The Papers of Abraham Lincoln: Legal Documents and Cases

Dr. Daniel W. Stowell, Director and Editor of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, delivered the following address at a luncheon held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library on April 18, 2008, to formally release the four-volume “The Papers of Abraham Lincoln: Legal Documents and Cases.”

Thank you for your attendance at this event. You honor us, our predecessors, and our collective achievement by your presence here today.

When I was growing up, we sometimes referred to something insignificant as “nothing earth-shaking.” When I awoke this morning at 4:30 to an earthquake here in central Illinois, I thought perhaps we have made a seismic contribution to Lincoln studies after all.

Several of you know more about the history of the Lincoln Legal Papers than I, because you have supported this project from the beginning. For those of you, like myself, who learned about the project somewhat later, a brief review is in order. The Lincoln Legal Papers began in 1985, when I was still an undergraduate at the University of Georgia and our youngest editor was preparing to enter kindergarten. At the urging of the Abraham Lincoln Association, Governor Jim Thompson and the Illinois General Assembly provided funding for the project to begin within the Illinois State Historical Library. Its purpose was to complete the task begun by Roy P. Basler, Marion Dolores Pratt, and Lloyd A. Dunlap in The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln, published in 1953. A monumental achievement and the basis of more than three score years of Lincoln scholarship, the Collected Works omitted legal documents from its scope.

I am only the fourth director of the project, and I am pleased that two of my three predecessors are with us here today, Roger Bridges, who served as director in 1987 and 1988; and Cullom Davis, who directed the project from 1988 through 1999. For nearly a decade, the staff of the Lincoln Legal Papers viewed repositories and county courthouses, assembling the documentary record of Lincoln’s legal career. Back in the office, staff members arranged the documentation into cases, and extracted basic information about each case. The result of this effort was the publication in 2000 of The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln: Complete Documentary Edition on three DVD-ROM discs. This revolutionary form of electronic edition presented facsimile images of more than 96,000 documents, arranged in 5,173 cases and nearly 500 non-litigation activities. The edition went on to win the annual book award from the Abraham Lincoln Institute of the Mid-Atlantic and was a finalist for the eLincoln Prize.

For the past eight years, my colleagues and I have built on this foundation by selecting a small number of cases to represent the breadth and diversity of Lincoln’s law practice. Ultimately, we selected 64 cases arranged in 49 chapters to represent the individual cases that Lincoln handled. Two other chapters follow Lincoln’s activities as he rode the circuit in the Spring of 1842 and the Spring of 1852.

Another chapter focuses on one term in his home court, the Sangamon County Circuit Court. Finally, three chapters deal with topical aspects of Lincoln’s law practice—his “philosophy” of law as revealed in letters of advice and other documents; his work as a temporary court official; and selections from his office practice, legal issues that did not result in litigation.

We modestly believe that The Papers of Abraham Lincoln: Legal Documents and Cases is a treasure trove of primary source material on law and society in Lincoln’s Illinois. Not only do these cases add to our understanding of Abraham Lincoln’s life and career; they open new vistas on antebellum America, with all of its optimism and selfishness, all of its opportunity and inequality, all of its expansive- ness and litigiousness. Such is the environment in which Lincoln practiced law.

The edition contains dozens of stories from Lincoln’s law practice. Here you will find a woman accused of being a prostitute, threatening her social standing and marriagability, and a dark-skinned man described by his brother-in-law as being an African American, endangering his legal status in antebellum Illinois. You will find vigilantes (who destroyed a German-American’s store) motivated by anti-liquor fervor and thinly veiled xenophobia. Other chapters include accusations by former business partners that one withheld assets and even an accusation that Lincoln himself kept profits that rightfully belonged to the estate of his father-in-law Robert Todd. You will find the details of the bankruptcy of a craftsman who worked on the Old State Capitol and later on the Lincolns’ home.

