

# For the People

A Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association  
Volume 4, Number 1      Spring 2002      Springfield, Illinois

## Lincoln's Second Inauguration

by Thomas F. Schwartz

In the autumn 1999 issue of this newsletter I published an excerpt from the diary of Solomon Wieder Hagerty (February 28, 1842–January 29, 1867) who served in the United States Marine Corps, from 1864 through 1866. The following entry vividly describes the events of March 4, 1865, for Abraham Lincoln's second inauguration. Characteristic of the era's racism, Hagerty refers to blacks as "niggers." Spelling, punctuation, and grammar reflect that found in the diary.

March 4, 1865

In the morning rainy continued so it appeared as though it would rain all day. We received orders to "fall in" under arms fatigues & watch coats. At half past eight we were marched to the Barracks & there we formed battalion of two companies. About Seventy in each rank & file. After drilling about 3/4 of an hour we proceeded to the Ex Mansion where the procession was to be formed. We were headed by the Marine band discoursing some of her best strains which attracted much attention as we passed through City. We arrived about 11 O clock A.M. & took position on the extreme right where after shifting two or three times we ascertained our position in procession. By this time we were well saturated with mud. As high as our knees. The rain of evening previous having caused the Streets to be very muddy. After resting for sometime, The whole procession was at length got in readiness. With lively step & buoyant spir-

its we took up the march keeping time with the national airs that were played by our own and other bands. The battalion Commanded by Capt Tilton behaved very well we were followed by a Regt of Colored troops. Arriving at the Capitol we formed in line in front of building & next in rear of line of guards.

March 4th 1865  
Incidents

On our way down the Avenue both sides of which were thickly lined with people of all ages, sex, color & habits, who shouted wild huzzas waved little flags or their pocket Handkerchiefs. We noticed also houses of pleasure their windows filled with the inmates who recognized some one in the train upon whom they lavished their sweet caresses, in the form of touching the lips, waving their white handkerchief

etc. The principle Hotels was apparently thronged with boarders etc. who manifested their delight & enthusiasm. After a short space of time during which the oath of office was administered to the Pres. He made his appearance in front of centre or rotunda building accompanied by as many dignitaries as could possibly be crowded in the space. Among whom were Vice Pres Johnson, Ex Vice Pres Hamlin Members of Cabinet & Judges of Supreme Court & others beside many ladies & foreign ministers. Speeches were then made by the President, Vice Pres. etc.& then they retired into the building from this temporary inaugural stage, amid Shouts and cheers from the Multitude of Niggers & other citizens who thronged the piazza & yard. So thick that they could not move save in an overwhelming tide. Pres then

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## Dealing with Controversy

The February 12 Abraham Lincoln Association Symposium generated a flurry of comment in the media and in e-mails to the Association. Chris Britt, editorial cartoonist for Springfield's *Illinois State Journal Register*, depicted symposium presenter Lerone Bennett, Jr., jumping out of a birthday cake and proclaiming, "Happy Birthday Abe Lincoln you racist!" Similar reactions were found on some of the local Springfield morning call-in shows, wondering why the Abraham Lincoln Association would ask someone with such negative feelings toward Abraham Lincoln to

speak. The simple answer is that the Abraham Lincoln Association is interested in providing a forum to individuals advancing our understanding of Abraham Lincoln and his times. There is no litmus test of orthodoxy given to any symposium speaker. An invitation by the Association to speak is not an endorsement of a speaker's views. Rather, it is an indication of that speaker's contribution to the current debates about Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Bennett set forth his basic thesis in a 1968 *Ebony* article. It caused many historians to react and reevaluate

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## President's Column

by Robert S. Eckley

I wish to express my deep appreciation for being elected President of the Abraham Lincoln Association for 2002–2004 with the opportunity to provide leadership to this organization at this particular juncture in its history. I know I am joined by all of you in expressing our thanks to Don Tracy for the marvelous job he has done in reinvigorating and finding new directions for the ALA in the past four years. I hope to make a seamless transition from his watch, recognizing that we are all different and that future events are often unpredictable, unlike anything that has gone before. Tom Schwartz also should be recognized for all that he gives to this Association, his gifts are unique and singular, without detracting in any way from the important contributions others provides.

