



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 4

WINTER 2007

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Abraham Lincoln Symposium An American Dream Concert The Abraham Lincoln Association Banquet

Marking the 199th Anniversary of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln
And the Centennial of The Abraham Lincoln Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 11, 2008 11:00 *Lincoln Symposium Luncheon*
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Allen C. Guelzo speaking
Who Won the Lincoln Douglas Debates?
- 1:00-4:00 *Lincoln Symposium*
Hall of Representatives
Old State Capitol
- 7:00 *An American Dream*
Illinois Symphony Orchestra
Sangamon Auditorium
University of Illinois at Springfield
- February 12, 2008 10:00 *ALA Board of Directors Annual Meeting*
Abraham Lincoln Association Lyceum
Old State Capitol
- 1:00-4:00 *Lincoln Symposium*
Hall of Representatives
Old State Capitol
- 5:00 *Endowment Reception*
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Guest of honor, Michael Beschloss
- 6:00 *Centennial Lincoln Day Banquet*
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Michael Beschloss speaking
- February 13, 2008 7:00 *An American Dream*
Illinois Symphony Orchestra
Bloomington Center for Performing Arts
Bloomington, Illinois
-
-

Abraham Lincoln Symposium

SPEAKERS

Jean H. Baker



Jean Harvey Baker is Elizabeth Todd Professor of History at Goucher College. A specialist in nineteenth century political and cultural history, Baker is best known for her innovative look at cultural politics, *Affairs of Party*, and her definitive biography, *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*. She wrote the introduction to the late Dr. C. A. Tripp's *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln*. Her current interest is in exploring the suffragist movement resulting in *Sisters: The Lives of Americas Suffragists*.

Brian R. Dirck



Brian R. Dirck is an Associate Professor of History at Anderson University. His special areas of interest are Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War era, and American political and legal history. He is the author of numerous books and articles, including *Lincoln and Davis: Imagining America, 1809-1865*, and *Lincoln the Lawyer*. He is currently working on a study of Lincoln and American race relations, which will be published sometime in 2009. Dirk is the publisher of the informative *A. Lincoln Blog* (<http://alincolnblog.blogspot.com/>) containing commentary on Lincoln appearances in contemporary media as well as historical controversies.

Mark E. Neely, Jr.



Mark E. Neely, Jr., is McCabe-Greer Professor of Civil War History at Pennsylvania State University. A prolific writer on Lincoln and the Civil War era, Neely is best known for his Pulitzer Prize winning *The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties*. His recent research has explored party organization and behavior in the Civil War, as reflected in *The Union Divided: Party Conflict in the Civil War North* and *The Boundaries of American Political Culture in the Civil War Era*.

Brooks D. Simpson



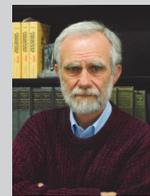
Brooks D. Simpson is Professor of History and Humanities at Arizona State University. He is author of several books on the Civil War and Reconstruction era including *Let Us Have Peace: Ulysses S. Grant and the Politics of War and Reconstruction, 1861-1868*, *The Political Education of Henry Adams, America's Civil War*, *The Reconstruction Presidents*, and *Ulysses S. Grant: Triumph Over Adversity, 1822-1865*. Simpson has edited a volume of Abraham Lincoln's letters and speeches, a volume of letters of advice to Andrew Johnson, and a volume of William T. Sherman's letters. He is currently working on the second and final volume of his biography of Ulysses S. Grant.

Michael Vorenberg



Michael Vorenberg is an Associate Professor of History at Brown University. His interests are in the intersection of three topics: Civil War and Reconstruction; Legal and Constitutional History; and Slavery, Emancipation, and Race. His first book, *Final Freedom: The Civil War, the Abolition of Slavery, and the Thirteenth Amendment*, was widely acclaimed. His current book project is *Reconstructing the People: The Invention of Citizenship During the American Civil War*.

Douglas L. Wilson



Douglas L. Wilson taught English and American Literature for 33 years at Knox College, where he is now co-director of the Lincoln Studies Center. His work on Abraham Lincoln has appeared in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *American Heritage*, *Time*, and *The American Scholar*. He has written or edited six books on Lincoln, including three in which he collaborated with Rodney O. Davis—*Herndon's Informants: Letters and Interviews about Abraham Lincoln*, *Herndon's Lincoln*, and *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates* (forthcoming). Two of his books, *Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln* and *Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words*, won both the Abraham Lincoln Institute Prize and the Lincoln Prize.