Chapters touch on many aspects of life in antebellum America, including the California Gold Rush; the protection of inventions through patents; the marketing

(Continued on page 2)
of inventions; a host of issues arising from stagecoach, steamboat, and railroad transportation; the support of illegitimate children; the status of slavery in a free state; the role of banks and the use and value of bank notes as currency; the construction of bridges and courthouses; the illegal sale of liquor and the destruction of saloons; and a host of other issues.

For those of you who enjoy fine distinctions on legal matters, we have a case involving the issue of whether the repeal of a repeal of a state statute reinstated the law in its original form. Or you can read about the slight differences between the legal actions of assumpsit and trespass on the case. You may also enjoy a case regarding the issue of when the statute-of-limitations clock began ticking for a litigant from outside of Illinois. The state legislature further complicated this legal issue by changing the law during the period. This case went all the way to the United States Supreme Court, and it was the only case in which Lincoln made oral arguments before that tribunal. He lost.

In these volumes, you can read the story of Jane Davidson, who became pregnant by Richard Bennett, a married physician with six children and a seventh on the way. To obtain child support, Davison sued Bennett; however, a loophole allowed Bennett to escape his responsibility. Normally required to support an illegitimate child for seven years, a father could request custody of the child and, if the mother refused, he was no longer obligated to pay support. The Illinois General Assembly later closed this loophole, but it was too late to aid Jane Davidson.

You can also read the story of Tennessean Micajah Joyner, whose son William died in Mexico of smallpox during the Mexican War. The grieving father was entitled to 160 acres of land as a bounty for his son’s military service. However, Joyner’s congressman defrauded him by selling the bounty certificate to a Washington broker who sold it to Daniel Bowen. Bowen used the certificate to claim land in Illinois. After Joyner learned of the fraud, he sued Bowen in the federal court in Illinois. Lincoln and Herndon represented Bowen, who declared that he knew nothing about the fraud. Although the court agreed that Bowen was innocent of fraud, it ordered him to pay Joyner the value of the land when he first settled on it plus interest.

There are literally dozens of these stories in cases throughout the four volumes. The cast of characters includes a woman and her two sons who stole fruit trees from a neighbor; a simple-minded fellow who stole two left shoes, got drunk, and then sold his land at half its value before fleeing town for fear of being arrested for stealing the shoes; a father who sued the man who got his daughter pregnant; and the Illinois Secretary of State who refused to turn over a bill to the official public printers because the governor had signed it by mistake.

We even have a wicked stepfather in the mix. He tried to defraud his stepdaughter of her inheritance after her mother died. After the stepdaughter grew up and got married, she and her husband hired a local attorney and Abraham Lincoln to sue her stepfather. After a long and complex legal battle that went three times to the Illinois Supreme Court, the land returned to her heirs; both she and her stepfather died before the case was finally resolved.

Although many of the cases are largely unknown, you will find some famous cases from Lincoln’s law practice, including In re Bryant et al., People v. Armstrong, and Hurd et al. v. Rock Island Bridge Company, all more commonly known by their nicknames—the Matson Slave Case, the Almanac Trial, and the Effie Afton Case, respectively. In these chapters we have assembled authoritative transcriptions of the major documents in the cases, so readers can judge for themselves the importance and merits of each of these cases.

The characters in these legal dramas have become familiar to us on the staff, and we all have our heroes and villains. I will not trouble you with the details of the process that produced these volumes, but I can assure you that we checked and rechecked every transcription and every citation. Despite our best efforts, a few errors likely remain, but please observe Abraham Lincoln’s advice to his friends in 1849 when he failed to obtain a job he wanted: “I hope my good friends everywhere will approve the appointment of Mr. B. [or the publication of our edition] in so far as they can, and be silent when they can not.”

We are often asked how the Lincoln Legal Papers has changed our understanding of Lincoln’s law practice and of Abraham Lincoln himself. It is a fair question and deserves a thoughtful answer. Our work confirms some earlier assessments with more substantial documentation, refines other details, and provides a fuller picture of Lincoln the lawyer at work.