Once the Lincoln Presidential Library opens, we shall be ushering in a new day in the task in which we are engaged. Adjoining the Old State Capitol, in which the House Divided

Speech was delivered in 1858, the most comprehensive collection of information on the first fifty-two years in the life of Abraham Lincoln will be found. This assemblage simply did not exist anywhere for the first half of the last century. One need but recite the manifold accomplishments of the ALA to recognize its role in promoting the understanding of our sixteenth president.

A new flowering of Lincoln scholarship and appreciation is evident as we approach the bicentennial of his birth. The prime example is the publication of *The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln*, replete with examples heretofore unknown of his quarter century as a practicing attorney. This has led to a new recognition of the significance of Lincoln's legal practice, especially in the extent of his appellate cases before the Illinois Supreme Court. In popular culture, the Ken Burns's 1990 PBS series on the Civil War was a parallel event in the appreciation of that great cataclysm in American history.

A second example of this flowering is the rediscovery of the reminiscence literature about Lincoln, greatly assisted by the 1998 publication of *Herndon's Informants* by Douglas Wilson and Rodney Davis. Michael Burlingame, Robert Bray and others are finding rich inspiration in this material.

A third example lies in new discoveries and interpretations, large and small, partly flowing from the two preceding scholarly areas. These are illustrated by (a) the discovery a decade ago of a transcript of the Peachy Harrison murder trial in 1859, (b) the careful study of Lincoln's complex religious background by scholars, including Robert Bray, Allen Guelzo, and Stewart Winger, (c) the finding by Wayne Temple that the "Discoveries and Inventions" lectures were in fact one lecture delivered in several Central

Illinois cities, disappointments when given, but emblematic of Lincoln's later hands-on approach to Civil War military technology, and (d) the surprising appearance of the Mary Todd Lincoln "Insanity File," found by James T. Hickey in Robert Todd Lincoln's Vermont home, which led to the publication and explanation of the file by Mark E. Neely, Jr. and the late R. Gerald McMurtry in 1986.

I endorse the goals and objectives to which the ALA is committed, and in particular note the need to emphasize the following priorities, in no intended order of importance: (a) expansion and diversification of our membership, (b) promotion of the endowment to enable the ALA to participate more significantly in ongoing Lincoln research and other activities compatible with our objectives and ability, (c) encourage and assist those now revising and expanding the papers of Lincoln, (d) prepare for the expanded role we might play in Lincoln studies as the new library and museum are opened, and (e) cooperate with and assist other Lincoln groups as compatible and possible within our mission and resources.

I am pleased to serve as your president and hope to assist the ALA in reaching its potential as our eminent history ordains. To use Lincoln's language in his letter to Horace Greeley for a different purpose, "I shall do *more* whenever I shall believe doing more will help the cause. I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors; and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views." We exist to promulgate, educate, to elucidate, and to construe the life and works of Lincoln where relevant. In these efforts I shall need your assistance, your energy and abilities, your guidance, and the resources—intellectual and material—that we can together muster for this important cause.

Unless otherwise indicated, photographs are courtesy of the Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield

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## Member News

Brooks Davis stepped off the board of Lincoln College after twenty-eight years of service. Lincoln College is the only college named for President Lincoln during his life. Davis also received the coveted Nevins-Freeman Award from the Civil War Round Table. For those who are unfamiliar with the Civil War Round Table movement, the Chicago Round Table was the first, among whose founders were legendary Ralph G. Newman, Elmer Gertz, and Otto Eisenschmil.

Richard J. Squire celebrates sixty years as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association. He first joined in 1941 and has remained a member in good standing ever since. If you have not renewed, it is not too late to send in your membership dues.

Ed Steers was interviewed by Brian Lamb for an airing of *Booknotes*. Steers discusses his book, *Blood on the*

*Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*. The book has been selected by the History Book Club as a main feature selection.

Duke Russell held the tenth annual Lincoln Birthday Observance in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Russell has inspired other communities such as San Luis Obispo to begin their own Lincoln birthday observances.

