



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 4

WINTER 2009

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

HAROLD HOLZER 2010 BANQUET SPEAKER

Richard E. Hart

GOOD-BYE, BICENTENNIAL

After February 12, 2009, many Lincoln aficionados took a deep breath and secretly thought, "Thank goodness that is over." But it was only the beginning of the many Bicentennial celebrations of Lincoln's birth. The annual ALA banquet in Springfield on February 12, 2010, will mark the conclusion of that year. Then you may take a deep breath.

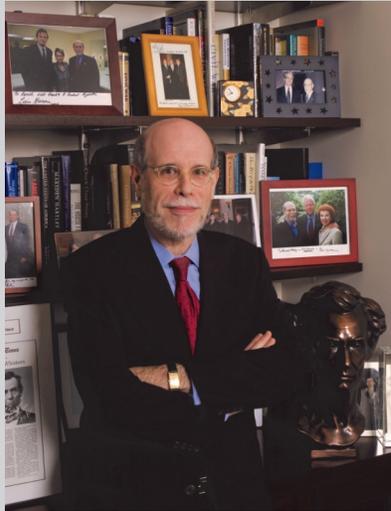
HELLO, SESQUICENTENNIAL

But take your deep breath quickly, as there is little time between the Bicentennial's conclusion and the beginning of the five-year Sesquicentennial of Lincoln's Presidency. On November 6, 2010, we will observe the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's election to the Presidency and the beginning of a five-year Sesquicentennial commemoration of his Presidency.

We are pleased that our friend and former Board member Harold Holzer will be our 2010 banquet speaker. Harold is well known in the Lincoln community and is the perfect segue from the Bicentennial to the Sesquicentennial. He is one of three co-chairs of the U.S. Bicentennial Commission and the author of the splendid recently published *Lincoln President-Elect*.

As we say a fond good-bye to the Bicentennial, and what a Bicentennial it has been, we look forward to the many future events that will commemorate and celebrate Lincoln's election and ensuing Presidency.

Information on the 2010 symposium and reservations for the banquet and luncheon may be found in this issue. Please make your plans to attend these 2010 events as soon as possible.



HAROLD HOLZER

Harold Holzer, Senior Vice President for External Affairs at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, serves also as co-chairman of the U. S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, appointed by President Clinton. He is the author, co-author, or editor of 33 books and more than 425 articles on Lincoln and the Civil War era. Among them are *The Lincoln Image*, *The Confederate Image*, *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates*, *Lincoln as I Knew Him*, *Dear Mr. Lincoln: Letters to the President*, *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory: The Civil War in Art*, *The Lincoln Family Album*, *Lincoln on Democracy* (co-edited with Mario Cuomo), which has been published in four languages, and *Lincoln at Cooper Union: The Speech that Made Abraham Lincoln President*, which won a 2005 Lincoln Prize.

Holzer has won research and writing awards from the Illinois State Historical Society, the Manuscript Society, the Civil War Round Tables of New York and Chicago, and the Lincoln Groups of New York, Peekskill, and Washington. In 2008 he was awarded the National Hu-

manities Medal by President Bush.

His latest books are *The Lincoln Anthology* (2009), a Library of America collection featuring 150 years of great writers on the subject of Abraham Lincoln; *In Lincoln's Hand* (2009), a Library of Congress book featuring Lincoln's original manuscripts with commentary by distinguished Americans; and *Lincoln President-Elect: Abraham Lincoln and the Great Secession Winter 1860-1861* (2008), which won the Baroness/Lincoln Award and the Award of Achievement of the Lincoln Group of New York. The latter book opens with a fitting overture to the Sesquicentennial of Lincoln's Presidency:

The cannon salvo that thundered over Springfield, Illinois, to greet the sunrise on November 6, 1860, signaled not the start of a battle, but the end of one. The bitter, raucous, and exhilarating six-month-long campaign for president of the United States was over at last. Election Day was finally dawning.