The first aspect of note is the sheer volume of Lincoln’s law practice. We discovered evidence of more than 5,200 cases that Lincoln and his partners handled, including 411 cases that made their way to the Illinois Supreme Court, 345 cases in the federal courts, and even one that made it all the way to the United States Supreme Court, where he offered oral arguments during his single term in Congress. He was the attorney of record in four more cases before the United States Supreme Court. We found all of these materials despite the loss of significant groups of records. The Chicago fire of 1871 destroyed federal cases files,
and courthouse fires in Logan and McLean Counties consumed records in these counties where Lincoln practiced frequently on the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Finally, the loss of common law and criminal case files in Sangamon County, Lincoln’s home venue, deprived us of even more documentation.

We have also been struck by the importance of Lincoln’s appellate practice. He was, in many respects, a “lawyer’s lawyer.” Other lawyers from around the state referred cases to him to try in the Illinois Supreme Court. He also handled a large number of cases in the federal courts, because his practice was in the capital, where the federal courts met.

Over the course of this project, we have discovered a number of unique documents. My colleague Susan Krause discovered the longest legal document in Lincoln’s hand, a 43-page answer in the case of Clark and Morrison v. Page and Bacon. After turning page after page of this document, all written in Lincoln’s hand, she came to the last page and discovered that someone had razored out Lincoln’s signature from the last page.

Perhaps more interesting is a 101-page verbatim transcript of a murder trial in 1859 here in Sangamon County. In the trial of People v. Harrison, Lincoln represented “Peachy” Quinn Harrison, and the transcript includes dramatic testimony by Peter Cartwright that Greek Crafton, the victim, made a dying declaration forgiving Harrison. Of the 5,200 cases that we have discovered, only three have anything approaching a modern court transcript, with lawyers’ questions and witnesses’ answers. This document is the only one from a county circuit court. The others all come from the federal courts and involve substantial economic interests. The jury found Harrison not guilty.

We have even located new documents from familiar trials. Reminiscences form the basis for much that we know about the case of People v. Armstrong. We now have two dozen reminiscences about this famous trial. We see Lincoln’s defense plan at work in a combination of these reminiscences. He chose a young jury who would sympathize with Armstrong. He used scientific evidence—an almanac—to discredit key prosecution witness Charles Allen regarding what he saw by the light of the moon. He also used scientific evidence in support of the defense in the testimony of Dr. Charles Parker, who used a human skull to demonstrate that a blow to the back of the head could have caused injury in the front of the skull. He used powerful logic in the jury instructions that he proposed; someone else—James Norris—had already been convicted of manslaughter, and unless the jury believed Norris and Armstrong had worked together, they should acquit Armstrong. He also used an emotional appeal in his final summation to jurors, recounting his earlier relationship with the Armstrong family when he had been young, poor, and friendless. Different reminiscences focus on different aspects of Lincoln’s overall strategy; together, they demonstrate the thoroughness of his approach.

Finally, we have been impressed with Lincoln’s growth as an attorney. The documents yield a picture more complicated than the “country lawyer to corporate lawyer” myth. He did scramble for cases early in his career, and he could be more selective later in his career as his reputation grew. However, he never became a strictly corporate lawyer. He represented and sued railroads in the 1850s, but he also handled routine debt cases. He earned his living as an attorney by making small sums from many cases rather than large sums from few cases.

We have found that the documents of Lincoln’s law practice provide a fascinating window on ante-bellum America. The first overwhelming fact is the prevalence of debt cases. In Lincoln’s caseload, 3,145 cases involved debt in some way, more than 60 percent of his total cases. We learned that promissory notes even circulated as a form of currency in cash-poor ante-bellum Illinois. In these cases, we also find family squabbles, including divorce, inheritance, and child custody suits. We find cases dealing with community relations, including slander. Finally, we found somewhat surprisingly that women had real agency in courts. Though they were far from being treated equal, women did participate in the legal process. Not as lawyers, judges, or jurors, but as litigants, witnesses, deponents, and observers. Although it was no egalitarian paradise for women, the court system of ante-bellum Illinois treated women in a paternalistic rather than a patriarchal way.

