the President's emotional maturity.

One day in the middle of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln carved time from his busy schedule to pen some wise paternal advice to a young Union captain who had been squabbling with his superiors. Quoting from Hamlet, the president wrote that a father's injunction to his son – "Beware of entrance to a quarrel, but being in, bear it that the opposed may beware of thee" – was good counsel, "and yet not the best." Instead, Lincoln enjoined the captain: "Quarrel not at all." The reasons he gave were practical: "No man resolved to make the most of himself, can spare time for personal contention. Still less can he afford to take all the consequences, including the vitiating of his temper, and the loss of self-control. Yield larger things to which you can show no more than equal right; and yield lesser ones, though clearly your own. Better give your path to a dog, than be bitten by him in contesting for the right. Even killing the dog would not cure the bite." Born into emotional and economic poverty, Lincoln early on "resolved to make the most of himself" and did so, adhering to those precepts.

Abraham Lincoln, as usual, sets a high standard, but I believe that, for those of us who endeavor to learn all we can from him and ensure his ongoing legacy, we should do all we can to get along.



P.S. We were sad to see Jessica McPeck leave her position as ALA Executive Manager, and we wish her well as she begins her new job as an architect with the Department of Defense in Washington State.



ALA President Bob Willard with Secretary Ray LaHood at 2015 ceremony in U.S. Capitol to mark 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address (Photo: Bruce Guthrie)

## Lincoln's Surveying Equipment at New Salem State Historic Site

By Mark B. Pohlrad

In a display case at the new Salem Visitors Center are the surveying tools that belonged to Abraham Lincoln. These handsome instruments dramatically reflect Lincoln's life, the history of the region, and even the story of this country. They represent the wide range of occupations Lincoln held in New Salem, and even speak to his financial situation. In 1834 he was forced to surrender them to the county sheriff to pay his debts. His devoted friend James Short, a farmer, then bought and returned them to Lincoln. More generally, these instruments embody the saga of American expansion and settlement. Indeed, the hired surveyor for New Salem founder John Camron used instruments like these to plat the town in October 1829. Poignantly, these objects also point to New Salem's demise, for Lincoln used this

very equipment to lay out its successor town, Petersburg.

Lincoln's attraction to surveying was natural. Given his deep admiration for George Washington, he read in Parson Weems's biography how "This early industry [of surveying] ... attracted on him the notice and admiration of his numerous acquaintance. ... Indeed, ... [it] made such an impression on the public mind in his favor..." Surveying had an even more dramatic connection to Lincoln's own family. His father's property in Kentucky had been determined by the ancient practice of landmarking, using trees, rocks, and the like. That state never underwent an official U.S. land survey, and so was settled in a haphazard, and ultimately litigious fashion. As a budding lawyer—Lincoln began

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## Grave Found of First Woman Lincoln Freed

By Carl Adams

National news reports in July 2019 told how the lost grave of Mrs. Nance Legins-Costley, the first slave freed by Lincoln, has been found in an unmarked grave in Peoria, Illinois, under a parking lot.

Nance Costley was freed from indentured servitude in the Illinois Supreme Court Case of *Bailey v Cromwell* (1841), successfully argued by Abraham Lincoln 178 years ago. At that time Nance had three children: Amanda, Eliza Jane, and William Henry. The trials of Nance set the legal precedent that by 1845 outlawed all forms of slavery in Illinois.

Mrs. Nance Costley was the only known slave who managed to appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court for manumission from life-servitude three times. "...A Negro girl named Nance" first appealed to the Sangamon County log-cabin Court in 1827, and her case history shows that she persisted for her own freedom for 15 years.

Nance (December 1813—April 1892) was born into the household of state senator Thomas Cox, while he was hosting the new Illinois Territorial government in his boarding house in Kaskaskia. Nance was the second child and first daughter of slaves Randol and Anachy Legins, who had been brought into the northern Louisiana Territory by South Carolinian Nathaniel Greene, an original settler of Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

When Nathan Greene, who owned a ferry

service with one side in Ware, Illinois, died in the spring of 1813, Thomas Cox bought the Legins family intact for \$770.00, and Nance was born four months later in Illinois. However, Cox was a heavy land speculator and regarded the slave property as an investment. He soon mortgaged the family as collateral in a loan from the "Merchant Prince of Kaskaskia," William Morrison, as early as February 1814.

Thomas Cox was also an influential politician who took Nance from Kaskaskia to the new Capitol of Vandalia in 1819, and soon became a founder of Springfield. After the Illinois State Bank failed in 1825, Cox again mortgaged Nance to Maryland land speculator Nathaniel Cromwell, Jr., in 1826. On foreclosure, Cromwell took the servant Nance to his boarding house in Tazewell County, in 1829.

Nance and her husband Benjamin raised eight children in Pekin, Tazewell County. Late in life, in the 1880's Nance moved in with her oldest daughter Amanda and her husband Edward W. Lewis in Peoria, and died in April 1892.

A search for Nance's grave was started in the 1990s by the author, then living in Peoria, but it took a team of independent researchers to finally locate the grave of the first slave freed by the "Great Emancipator."

Jared Olar of the Pekin Public Library refreshed the search through his blog "From the History Room..." Previously, Robert Hoffer, longstanding member of the Peoria

Historical Society, copied and distributed ledgers of Undertakers' Records found in the basement of the Peoria County Courthouse.