Gary L. Bunker received the Ewell Newman Book Prize from the American Historical Print Collectors Society for his book, *From Rail-Splitter to Icon*. The purpose of the prize is to recognize "new titles that enhance understanding and appreciation for prints as part of the history and culture of North America."

Daniel Bassuk, Max and Donna Daniels, and other members will be participating in the Association of Lincoln Presenters annual conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana, April 19-21.

## New Books on Lincoln

The following selection contains titles written by Association members. Each work has received glowing reviews in professional and general publications. Edward Steers examines the evidence surrounding Lincoln's assassination. Brian Dirck compares and contrasts Abraham Lincoln's notions of community with those of Jefferson Davis.

Ronald White provides a detailed examination of the meanings contained within Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address. William Lee Miller provides an unusual departure from traditional biography offering an ethical examination of Lincoln's life. Please make all checks payable to "IHPA." Illinois residents must add sales tax to their totals.

Edwards Steers, Jr., *Blood on the Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*  
Retail: \$29.95      ALA: \$23.95      IL Sales Tax: \$1.74

Brian Dirck, *Lincoln and Davis: Imaging America*  
Retail: \$34.95      ALA: \$27.95      IL Sales Tax: \$2.03

Ronald C. White, Jr., *Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural*  
Retail: \$24.00      ALA: \$19.00      IL Sales Tax: \$1.38

William Lee Miller, *Lincoln's Virtues: An Ethical Biography*  
Retail: \$30.00      ALA: \$24.00      IL Sales Tax: \$1.74

Shipping fees: Up to \$49.99, add \$7.50  
\$50.00 to \$ 99.99, add \$12.00

## Taking a Stand

by Thomas F. Schwartz

A frequent question that I receive as Secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association is: "Will the Association support my worthy cause?" As we all know from mail, e-mail, and telephone solicitations, there are many worthy (and some not-so-worthy) causes. Because the Association is a volunteer organization that meets but twice annually, it is not designed for what is now a rapid response world. The most common issue that the Association is asked to address deal with endorsing an artistic endeavor for commercial purposes. Robert Todd Lincoln was often placed in the awkward position of being asked to comment on the accuracy of

the many artistic renderings of his father. Not wishing to offend any artists, Robert typically found something nice to say without actually endorsing one artist over another. This was not the case, however, with the George Grey Barnard statue of Abraham Lincoln that Robert detested and worked successfully to have removed from London to Manchester, England.

Most recently, an individual asked the Association to write to Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and protest the new license plates that display a portrait of Abraham Lincoln in the center of the plate. The problem was not with the portrait of Lincoln, rather, the numbers and letters of the license often run into and through the

portrait making it a sign of disrespect in the eyes of this individual. In matters of aesthetics or politics, the Association urges its members to voice their individual opinions as often as they wish to the appropriate entities. Elected officials heed the views of a well-written letter more than a form letter, post card, or fax attack from an organization. The resources of the Association are limited and directed toward the publications and projects that we feel best serve our members. There have been and will be occasions where the Board of Directors will go on record supporting or opposing a particular issue. When that happens, members will be appraised of the action and the reasoning that went into the decision.

## Happy 193rd Birthday Mr. Lincoln!

The Abraham Lincoln Association convened in Springfield, Illinois, on February 12, 2002, to celebrate the 193rd anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. At their morning board meeting, the Association held elections for officers. The Nominating Committee, comprising chairman Robert A. Stuart, Jr., Barbara Hughett, and Mark Plummer, advanced the following names for officers to serve from 2002 through 2004: Dr. Robert S. Eckley, President; Molly M. Becker, Richard E. Hart, and Richard Mills, Vice Presidents; Dr. Thomas F. Schwartz, Secretary; and Judith Barringer, Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously. After many years of faithful service, Sheldon S. Cohen declined to have his name advanced as a member of the Board of Directors. Dr. Larry Newell was nom-

inated to replace him. Professor Harry Jaffa was nominated to join the roster of Distinguished Directors. All were elected by unanimous vote.