Finally, we see evidence of the influence of his law practice on Abraham Lincoln the President. Virtually all of Lincoln’s Cabinet members were lawyers. Most people know that Secretary of State William H. Seward and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton were attorneys. One would also naturally expect his Attorneys General, Edward Bates and James Speed, to be lawyers. However, all three of Lincoln’s Secretaries of the Treasury—Salmon P. Chase, William P. Fessenden, and Hugh McCullough—were attorneys, as were both of his Secretaries of the Interior—Caleb B. Smith and John P. Usher. Both Postmasters General—Montgomery Blair
and William Dennison—were lawyers. Although Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles was a publisher, he had studied law as a young man. Only Simon Cameron, Lincoln’s first and short-lived Secretary of War, had no legal training.

Because his Cabinet consisted almost entirely of lawyers, Lincoln often asked the opinion of his Cabinet in the form of interrogatories. A few examples:

Ft. Sumter (March 15, 1861)
“Assuming it to be possible to now provision Fort-Sumter, under all the circumstances, is it wise to attempt it? Please give me your opinion, in writing, on this question.”

Statehood for West Virginia (December 23, 1862)
“I respectfully ask of each you, an opinion in writing, on the following questions, to wit:

1st. Is the said Act constitutional? 2nd. Is the said Act expedient?”

Ft. Pillow (May 3, 1864)
“It is now quite certain that a large number of our colored soldiers, with their white officers, were by the rebel force, massacred after they had surrendered, at the recent capture of Fort Pillow. So much is known, though the evidence is not yet quite ready to be laid before me. Meanwhile, I will thank you to prepare, and give me in writing, your opinion as to what course the Government should take in the case.”

I began my presentation by noting that the original impetus for the project was to complete work left undone by the editors of the Collected Works. With the publication we celebrate today, that mission is accomplished. Should we then rest on our success and declare it a job well done? Yes, and no. This publication does conclude the work of what began as the Lincoln Legal Papers, and the current issue of our newsletter, The Lincoln Legal Briefs, will be our last.

However, in 2001, the trustees of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency approved our transformation into the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. Rather than the conclusion of the Collected Works, the Lincoln Legal Papers thus became Series I of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. We are now busily at work on Series II: Illinois Papers and Series III: Presidential Papers of this larger project. Although the Collected Works has supported decades of scholarship on Lincoln, its limitations have become apparent. The lack of incoming correspondence, sparse annotation, and sixty years of additional scholarship and discovery now limit that edition’s usefulness.

The Papers of Abraham Lincoln will replace the Collected Works with a modern, comprehensive edition of Lincoln’s papers that will include incoming correspondence and documents newly discovered. It will provide authoritative transcriptions and contextual annotations to allow researchers to understand the documents. Perhaps most importantly, it will be freely available over the Internet, with all of the searchability and access options that come with electronic publication.

Over the past three years, my colleagues and I have traveled to 336 repositories and private collections in 45 states to identify and scan documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln. We have visited repositories with hundreds of documents and repositories with one document. By capturing high-resolution color scans and bringing them to Springfield, we have digital images from which to prepare very accurate transcriptions.

We have teams of researchers working at the Library of Congress and the National Archives. The former has more than 20,000 documents within the project’s scope, and the National Archives has tens of thousands of documents, scattered among millions from the Civil War era.

When it is complete, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln will provide to people worldwide free access to the writings of Abraham Lincoln. Continuing the tradition begun with the electronic edition of Lincoln’s legal papers, this edition will pioneer new ways of searching and exhibiting rich historical content. It will be one of the lasting Lincoln bicentennial legacies of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Finally, it will be the foundation for decades of new studies of Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War, and America in the nineteenth century.