Then Genealogist Deb Clendenen, who writes Memorials on the website Find-A-Grave, identified "Nancy Costly" in those notes and passed the information on to Mr. Olar, who contacted the author by email.

The grave of the first slave freed by Abraham Lincoln was forgotten when the city of Peoria decided to close the old settlers' Moffatt Cemetery in 1905. The property, at Griswold and S.W. Adams streets, was rezoned and covered over with concrete and black top. Research through records and maps finally revealed the site. There are no current plans to dig or mark the site.

Adams in 2016 had found the grave of Nance's only son, William, who served in the Union Army in the Civil War, in an abandoned military cemetery near Rochester, Minnesota. He had been freed by the same 1841 court ruling.

*Carl Adams is a native of Alton, Illinois and a long-time Lincoln scholar. Now a semi-retired journalist and educator, he resides in the Washington DC metropolitan area. He first brought the story of Nance Legins-Costley to the readers of For the People in the Autumn 1999 issue (Volume 1, Number 3)*



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studying law while working as a surveyor—he must have appreciated how proper measurement brought order to property rights.

Lincoln's career as a surveyor began in 1833 when Sangamon County Surveyor John Calhoun offered him a job as his deputy. He set about learning his new craft with the help of Mentor Graham and two borrowed books. Armed with a grasp of basic principles, he bought this set of instruments second-hand for \$120.00, an enormous sum at that time. As Lincoln later recalled, with characteristic self-deprecating understatement, he procured a "compass and chain," consulted "[authors] Flint and Gibson a little and went at it." His official projects included government surveys, road surveys, town lots, and private surveys. The compass, inscribed "Rittenhouse and Company," was made in Pennsylvania in the late eighteenth century. The imposing staff, with a ball-and-socket top for mounting the compass, has been

lathed with rings to form a grip. The traditional "Gunter's Chain" measured distances sixty-six feet at a time; eighty lengths equaled a mile.

We imagine Lincoln carrying the compass and chain in his saddlebag, the staff across his saddle. As he strides through the prairie grass, his pants "foxed" [reinforced] with buckskin by Hannah Armstrong, we feel his concentration and sense of purpose. He plants the staff, mounts the compass on top, and peers through the sighting slot. The chain clinks musically as he stretches it out. John McClarey's sculpture *Lincoln the Surveyor* (2009), standing outside the Visitors Center, depicts Lincoln using the most sophisticated instruments he had ever encountered up to that time. Like Washington before him, he hoped that surveying would lead to bigger things.

*Mark B. Pohlad is an ALA Director and an associate professor of art history at DePaul University, where he teaches classes on American art, the history of photography, and Abraham Lincoln in film. This essay is part of a series featuring New Salem objects with which Lincoln came into contact.*



## Medical Care in the Time of Lincoln

The stars aligned on February 12, 2019, when the annual ALA Symposium coincided with the weekly Grand Rounds Lecture of the Southern Illinois University Department of Internal Medicine. Donald Graham, M.D., a member of the Board of ALA and a Clinical Professor of Medicine at SIU, was invited to join with Roger Billings, LLB, of the ALA Board and the Salmon P. Chase School of Law of the University of Northern Kentucky. Doctor Graham dealt with Lincoln's overall health. Professor Billings discussed Lincoln's legal representation of physicians in three malpractice suits (Lincoln prevailed in all three cases). Prof. Billings also discussed the purchase of various medicines available in mid-19th century Springfield.

Dr. Graham also presented his lecture at Books on the Square, Springfield, on July 11, 2019. Here is a precis of the talk on Lincoln's birthday.

By Donald Graham

Today is the 210th birthday of Abraham Lincoln. Were SIU in existence at that time, Abraham Lincoln would have been the congressman representing the territory that SIU serves. In fact, when Lincoln was a congressman and president, there were no medical schools or hospitals, and that is very important to our discussion today.

I must disclose my conflicts of interest. I am a stockholder in Union Pacific. It was created after Abraham Lincoln signed the Pacific Railroad Act on July 1, 1862. I also have been a member of the Board of Directors of St. John's Hospital, which provided home care to Mary Lincoln. Now the university requires other conflicts of interest so I must tell you I work for some health departments and some speakers' bureaus, and I have done research, supported by industry, none of which existed at the time of Lincoln.

The life-threatening infections, identified in the 18th century and many of which continue now, oblige us to recognize the need for infrastructure in public health. We will also describe the evolution of the standard of care.

First, let us set the medical stage. One of the most famous physicians in American history was Benjamin Rush, born in 1745. He graduated from Princeton at the age of 15, became a physician at the age of 23, by which time he had already translated Hippocrates from Greek to English. He signed the Declaration of Independence, the only physician to do so. He wrote the first chemistry text in the United States, and

advocated mercury and bloodletting as primary modes of therapy. One of his patients was George Washington, whose strep throat was treated unsuccessfully with bloodletting. The most famous physician in the presidential arena was actually just a medical student, William Henry Harrison, who attended Penn Medical School. He left to become a soldier. He died of pneumonia only 31 days after he delivered his 100-minute inaugural on a cold rainy day. Then we come to Abraham Lincoln, who was not a physician; in fact, he had less than one year of formal education. He faced many diseases: typhoid, malaria, TB, cholera, smallpox, violence, and politicians.