Ignited to rouse the Republican faithful to the polls that morning, the explosions were soon augmented by other "manifestations of popular feeling" designed to "enliven" the city. Crowds of boisterous partisans took up positions outside the city's one and only polling place and began a long day devoted to shouting each other. Providing clamorous accompaniment were bands of musicians parading through the streets aboard horse-drawn wagons, giving ear-shattering performances while waving banners like the one that proclaimed, "A Home President for Springfield." There was little danger that Abraham Lincoln's hometown would slumber through this decisive day of days.

Holzer and his wife, Edith, who live in Rye, New York, have two grown daughters and a grandson.

CHRISTOPHER SMITH GERMAN GRAVE MARKER DEDICATED

The Abraham Lincoln Association has placed a grave marker at the previously unmarked grave of Lincoln photographer Christopher Smith German. On the rather chilly late afternoon of October 2, 2009, members of the Abraham Lincoln Association Board and guests gathered at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield to dedicate the marker. After brief remarks by President Richard E. Hart, Dr. James M. Cornelius, Curator, Lincoln Collection, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, gave remarks highlighting German's life. The dedication ended with a blessing by board member Dr. Stewart Winger. Dr. Cornelius's remarks follow.

Good afternoon, and thank you for attending today. In the next few minutes I will attempt to give you a snapshot of the life and work of C. S. German, whose mortal remains lie here.

Yet the life of Christopher Smith German is not so well captured in a snapshot or photograph, as it could be deemed a moving picture. Wayne Temple documented his itinerant life in an article in the Illinois State Historical Society's magazine *Illinois Heritage* in July 2006. German was born in Canada on Christmas Day, 1814, to a family of Loyalists, that is, British colonists who fled to Canada during the Revolution rather than live under American rule. He concealed this fact for most of his life, admitting it to a census taker only in 1880, at the age of 65. Here in Springfield in 1860, we think, he married an Irish-American woman who seems not to have been monogamous in her habits. He divorced her and then at the age of 49 married a 21-year-old woman with a young child. They went on to have five children together.

Nor was German's professional life quite settled. Evidently he was most active in Springfield from about 1858 to 1873, between the two economic crashes of that era, when people had money for his craft, and he moved about. He seems to have had at least three different partners in a year or two, was operating two or three different studios at the same time at points during the Civil War, and may have really made his historical mark when Senate candidate Abraham Lincoln



Photograph of the Board of Directors and Friends at German Dedication

seems to have stopped in to have his photograph taken by German; that was in September 1858. More certainly, German's name was made when he took over an existing studio on the west side of the square just in time for president-elect Abraham Lincoln to patronize him, possibly for the second time. That was in January 1861. One image exists from each of these sittings. Mr. Lincoln came back three weeks later and sat again, this time for what seems to have been two distinct poses. Nor had Lincoln's face or self-regard been stable in that period. For he had begun to grow a beard. German was the second photographer, and apparently the only one from Springfield, to have captured the New Look Lincoln through the miracle of chemically sensitized glass, and he captured him at his most hirsute, before age and cares had taken their toll. Both men were, after all, in their different ways, artists and scientists. We do not expect them to have kept steady habits or unchanging views.

And both of them did well: photographs were popular and fairly cheap, and German must have worked hard. He bought a couple of buildings very near the Public Square during the Civil War, paying a

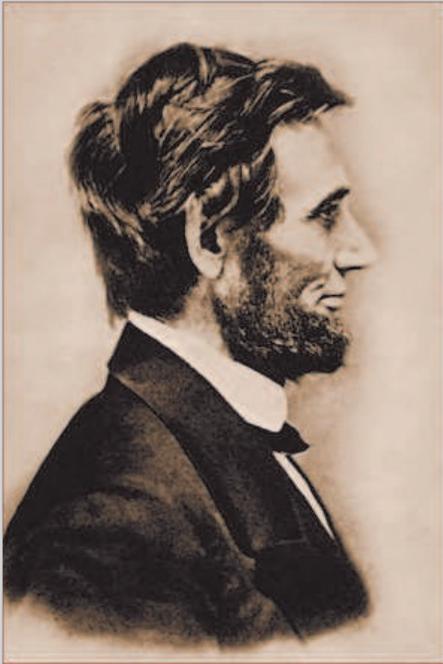
total of \$12,000. To put that figure into context, Lincoln as one of the better-paid lawyers was making something roughly around \$6 to \$8,000 a year in the late 1850s, and was making \$25,000 a year as president.