Crowds gathered at the Rotunda of the Old State Capitol beginning at 11:00 A.M. to peruse the book-sales table and have their books signed. Among the authors in attendance were Lerone Bennett, Jr., Gary Bunker, Michael Burlingame, Don Davenport, Allen Guelzo, Robert W. Johannsen, Phillip S. Paludan, Mark Plummer, Brooks Simpson, Ronald White, Vibert White, and Kenneth Winkle. The symposium attracted a standing-room-only crowd to hear papers on "Lincoln, Slavery, and Emancipation." Kim Mathew Bauer, Lincoln Curator at the Illinois State Historical Library, presided with papers presented by Allen Guelzo, Brooks Simpson, and

Lerone Bennett, Jr. Perhaps the most controversial symposium in recent memory, the speakers engaged in a spirited and, at times, heated debate on Lincoln's views regarding emancipation, colonization, and black equality.

Over three hundred persons attended the banquet to hear Dr. Allen Guelzo's talk, "Lincoln, Reparations, and Social Justice." Incoming president Dr. Robert S. Eckley recognized departing president Donald R. Tracy with the traditional framed portrait of Abraham Lincoln. The Logan Hay Medal was awarded to Thomas F. Schwartz for his many contributions to the Association. Jane Hartman provided wonderful music throughout the evening, ending the banquet with a rousing rendition of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

## Photographs from the 2002 Abraham Lincoln Association Symposium and Banquet



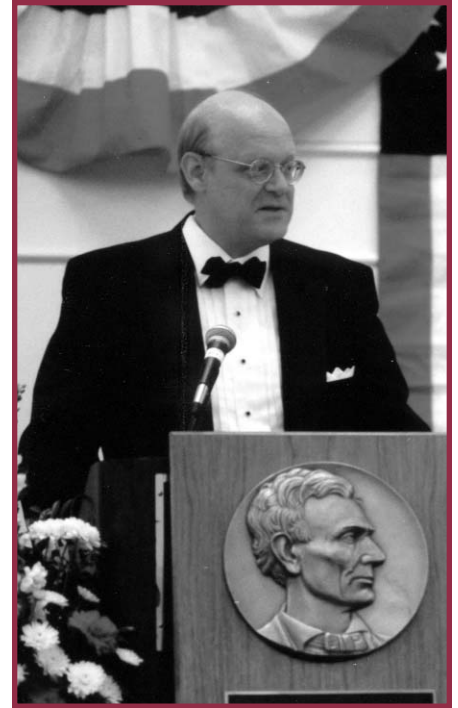
*Authors at the book signing in the Old State Capitol (l to r) are Gary L. Bunker, Don Davenport, Kenneth Winkle, Brooks Simpson, Phillip S. Paludan, Michael Burlingame, and Mark Plummer.*



*Ronald C. White, Jr., author of Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural, takes a brief moment to chat with symposium attendees.*



*Kim Mathew Bauer, curator of the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection, presides over the symposium. Seated (l to r) are Brooks D. Simpson, Lerone Bennett, Jr., Allen C. Guelzo, and Vibert White.*