Abraham Lincoln Symposium

PROGRAM

February 11 and 12, 2008
Old State Capitol
Free and open to the public

BOOK SALES and SIGNINGS

11:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m., both days
Rotunda, Old State Capitol
Featuring Michael Beschloss

LINCOLN SYMPOSIUM:

Celebrating a Century of Lincoln Scholarship

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., both days
Hall of Representatives, Old State Capitol
Presiding: Thomas F. Schwartz
The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Day One, February 11, 2008 Addresses

Finding Abe: The Elusive Mr. Lincoln

Jean H. Baker
Goucher College

A Life in Politics: Lincoln and the American Party Systems

Mark E. Neely, Jr.
Pennsylvania State University

Lincoln's Rhetoric

Douglas L. Wilson
Knox College

Day Two, February 12, 2008 Addresses

Abraham Lincoln's Ethic of Distance

Brian R. Dirck
Anderson University

Abraham Lincoln: Commander-in-Chief

Brooks D. Simpson
Arizona State University

Lincoln the Citizen--Or Lincoln the Anti-Citizen?

Michael Vorenberg
Brown University

LINCOLN SYMPOSIUM LUNCHEON

February 11, 2008
The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Dr. Guelzo will sign his newly published book,
Lincoln and Douglas: The Debate That Defined America

11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Luncheon and Speech

SPEAKER

Allen C. Guelzo

WHO WON THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES?



Allen C. Guelzo is the Henry R. Luce III Professor of the Civil War Era at Gettysburg College, where he serves as Director of the Civil War Era Studies Program and The Gettysburg Semester. Guelzo, born in Japan, earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Pennsylvania. He also holds a M.Div. from Philadelphia Theological Seminary and an honorary doctorate in history from Lincoln College.

He is the first two-time winner of the Lincoln Prize, for his books *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President* and *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America*. Guelzo formerly held the position of Dean at The Templeton Honors College at Eastern University, where he was the Grace Ferguson Kea Professor of American History. Previously, he was a professor of history at the Philadelphia Theological Seminary.

Guelzo's other publications include *Edwards on the Will: A Century of American Philosophical Debate*, *The Crisis of the American Republic: A New History of the Civil War and Reconstruction*, and an edition of Josiah G. Holland's *Life of Abraham Lincoln*. For the Teaching Company, he produced a twelve-part lecture series on Abraham Lincoln, which appeared in 2005 and is available on DVD.

Sponsored by:
The Abraham Lincoln Association
The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

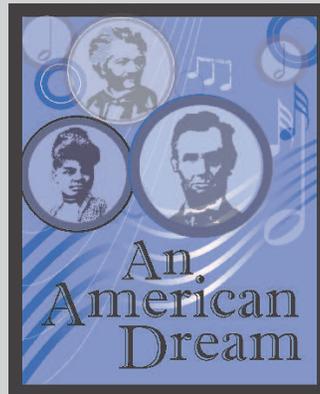
Reservations: call 217 558-8934 or go online at <http://www.alplm.org/home>. \$20.00. Credit cards accepted.

Menu: Chicken sautéed with almonds-orange horseradish sauce, new potatoes, broccoli salad, Texas sheet cake, and beverage.

An American Dream Concert

The Abraham Lincoln Association and the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People Bloomington and Springfield Branches

proudly present a unique evening of music, song, and the spoken word commemorating the 1908 race riot in Springfield and the 100th anniversaries of the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and The Abraham Lincoln Association. Music will be performed by the Illinois Symphony Orchestra under the directorship of Karen Lynne Deal.



February 11, 2007

7:00 p.m. Sangamon Auditorium, UIS
One University Plaza, Springfield, Illinois
For tickets call: 217-206-6160 or 800-207-6960

February 13, 2007

7:00 p.m. Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts
110 E. Mulberry Street, Bloomington, Illinois
For tickets call: 309-434-2777 or 866-686-9541



The Abraham Lincoln Association Banquet

February 12, 2008
Crowne Plaza Hotel
3000 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois

ENDOWMENT FUND RECEPTION

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Ball Room Reception Room

Meet the banquet speaker, Michael Beschloss

Tickets: \$75 per person.

For reservations, contact Mary Shepherd at 866-865-8500 or
maryshepherd.ala@gmail.com.

CENTENNIAL RECEPTION AND BANQUET

RECEPTION

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

Outer Ballroom Lobby

Music by the 10th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regimental Band

BANQUET

7:00 p. m.

Ballroom

Presiding: Richard E. Hart

President, The Abraham Lincoln Association

Address: Michael Beschloss

Tickets: \$75 per person.



Michael Beschloss
Banquet Speaker

Presidential historian Michael Beschloss is the author of numerous books on American Presidents and has recently authored the bestseller, *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789-1989*.

Beschloss was born in Chicago and was educated at Andover, Williams College, and Harvard University. He majored in political science at Williams and earned an MBA at Harvard Business School. Beschloss appears frequently on PBS, ABC, and C-SPAN. He is the NBC News Presidential Historian.