German had a few other partners in later years, and some of his children began helping in the store at his original site, above Chatterton's Jewelry Store, on the west side of the square. This occurred after his return to Springfield after an apparent six-year absence in the 1870s. His wife died in 1878, and he continued to work there, as well as live there, and finally die there. That was in 1896, when he was 81 years old. He was buried from the Methodist Church, and all six of his pallbearers were fellow photographers — marveling, perhaps, at how German had not succumbed to mercury poisoning at a younger age, as many in his profession did.

What kind of fame ought to attend such a man? He scrambled a bit in early life, galloped along in what Lincoln was wont to call "the race of life," absented himself

(Continued on page 3)

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Abraham Lincoln, Christopher Smith German photograph, Springfield, February 9, 1861. Believed to be the last portrait of Lincoln before he left for Washington to be inaugurated President of the United States.

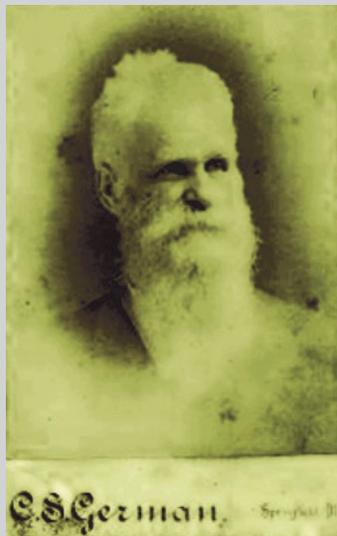
for a time for unknown reasons during a very hard time in the national economy, and finally seems to have found some peace in his life and work. The scores of portraits of people he snapped, of those images remaining today, that is, look resolute, sometimes cheerful; but nearly all must have gone away happy, for in such a changing and competitive business, German managed to keep at it over a span of 36 years.

As a coda to that portrait, let me describe a photo that has recently come to hand for the Presidential Library. It was taken, by all the evidence we have, in 1864 by Capt. W. B. M. Colt, who seems to have been one of German's early trainees. It shows a sturdy, even dour, woman of middle age. Penciled on to the back is the name Mrs. Riepstine. I examined 15 Springfield city directories over a span of 27 years and found 13 listings of that household. The surname is spelled four different ways in identifying the man who was presumably her husband, Jacob, and none of these is spelled the way it is spelled on the c.d.v. of his wife.

Jacob had six different professions in that period – night watchman, saloon, stonemason, soldier, e.g. – and the directories imply

that he was out of town for a spell in the 1870s – as was the case with our friend C.S. German. Their daughter Adeline, also called Ada, is listed a couple of times, as a watchmaker at the Illinois Watch Company; so is their daughter Ida. One learns that the first name of Mrs. Riepstine was Catherine not because Jacob was out of town and thus was listed in the directory, but because the State and Federal censuses record her name. Such was the custom in directories in those days, and often today as well, for a married woman to be omitted while an unmarried adult daughter is included. Those censuses, by the way, contribute a sixth variant spelling; and when Jacob died in 1894 (a year before German did), the directory gave him a seventh spelling.

So here is what photographers have done for us: we probably have four photos of Lincoln, one of the great figures of all time, and one photo of Catherine Riepstine, who was of no interest to the recorders of city directories and minimal interest to census-takers. She was an immigrant, like German, captured on paper by someone whom German might have taught. She and her husband apparently taught their daughter well enough to work at a skilled trade, though Jacob had the barest of skills, and we do not know what skills or trade Catherine had beyond the obvious guess of 'housekeeping.' Her presence is vanishingly small. Yet she walked into the same door that Abraham Lincoln did, three years



Sources:

Richard E. Hart, *Springfield, Illinois' Nineteenth Century Photographers (1845-1900)* (Springfield, Ill.: R.E. Hart, 2005), pp. 64, 68, 102-112.
Charles Hamilton and Lloyd Ostendorf, *Lincoln's Photographs: A Complete Album* (Dayton, OH: Rockywood Press, 1998), pp. 383, 394-395.



