



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

SARAH THOMAS ENDOWS LINCOLN SYMPOSIUM HONORING HER FATHER BENJAMIN P. THOMAS

Sarah Thomas' generous contribution to the ALA in honor of her father, Benjamin P. Thomas, was announced at the ALA Lincoln Day Banquet on February 12, 2012. The ALA is most grateful to Sarah. Her gift will be used to support the Lincoln Symposium and henceforth, that Symposium will bear the name of Benjamin P. Thomas.

By Michael Burlingame

Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair
in Lincoln Studies History Department
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois-Springfield

In 1952, Benjamin P. Thomas, who served as the executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Association from 1932 to 1936, published *Abraham Lincoln: A Biography*, which to this day remains the best single-volume life of the sixteenth president. Mark E. Neely Jr., who won a Pulitzer Prize for his monograph, *The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties*, deemed Thomas's book "wonderful," a "masterpiece," an "elegant and balanced synthesis" resting on "the best research" and written in a "fluid and readable style."

Abraham Lincoln: A Biography is readable indeed. James Hurt, a literary scholar, recalled that upon rereading the biography decades after its release, he was surprised by "how short it seemed," for "the organization is so straightforward and the style so bare and lucid that it moves quickly and purposefully."

Thomas credited Logan Hay, a Springfield attorney and president of the Abraham Lincoln Association, for helping to teach him how to write clear historical prose. Thomas met Hay at Old Mission, Michigan, where Thomas's wife, Salome



Sarah Thomas and her daughter, Amy Hathaway, at the ALA Banquet where it was announced that Sarah was donating funds to the ALA in honor of her father Benjamin P. Thomas.

Kreider, and her Springfield-based family spent their summers. By the time of that fateful meeting, Thomas had received his Ph.D. in American history at Johns Hopkins University (where he had done his undergraduate work) and had taught at Birmingham-Southern College for three years. Disenchanted with the racism then prevalent in Alabama, the New-Jersey-born-and-bred Thomas was looking for another position. When Hay suggested that he take the place of the departing executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Association (Paul M. Angle), Thomas protested that he was a diplomatic historian and knew very little about Lincoln. Hay assured him: "You can learn on the job." Thomas accepted, and for the next four years worked for the ALA. In addition to administering the affairs of organization, he also wrote extensively about Lincoln.

As Thomas drafted his first book (*Lincoln's New Salem*, published by the ALA in 1934), Hay unsparingly critiqued the manuscript. "Mr. Hay took such a keen interest in it that he scrutinized every phase of the research and weighed and pondered every word I wrote," Thomas recollected. After one particularly grueling editorial session,

Thomas exclaimed to Paul Angle: "Damn it, I can't be that bad!" According to Angle, Thomas "would manfully meet Mr. Hay's objections. In the end he would admit . . . that the book was far better than it would have been without those sessions that so severely taxed his patience. Ben was particularly grateful for Logan Hay's tutelage because he believed that through it he learned a great deal about historical writing."

After completing *Lincoln's New Salem*, Thomas edited a volume in the *Lincoln Day-by-Day* series, which was published by the ALA in 1936. For the next decade, Thomas worked as a businessman in Springfield, where he became head of the chamber of commerce and a proud breeder of polled Hereford cattle. But he had been bitten by the Lincoln bug and could not stay away from the field forever. He explained that any Springfield residents who wanted to escape the spell of Lincoln had best move elsewhere. Immediately after World War II, he began work on *Portrait for Posterity: Lincoln and His Biographers*, which the Rutgers University Press published in 1947. The research he conducted for those books, as well as his experience as executive secretary of the ALA, prepared him well for writing *Abraham Lincoln: A Biography*, which Alfred A. Knopf published.

Thomas worked hard on his prose. As Paul M. Angle wrote: "In his own writing, Thomas developed the faculty of self-criticism, revising repeatedly for clarity and movement, especially movement." Thomas recalled that during the years when he abandoned historical research and writing to enter the busi-

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ness world, he spent his spare time reading “widely in general literature, learning how a good novelist builds up his plot and something about literary grace and artful writing. I returned to history with a new perspective, a new appreciation of good writing, and a resolve to avoid the stuffiness and rigidity” that was “an occupational hazard to historical writers.” He was dismayed that “all too often, academic biographers, and academic historians, too, refuse to face up to the fact that they work in a literary medium, and pay far too little attention to literary craftsmanship.” He recommended that universities “teach our future historians how to write. Unless things have changed since my days in graduate school, it might almost be said that a man must slough off the ponderosity that adheres to him from graduate training before he can hope to write well.”