Now that I have given you an overview of where we have been, what we learned along the way, and where we are going, let me conclude by acknowledging some of those who have helped us get there. First, I want to introduce to you the editors who have brought you The Papers of Abraham Lincoln: Legal Documents and Cases. It has been my honor and my privilege to lead this talented and dedicated team of historians. Five assistant editors did the bulk of the work in preparing individual case presentations.

Susan Krause joined the Lincoln Legal Papers in 1991 and, unfortunately for us, retired last year.

John A. Lupton worked with the project intermittently from 1991 to 1993 and became a full-time employee in 1993. He is now the Associate Director of the project and an Associate Editor.

Stacy Pratt McDermott came to the project permanently in 1996 and remains a vital member of the editorial staff.

Christopher A. Schnell served as a graduate assistant in 1993 before joining the staff later that year. He remains a key member of the editorial staff.

Dennis E. Suttles became a researcher with the project in 1990 and remained
(Continued from page 4)

until the presidential library “stole him away” in 2004.

Kelley B. Clausing began work on this edition as our graduate assistant in 2002 by doing much of the tedious work of checking our footnotes for accuracy and completeness. After completing her master’s degree, she joined the editorial staff in 2003.

Dan Monroe joined the staff for one year as an NHPRC editing fellow.

These are the editors who have made this edition possible. Please join me in congratulating them.

One more member of the staff deserves special mention. Carmen Morgan, our indefatigable secretary and office manager, has been with the project a few months longer than I. For twelve years, she has cheerfully answered the phone, greeted visitors, managed the details of the office, remembered our birthdays, encouraged the frustrated, soothed the offended, and generally kept us all working together harmoniously. I have often told her that her earlier career in providing daycare for preschoolers prepared her perfectly for her work here. Thank you, Carmen.

Outside of the immediate staff, two others deserve special mention. My predecessor as director, Cullom Davis, assembled the team that brought the Complete Documentary Edition to publication and that I inherited for work on the selective print edition. After his retirement in 1999, Cullom continued to serve as a consulting editor and currently serves as a member of the Editorial Board of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. Thank you, Cullom.

Illinois State Historian Tom Schwartz has supported this project for decades. He has tirelessly advocated the merits of the Lincoln Legal Papers, and when we proposed to expand the project in 2001, he quickly became one of our most vocal and effective champions. I would even venture to say that without the support of Tom Schwartz, we would today be celebrating the conclusion of the Lincoln Legal Papers, rather than a milestone in the ongoing success of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln. Thank you, Tom.

Several institutions and organizations form the core of support for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln (and for the Lincoln Legal Papers before it). Most important is the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. I have had the pleasure of working with three directors—Susan Mogerman, Maynard Crossland, and Bob Coomer—and I am pleased to welcome Jan Grimes as the newest director of the IHPA. The trustees of the IHPA have also been very supportive of this project throughout the years, especially Chair Julie Cellini.

Since its inception just a few years ago, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has been a constant source of support and encouragement. Director Rick Beard has consistently shown an interest in our work and its contributions to the larger world of scholarship and to the exhibits and programs of the museum. We work closely with the entire staff here at the Presidential Library, and I am pleased to present copies of the edition to James Cornelius, the curator of the Lincoln Collection, and Kathryn Harris, the director of Library Services, for use by patrons in each of those divisions.

The Abraham Lincoln Association has been an advocate for the Lincoln Legal Papers from the very beginning. From urging the governor and the general assembly to start such a project to purchasing the project’s first computer to making annual appeals to its membership for financial support of the project, the ALA has aided in many ways, large and small. I would like to ask Richard Hart, the current president of the ALA, to come forward and accept a copy of the edition in recognition of the ALA’s years of support.

The project’s other co-sponsor, since 1988, has been the University of Illinois at Springfield, and specifically the Center for State Policy and Leadership. Under various names over the years, a component of the University has supported the project financially and provided a mechanism through which to hire both temporary and permanent staff. I would ask Tony Halter, the current director of the Center for State Policy and Leadership at UIS, to come forward and accept a copy of the edition on behalf of the University.