PAUL ANGLE REMEMBERS BANQUETS PAST

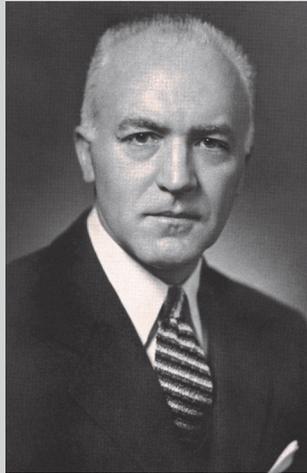
Richard E. Hart, President
The Abraham Lincoln Association

Paul M. Angle was the first Executive Secretary of The Abraham Lincoln Association. He served from 1925 to 1932 when he left to become head of the Illinois State Historical Library. In 1974, the Claxon Club of Chicago and the Chicago Historical Society published his reminiscences in a book entitled *On a Variety of Subjects*. One of the subjects was titled *In the Service of Clio*, an amusing description of February 12th ALA banquets of the past. In Greek mythology, Clio is the muse of history, a muse Angle served well.

IN THE SERVICE OF CLIO

Then there was the annual Lincoln Banquet, revived along with the Association itself. All arrangements fell upon me. They would not have been onerous except for the fact that the good members were allowed to make up their own tables. Each person reserving a table was supposed to fill it, but rarely did. But let the secretary try to fill a couple of vacant places for some of the strays he invariably had on his hands, and the fur would fly. I could not escape the conclusion that half of the people of Springfield wanted nothing to do with the other half. This problem was difficult enough, yet it shrank in significance when compared with the sudden epidemic of deafness which invariably struck the city a few days before February 12. As soon as table assignments were released it would suddenly appear that practically everyone seated back of the second row of tables was hard of hearing, and would simply have to be placed closer to the speaker. And quite often, personal influence and human frailty being what they are, the handicapped were seated closer.

Another Lincoln's birthday responsibility falling upon the secre-



Paul M. Angle, Executive Secretary of the
Lincoln Centennial Association
1925-1932

tary was the entertainment of a number of out-of-town members who made the pilgrimage annually. The group was led by a wonderful old lawyer and former judge who had two gods: Abraham Lincoln and his own belly. Abraham Lincoln took care of himself on February 12, but on February 11 it was the duty—or pleasure, I never could quite decide which—of Mrs. Angle and me to help the judge and his companions serve his other deity.

The basic ingredients for the dinner were assembled in accordance with detailed instructions, conveyed in advance. Whatever else was necessary, including a gallon jug of Bourbon whiskey, would arrive with the group in the early afternoon. The judge would immediately put on his apron and pitch in in the kitchen, always finishing in time for a couple of rounds of old-fashioned cocktails, which he insisted on making himself in huge glasses which he had transported two hundred miles. I can still see him with the jug between his knees, and hear him exclaim in his high-pitched voice, after the liquor had begun to take hold: "God damn it! Ain't we having a good time!"

The pre-Lincoln birthday dinners reached their climax with the baked oysters. Arrangements for this very special occasion began about the first of February when the judge informed us that he had ordered a half-barrel of oysters to be sent from Baltimore to our house. Detailed instructions followed by telephone almost every night. I was to find a couple of roustabouts to scrub the oysters, Mrs. Angle was to employ two waitresses, he would bring bibs, trays, ramekins, and everything else. When the great day came, all went without a hitch until the first round of oysters had been consumed. In all the planning no one had thought about disposing of the shells. The waitresses, rising to the occasion, found two wash buckets, and the rest of the elegant meal, an experience for a gourmet, was punctuated by the steady plunk of heavy shells into galvanized iron.

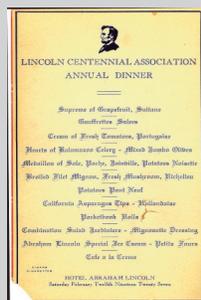
The visitation of the judge's contingent concluded with a final function—a gathering of the group and a few local people in his hotel suite after the annual banquet. One of these, in its way, was as noteworthy as the baked oyster dinner. This was the occasion on which "Just David" decided to pray for the sinners. "Just David" was a Methodist minister whose intellectual caliber and naiveté were indicated by his selection of the title of Gene Stratton Porter's saccharine novel as his familiar name. On this evening "Just David" appeared at the postprandial session. The jug had been out, of course, but our ministerial friend gave no visible or vocal sign of disapproval. After twenty minutes, however, he announced that he would have to leave, and would those who were there do him a great favor? Would

they kneel, and permit him to say a prayer? The difficulty was that everyone had a highball in his hand, and all were caught off base as far as tables were concerned. All, including the judge with his 225 pounds, knelt, each man holding his drink and trying his best to keep from spilling it while "Just David" spoke his touching plea for the mercy of the Almighty.

After seven years of such service in Clio's behalf I was asked to take charge of the Illinois State Historical Library. It seemed to me to be a very good idea. The Depression was approaching its nadir, and I concluded that the State of Illinois was far more likely to survive the debacle than the Lincoln Centennial Association. In short, I ran for cover. Although I have never regretted the decision, my prognosis was wrong. The State of Illinois cut salaries and missed a couple of payrolls; the Lincoln Centennial Association sailed through nicely. The experience led me to formulate a rule of action for times of economic disaster. Abandon the essential industries. Steel mills and automobile factories shut down, utilities lay off men by the hundreds, banks close. But historical societies and art museums and colleges and universities somehow keep going.