Dr. James M. Cornelius delivering remarks at the dedication of a grave marker for Christopher Smith German at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois, on October 2, 2009.

later, and was captured for all time in the same manner. Photography was and is a democratic pursuit, whether your sympathies be Loyalist, Tory, Whig, Democrat, or Republican.

Lincoln Collection Opens in New Fort Wayne Home

The cherished Lincoln collection formerly housed at the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne has a new Indiana home. The research collection is now housed at the Allen County Public Library at 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne Indiana. The collection includes more than 20,000 books and pamphlets, thousands of 19th-century photographs, manuscript collections, maps, Civil War diaries and letters, newspapers, and Lincoln-related documents—including about 340 written or signed by Lincoln. In addition, the extensive subject files of newspaper clippings, correspondence, and other materials comprise a trove of information available nowhere else.

The books and pamphlets in the collection have been added to the Allen County Public Library online catalog (www.acpl.info). The entire collection is now accessible for research by appointment Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To make an appointment or to inquire about reference services, contact Jgastineau@acpl.info or Cvanhorn@acpl.info.

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The Abraham Lincoln Association

invites you to attend

Abraham Lincoln's 201st Birthday Celebration

February 12, 2010
Crowne Plaza Hotel
3000 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois

ENDOWMENT FUND RECEPTION

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Ballroom Reception Room
Tickets: \$75 per person

RECEPTION AND BANQUET

RECEPTION

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Ballroom Lobby

BANQUET

7:00 p.m.
Ballroom

Presiding: Richard E. Hart
President, The Abraham Lincoln Association
Tickets: \$85 per person

Tickets for these events are available by calling
866-865-8500 or emailing maryshepherd.ala@gmail.com.

Complimentary round-trip transportation will be provided
between downtown hotels and the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

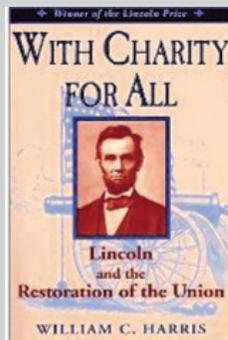
LINCOLN'S CRITICS

The 2010 ALA Symposium will feature three noted Lincoln scholars. The event will be held in the Hall of Representatives in the Old State Capitol beginning at 1:00 p.m. on February 12, 2010.

William C. Harris



William C. Harris, Professor Emeritus of History at North Carolina State University, is an award-winning scholar who has authored ten books on Civil War and Reconstruction topics. He was the recipient of the Lincoln Prize in 1998 for his book *With Charity for All: Lincoln and the Restoration of the Union*. He has written extensively on Lincoln and the Civil War era.

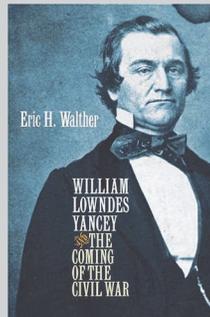


Other titles by Harris include *The Day of the Carpetbagger: Republican Reconstruction in Mississippi*; *William Woods Holden: Firebrand of North Carolina Politics*; and *Lincoln's Last Months* (awarded the Abraham Lincoln Institute Award for best book in 2004).

Eric H. Walther



Eric H. Walther is associate Professor of History at the University of Houston. His most recent book is *William Lowndes Yancey and the Coming of the Civil War* (2006), a biography of the South's leading secessionist.

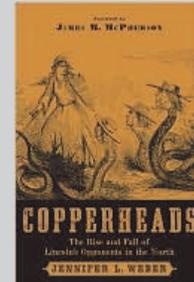


Dr. Walther is the author of three books and numerous articles and book reviews. *The Shattering of the Union: America in the 1850s* won a Choice Magazine book award in 2004. His biography of the foremost leader of secession, *William Lowndes Yancey and the Coming of the Civil War*, was published by the University of North Carolina Press in the spring of 2006 and has received the James Rawley Award from the Southern Historical Association and the Jefferson Davis Award from the Museum of the Confederacy.

Jennifer L. Weber



Jennifer L. Weber is assistant Professor of History at the University of Kansas. She is the author of *Copperheads: The Rise and Fall of Lincoln's Opponents in the North* (2006). This work on antiwar Democrats in the Civil War North, was published in 2006 by Oxford University Press.



Dr. Weber is a native Californian who received her M.A. and Ph.D. from Princeton, an M.A. from California State University, Sacramento, and a B.S. from Northwestern.

Her principal interest is the Civil War, especially the seams where political, social, and military history come together. Other fields that attract her include 19th-century America and war and society.

She is currently working on a children's book about the battle of Gettysburg, to be published by *National Geographic*; a collection of essays in honor of her graduate adviser, James M. McPherson, to be published by the University of Virginia Press; and a monograph comparing conscription and its consequences in the Union and the Confederacy.

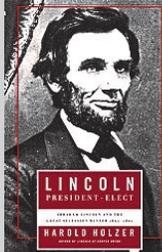
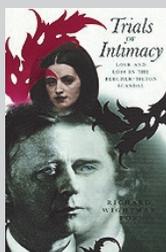
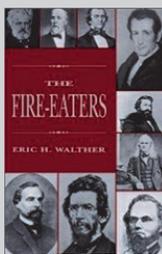
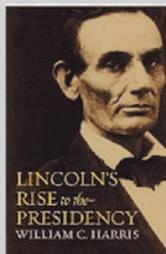
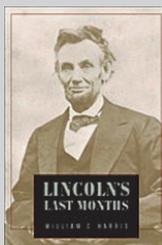
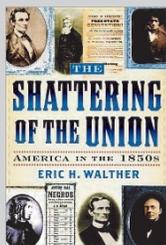
Lincoln's Critics is sponsored by The Abraham Lincoln Association in cooperation with:

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

LINCOLN'S CRITICS

BOOK SALES and SIGNINGS

Books by the scholars participating in the roundtable, luncheon and banquet will be for sale in the Rotunda of the Old State Capitol. The authors will also be available to sign their books.



LINCOLN BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

February 12, 2010

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Luncheon and Speech by

Richard Wightman Fox



Richard Fox is Professor of History at the University of Southern California, where he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in nineteenth-century American history. He is the author of books on two well-known admirers of Abraham Lincoln: Henry Ward Beecher, *Trials of Intimacy: Love and Loss in the Beecher-Tilton Scandal* (University of Chicago Press, 1999) and *Reinhold Niebuhr: A Biography* (Pantheon Books, 1985). Most recently he published *Jesus in America: Personal Savior, Cultural Hero, National Obsession* (Harper, 2004). Now he is writing a book treating the aftermath of Lincoln's assassination, to be published by Norton.

Reservations

\$25 per person

Call 217 558-8934 or

go online at <http://www.presidentlincoln.org>.

Credit cards accepted.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our 18 new members. They reside in 11 different states and are listed below.

Richard E. Andresen, Jr.
Woodstock, Illinois
Paula B. Carson
Anderson, South Carolina
David J. Gerleman
Arlington, Virginia
Wallace R. Hoppe
Sarasota, Florida

Krista Lord
Franklin, Tennessee
W. Joseph Gibbs
Springfield, Illinois
Joshua Patty
Fairmont, West Virginia
Bob Sablotney
Springfield, Illinois
Michael Schroepel
St. Louis, Missouri
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Houston, Texas
Ed Smith
Chillicothe, Ohio

Jerry and Kay Smith
Springfield, Illinois
Gary Staley
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Salisbury, North Carolina
Dr. Michael C. Wolf
New York, New York
Daniel E. Worthington
Rochester, New York
Terrance John Yount
Rochester, New York

WELCOME

LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS

2010 Calendar

A Perfect Holiday Gift

The Abraham Lincoln Association has prepared a 2010 calendar. Each month features a photograph taken from the Association's *Lincoln in Illinois* book of photographs of Lincoln statues in Illinois by award-winning Chicago photographer Ron Schramm. Significant events in the life of Abraham Lincoln are noted throughout the calendar.

The 7" x 14" calendar is the perfect size for office or home. All proceeds from the sale of the calendar will go to The Abraham Lincoln Association Endowment Fund.

The cost for each calendar is \$8 plus \$1 for mailing.

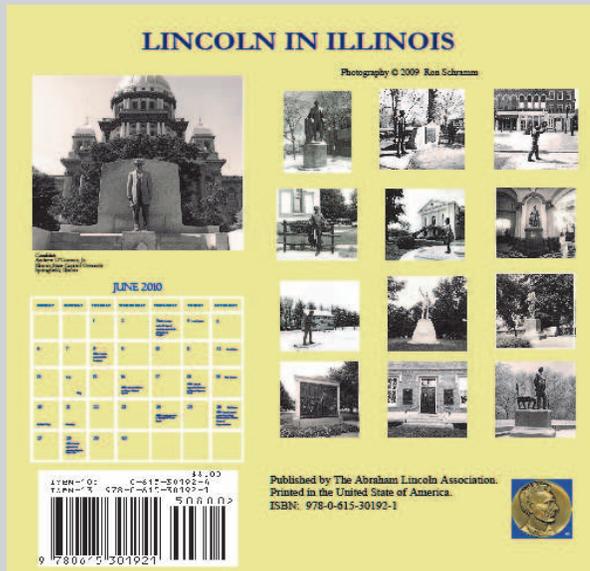
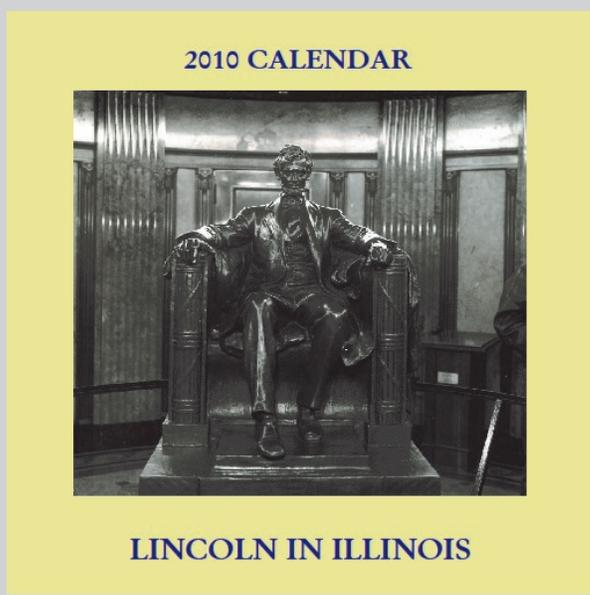
ORDER INFORMATION

To order, send your check—payable to The Abraham Lincoln Association—along with your name and mailing address to:

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You may contact Mary Shepherd with questions at 866-865-8500 or at maryshepherd.ala@gmail.com

For further information, visit the ALA website at <http://abrahamlincolnassociation.org/Documents/calendar2010.pdf>



WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER

Please join the more than 800 members of The Abraham Lincoln Association whose memberships make possible the Association's activities. As a member, you will receive the Association's semi-annual *Journal* and quarterly newsletter, *For The People*. Become one of this generation's patrons of the greatest American story—the story of Abraham Lincoln.

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- President.....\$1,000

Call toll free for more information: 866-865-8500

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The Abraham Lincoln Association
 Old State Capitol
 Springfield, Illinois 62701

Name: _____

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Join online at
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FOR THE PEOPLE

The Abraham Lincoln Association
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This photograph of Abraham Lincoln was taken on January 13, 1861 by Springfield photographer Christopher Smith German. This is the first picture of 51-year-old Lincoln with a beard, which he began to grow on October 19, 1860. Photograph courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Chicago, Illinois, Daniel R. Weinberg, proprietor.

DAY BY DAY

CALENDAR OF COMING ALA EVENTS

February 11, 2010	5:00	Investiture of Michael Burlingame Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies, University of Illinois-Springfield, House of Representatives, Old State Capitol, Springfield
February 12, 2010	9:00	ALA Board of Directors Meeting, Springfield
	11:15	Birthday Luncheon: Richard Fox, speaker Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
	1:00-4:00	<i>Lincoln Symposium: "Lincoln's Critics"</i> Hall of Representatives, Old State Capitol, Springfield
	5:00-6:30	Endowment Reception, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield
	6:00	<i>Lincoln Day Banquet</i> , 201st Anniversary of Lincoln's Birth Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield Harold Holzer, speaker



Photograph of the Board of Directors Taken on February 12, 2009