On a personal note, I want to thank my wife Miriam for encouraging this cranky husband of hers. She has listened to all of the war stories, shared the frustrations and triumphs, and cared for our four children on my frequent research and conference travels. She has been my constant supporter and best friend for twenty years.

There are others here who have long and consistently aided our project both financially and professionally, and we thank you for that encouragement and support. We trust you will be pleased with the fruits of our collective efforts.

Thank you all for joining us this afternoon. I hope that I have piqued your curiosity to learn more about Lincoln’s law practice and the people, events, and issues that contributed to it.

Thank you.
OAK RIDGE CEMETERY WALK TO FEATURE GRAVES OF FOUR ALA LEADERS

By Nancy Chapin, ALA Board Member and President of the Sangamon County Historical Society

The Sangamon County Historical Society will hold its 12th annual “Echoes of Yesteryear” cemetery walk at Oak Ridge Cemetery, 1440 Monument Ave., Springfield, Illinois on Sunday, October 5, 2008, beginning at Noon. The last tour of the day starts at 3:15. A parking area will be available in the cemetery, with a trolley taking visitors to the start of the walk and back again.

This year the walk is commemorating the 100th anniversaries of both the Abraham Lincoln Association (originally named the Lincoln Centennial Commission) and the 1908 race riots in Springfield with four individuals representing each. The four ALA leaders (or family members) who will be featured are:

Mary D. Hay: Eldest daughter of Logan (1871-1942) and Lucy Hay tells about her father, a lawyer, businessman and community activist, and first President of the Abraham Lincoln Association where he is known for being responsible for its revitalization and turning its focus to research and publishing.

Melinda Jones Bunn: Devoted wife of George “Gib” W. Bunn, Jr. (1890-1973), who was a banker, writer, community activist, and second president of the Abraham Lincoln Association, where he was instrumental in the publication of the Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. William Jayne (1826-1916): The son of Springfield’s first physician, four-time mayor, and friend of Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Jayne was the only founding member of the Lincoln Centennial Association who also attended Lincoln’s first inauguration.


The ALA will have a table in the “Historama,” a special area where historical organizations set up tables to display their literature for display and sale. The Prairieland Dulcimers will provide music and the Springfield International Folk Dancers will dance. A wonderful concession will offer popcorn, cookies, and cider.

John Y. Simon

John Y. Simon was a long time Director of the Abraham Lincoln Association. We asked John A. Lupton, Director and Associate Editor of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln and former Simon student and friend, to remember him.

Dr. John Y. Simon, one of the nation’s foremost Civil War historians, died on July 8, 2008, in Carbondale, Illinois, at the age of 75.

Dr. Simon was a graduate of Swarthmore College and received his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He came to Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1964, compiling and editing the Papers of Ulysses S. Grant. He has published thirty volumes of Grant’s papers, with the thirty-first and final volume forthcoming. Simon was the recognized founding father of the Association for Documentary Editing, and many in the profession looked to him for guidance and advice in the editing of their own subjects. Dr. Simon is the reason I’m employed in the field of documentary editing. As a graduate student at SIUC, I told him I wanted to be a Lincoln scholar, and he told me to leave SIU and go to Sangamon State to get a job with the Lincoln Legal Papers. I took his advice, and it turned out quite well for me, and I’m certainly not the only one to benefit from his wisdom.

Simon also was a nationally recognized authority on Abraham Lincoln, authoring many books and articles on the sixteenth president, the Civil War, and Illinois History. He also won numerous awards, most notably the Lincoln Prize, for his lifetime of service to publishing Grant’s words.

He is survived by his wife Harriet, a daughter, and two grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at Shryock Auditorium on the campus of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale on Sunday, August 24, at 1 p.m.
PRESIDENT LINCOLN PRESS CONFERENCES: THE 2008 TOUR

Last October, the ALA sponsored an Abraham Lincoln Presidential Press Conference at the Old State Capitol in Springfield. President Abraham Lincoln (portrayed by George Buss) in a modern-day press conference responded to questions from the local media and the audience concerning important events of his presidency. Lincoln’s Press Secretary (ALA Vice President Robert Lenz) was brilliant in shielding the President from the questions of several hostile members of the press. It was a tremendous success.