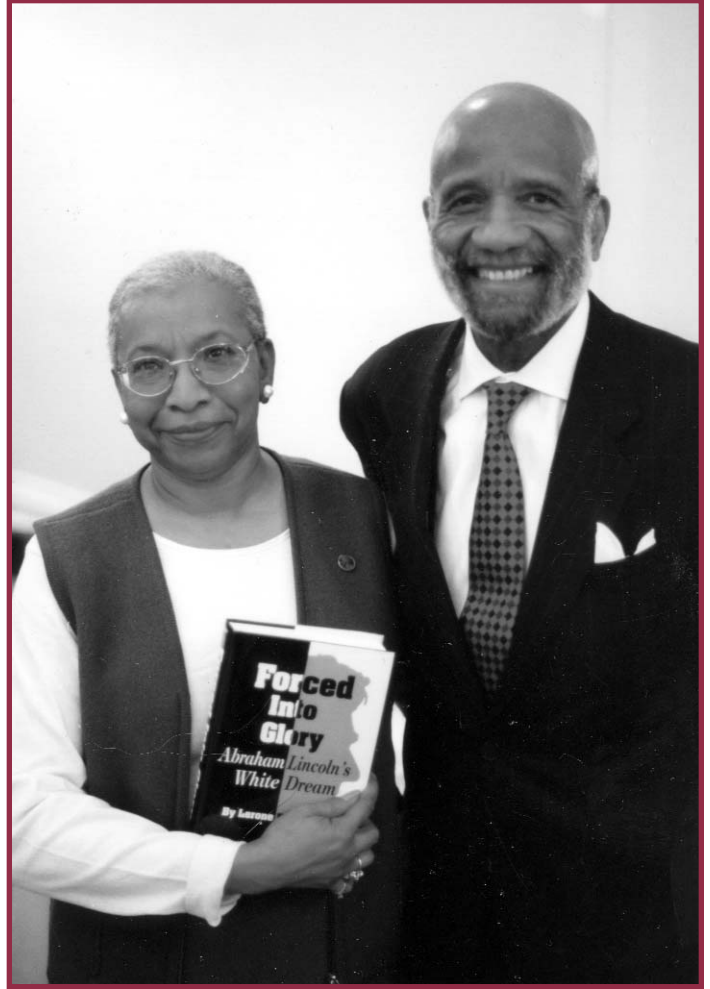
*Banquet speaker Allen C. Guelzo gave a superb address on "Lincoln, Reparations, and Social Justice."*



*Donald R. Tracy presents the Logan Hay Medal to Thomas F. Schwartz.*



*Incoming President Robert S. Eckley (left) presents outgoing President Donald R. Tracy with the traditional framed portrait of Abraham Lincoln.*



*Board Member and Illinois State Historical Library Director Kathryn Harris with Lerone Bennett, Jr.*

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please enroll me as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association in the category indicated:

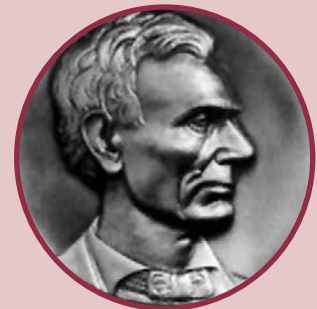
- Railsplitter \_\_\_\_\_ \$35  
(\$25 Student)
- Postmaster \_\_\_\_\_ \$75
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- Congressman \_\_\_\_\_ \$500
- President \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000

*Members residing outside the U.S. add \$3.00.*

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## Lincoln's Second Inauguration

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made tour through the building & reappeared in front of left wing of Capitol & then forced his way to carriage. Great difficulty was made by the tumultuous crowd thronging around him. The Procession was reformed and we marched with it back as far as 15th Street. This began to tell among us who were unused to marching and a general murmur ran through the ranks. We did expect to go back again to the mansion. I became so tired that I was almost prompted to drop out of ranks but continued on our return in quick time to Barracks. Navy Yard guard fell out & reached our Post about 4 o'clock P.M. Well besmeared with mud from head to foot with an appetite as keen as could be & a thirst for some stimulants which we found in Canteen & Supper or dinner ready. We soon despatched it & then removed our habiliments took a general wash, by this time I found myself detailed for guard at gate. I disliked it at first but when I considered that to-morrow would be mine I willingly took charge of duties. I left perhaps no worse than those who did not go on duty that night.



*Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address was given on March 4, 1865*

## Dealing with Controversy

*continued from page 1*

Lincoln's views on race. Since then, historians have carefully examined antebellum America and racial attitudes. That Lincoln shared many of the racist attitudes of white America is not denied. Most historians depart from Bennett's critique by accepting Lincoln's claim that he always hated slavery. As Harry Jaffa convincingly demonstrates, Lincoln was willing to

make slavery a national issue and condemn it as a moral evil in the 1858 debates while Douglas wanted to keep it a local issue and avoided addressing slavery in moral terms. That Lincoln grew in his understanding of emancipation and black suffrage is also commonly accepted by most historians but denied by Mr. Bennett. The exchange at the symposium clearly reflected these differences.

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