In these Grand Rounds exercises we often begin with a case discussion, so I will describe a 54-year-old white married man with fever, headache, extremity weakness, and a rash for three days when he presented to his physician. On November 2, 1863, he had received a request to speak at a famous event. He accepted that request and took a train to rural Pennsylvania on the 18th. From there he took a carriage and further rode a horse to speak. However, he told his secretary that he felt unwell. On the 19th he listened to the featured speaker for two hours. He then spoke for two minutes. Observers described him as having a ghastly color, looking mournful and haggard. That evening, he was warm with a fever. He was short of breath, and noted a headache at 6:30 p.m. His personal servant applied a wet towel, one of the major therapeutic options available, to his face. He took a train back home. The next day he did not feel well. He was exhausted with back pain, and on November 21 had a diffuse rash. He canceled appointments and went to bed. Therapy consisted of dry toast and strong tea.

His past medical history was not particularly revealing. He had no operations. The only medications were an occasional mustard plaster and some pills called Blue Mass which were composed of mercury for low

energy, depression, constipation, and fatigue. No allergies or immunizations were documented. Family history was taken. His father had died at age 73 probably of renal failure. His mother had died at age 34 of milk sickness from the white snake root toxin. A brother had died in infancy. A sister had died at age 21 in childbirth. A son had died at age 4 of uncertain causes; most thought typhoid, some thought TB. A son died in February 1862 at age 11 of typhoid. A son had a cleft palate and was recovering from a three-week episode of fever, weakness, and a scarlet eruption; he died eight years later of tuberculosis. His oldest son was 20, alive and well; he died 62 years later of a stroke.

Our patient's social history was notable for delivery at home in rural Kentucky. His estimated weight (no scales available) was seven pounds. His mother and he had had no prenatal care. He never smoked or drank. He had served in the Illinois militia and fought in a local skirmish. He had no foreign travel except insofar as he twice visited New Orleans. His occupations were those of farm laborer, deck hand, merchant's assistant, and inventor, with one patent. He was an attorney, politician, axe handler, and most important, a raconteur. His wife had a history of depression but was afebrile. The 20-year-old son was healthy in college when last seen in September.

On exam, this well-developed, well-nourished, thin, bearded, white man was in no acute distress. His weight was estimated to be 160 pounds. He was 6 feet 4 inches tall. Temperature was 102 with a pulse of 110. Blood pressure was estimated to be 90/50. He had red conjunctivae, with mild icterus, and he was noted to be farsighted, which has many meanings. His neck was supple without adenopathy. His thyroid was not enlarged. His chest had a few dry crackles. His cardiac exam was normal. His abdominal wall was thin; some thought that they could feel his liver. His extremities were normal. He had no effusion or loose joints. The most objective observation was that he had size 14 shoes (though some say size 12). He was alert and oriented. He was witty, insightful, had excellent judgment. His fund of knowledge far exceeded the level of education. Cranial nerves were intact. Gait was loping; skin was covered with a diffuse scarlet macular rash.

Diagnostic tests are generally undertaken when patients have puzzling illnesses. In this case, no laboratory tests were available. An EKG, chest x-ray, CT, MRI, pulmonary function tests, echocardiogram, cardiac

### Family History

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**Father:** died, 73, probable renal failure.

**Mother:** died, 34, milk sickness, white snake root toxin

**Brother:** died in infancy.

**Sister:** died, 21, in childbirth.

**Son:** died, 4, of typhoid or TB.

**Son:** died, 11 (February, of typhoid).

**Son:** 10, cleft palate, recovering from 3-week fever, weakness, scarlet eruption. Died age 18 of TB.

**Son:** 20, alive and well. Died age 82 of CVA.



catheterization, adult PHQ 2&9 screening questionnaire, bone density, all part of a standard workup in 2019, were unavailable or felt to be unnecessary. Nevertheless, his physician did formulate an impression. He said, "I am dealing with a middle-aged man who has a fever, a diffuse scarlet rash, and prostration." The differential diagnosis was wide, very wide. A 2019 differential would consist of rickettsial pox, disseminated herpes simplex, meningococcemia, varicella, adenovirus, smallpox, chickenpox, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, typhoid, hepatitis, endocarditis, and a drug reaction. Did he have any of those conditions? All doctors should have a plan when they evaluate a patient. Well, his doctor had a plan: clinical observation, a poultice, a bland diet, and rest. His doctor did not order any laboratory tests, x-rays, or other form of imaging.

In a picture taken a few years earlier he appeared well-dressed, slightly disheveled, but certainly handsome.

Every case has a follow-up. On November 21, the patient was described as having a scarlet rash. His physician, Robert King Stone, M.D., concluded that he had a cold. Some questioned that diagnosis, so he altered it to a bilious fever. Some questioned it further. He altered it further to scarlatina. This could be the diagnosis, but others were doubtful. After all, he was dealing with a very important patient with a diagnosis in doubt. Therefore, he requested consultation with the nationally famous Washington Chew Van Bibber, M.D., from Baltimore. Dr. Van Bibber consulted at the time when the patient developed a diffuse, small, widely scattered set of blisters. The patient asked, "Well doctor, what is your verdict?" which is an interesting question to a doctor from a patient who is an attorney. Dr. Van Bibber opined, "I think you have a touch of the varioloid." The patient responded, "How interesting. Even unpleasant situations in life may have certain compensations. Did you pass through the waiting room?" Van Bibber replied, "I passed through a room full of people." The patient: "Yes, it is always full. Do you have

any idea what they are there for?" Said the doctor, "I could guess," and the patient responded, "They are there, every mother's son of them, for one purpose only, namely to get something from me. For once in my life, I find myself in a position to give everybody something."