This Fall, you will have two opportunities to see this team in action on the road—at Ravinia in Highland Park and at the Pettengill-Morron House in Peoria.

RAVINIA
“Lawn of Lincoln Day”
Martin Theater, Highland Park, Illinois

3:00 p.m. Sunday, September 7, 2008

Robert Lenz as Press Secretary and George Buss as President Lincoln.

Free admission. Suggested donation: nonperishable food and books for pre-k—8th grade students.

We thank ALA Board Member Daniel Weinberg and Lincoln friend, Welz Kaufman, President of Ravinia, for their work in arranging for the Lincoln Press Conference at Ravinia’s Lawn of Lincoln Day.
Information: www.ravinia.org

PEORIA
Peoria Historical Society
Pettengill-Morron House Museum
1212 W Moss Avenue

5:30 p.m. October 16, 2008

Pettengill-Morron House
Peoria, Illinois

The ALA and the Peoria Historical Society invite you to a Lincoln Presidential Press Conference at the historic Pettengill-Morron House Museum. The house was built by Lincoln’s friend, Moses Pettengill in 1868 in the Second Empire style. The museum contains a collection of objects from several Peoria families, including period antiques and a priceless collections of china, silver, and crystal.
Information: www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org

JUDGE SAMUEL H. TREAT MONUMENT DEDICATED AT OAK RIDGE CEMETERY

For a number of years, ALA Board members Judge Richard Mills and Daniel Stowell have dreamed of a monument to properly mark the unmarked Oak Ridge Cemetery burial site of Judge Samuel Hubbel Treat. Treat was a Lincoln friend and an important early Illinois lawyer and judge. His marker was to be a coequal of the magnificent markers of the Judge’s contemporaries buried near him—a tall obelisk. The Illinois Bar Foundation led fundraising efforts. Last fall the ALA offered to contribute $2,500 to the Foundation as a challenge grant to the lawyer golfers at the Illinois Bar Association’s fall outing. It worked. The final money needed was raised, the monument was ordered and on June 20, 2008, the dream came true—a beautiful monument was dedicated, with remarks by Judge Mills to a group of about 40 people who attended. “God speed from Mr. Lincoln’s Prairie.”
DAY BY DAY

CALENDAR OF COMING ALA EVENTS

September 7, 2008
3:00  Lincoln Press Conference, George Buss as Lincoln.
     Martin Theater, Ravinia, Highland Park, Illinois.

October 16, 2008
5:30  Lincoln Press Conference, George Buss as Lincoln.
     Pettengill-Morron House Museum,
     1212 W Moss Ave., Peoria, Illinois.

October 5, 2008
Noon to 4:30  Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk
            Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield
            Featuring graves of four ALA leaders.

October 10, 2008
3:00  ALA Board of Directors Meeting and Dinner,
     Alumni Room, Old Main, Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois

October 11, 2008
9:30  Lincoln Colloquium, Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois
     deptorg.knox.edu/newsarchive/lincoln-colloquium-08.pdf

February 11, 2009
2:00  ALA Executive Committee Meeting,
     ALA Lyceum, Old State Capitol

5:30-7:00  ALA and Illinois Bicentennial Commission Reception
          and Opening of Lincoln In Illinois, Atrium, ALPL

February 12, 2009
10:00  ALA Board of Directors Meeting, Old State Capitol, Springfield

1:00-4:00  Roundtable With the Lincoln Authors,
          Hall of Representatives, Old State Capitol, Springfield

5:00-6:00  ALA and Illinois Bicentennial Commission Endowment Reception and

6:00  Lincoln Day Banquet, 205th Anniversary of Lincoln’s Birth
     Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield