

FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD: PHOTOGRAPH OF HISTORIC MATHER RESIDENCE



This newly discovered photograph of the Mather Residence at the southwest corner of Second and Monroe streets in Springfield, Illinois, was taken by Frederick W. Ingmire, probably in the spring of 1865.

*Richard E. Hart
ALA Board Member
Immediate Past President*

The last issue of *For The People* featured two newly discovered photographs of Lincoln's Springfield by Frederick W. Ingmire—the north side of the Public Square and the State House draped in mourning. This issue shows two more of Ingmire's newly discovered photographs of Lincoln's Springfield—the Thomas Mather residence

(shown above) and the Third Street entrance to Oak Ridge Cemetery in May 1865 (shown on the back).

The Thomas Mather house no longer stands and the grounds are now the site of the Illinois State House. The old photograph of the house, however, reminds one of the events that occurred there during Lincoln's time. Here are a few stories worth the telling.

Col. Thomas Mather Residence

In Lincoln's day, this was the site of the Col. Thomas Mather residence. Thomas was born on April 24, 1795, in Simsbury, Connecticut and was a descendant of early Harvard College President Increase Mather.

In the spring of 1818, Thomas at age 23 settled in Kaskaskia, the capital of the Territory of Illinois,

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT ROBERT J. LENZ WELCOMES THE CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL

The next five years mark the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. It is a wonderful opportunity for Americans to explore the events and circumstances leading to the strife, the war itself and the aftermath. It is also an excellent occasion to introduce the study of the Civil War to a new generation of students.

Due to this special anniversary, the annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium, which the Abraham Lincoln Association has sponsored for many years, will be a two day event, including the February 12th banquet. During the sesquicentennial period, the Association is going to join forces with the University of Illinois at Springfield and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and present speakers at different venues. The ALA will coordinate the schedule with other Springfield Lincoln sites including the Lincoln Home and the Old State Capitol. This partnership will allow the Association to expand the scope of the symposium. Topics will not only relate to President Lincoln, but what was occurring on the battlefield and on the home front. The Association publications will follow the subject matter of the Symposia.

We want to increase our communication with our membership. Without our members, none of the work of the Association would be possible. We are grateful for your continued support. With this in mind, I am asking you to provide us with your email address. We want to begin sending out email updates regarding Association events and other information we think would be useful to you. About one third of you provided us with your email addresses when you renewed your membership. If you have not yet done so, please use the attached form to do so.

Robert J. Lenz
President



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Please provide the ALA with your email address.

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You may email your address to: maryshepherd.ala@gmail.com

(Continued from page 1) *Lincoln's Springfield*

where he was in business with Edmund Roberts, James L. Lamb, and Stacy B. Opdycke. In 1825, he married Hannah G. Lamb. He served a number of times in both branches of the Illinois legislature. In the 1822-23 session, Mather opposed a resolution that allowed a vote on a proposal for a constitutional convention to amend the Illinois constitution to permit slavery. When the matter came to a vote by the voters of Illinois, Mather opposed adopting the measure. The proposition was defeated by the small majority of 1,800 votes, thus saving Illinois from becoming a slave state.

In 1835, Mather moved to Springfield and conducted a mercantile business under the name of Mather, Lamb & Co. He was one of the organizers of the State Bank of Illinois in 1835, and he served as its President. Later, he assisted in the organization of the Illinois Central Railroad and successfully induced eastern capitalists to invest in the venture. He served on the Board of Trustees of Illinois College at Jacksonville for a number of years.

About 1836, Mather purchased the property pictured here, a large two story brick residence at the southwest corner of Second and Monroe streets. He lived there until his death on March 28, 1853. His widow, Hannah Lamb Mather, resided in Springfield until 1866 when she moved to Chicago.

A number of interesting events occurred at the Mather residence and grounds. What follows are descriptions of a few of them.