Following most diagnoses of serious illness comes the hospital course. In this case, no hospital services were engaged. Over the next 2 months, the fever abated, the patient's face became marked as described by a reporter from the *Chicago Tribune*, one of the most astute diagnosticians in the entire case. On December 7 the patient walked briefly, although he was noted to be emaciated. Nevertheless, as he was recovering from smallpox, on December 8 he wrote and submitted to Congress the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction. The next day, he submitted the State of the Union address, then called the Message to Congress. He finally had time for some recreation and attended Shakespeare's *Henry IV* at Ford's Theatre on December 15. By January 12, stamina was said to be returning. Unfortunately, there was a sad note. His personal servant, William H. Johnson, died in January at the age of 30 of smallpox. Mr. Johnson had applied the cold towel to the patient's face on November 19. No follow-up was scheduled for our primary patient, although periodically Dr. Stone saw him at his home which was a large sandstone house painted white, not yet known then as the White House.

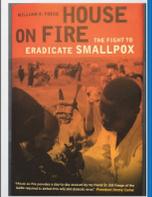
Smallpox has several forms, the ordinary form which is quite severe, with a diffuse, very extensive rash. It involves all the organs with at least a 30% mortality rate. A modified form, called varioloid, is less likely to be fatal. The latter was what our patient was thought to have had. Smallpox is a DNA orthopoxvirus. It is contagious from the time of the rash until scabs form, so for many weeks, he could have been contagious. Spread is from person to person for a distance of six feet. Pustules develop on the throat, face, palms, soles, and spread to the trunk, in contrast to chickenpox which goes the opposite way. It has stages. On the first day flat spots appear on the face. On the next day slightly raised spots, known as papules, appear. On days four and five small blisters ("vesicles") appear. At the end of the week pustules form, and from the second to the fourth week scabs and crusts form which lead to a permanent pock-marking.

Smallpox was a scourge from antiquity until the late 20th century. Six defined epidemics occurred in the United States during the 20th century; 410 people died in 1901 in New York, which also had the distinction of having the last epidemic in our country in

1947, involving 12 cases, 2 fatal. The CDC and World Health Organization's attempt to eradicate smallpox in India and East Africa in the 1970s was described in *House on Fire* by William Foege, M.D. His co-worker, Dr. Don Hopkins, wrote a famous monograph about smallpox in which he described the case of Abraham Lincoln.

## Smallpox Epidemics, USA

Year	Location	Cases	Deaths
1901	New York	1959	410
1921	Denver	924	37
1921	Seattle	65	20
1924	Detroit	1510	163
1945	Kansas City	943	160
1947	New York	12	2



Smallpox was not the only medical problem Lincoln faced. He also confronted malaria, a subject explicated in a perceptive 1836 thesis by Lorenzo Dow Matheny, M.D. At that time, Mr. Matheny was a student at Transylvania University School of Medicine in Lexington, Kentucky. Not every physician went to school, but he did. The prevailing theory at that time was that rhubarb, calomel, and aloes pills would cure every disease. It was espoused primarily by a Professor Cook and supported by all his students. In practice it did not always work, as Mr. Matheny understood. Chance favors the prepared mind, and in 1835 central Illinois experienced an epidemic of malaria. Matheny said that Illinois was so flat that the spring rains would stand until winter. "Sangamon was the largest and finest county" with 1,500 inhabitants and 12 doctors (considering our current physician census, we have maintained a similar ratio). It could not possibly be excelled in any county in the country. The spring and the summer of 1835 were the hottest known on record, with rain every single day from March 1 through July 15. Illness began to be noted on August 10.

Everyone in town was ill by August 20. All physicians were engaged day and night. Deaths occurred despite sextuple doses of Cook's pills. Matheny consulted on September 25 for a 35-year-old man with fever and chills, and in a rather heretical move, prescribed quinine and laudanum, one teaspoon every hour. The patient experienced a drenching sweat. Two days later he had a cold sweat. Unsure of his diagnosis, Matheny added sulfonic ether, salt injections, a dash of whiskey, and a red pepper rub. On September 30 he had added

## Doctor-Patient Dialogue

Patient: "How interesting. Even unpleasant situations in life may have certain compensations. Did you pass through the waiting room?"

WCVB: "I passed through a room full of people."

Pt: "Yes, it's always full. Do you have any idea what they are there for?"

WCVB: "I could guess."