And so I became a servant not only of Clio, but also of the state. I soon discovered that I needed to acquire a new set of skills. The fact that I had no experience in running a library turned out to be of no more consequence than my lack of historical competence in my first position. I had to learn about politics, and learn fast.

Banquet Menu
February 12, 1927



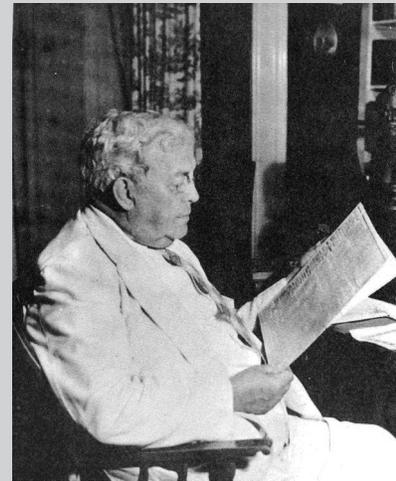
JAMES W. BOLLINGER AS A COLLECTOR OF LINCOLNIANA

"THE JUDGE"

So, who was the "Judge"? A little research reveals that he was James Wills Bollinger, an avid collector of Lincolniana and a member of the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association from 1943 until his death in 1951. In 1982, the University of Iowa, Books at Iowa, published an article entitled "James W. Bollinger as a Collector of Lincolniana," by Robert A. McCown. With the kind permission of the University and Mr. McCown, the article is printed below.

In 1903 he received from his mother a small book bound in green cloth. *Nancy Hanks, The Story of Abraham Lincoln's Mother* by Caroline Hanks Hitchcock was his first Lincoln book and it was to be the start of an exceptional collection. In such a way, the sixteenth president became his idol and he set out with enthusiasm and pleasure to build a collection of books and pamphlets by and about Lincoln. He found that collecting took effort and persistence. Accumulating books was far more than just possession: he began to live intimately with Abraham Lincoln in a comfortable "Lincoln Room." It was an extraordinary love affair.

James Wills Bollinger was born on April 10, 1867, in Geneseo, Illinois, the son of Albert Lester and Emily Diana Wills Bollinger. After service in the Civil War, Albert Bollinger married, and later ran a carriage shop. As a young woman, Mrs. Bollinger had seen Lincoln at the time of the Galesburg debate while she was attending Lombard College and during the Civil War she had scraped lint for wounds. In 1873 the Bollingers moved to Davenport, Iowa, where Mr. Bollinger went to work for Sieg and Williams, a wholesale heavy hardware business. Later his son would be chairman of the board of the Sieg Company. Young James attended grammar school from 1873 until



Judge James W. Bollinger
Member of the Board of Directors
of The Abraham Lincoln Association
1943-1951

1881. In June 1885 he graduated from the Classical Department of Davenport High School and then entered The University of Iowa.

While a student at Iowa, James Bollinger was an active member of the Irving Institute, which was a campus literary society, the University Battalion of the Iowa National Guard, and Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. Politics was also part of the college learning experience. "Billy Kenyon and I were college mates, fraternity brothers, and each one of us made our first political speeches to a public audience the same night, same room, down in a little country town South end of Johnson County, Iowa." William S. Kenyon later served as U.S. senator from Iowa. Bollinger received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1888 and a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1889. In 1893 he was awarded a Master of Arts diploma.

At the time of his graduation from law school in June 1889, Bollinger was admitted to the bar and began the practice of law in Davenport. In 1895 he served as an alderman and between 1897 and 1911 he was an Iowa district court judge for the Seventh Judicial District. For the rest of his life he bore the title of "Judge."

During the "Gay Nineties," Bollinger and another young lawyer took trips to Colorado, the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, and even made a voyage to London and Paris. On November 1, 1899, in Davenport, he married Mary Elizabeth Gilman and began a happy domestic life.

The Judge's time was filled with more than legal activities and family affairs. Always active in various capacities in the Iowa State Bar Association, he was president in 1909. He was also involved in the business world and he served as president of a number of corporations: the Security Fire Insurance Company of Davenport, the Sieg Company, the Sickles & Preston Company, and the S. F. Gilman Milling Company. At one time he was president of the Davenport Public Museum. He liked to hunt and fish, play golf, and was very fond of horse racing. Membership in the Contemporary Club and the History Roundtable of Davenport brought pleasurable moments. Then, about 1925, he began in earnest to collect books and pamphlets by and about Abraham Lincoln.