Dorothea Dix's Springfield Visit

In the 1920s, Hannah Lamb Palmer wrote an article in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, entitled "The Illinois State Capitol Grounds." Hannah was born in Springfield on July 6, 1838, and was the niece and namesake of Thomas Mather's wife, Hannah. As a child and young girl, Hannah was a favorite of her aunt Hannah and spent a great deal of time at the Mather home. Here is an excerpt from her article "The Illinois State Capitol Grounds," describing Dorothea L.

Dix's visit to the Mather residence in 1846-1847.

Their [Thomas and Hannah Mather's] home soon became a haven for the gathering of choice spirits. And it was there that Dorothea L. Dix made her home, when she came in 1846-1847 on her mission of mercy to the hither-to neglected Insane of the State of Illinois, and in this home, she conferred with Dr. Julian M. Sturtevant of Jacksonville, and was encouraged by him to bring the subject before the State Legislature, the beneficent results of which who can tell.



Dorothea L. Dix

Underground Railroad Discussed

In another excerpt, Hannah revealed that the Underground Railroad was freely discussed in the Mather home.

The "Underground Railway" was also freely discussed, and for the benefit of those who do not understand, let it be known that for a brief time slavery existed in our fair State of Illinois and even after the "Missouri Compromise" a slave found in a free state, could be returned to his former home. "The underground railroad" was a secret and safe transfer to Canada, where he or she was safe from further pursuit.

Abolitionist Cassius M. Clay Speaks at Mather Grove

On June 10, 1854, the Mather yard, known as Mather Grove, was the site of an abolitionist speech by Cassius M. Clay. The Grove was used when Clay was not permitted to speak at the State House. Paul Angle described the event in *Here I Have Lived*:

In the course of an Illinois speaking tour, Cassius M. Clay of Kentucky, widely known as an abolitionist, came to the Illinois capital on July 10, 1854. The secretary of state refused to allow him to speak in the rotunda of the State House, where his meeting was to have been held, so a stand was hastily erected in the Mather grove. (Where the present State House stands.) There a large crowd, many of whom, like Lincoln, lay prone on the grass, listened to him denounce the slavery policy of the ruling party for two hours and a half.



Cassius M. Clay
Courtesy of Library of Congress

Thwarted Site of Lincoln's Burial

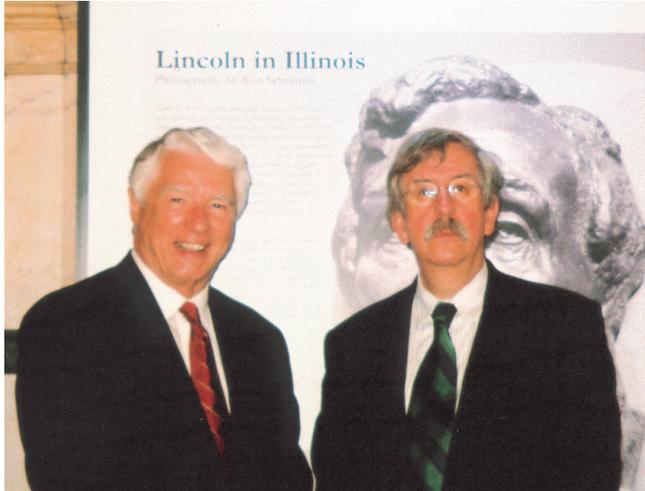
At the time of Lincoln's death, the Springfield fathers proposed that he be buried on the grounds of the Mather residence. The proposition was opposed by Mary Todd Lincoln and is described by Paul Angle in *Here I Have Lived*:

In Washington, on the 17th (April 17, 1865), an Illinois delegation had secured Mrs. Lincoln's consent to the burial of the body in Springfield. At the same time a local committee had been chosen to make arrangements for an appropriate site for the grave. Soon afterwards, with unanimous approval from the city, the Mather property (the site of the present State House) was chosen, and the construction of a temporary tomb commenced. Then, just as the vault was completed, word came from Mrs. Lincoln that the body was to be deposited in the receiving vault at Oak Ridge. The people were disappointed, but the committee acceded to her wish.

Quite a history for the house that once stood where Illinois' State Capitol now stands.

LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS EXHIBIT OPENS IN MCLEAN COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

The Abraham Lincoln Association's *Lincoln in Illinois*, a touring exhibit of photographs of Abraham Lincoln statues in Illinois by photographer Ron Schramm, opened its first tour on April 24 at the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington, Illinois. The exhibit continues through November 12, 2010, and is made possible by the ALA and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Call (309) 827-0428 or visit www.McHistory.org for more information.



Robert J. Lenz, ALA President, and Greg Koos, Executive Director of the McLean County Museum of History, at the Lincoln in Illinois exhibit grand opening on April 24, 2010.



Lincoln in Illinois exhibit being viewed in the McLean County Museum of History at the grand opening on April 24, 2010.

INVITE A FRIEND TO BECOME A MEMBER

Dear Member,

Your membership is essential to the ALA's success. It allows the ALA to provide you with the *For The People* newsletter and the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* and to sponsor many worthwhile programs related to the life of Abraham Lincoln. None of this would be possible without members.

We would like to ask that you help our membership expand by inviting a friend to become a member. Perhaps you would even like to give the initial membership as a gift. Use the form below to enroll a new member.

Thank you,
William G. Shepherd
Membership Chairman

Student.....\$25
 Railsplitter.....\$50
 Postmaster.....\$100
 Lawyer.....\$250
 Congressman.....\$500
 President.....\$1,000

Mail this application (or a photocopy) and a check to:

The Abraham Lincoln Association
 1 Old State Capitol Plaza
 Springfield, Illinois 62701

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Email: _____

You may join through our website at:
www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org
 Call toll free for more information:
 (866) 865-8500

LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS GIFT TO ILLINOIS LIBRARIES

One of the Abraham Lincoln Association's successful bicentennial projects was the publication of *Lincoln in Illinois* and the 2009 exhibit of the photographs from that book at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. The impact of that project continues with a traveling exhibit of the photographs and with gifts of the book to Illinois libraries. Thanks to Board member Kathryn M. Harris for her leadership in distributing nearly 1,250 of the books to Illinois libraries. The story of this benevolence reached far and wide, even making the Illinois box of *USA Today*. Here is Kathryn M. Harris's report.

Kathryn M. Harris
ALA Board Member
Library Services Director,
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library



The next time you visit your local public library, ask if there is a copy of *Lincoln in Illinois* by Ron Schramm in the collection. If the answer is yes, that copy is more than likely a gift from the Abraham Lincoln Association.

At a recent Executive Committee meeting, it was unanimously voted that every public, special, and academic library

would receive a copy of the book at no cost. The distribution of this photographic work, with its accompanying essays, certainly makes Illinois' Lincoln landmarks readily accessible to library users across the state-- from Anna to Zion. It was a worthy project that supports our mission.

Distribution of nearly 1,250 copies of Schramm's work was made possible by the Illinois Library Delivery System (ILDS) which is supported by the Illinois State Library, the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) and the nine regional library systems.

The success and value of the project is confirmed by some of the comments received:

Congratulations on being part of an

organization that recognizes such a great man and president. Thank you so much for the book.

Nashville Public Library

I was pleased that "our" Lincoln bust was in the book.

SIU—Morris Library, Carbondale

What a wonderful surprise and an outstanding addition to the Library's non-fiction collection....The photos are beautiful...the text is informative and easily read...

Lake Bluff Public Library

Donations like these are greatly appreciated and help us to better serve the needs of our patrons and the community.

Chatham Area Public Library District

LINCOLN COLLEGE UNVEILS LINCOLN STATUE

Ron J. Keller
ALA Board Member
Lincoln Heritage Museum Curator
Lincoln College, Lincoln, Illinois

On April 23, 2010, the rains let up and allowed the Lincoln College community to gather outside the Lincoln Center on its campus in Lincoln, Illinois, to proudly unveil a new life-sized Abraham Lincoln statue by sculptor Andrew Jumonville. The statue presents Lincoln studiously absorbed in a law book in one hand, his hat in another, and with a deliberate walk as if he "is going places." It sums up both the Lincoln that this area knew, and reflects a young man engaged in learning that fits well in an academic setting. The statue is situated in front of the new Lincoln Center, a building which is to house our future new and expanded Lincoln Heritage Museum. Pictures and a brief story can be found at the following link: http://www.lincolndailynews.com/Features/picturepage042410_abe.html