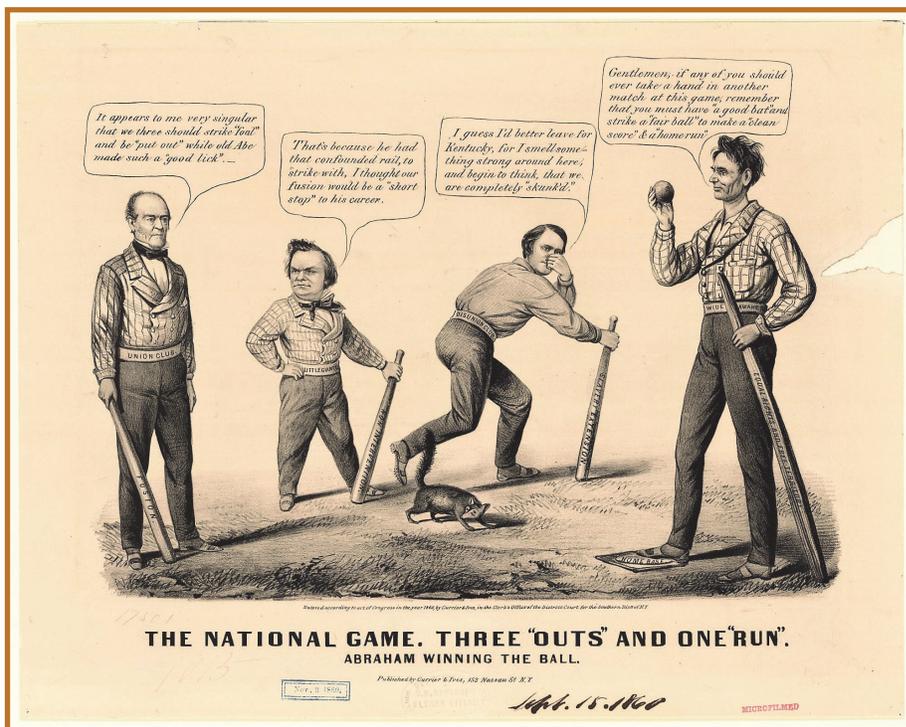
Pt: "They are there, every mother's son of them, for one purpose only; namely, to get something from me. For once in my life, I find myself in a position to give everybody something!"

brandy, more quinine, camphor, and carbonate of ammonia. The pulse revived two hours later, as noted by his astute physician who sat at the bedside for two hours with the patient and monitored his pulse. I challenge all of our physicians to sit at the bedside for two consecutive hours with any of your patients. Matheny added opium, brandy, and more castor oil. The patient was much better the next day. Matheny concluded that the best way to treat this disease was with a combination of quinine 65 mg, camphor, opium, and ammonium carbonate hourly for three doses, and said further that his conclusions were drawn not in the study room, but from actual observation in the field, a model for all of us.

Other diseases existed in Springfield, Sangamon County, and throughout the Midwest then, such as scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles, mumps, whooping cough, lung fever (fancy name for pneumonia), and brain fever (an even better name for meningitis), cholera, syphilis, snake bite, St. Anthony's fire (caused by ergot from contaminated rye), and mercury poisoning -- often caused by the physicians who prescribed the Blue Mass. Cholera was a major threat. The first case was described in Springfield in 1832, the same year 3,000 people died in Chicago and 4,000 people died in New Orleans. The next year, Jacksonville, Illinois, had an epidemic. Cholera returned to Sangamon County four times over the next decade.

For all these problems we needed a public health response. Springfield's first doctor, Gershom Jayne, arrived in 1820. In 1832, John Todd, M.D., an uncle of Mary, was appointed to the Springfield Board of Health. Five years later, he co-founded the Medical Faculty, the precursor to the Sangamon County Medical Society. By 1850, Springfield had 4,500 residents and probably as many hogs. They roamed the public square and muddy streets. The Illinois State Medical Society began in 1850 and advocated registration of births, deaths, and marriages. It opposed proprietary and patent medications. In 1855, our county slaughtered 30,000 hogs, six for each person in the county. Three years later coal was discovered in Riverton, and it is clear that Sangamon County was on its way to prosperity. When the Civil War began, Camp Butler for Illinois recruits opened. It became a prisoner of war camp the next year. The first female physician arrived in 1869, Amelia Hastings. A very important development occurred in 1870 when we opened a reservoir with four million gallons of fresh, pure water. It might help combat cholera, typhoid, Salmonella, and other illnesses. It was on Reservoir Street.

St.



John's Hospital opened in 1875, of no help to our president, but it did help his wife by providing visiting nurses. The University of Illinois started its medical school in 1882. Memorial Hospital and Training Center opened in 1897. Smallpox, which afflicted our president, was a subject of concern

died in the Civil War, an incredible loss of life. By the end of the century, the life span of men was 49.5 years; for women, 51. Men's and women's life expectancy has only widened. A boy born in 2018 would expect to live to 76 years and a girl 81 years.

**Illness and Presidential Politics**

Year of birth	Men-years	Women-years
1790	44.1	44.2
1810	38.8	40.2
1850	36.8*	37.1
1890	49.5	51.2
1950	67	72
2018	76	81

\*Civil war mortality: 8% of white men aged 14-33 in 1860

during the Spanish-American War in 1898, when every one of the troops was required to be immunized. The Sangamon County Medical Society began in 1899, Springfield Clinic in 1939, and SIU School of Medicine started in 1970 with its first class graduating in 1973, well over 100 years after Lincoln died.\*\*\*

Our country started with a fairly good life expectancy. Those born in 1790 could expect to live 44 years; men and women lived equally long. However, in the next century our life expectancy fell. Among those born in 1850, men could expect to live 36.8 years and women 37 years. One contributor to the drop in lifespan was the Civil War. Eight percent of white men aged 14-33 in 1860

Lincoln, a Republican, was one of four candidates in 1860. Three Democrats or quasi-Democrats ran against him: John Breckinridge of Kentucky, John Bell of Tennessee, and Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois. Lincoln's vice president was Hannibal Hamlin. Had Lincoln died in 1863 of smallpox (with that 30% mortality rate), he would have been succeeded by Mr. Hamlin, former senator for Maine. Would he have carried on the policies of Lincoln? Possibly. However, suppose Lincoln had not won and Stephen A. Douglas, at one time the favorite, had won. Mr. Douglas died of typhoid three months after the inauguration of Lincoln. His vice-presidential candidate was Herschel Vespasian Johnson, the Governor of Georgia. Thought to be a progressive man, he favored the Union, but he also owned many slaves, and favored states' rights. Had he been elected vice president, he would have assumed the presidency in June 1861, a fateful time in our country to have the former Governor of Georgia, a slave owner, as our president. Breckinridge and Bell would have served an entire presidency had either been elected.