One person who had an influence on the development of Bollinger's Lincoln library was Joseph Benjamin Oakleaf (1858-1930), of Moline, Illinois, who at the time of his death was the owner of the largest private Lincoln collection in the United States. In a letter to Oakleaf's son, Bollinger wrote: "Speaking very personally, I doubt if you ever knew how much he helped and cheered and encouraged, almost inspired me, in my attempt in Lincolniana. You see I first knew him as one of the 'Big Five.' [Lincoln Collectors] But I believe it should be said of him that he was one of the 'Big Two.' Because there were only two of the five that gave the world bibliographies—Judge Fish and J. B. Oakleaf." In December 1925, the Judge had fewer than a hundred items in his Lincoln Collection, but it was to grow quickly after that date.

In the spring of 1926 Bollinger purchased two unusual books from Brentano's in Chicago: William Neilson, *Exercises on the Syntax of the Greek Language* (New York: T. and J. Swords, 1825) and Epes Sargent, *Wealth and Worth; or, Which Makes*

"The Abraham Lincoln Association was very important to the Judge. He was first elected a director of the association in 1943 and continued to serve in that capacity until his death."

the Man? (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1856). Both books contained Lincoln's autograph and were said to be part of the president's personal library. Previously the books had belonged to John E. Burton, a famous Wisconsin collector. In addition to Lincoln's autograph in the middle of the free endpaper, Neilson's *Exercises* had some important marginalia. At the very bottom of page thirty-four is a sentence printed in parallel Greek and English: "Ye have loved me, and have believed that I came forth from God." The word God is crossed out with a pen and the words "from nature" are substituted, supposedly in Lincoln's hand. Both William E. Barton and Carl Sandburg used this substitution as evidence of Lincoln's denial of Jesus as the son of God. These two volumes were the most prized of any that Bollinger had in his collection of Lincolniana.

By 1931, the Judge had almost eighteen hundred items in his growing library. In that year he encountered a man named Harry D. Sickles, who had a suitcase of sheet music, maps, and books usually autographed "A Lincoln" which he was offering for sale. Many of the items were of value in themselves without the autograph. The Judge bought two or three items from him. Afterwards, the Judge told Paul Angle, executive secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association, about his purchase, but Angle cautioned him regarding the material. In fact Angle sent a warning to all members of the association about these Lincoln autographs. Sickles said that he had obtained the material from a Black man who had been Mrs. Lincoln's coachman in the years following Lincoln's death. Mrs. Lincoln had given the material to the coachman and he was now offering it for sale. Bollinger turned the items over to Albert Sherman Osborn, an examiner of dubious documents in New York, who found that the signatures on the material purchased from Sickles were merely forged tracings.

At the time Judge Bollinger sent his Sickles material to Osborn, he also sent his copies of Neilson's *Exercises* and *Wealth and Worth*. Osborn believed the signature in *Wealth and Worth* to be genuine, but that the signature in *Greek Exercises* was spurious. However, he was not positive as to either signature. This opinion was a blow to Judge Bollinger, because he had taken such pride in the volumes. Of course, the evidence on which Barton and Sandburg had based their assumption about Lincoln's denial of the supernatural birth of Jesus was now destroyed. The Sickles affair did not end without some positive results. One item that the Judge purchased from him was absolutely rare, an edition bound in scrapbook format entitled *Abraham Lincoln as Attorney for the Illinois Central Railway Company*. This work was one of an edition limited to six copies.

In April 1939, when his collection stood at 2,425 items, an article appeared in *Better Homes & Gardens* about Judge Bollinger's cooking and included some of his recipes. The Judge was famous for his love of good food. In his memoirs Paul Angle tells the story of a dinner of baked oysters before one of the annual meetings of the Abraham Lincoln Association. Shortly after the article appeared the Judge received a letter from a woman in Quincy, Illinois, concerning a pamphlet in her possession, a copy of a speech about Lincoln by one M. R. Butz. She was interested in selling the item. While he preferred to have the seller set the price, the woman did not know what to ask for this small bit of Lincolniana. The Judge sent her \$10. Later Jay Monaghan, the Lincoln bibliographer, said the Judge's copy of the Butz pamphlet was the only one he had ever seen. Feeling a bit guilty, the Judge sent the woman some additional money.

Bollinger not only collected books about Lincoln, he read the books in his library with care. There can be little doubt that his favorite book was the biography by Lincoln's law partner, William H. Herndon. "After all Herndon is perhaps the most important of all, the very carburetor of a Lincoln library." The Judge accepted many of Herndon's conclusions and his view of Lincoln was essentially Herndon's. A

close second in the race was Ward Hill Lamon's *Life of Abraham Lincoln* (1872). "Am just finishing reading it the second, maybe the third time. Every time I peek into it I like it better ... Has lots in it that Herndon doesn't have." Lamon was one of Lincoln's close friends and the book has merit. As a brief summary, the Judge liked Robert G. Ingersoll's essay on Lincoln. "In my humble opinion this little book of 100 pages, bound in cloth, is the very nicest thing, worded the nicest, the truest and best eulogy ever, ever written about Abraham Lincoln."