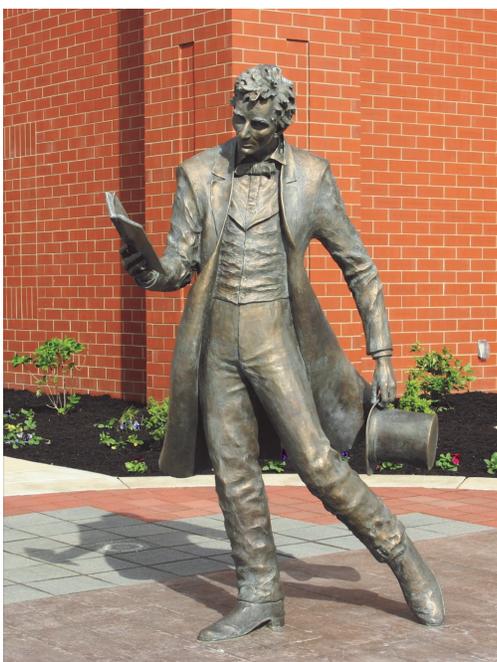


Photo courtesy of Lincoln College

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our nine new members.

David Hirsch
West Des Moines, Iowa

Janice McKay
Cutler Bay, Florida

John McTague
Kingston, New York

Don Pitzen
Chicago, Illinois

Shirley Portwood
Godfrey, Illinois

John Purcell
Indianapolis, Indiana

Gary Sheiko
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Barbara Rosenstock
Vernon Hills, Illinois

Robert Watkins
Bloomington, Illinois

How Many “Books on Lincoln” Are There? Or, *Lincoln and a Sea of Books*

James M. Cornelius
Curator, Lincoln Collection,
Abraham Lincoln Presidential
Library and Museum



Common it is to hear the claim that X number of books have been written about Abraham Lincoln. Sometimes this claim stands alone, like a gull on a buoy; sometimes it marks off a channel by comparison to the number of books on Shakespeare, Napoleon, Joan of Arc, or Jesus. Almost never is a source given, or a definition of “book.” Can we arrive at a figure, even an ocean-wide approximation, using the many technological tools at our hands today?

I have not made an exhaustive search of claims about this topic. One falls upon the statements in the course of seeking out something more important or enduring. Yet the numbers provided here will perhaps get us partly out of the storm and into the harbor of a topic that many, many – how many? no one can say – speakers and writers have pronounced upon in recent years.

A baseline number comes from Jay Monaghan, whose *Lincoln Bibliography 1839-1939* (Springfield, 1943) numbers exactly 3,958 titles, without adding to that number the many variant printings he found.

Proceeding chronologically, we find that *Look* magazine, on 24 February 1953, p. 57, in serializing Benjamin Thomas’s biography of Lincoln, avowed that “3,958 books and pamphlets” exist, plus “thousands and thousands” of articles. Even an overworked editor could have added, say, 100 to Monaghan’s 14-year-old total.

Paul Simon, very much a hard-working Democrat, in his *Lincoln’s Preparation for Greatness* (Carbondale, 1965, p. vii), wrote that there were “more than five thousand books about Lincoln.”

Senator Simon’s friend, Republican Congressman Paul Findley, wrote in 1979, in *A*

Lincoln: The Crucible of Congress (New York, 1979, p. viii), that “more than 8,000 major works” on Lincoln existed, surpassed only by works on Jesus. This is the kind of bipartisan cooperation we like to see.

At this point there occur gaps in my data. But people were very busy making money in the 1980s, and publications on Lincoln then were lower than the decadal average. Mark Neely’s nonpareil *Abraham Lincoln Encyclopedia* (New York, 1981) does not offer an opinion on so evanescent a thing as minor publications.

Professor Jean Baker, in her biography of Mary Todd Lincoln (Norton, 1987), did not provide a figure, nor did she dip into the crowded pool in the Bicentennial Year when a reissue of that book appeared with a new preface. But she did, while lecturing in 2008, state that she supposed about 14,000 books on Lincoln exist – in a league “with Jesus and Joan of Arc.”

Merrill Peterson, in *Lincoln and American Memory* (New York and Oxford, 1994, p. 374), represents a leap in time and numbers by reporting that in a 1991 conversation, Judge Frank Williams told him there are “some 16,000 Lincoln titles” (footnote on p. 444) – twice Findley’s 1979 “major works” figure.

One gets a smidgen of comparative context in a planning document produced in 2002 by BRC, the firm that designed the new Presidential Library and Museum buildings to celebrate their near-opening. It is entitled *The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library: Visitor Experience*. On p. [ii] it states that more books about Lincoln exist than about anyone except Jesus Christ and William Shakespeare. There is no author to that statement, nor any source. Yet of Shakespeare one magazine scribe wrote that more than 100 volumes appeared in 2009 alone. Aye, but here’s the rub: whole academic departments are focused on The Bard, which is scarcely true of Lincoln.

If one seeks bigger or stranger numbers, look to journalists, doctors, or lawyers. Malcolm Jones, writing in *Newsweek* on 14 July 2008, p. 30, said “4,925 according to the Library of Congress.” I was unable to replicate that result.

Jules Ladenheim, a retired neurosurgeon, writes in his *Abe Lincoln Afloat* (Westminster, MD, 2008, p. [i]) that there are “some 35,000 books ... about the life ...” Perhaps he was confusing a surgeon’s fee with the number of books.

In David H. Leroy and Daniel Weinberg, *Mr. Lincoln’s Book: Publishing the Lincoln-Douglas Debates* (New Castle, Del., and Chicago, 2009, p. xvii), Mr. Leroy writes that “Modern bibliophiles calculate that over 15,000 books have been written about ... Lincoln.” Unfortunately, the flap copy for the same volume, presumably written by the editor or the editor’s assistant, writes that there have been “20,000 volumes” till now. Should this volume thereby count as one contribution to Lincoln numerology, or two?

On 16 July 2009, at a plenary session of the Society for the History of the Early American Republic, held in Springfield, Catherine Clinton of Queen’s University, Belfast, said that the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission claims there are 10,000 books on Lincoln. At the same panel, Daniel Walker Howe of UCLA said there are on Lincoln “more books than anyone save Jesus Christ or Napoleon.”

The same day’s mail brought the Spring 2009 issue of the *Lincoln Herald*, in which Judge Frank Williams wrote, p. 9, that there are 16,000, the most about anyone except Jesus. (He, like that overworked editor at *Look* in 1953, might have added *something* to cover the years since 1991.) The next day, at the SHEAR conference, William Ferraro, editor at the Papers of George Washington, provided some perspective. He said that between the years 1777 and 1879, there were 501 books published on Washington. Without using a calculator, we can see in Jay Monaghan’s *Lincoln Bibliography* that precisely that same number of titles on Lincoln appeared in 1865-66 alone. For those given to memorizing unimportant numbers, this was a lucky coincidence.

So concludes this brief survey of the claims of a variety of the sentient beings. What do the dumb machines say? What can be ordered new – according to *Books in Print* –

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6) "Books on Lincoln"

seems to be something around 2,800 Lincoln books as of mid-2010, of which 1,300 appeared since the year 2000. The U.S. Copyright Office listed 2,360 entries since 1978, while across town the Library of Congress, the depository for copyrights, put the figure at 3,201. Evidently, some authors do not bother to register for a copyright. A parallel body for copyright deposit in Great Britain, the component libraries at Oxford University, puts forth a figure of 1,074 Lincoln books entered there, under half the U.S. total. For the widest net, plug in 'Lincoln' for a title in WorldCat and discover 68,434 nonfiction, adult entries as of May 2010. A huge number of these are duplicate records, of course; some are about Lincoln, Nebraska. (Thanks to Mary Ann Pohl, cataloger of the unique and the odd at the Presidential Library, and to intern Alyssa Briggs for helping to compile this paragraph.)