When the dean of Civil War historians, Allan Nevins, first read the manuscript of Thomas’s Lincoln biography, he told the author that it “seemed to me quite beyond criticism” and that he had “read it with great enjoyment . . . and with much real instruction.” Nevins had anticipated “that the heavy compression required” in reducing the account of Lincoln’s life to a single volume would “crush the life out of the story, leaving it pemmicanized — nutritious but flavorless.” To his relief, Nevins found that Thomas had “admirably surmounted” that problem and that his biography had “real narrative flow and color.” Nevins was pleased that “the portrait of Lincoln emerges slowly (as it should: no man ever did more growing) but surely and convincingly” and predicted that Thomas’s biography “will at once be recognized as the one-volume life.” Thomas had, Nevins said, rendered the presidency “very ably” but more impressive still was his “treatment of the Lincoln of Illinois, and of Lincoln as a human being rather than as a statesman.”

When the book was released in 1952, reviewers heaped praise on it. Bruce Catton, the most popular Civil War historian of the day, called it “by far the best one-volume biography of Abraham Lincoln,” a “truly excellent piece of work.” Sterling North deemed it “a keen, perceptive, reliable, complete” biography “which should be in every home and school in America.” The *New York Times* reviewer declared Tho-

mas’s book “an altogether superb biography.”

Such praise, Thomas quipped, left him feeling like Noah Webster, compiler of the famous dictionary that bears his name: “One day Mrs. Webster came into the kitchen and found him embracing the maid. ‘Mr. Webster!’ said she, ‘I’m surprised.’ ‘Oh, no, Mrs. Webster,’ he corrected her, ‘I’m surprised. You’re amazed.’ I’m both surprised and amazed.”

The life-like evocation of Lincoln’s character and personality is the biography’s greatest strength. While acknowledging Lincoln’s many virtues, Thomas did not hesitate to point out some of his subject’s shortcomings. In Lincoln’s twenties and thirties, he was, Thomas correctly noted, “an honest, capable, but essentially self-centered politician of self-developed but largely unsuspected talents” and “a lucid thinker and a clever man before a crowd.” But, as Thomas convincingly argued, the years between 1849 and 1854 (Lincoln’s early forties) were “among the most fruitful of his life,” for “as he put aside all thought of political advancement, he grew tremendously in mind and character.” In analyzing that growth, Thomas observed that while Lincoln was “tough, shrewd, and canny in his younger years,” he became “strong, merciful, and wise” in his presidency. “His strength was flexible, like fine-spun wire, sensitive to every need and pressure, yielding but never breaking. Forced to adopt hard measures, he had tempered them with clemency. He exercised stern powers leniently, with regard for personal feeling and respect for human rights.” The secret of Lincoln’s success, Thomas concluded, was his character: “Essentially he had embodied the easygoing, sentimental, kindly spirit of America, which revolts at extreme measures but moves steadily, if sometimes haltingly, toward lofty goals.” He had been endowed by “hard experience, domestic trials, and personal affliction” with the “patience, tolerance, and forgiveness” that made him a great leader.

Thomas could paint such a vivid portrait of Lincoln because he resembled his subject. Like Lincoln, he was a Republican who abhorred racial intolerance. After the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown vs. Board Education*, he expressed revulsion against the “massive resistance” to public school integration that followed. Thomas also shared Lincoln’s sense of

humor, knack for friendship, likeability, ambition, gift for mimicry, taste for off-color stories, and determination to write well.

Thomas provided no introduction for his Lincoln biography, though in an unpublished autobiographical sketch, he wrote what could well have served that function: “First of all, I hope I have produced a living Lincoln, not a statue, a Lincoln that people can believe in. I think we make a mistake in idolizing Lincoln — he was human, just as we are human. To maintain our kinship with him, we must keep him real. I think he would want it that way. To me Lincoln was a man of amazing growth through self-effort, and I have tried to depict that growth. Take for example, his power with words. It was no accident. As a young lawyer Lincoln tried to write poetry; he liked to read poetry, too. One of his favorite poems was ‘Mortality’ by William Knox, a Scotsman. Lincoln once sent a copy of that poem to a fellow lawyer, and when this friend asked if Lincoln had written it himself, Lincoln replied that he hadn’t, but that he would give all that he owned and go into debt to be able to write such a poem. So here we have a young lawyer yearning and striving for the power to coax beauty from language, teaching himself to write well and to speak well. Consequently, it was not mere chance or sudden inspiration that later, under deep emotion, he could utter imperishable words. The roots of the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural were in the prairie soil of Illinois. Another thing that I tried to do was to relate Lincoln to his own and to our own times, and there is a close relationship between the two. Because democracy was under challenge in Lincoln’s day, just as it is in ours. And since he probably understood the true meaning of democracy better than any of our other leaders, his life holds great significance for us and the world today. In fact, his vision was so far reaching that I sometimes think we are just now catching up with him, just now beginning to appreciate the lessons his life holds for us.”