Specialized studies also held great appeal for the Judge. He considered A. A. Woldman's *Lawyer Lincoln* (1936) "the best work ever written on Lincoln as lawyer." It was an inclusive work based on printed sources that appealed to attorneys. Perhaps his favorite monograph was Paul Angle's "*Here I Have Lived*": *A History of Lincoln's Springfield* (1935). The Judge's copy has an inscription on the front endpaper: "To James W. Bollinger—one of the few men whose opinions of this book are of real concern to me. Paul M. Angle." The Judge had a high opinion. "This is the freshest off-the-griddle book I ever read... It shows so much pick and shovel work Your style is your big asset. ... Perfectly wonderfully fine."

If the Judge had his favorite books, there were also a few that he disliked passionately. The biography of Lincoln by Edgar Lee Masters published in 1931 was first on the list. "It is Copperhead through and through He seems to be a Lincoln hater from top to toe." The second book on the roster was written by an acquaintance and frequent correspondent of the Judge, Otto Eisenschiml's *Why Was Lincoln Murdered?* (1937). "Am all wrought up over the Eisenschiml book. He is a pleasant agreeable chap. Have met him personally. He has been studying his stuff for years. ... The result is that God-awful, sensational, 'unreconstructed rebel,' P. T. Barnum book... Besides his sin of sensationalism, the next worst thing about him I think is his awful blundering between premise and conclusion." After reading the book, one might guess that Edwin M. Stanton was one of those responsible for Lincoln's death. Such a

surmise was highly unacceptable to Bollinger.

The year 1938 saw the publication of *The Hidden Lincoln* by Emanuel Hertz, a volume which printed source materials on which Herndon's biography of Lincoln was based. "Terrible. A 'cash in' proposition I call it He jumps to sex stuff." As an editor, Hertz was very deficient, in the view of the Judge, because his book could blacken the name of Lincoln.

While the two volumes of James G. Randall's *Lincoln, the President* (1945) were scholarly, that historian came to conclusions on moot issues. For instance, he believed that McClellan was a good commander. "Did you really in all your life know of any one, author, talker, or any other kind of person, who took the McClellan side, that was not carrying Southern blood in his veins? I never did. Not one. Except, of course, many of the men in Mac's army were crazy about him because he did not get them into battles, and let thousands of them go on leave of absence." Bollinger went so far as to state that "the rest of his book is pretty fine," but he also believed that Randall was "nuts too on Ann Rutledge. But that's a different story. That comes from people who hate Herndon—and I have ceased to discuss that."

Probably every collector has some showy items, and the Judge was no exception. One of the most treasured books on the Bollinger shelves was Frederick Hill Meserve's *Lincolniana, Historical Portraits and Views* (1915). The Judge purchased his copy in 1930 from a friend. It was originally made by Mr. Meserve for his wife and was especially bound in full blue levant. Another prize that the Judge enjoyed displaying to visitors was a book of etchings by Bernhard Wall entitled *Lincoln's New Salem* (1926). Books about Lincoln in foreign languages were a specialty of the Judge. There were two early translations of William Makepeace Thayer's *The Pioneer Boy, and How He Became President* (1863), a Greek edition of 1865 and an Hawaiian translation of 1869. The latter copy came as a gift in 1937 from Henry Horner, governor of Illinois. If youngsters were visiting his

library, the Judge might show them his miniature books.

Aside from his great pleasure in gathering Lincoln books and pamphlets, wonderful friendships developed along with the collection. The Judge knew and corresponded with other famous collectors and authors, including Henry Horner, Oliver R. Barrett, Carl Sandburg, William E. Barton, Ida Tarbell, W. H. Townsend, Paul Angle, and Louis A. Warren. His papers are replete with letters from book sellers about purchases. Wright Howes and Daniel H. Newhall were two of his favorite dealers. However, the Judge was not above complaining about prices and he often tried to get a 10 percent discount as a favored customer.

Early in June 1929 the Judge and two of his friends from Davenport took a trip with stops at historic sites associated with Lincoln in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. For some time in the 1930s a group of Lincoln enthusiasts came together and called themselves the Oakwood Lincoln Club. Most of the meetings took place at the seven-room log cabin on the Oakwood Farm near Peoria of M. L. Houser (1871-1951), a student of Lincoln's early life and education. One result of the club was a small pamphlet on the death of John Wilkes Booth. This nicely printed booklet was financed by Judge Bollinger, and he took great joy in giving copies to friends and fellow collectors. R. B. Garrett, *An Interesting Letter about the Death of John Wilkes Booth Written by the Reverend R. B. Garrett of Portsmouth, Virginia to General A. R. Taylor of Memphis, Tennessee* (Peoria, Illinois: Oakwood Lincoln Club, 1934), has an introduction by the Judge explaining that this is an eyewitness account to the death of Booth on April 26, 1865. The verso pages are a transcript of the letter and the recto pages are a facsimile of the Garrett letter.