Let us return to human intelligence as best we can. First, do we really mean 'books' about Lincoln? No, we must be more precise. A great many – let us wildly guess 4,000 – of the *titles* held at the Presidential Library are shorter than 32 pages. These shorties range in date from 1839, that is, Monaghan 1, Lincoln's first published speech, "Public Lands in Illinois" at 3 pages; up through dozens of sermons; on up to the useful 2004 handout from the state-legislative office in Carson City, *The Nevada Lincoln*, weighing in at 27 pages. (It reports on the only painting of Lincoln that ever got 3 bullet holes put through it, by teen pranksters in the statehouse ca. 1956.) But do not overlook broadsides, as Monaghan did. The only copy of Lincoln's 1837 broadside of about 1,400 words, known as the "Adams Handbill," is certainly a Lincoln title. And slap yourself if you neglect *Gettysburg: the Graphic Novel* (i.e., a large comic book) of 2009. More reverently, scores of Congressmen over the decades have committed their birthday tributes to our

16th president to printed form, many of them 4 to 8 pages long. Book publishers have issued at least a dozen prospectuses, from 1 to 4 pages, about forthcoming titles. Brown University, and Grand Valley State University in Michigan, have led the bibliographic charge over the last decade in cataloging magazine articles about Lincoln as if they were freestanding publications, so that one can now find, e.g., without adverting to a dusty *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*, the 1899 essay "Lincoln and the Soldiers" by Ida Tarbell in *McClure's*. Indeed, scant not the small library or category in your hunt: in recent years Middle Tennessee State University created dozens of new records for 1861-1865 song sheets about Lincoln, adding to the list of Lincoln titles that likely is represented in the file drawers of other repositories, if not in their catalogs.

Fodder for lustier debate might be whether a biography of a penny-ante player such as William Herndon or Mary Lincoln is really a Lincoln title – surely neither would have been written but for the greatness of "Four Score" Abraham. And does any study of Emancipation stand free of the political life of its proximate author? Can we count such dual biographies as those on Lincoln and Whitman; and Douglas; and Douglass; and Jefferson Davis, as full-bore Lincolniana, or half-bore? What about the stimulating 2007 title *Forge of Empires* comparing Tsar Alexander II, Otto von Bismarck, and guess who? Should the Kentucky Yankee in that trio get one-third of a book-credit, or a whole one, inasmuch as a title comparing the two Europeans might not have been published, at least not west of Bermuda? Or harken to the strains of Lincoln in a quintet – with Bright, Kossuth, Mazzini, and Tolstoy – by Harold Bellman (London, 1929). Separately, is a book on, say, the Battle for Atlanta in 1864 imaginable without Lincoln's birth and rise and power?

We have been speaking narrowly here. What of books in languages other than English? Certainly the large majority of them are translated from the American variant of that tongue, but not all. The booming nation of India has seen two different abridgements of Lord Charnwood's 1916 biography of Lincoln since 2005; and original books in Hindi and Gujerati in 2008. In Chinese there have been a couple, likewise from Mexico City (one of them on the foursome of Lincoln, Gandhi, Mandela, and Reverend King). Toronto is the wellspring of three titles, all of them juveniles; and Montreal one, an exhibition catalog. But in Japan, South Korea, Germany, Argentina, and other sizable nations, there is a new title every few years.

A database count of all books, pamphlets, serials, broadsides, sheet music, song sheets, and maps at the Presidential Library (but not including films, recordings, prints, photos, microfilm, or manuscripts) yields about 17,600 items. This includes duplicate copies, not to mention paperback reprints, variant editions, and other matter that a purist might like to delimit. In a hypothetical global database, some apt titles do not include the word 'Lincoln,' so a library cataloguer must add the right subject line; but this does not always happen. Thus, searching by computer is not really the answer. And no single actual library contains every Lincoln title – how could that happen, with so many extremely rare or unique items, such as the "Adams Handbill"?