Now one cartoon is always helpful, depicting baseball. Lincoln was the winner; Breckinridge, Douglas, and Bell are left

holding a bat. Breckinridge, by the way, recently was in the news when his statue in Lexington, Kentucky, at the county courthouse was moved to the cemetery because of his association with the south. He left the U.S. Senate for the Confederacy in 1861 and later became general and their secretary of war. In 1864 there were two candidates. Lincoln was assassinated, succeeded by a southerner, Andrew

### DEATH OF GENL Z. TAYLOR



Johnson. The opponent was George McClellan. His running mate was the son-in-law of Francis Scott Key. Both would have lived through their term.

Forty-five people have started the presidency; many have left early. Recall Harrison's early pneumonia. Zachary Taylor died of gastroenteritis after 16 months as president. The death of General Taylor is very instructive. As he lay on his deathbed, his wife, and nine distinguished gentlemen, all physicians, all hopeless and helpless, could do nothing to put Zachary back together. and he died. Even now the

President of the United States does not have nine physicians. Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley, and John F. Kennedy all were assassinated. Other premature terminations included Warren Harding and Franklin Roosevelt because of strokes. Richard Nixon resigned. One who did not leave office but probably should have was Woodrow Wilson, who had an incapacitating stroke with two years left in his second term. However, he was rewarded with his picture on the \$100,000 bill.

What other occupation has an 18% mortality or a 22% failure to complete service? In addition to his medical illnesses, Lincoln was shot at twice. The first attack occurred as he rode his horse up to the summer home on the north side of Washington in 1863. He was also threatened in Baltimore en route to the first inaugural, so he took a different route. Abraham and Mary both suffered from depression. Some speculate that Lincoln had Marfan's syndrome, in part because a photograph of Lincoln seated shows a blurred right foot. Why would it blur while every part of his body is stationary? It might have blurred because he had aortic insufficiency, often seen in Marfan's syndrome with a waterhammer pulse which would cause a prominent bounding of the foot. Other physicians in the 20th century speculated that perhaps he and his mother had multiple endocrine neoplasia. The evidence is very thin, but concern led to convening of an august group of physicians led by Victor McKusick, a famous geneticist from Johns Hopkins, in 1991. They reviewed all the evidence with the thought that they would exhume the body, but finally

concluded that any evidence they might derive would be ambiguous and, therefore, they decided to leave Lincoln alone.

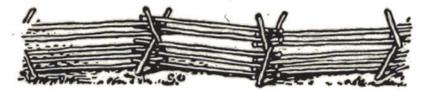
### Conclusion

Our patient recovered from smallpox. He recovered to end slavery, win re-election, and attempt reconstruction of the land with limitless possibilities. Optimism abounded when Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865, but five days later John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln in the occiput, and he died from a brain injury the next day.

We have several take-home points from this exercise.

- Abraham Lincoln and six of his eight first-degree relatives died of preventable causes. Seventy-five percent of Lincoln's own family died of preventable causes.
- Public health matters.
- Choose your vice president wisely.

*Donald Graham is a physician in Springfield, Illinois and an ALA Director.*



## Lincoln People

Sharp-eyed readers of the Summer 2019 issue of the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* may have noticed a change. ALA Secretary James Cornelius has taken over the responsibilities of Editor. Christian McWhirter, who was recently promoted to Lincoln Historian at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, stepped down after six years at the helm. In a resolution of appreciation to McWhirter, the ALA Board recognized that "the *Journal* under his oversight always displayed the best qualities of scholarship, imagination, breadth, and depth."

ALA Director Dan Monroe, associate professor of history and chair of the Department of History and Political Science at Millikin University, has been elected president of the Illinois State Historical Society (ISHS). Dr. Monroe will serve a two-year term as president of



(l-r) James Cornelius, Christian McWhirter, Dan Monroe, Lonnie Bunch

the ISHS. The ISHS was founded in 1899 to support the Illinois State Historical Library and to encourage research and writing on subjects of Illinois history. Monroe was recently named by Governor Pritzker to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, upon approval by the Illinois Senate (see page 2).

Congratulations to Lonnie Bunch on his appointment as the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. He is the first African American to serve as Secretary. Bunch is the founding director of the

National Museum of African American History and Culture and former director of the Chicago History Museum. The first Smithsonian Secretary was Joseph Henry, who became a friend and technical advisor to Abraham Lincoln.

## *Monty and Lincoln: A Field Marshal's Tribute to Lincoln's Presidency*

*By Zita Ballinger Fletcher*

British Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, nicknamed "Monty," became famous for great military achievements during World War II, defeating the Germans in North Africa and leading Allied troops to victory in Europe. He is less known as an admirer of President Abraham Lincoln.