When Bollinger reached the age of 70 in 1937, he had the largest Lincoln library in the state of Iowa. In April of that year a group of the Judge's friends gave him a surprise party. The party included not only people from Davenport, but other Lincoln students such as Harry Pratt, Benjamin Thomas, Paul

Angle, and Otto Eisenschiml. Later the Judge wrote to a California friend about the party: "And it was indeed a surprise and about the nicest thing that ever happened to me. And was perpetrated by the very finest people you ever heard of. It was so delightful." The gift to the guest of honor was a book printed in an edition of one copy, *A Letter from William H. Herndon to Isaac N. Arnold Relating to Abraham Lincoln, His Wife, and Their Life in Springfield*. The book was printed by the Freye [Frye] Printing Company of Springfield, Illinois, from type set by M. & L. Typesetting Company in Chicago, bound by R. R. Donnelley & Sons of Chicago and preserved in a handsome leather pull-off case. The original Herndon letter is in the Chicago Historical Society. One year later the Judge decided to share his unique book with the people who had given it to him. So he had a facsimile edition of 29 copies made, and sent one to each man who had attended the party.

Before Christmas in 1943 the Judge and Mrs. Bollinger left for a California trip. Shortly after their arrival in Santa Monica, Mrs. Bollinger fell and fractured her hip. What had been planned as a vacation ended in a long hospital stay for the Judge's wife. There was only one bright spot. In January the Judge went with two friends to visit the Lincoln collection at the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino, where they examined manuscripts and books, including Reuben Vose's *The Life and Speeches of Abraham Lincoln* (1860), an extremely rare book. "Never will forget what a good time I had."

The Judge's last Lincoln adventure occurred at midnight on July 26, 1947, at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., on the occasion of the opening of the private papers of Lincoln which had been given to the Library by Robert Todd Lincoln, with the condition that they be closed until 21 years after his own death. No opening of manuscripts was more eagerly awaited, and all of the nation's Lincoln experts were on

"Every year on February 12 a banquet was held in Springfield by the Abraham Lincoln Association. The Judge and a carload of friends from Iowa went almost every year during the 1930s and early 1940s."

hand. The Judge "called the gathering a rare collection of 'nuts.'" At 12:01 a.m. the seal was broken on the papers that Lincoln left in the White House at the time of his death. While the papers contained no astonishing surprises, the collection was to be of value to scholars. For the Judge it was a solemn and reverent event that came near the end of his own long career of collecting.

Every year on February 12 a banquet was held in Springfield by the Abraham Lincoln Association. The Judge and a carload of friends from Iowa went almost every year during the 1930s and early 1940s. The group also attended the annual dinner of the Old Salem-Lincoln League which worked for the restoration of New Salem. In 1939 the Judge gave the after-dinner speech, his first attempt to deliver a talk on Lincoln. The Abraham Lincoln Association was very important to the Judge. He was first elected a director of the association in 1943 and continued to serve in that capacity until his death.

Bollinger's fellowship with others interested in Lincolniana included many organizations. In November 1936 his name was approved for membership in the Lincoln Group of Chicago. Less than a year later, in July 1937, he was elected an honorary member in the Lincoln Fellowship of Southern California. Then, in 1941, he was given honorary membership in the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin. That same year the Judge was elected to the Lincoln National Life Foundation Advisory Group, a representative group of Lincoln authors, collectors, educators, lawyers, and students who might advise the foundation. In 1943 Bollinger was appointed to the Lincoln Bibliography Committee, which was made up of five selected

members of the Foundation Group. The task of the committee was to decide on the eligibility as Lincolniana of books and pamphlets coming from the presses. The items selected would appear in *Lincoln Lore*, the bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

As a student of Lincoln, the Judge developed definite views about the life of the man from Illinois. Yet Paul Angle believed the Judge's "attitude toward Lincoln was a little too emotional for a real expert. Bollinger was sentimental. Lincoln meant a great deal to him, and various aspects of the Lincoln which he had come to cherish meant a great deal to him." Lincoln's romance with Ann Rutledge was one of his favorite beliefs. "The story goes that Ann was lovable, was a sweetheart. Like the Santa Claus story, believe it, even if you know it is not true In the study of Lincoln there are surges. One surge almost made Lincoln a god and you are riding another surge that is attempting to drown out Ann Rutledge, the one sweet thing in Lincoln's whole life." Conversely, the Judge was not fond of Mrs. Lincoln. "She had lots of good qualities and was the making of her husband, but nobody likes her even now."

Although the Judge's Lincoln collection consisted primarily of books and pamphlets, he also had Lincoln pictures and busts in his Lincoln room. He took pleasure in studying pictures of Lincoln. "Pick out one good picture of Lincoln. Scan it scrupulously. Forget all the sad stories and struggles of his life and the greatness of the man and his martyred death. Just note the intelligence of the face, its gentleness, its firmness, and though its expression may be sad, answer to yourself honestly: *Was he a homely man?*" The Judge did believe that "Lincoln was a sad man. Don't ever try to get that out of your noodle. He told stories to make other people laugh and to make him happy, but he was a sad man."