In light of Thomas’s substantial contributions to the Lincoln field both as an author and as the former executive director of the ALA, it is altogether fitting and proper that the organization express its gratitude to his daughter Sarah for her generous contribution and also to honor Benjamin P. Thomas by naming its annual symposium in his honor.

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PRESIDENT LENZ'S GREETING

Dear ALA Members,

I want to send a sincere thank you to all of the participants in the 2012 Abraham Lincoln Association Symposium and Banquet. What a wonderful celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 203rd birthday.

We are grateful to our partners: the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the University of Illinois Springfield.

We are also grateful to our speakers: James Oakes, Chandra Manning, Ethan Rafuse, Howard Jones and Senator Richard Durbin.

Thanks as well to Justin Blandford and the team at the Old State Capitol for hosting the Symposium. The ALA Symposium Committee chaired by Brooks Simpson also deserves thanks for all of their hard work, as does the Banquet Committee chaired by Jim Patton.

Last but not least thanks to everyone who supported the events by attending. For anyone who missed Senator Durbin's excellent speech, it is now available on our website at www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org.

This year we are planning a special *Watch Night* event on December 31, 2012, and a commemoration of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 2013. The *Watch Night* Service will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church and the signing will be at the Old State Capitol, both in Springfield, Illinois. *Watch Night* Services were held on December 31, 1862 as slaves prayed and gave thanks on *Freedom's Eve*. We will be sending out more information about the events closer to the date, so mark your calendar.

Thanks again to all of you for your continuing support.

Robert J. Lenz, President



ALA Sponsored Play *The Rivalry* Performed Before Large Bloomington Audience

By Kate Shepherd

In our internet and cable news-driven political world, it has hard to imagine the thousands of people who listened to Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas debate substantive issues for hours in towns across Illinois. In a heated election year, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates feel as relevant as ever and help put the issues we are currently facing in perspective.

Staged by L.A. Theatre Works in Bloomington, Illinois in February, 2012, Norman Corwin's 1959 play, *The Rivalry*, gives the audience a glimpse into the complicated relationship between the historical figures interspersed with excerpts of the actual debates. The story follows Douglas and wife Adele as they embark with Lincoln on a grueling debate tour of Illinois. The character of Adele functions as an



ALA Board Member Guy Fraker speaks to the audience about the Lincoln-Douglas Debates.

outside (but obviously not impartial) witness to the debates and acts as an occasional liaison between Lincoln and her husband.

The play's strength is showing how two rivals were able to intelligently deliberate the direction the United States should take during a time of crossroads. In one of the final scenes, Senator Douglas bridges his political differences with then-President Lincoln and works hard

to help save the union. It is an important message in a time of bitter partisanship.

Prior to the Bloomington performance, ALA President Bob Lenz introduced ALA Board member Guy Fraker who spoke to a large audience about Lincoln Douglas debates and the significance of these debates on history. Guy Fraker has a book debuting in October about Lincoln and the Eighth Judicial Circuit. The Bloomington performance was co-sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Association and the David Davis Mansion Foundation.



Lincoln, David Copperfield, and the Chords of Memory



By John Churchill
Secretary, Phi Beta Kappa Society

Readers of Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Address have long noted, as perhaps its initial auditors did, that the speech's famous reference to "the better angels of our nature" echoes imagery that was familiar to 19th-century Americans from the novels of Charles Dickens.

In *Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words*, Douglas L. Wilson reminds us that Lincoln drew "better angels" and other elements of an elaborate metaphor from a paragraph that had been suggested for the address's peroration by William H. Seward, a former political rival who was soon to become his trusted Secretary of State.

In his helpful transcription of what was submitted to Lincoln, Wilson preserves Seward's own running corrections.

I close. We are not we must not be aliens or enemies but **countrym** fellow countrymen and brethren. Although passion has strained our bonds of affection too hardly they must not **be broken they will not**, I am sure they will not be broken. The mystic chords which proceeding from **every ba** so many battle fields and so many patriot graves bind pass through all the hearts and **hearths** all the hearths in this broad continent of ours will yet **harmon** again harmonize in their ancient music when touched as they surely breathed upon **again** by the **better angel** guardian angel of the nation. (Red font indicates a strike through.)