"I think the basic factor in his greatness was that he loved the common man, the man in the street, the people, and dedicated himself to their service," wrote Montgomery of Lincoln. "He wanted nothing for himself, neither riches nor honors." A keen scholar and researcher of the Civil War, Montgomery wrote a tribute to Lincoln in his 1961 book *The Path to Leadership*, in which he analyzed diverse leaders to discern what "makes a man capable of exercising his position at the head of affairs for the good of his fellows." Montgomery dedicated a chapter to examining the success behind Lincoln's Presidency.

Despite criticizing the United States in the postwar era, Montgomery argued that the nation's collapse during the Civil War would have been "a tragedy for all mankind." He praised Lincoln for bringing "the ship of the Union into calm waters so that it could develop into the mighty nation it now is -- the most powerful in the world." Without Lincoln's leadership, Montgomery theorized, America would have "become like Europe, a continent torn with disunity, jealousy, economic rivalry and wars."

Describing Lincoln's rise as President, Montgomery went on, "fate had placed on the shoulders of this lonely man a burden the like of which can seldom have been handed to any man before; it was to test him to the core ... but when the hour came for him to lead the American people, he was

ready." Furthermore, his study indicates that he read much in detail about Lincoln. "He proved a born politician; he could tell amusing stories, he was a student of his fellow men and learnt how to handle audiences, and he was a master at pulling strings," he held. He also explored Lincoln's writings and speeches. "His speeches reveal a deep knowledge of fundamentals.... His mastery of language was a strong factor in his success; for a self-taught man this mastery was remarkable."

Montgomery esteemed Lincoln as a hard worker and a good father. "To me, an interesting feature in his character was the tenderness of his heart," he wrote, citing Lincoln's care for his son Willie. He upheld Lincoln as "utterly selfless," crediting him with "true and noble leadership." He defined Lincoln's conduct as "essentially Christian ... not in any sanctimonious way, but because he reckoned that Christian virtues are democratic virtues too, since they offer men a means of living together in dignity and respect."

As a military scholar, Montgomery was "intensely interested" in Lincoln's management of generals during the war. "All his plans were invariably sound," he wrote. The British commander visited Gettysburg, including the cemetery and the site of Lincoln's address, which he hailed as a "soul-stirring speech."

"Not only did he save the Union; he abolished slavery in America," Montgomery acclaimed. Without Lincoln, "the appalling effort and loss of life of the terrible years of the American Civil War would have been spent in vain."

Montgomery visited numerous countries and met many world leaders. Yet Lincoln merited a prominent place in his treatise on



*Field Marshall Bernard Law Montgomery*

leadership. "So many books have been written about Lincoln...it seems almost an impertinence on my part to write any more about him," he apologized. Yet his respect for Lincoln compelled him to do so. "The Lincoln Memorial in Washington can move me in ways that no other can," he stated. "There sits Abraham Lincoln, with his strong and rugged features, looking towards the Capitol—a noble statue of a noble man, and one of the greatest national leaders of all time."

*Zita Ballinger Fletcher, an author and journalist in Washington, D.C., writes on military history and has published 10 books. Her articles have been published by historical societies in the United States and the United Kingdom.*



*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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# Taking Lessons From Lincoln at the Abraham Lincoln Center for Character Development

By Ron Keller

Abraham Lincoln famously exhibited many admirable character qualities which today are worthy of emulating. The Abraham Lincoln Center for Character Development (ALCCD), located in the Lincoln Heritage Museum at Lincoln College, formed in 2003. The ALCCD is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to being a resource center and national leader for character development initiatives, and to instill and integrate those character values as modeled by Abraham Lincoln into individuals, families, schools, and communities. Originally based in Wheaton, Illinois, the center moved their operations to Lincoln College in 2016.

Ethical values and character remain central to basic education from childhood through college. Most people would agree that



instilling character and virtues at an early age creates adults who are more civil, more compassionate, more honest, and have more integrity. Character is necessary in business, in politics, in families, and in society. Abraham Lincoln provides a model for character building, and the ALCCD is a resource center for character development. The ALCCD emphasizes honesty, empathy,

humility, perseverance, courage, intellect, vision, responsibility, civility, and leadership.

The ALCCD strives to be a national leader in character training and development. The center is exploring avenues to work with people in the business world, political arena, educational centers, and elsewhere to help them model character and incorporate it into what they do in the course of their normal day. The ALCCD has already hosted youth character retreats, has assisted the Looking for Lincoln Coalition with their LEAD Academy, has published articles on Lincoln and character, and has numerous activities and resources compiled on the Center's website.

For more information on the offerings, activities, or resources available at the Abraham Lincoln Center for Character Development, visit the ALCCD website at <https://alccd.lincolncollege.edu>, call 217-735-7295 or e-mail [rkeller@lincolncollege.edu](mailto:rkeller@lincolncollege.edu).

*ALA Director Ron Keller is a Lincoln College professor, director of the Abraham Lincoln Center for Character Development, and author of Lincoln in the Illinois Legislature (2019).*



*Photos: (Left) Student takes notes on one of Lincoln's character traits. (Right) Volunteer provides one-on-one coaching to student at a school retreat conducted by the ALCCD.*

## ALA Endowment Marks Twenty Years

October marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of The Abraham Lincoln Association Endowment Fund. Under the leadership of Robert Eckley—who would later serve as ALA President (2002-2004)—policies and procedures were put into place that would allow ALA to invest gifts for the long term, rather than use them for current operations. Withdrawals from the Fund in any one year may not exceed 4% of the average end-of-year balance for the immediate three years.