The best summary of the Judge's views on Lincoln is his own book, *Lincoln, Statesman, and Logician*,

published in 1944. He believed that Lincoln's common sense was the real source of success. The origin of this conviction was again Herndon. "However great the verbal foliage that concealed the nakedness of a good idea Lincoln stripped it down till he could see clear the way between cause and effect. If there was any secret in his power this surely was it." Carroll Coleman, one of America's finest typographic artists, designed and printed Bollinger's little book at the Prairie Press, then located in Muscatine, Iowa. The total cost for producing the book came to \$436. Once more, the Judge took delight in sending copies to friends all over the United States. Words of praise for the book and its author flowed back. Most letter writers agreed with the one who wrote, "The breadth of your personality ranges itself in the pages of your book along side the great personality of your Lincoln."

About 1936, Mason Ladd, law professor and later dean of the Law School at The University of Iowa, suggested to Bollinger that he place his Lincoln collection in The University of Iowa Libraries for permanent preservation. A year later the idea was seconded by Benjamin F. Shambaugh, head of the Department of Political Science at the University, as well as superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa. Bollinger liked the notion and made a provision in his will that his Lincoln library should go to the University. About that time, the Judge wrote to Shambaugh concerning his Lincoln room: "Am much pleased with it myself. So much so that when I go I will re-

gret I cannot take it with me."

By 1940 the Judge was corresponding with Eugene A. Gilmore, president of the University. A clause was added to the Judge's will providing that the collection come with the conditions that the books be cared for, kept intact, and that the University would add to the bequest. Although the library would not be moved to the University until his death, the gift was announced on the occasion of a public lecture at the University by Carl Sandburg on February 16, 1943. The Judge introduced Sandburg to the audience and revealed that he intended to give his collection to the University.

Judge Bollinger died at the age of 83 on January 30, 1951. On the eve of Lincoln's birthday in February 1951, the Bollinger Lincoln Collection of more than thirty-five hundred items came to the University's rare book room. It was opened to the public in formal dedication ceremonies held on the campus that November. Today this exhaustive library of Lincolniana has a place in the Special Collections Department in the Main Library of The University of Iowa.

Judge Bollinger's collection of Lincolniana was formally presented to The University of Iowa Libraries in 1951. The addresses given on that occasion by Paul M. Angle, Benjamin P. Thomas, Harry E. Pratt, Charles J. Lynch, Jr., and Louis A. Warren were collected in a volume entitled *The Bollinger Lincoln Lectures*, edited in 1953 by Clyde C. Walton, Jr., in an edition of 350 copies.

LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS



To commemorate the 100th anniversary of The Abraham Lincoln Association, a book of photographs of all of the statues of Lincoln known to stand in Illinois together with comments on each will be published in 2008 by the Association and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. Look for more information on this book in the next issue of *For The People*.

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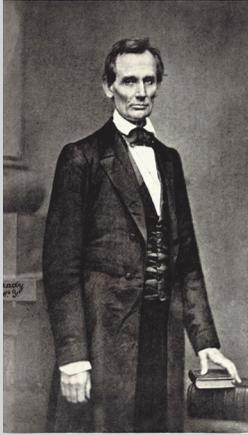
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CENTENNIAL OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

December 9, 2007

Dear ALA Members,

We will celebrate the Centennial of our Abraham Lincoln Association on February 11, 12, and 13, 2008. I invite you to join in the celebration and mark your calendars now for the various events.

This edition of *For The People* is your brochure for all of the events. Please use the enclosed cards to make some of your reservations.

The 2008 Symposium at the Old State Capitol will be a two day event. The first day, February 11, will feature scholars Jean H. Baker, Mark E. Neely, Jr. and Douglas L. Wilson. Prior to the Symposium on the 11th, there will be a luncheon in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library featuring Allen C. Guelzo as speaker.

On the evening of February 11, *An American Dream* will be performed at Sangamon Auditorium at the University of Illinois at Springfield. The ALA has partnered with the Springfield and Bloomington Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in sponsoring the Illinois Symphony Orchestra's performance of a program of American music entitled *An American Dream*. The *American Dream* has been made possi-

ble by a major grant from State Farm Insurance and a number of other generous grants from the sponsors listed on page 4. We thank them all.

February 12 will be filled with a number of events. The ALA Executive Committee and Board will meet in the morning, and in the afternoon, the second day of the Symposium at the Old State Capitol will feature Brian R. Dirck, Brooks D. Simpson, and Michael Vorenberg.

On the evening of February 12, we will hold our banquet at a new venue, the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Springfield's far east side. The banquet hall there will accommodate up to 800 guests, and is much larger than the facility we have previously used. The dinner speaker will be Presidential historian Michael Beschloss. During the cocktail hour, the 10th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regimental Band will serenade us with music of the Civil War period.

On February 13, *An American Dream* will be performed in the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, a magnificent facility.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2008 ALA events.

Yours truly,

Richard E. Hart
President, Abraham Lincoln Association