Combining the science of computer-generated numbers, the experience of paging through Monaghan or WorldCat, and the art of guesswork, we can say that there are roughly 17,000 distinct *titles* about Abraham Lincoln. The year 2009 probably added more to that figure than did any year since 1865 – just over 100. Of course these figures, like so much concerning his life, are open to interpretation.

LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS TRAVELING EXHIBIT

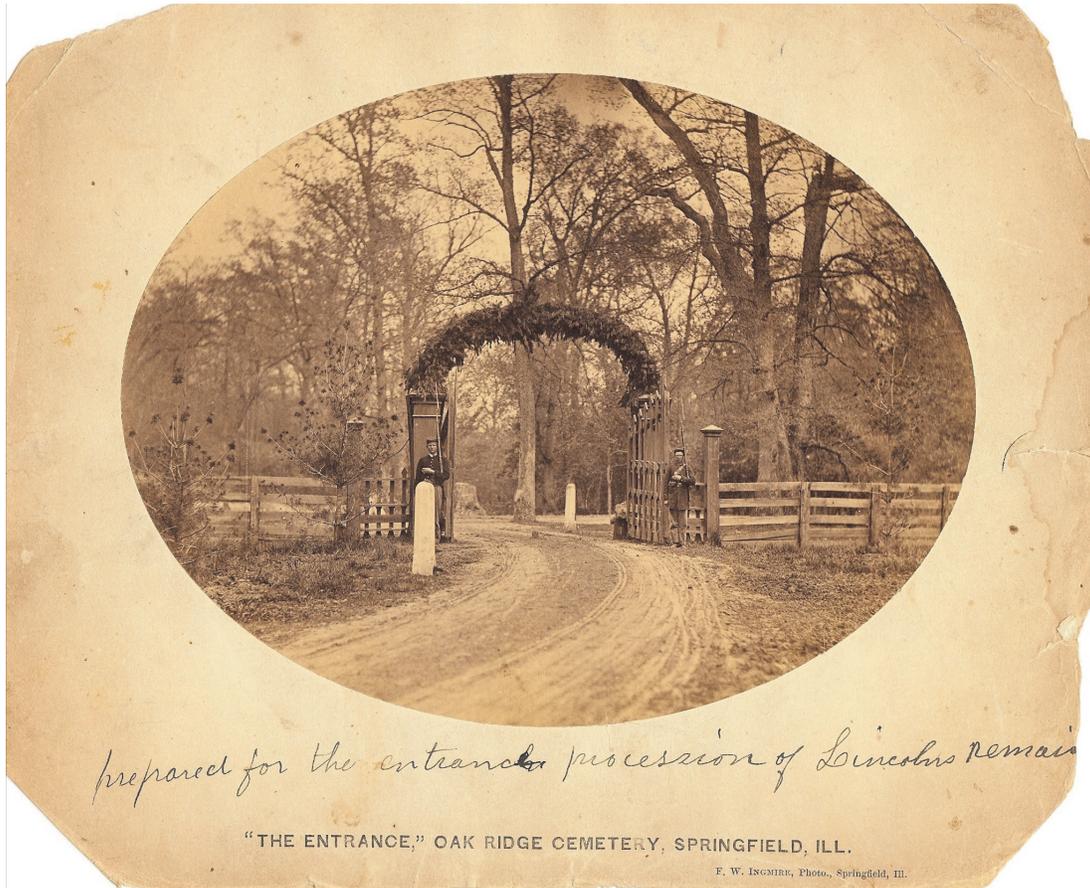
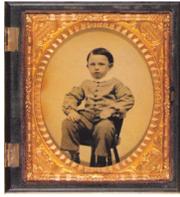
Would you like to have *Lincoln in Illinois* exhibited in your community? We have several open dates and they will be filled first come, first served. If you are interested, call Mary Shepherd at (866) 865-8500.

FOR THE PEOPLE

The Abraham Lincoln Association
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This photograph of the Third Street entrance to Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois, was taken by Springfield photographer Frederick W. Ingmire, probably on May 4, 1865, the day of Lincoln's burial.