Withdrawals may be used to support activities suggested by either ALA members or outside entities. Each proposal is evaluated by the Board's Grants & Sponsorship Committee chaired by David Joens. If approved by that committee, the proposal must be ratified by the ALA Executive Committee before funds are disbursed.

Over recent years, the Endowment has supported a number of

Lincoln-related activities including the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Funeral, a Lincoln press conference in Washington, DC, the Lincoln Legacy Lectures at the University of Illinois Springfield, and support of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln project.

Each year, ALA members and others are invited to add to the Endowment, thanks to the efforts of Richard Hart, chair of the Endowment & Bequests Committee. Over the past twenty years, the Endowment Fund has grown to exceed \$500,000.

Abraham Lincoln wrote, "The struggle of today, is not altogether for today—it is for a vast future also." The Endowment Fund is a means whereby ALA insures its ability to perform its mission of celebrating Lincoln's Birthday, preserving and promoting Lincoln landmarks, and advancing Lincoln scholarship for years to come.

## Mark your Calendar—Upcoming Lincoln Events

**Sangamon County Historical Society**, October 22, 5:30 p.m., “Myth Busting Lincoln’s Assassination,” presented by Timothy S. Good, Superintendent of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site and author of *We Saw Lincoln Shot: One Hundred Eyewitness Accounts*. Carnegie Room North, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

**Lincoln-Douglas Debate Interpretive Center**, October 25, 7:00 p.m., First Annual Rinella Lecture, “Covering the Great Debates: Lincoln, Douglas, the Press, and the Legacy,” presented by Harold Holzer, chairman of the Lincoln Forum and author of *Lincoln and the Power of the Press: The War for Public Opinion*. Mary Ellen Orr Auditorium, John Wood Community College, Quincy, Illinois.

**Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania**, November 19, 10:15 a.m., 156th Anniversary of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, with Michael Beschloss, commentator, historian, and author of *Presidents of War*; George Buss as Lincoln will deliver the famous address. Soldiers’ National Cemetery, Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (The Fellowship’s annual meeting and luncheon will take place at the Wyndham Hotel 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and will feature Gettysburg College professor Kent Gramm). [lincolnfellowship.wildapricot.org/Dedication-Day](http://lincolnfellowship.wildapricot.org/Dedication-Day)

**Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia**, December 3, 11:30 a.m., Luncheon meeting, “Abraham Lincoln as an American Icon,” by Edward Steers, prominent Lincoln historian, expert on the Lincoln assassination, and former president of the Lincoln Group. Maggiano’s-Chevy Chase, 5333 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC. [lincolngroup.org/dec2019.html](http://lincolngroup.org/dec2019.html)

**Friends of the Lincoln Collection**, December 8, 2:00 p.m., “This Hallowed Ground: Abraham Lincoln and the Battlefield Dead,” by Brian Dirck, Professor of History at Anderson University. Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana



### Membership Matters



#### Dear Friends and Members,

We are always thanking our members because you make all things possible. Membership organizations are able to achieve success because of the dues their members pay. In our mission your dues are put to extremely good use.

We are able to publish the ALA Journal and the newsletter, all of this while supporting worthwhile and important projects in the Lincoln world, such as bringing attention to saving the village of New Salem, Lincoln symposia, and numerous other projects.

In the next several weeks membership renewals will be sent out in the mail. If you are able, perhaps you will consider increasing your membership to a higher category.

Each one of you is paramount to the success of the ALA and our mission. As I have said many times, thank you for being a member. We could not exist without your valued and much appreciated support.

**Joseph Garrera**  
Membership Chair

### New ALA Members

**Julie Dailey**  
Springfield, Illinois

**Joseph Gorman**  
Colorado Springs, Colorado



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*Amy Budinger at  
Illinois History Conference*

## *ALA Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium Speakers Announced*

Justin Blandford, chair of ALA's Symposium Committee, announced the lineup for the February 2020 program in Springfield, Illinois.

The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11 at the Old State Capitol. Carl Guarneri, professor of history at St. Mary's College in California, will speak on the topic, "Lincoln's Trusted Informer: The Confidential Reports and Postwar Reminiscences of Charles A. Dana."

On Wednesday, February 12, at 11:00 a.m., two presentations are planned. Manisha Sinha, professor of history at the University of Connecticut, will speak on "Allies for Emancipation: Lincoln and the Abolitionists." She will be followed by Jason Emerson, a writer and historian from upstate New York who has been researching and writing about the Lincoln family

for a quarter century, will speak on "Mary Lincoln For the Ages: Why Lincoln's wife is not the woman we think we know."



*The Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, is the site of ALA's annual symposium, now named in honor of Lincoln's great biographer, Benjamin P. Thomas (Photo: David Blanchette)*

The audience will reassemble at 1:00 p.m. for the Thomas F. Schwartz Luncheon at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. After lunch, William Bartelt, ALA's second vice president, and Joshua Claybourn, an ALA director, will discuss "Lincoln's Youth and the Indiana Lincoln Inquiry." Bartelt is an historian and former teacher at both high school and college levels. Claybourn is an attorney, author, and historian.

The program will conclude with a moderated round-table discussion by all the speakers and a book-signing.

More details will appear in the Winter issue of *For the People*.