Wilson's commentary focuses primarily on what the incoming president did in reworking Seward's draft, alluding only briefly to the impact that England's most popular novelist might have had on its wording. In fact, however, variations on "better angel" or "better angels" appear at least eight times in Dickens' novels: *Barnaby Rudge*

(1841), *David Copperfield* (1849), *Dombey and Son* (1846), and *Hard Times* (1854). In each use except for the final one in *David Copperfield*, the phrase is employed simply as a way of alluding to conscience or commending a character for the inspiration provided by her humane disposition. But in its final occurrence in *David Copperfield*, "better angel" is the culminating flourish in a more elaborate pattern of figurative language. A close examination of this instance shows that the *Copperfield* passage is the source of Seward's imagery, and—perhaps surprisingly—that Lincoln's changes steered the language away from Seward's deletions and back to the original phrasing in Dickens.

At this moment in *David Copperfield*, the protagonist has returned from a self-imposed exile to reunite with Agnes. As he describes his conversation with her, he emphasizes the aid that she has provided in the past, helping him deal with his childhood friend Emily and later with the death of his previous wife, Dora.

With her own sweet tranquility, she calmed my agitation; led me back to the time of our parting; spoke to me of Emily, whom she had visited, in secret, many times; spoke to me tenderly of Dora's grave. With the unerring instinct of her noble heart, she touched the chords of my memory so softly and harmoniously, that not one jarred within me; I could listen to the sorrowful, distant music, and desire to shrink from nothing it awoke. How could I, when, blended with it all, was her dear self, the better angel of my life?

Compare the closing paragraph from Lincoln's First Inaugural Address. By this point, in March of 1861, the lower South has seceded, but the war has yet to begin. The upper South—Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia—still hangs in the balance, and so do the border states of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri. With this in mind, Lincoln appeals to what remains of national sentiment in an increasingly fragile Union.

I am loth to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

Like David Copperfield, who is trying to

hold his life together despite "agitation," Lincoln hopes to hold the republic together despite the strain of "passion." In place of Dora's grave, we now have battlefields and patriot graves. As she refers to Dora's grave, Agnes touches "the chords of memory;" in Lincoln's remarks "the chords of memory," now described as "mystic," are depicted as extending from "every patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone," suggesting that the Union is like a giant stringed instrument. Just as Agnes, in "the instinct of her noble heart," "touches" those chords, Lincoln expresses hope that they will be "again touched." As Dickens refers to "distant music," Lincoln conjures up "the chorus of the Union." And just as Dickens' hero calls Agnes "the better angel" of his life, Lincoln appeals to "the better angels of our nature," praying that they will awaken their own life-saving music by touching the chords of memory that link hearts and graves across the land.

Comparing Seward's draft, and its visible strike-throughs, with the passage that eventually concluded the First Inaugural, we see significant alterations. Seward wrote "touched," and crossed it out; it has been restored in the final version of the Inaugural. Seward wrote "better angel" and crossed it out; in the final version it has become "better angels." In both instances, Seward first used wording that came straight out of Dickens, then thought better of it; in its final version the Inaugural text has returned to Dickens. In the change that proved most significant, Seward wrote of the "chords" proceeding from battlefields and graves; in the final version these "chords" have been transformed into "chords of memory." In short, the final version of the Inaugural borrows from *David Copperfield's* "chords of my memory" and restores a Dickens element that was not present at all in the Seward draft. What in Dickens was "sorrowful, distant music" striking David "harmoniously," became in Seward's version the chords "harmonizing in their ancient music," and in Lincoln's final version, "the chorus of the Union."

The *David Copperfield* passage is undoubtedly Seward's source. But since the speech that Lincoln's eventually delivered is more Dickensian than what Seward provided in draft form, it is clear that Seward or someone else supplied "chords of mem

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ory” subsequent to that draft and is the source of this and the other restored details from *David Copperfield*. If it was not Seward, Lincoln himself seems most likely to have supplied the restorations, either through his own familiarity with the passage Seward had drawn upon or perhaps through a conversation with another advisor who shared Seward’s admiration for it.

The received view among scholars of his life and work is that Dickens was not one

of the writers that Lincoln drew upon. Perhaps so. But clearly, *someone* who knew *David Copperfield* worked on this passage after it left Seward’s hand. I would like to believe that, whoever else was involved in the editing process, it was ultimately Lincoln whose literary talents prevailed, just as they did so regularly at later moments in a presidency whose tone was first announced in this remarkable address.

If you would like Dr. Churchill’s extensive footnotes, please contact Mary Shepherd at our toll free number:(866) 865-8500.

John Churchill is secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the nation’s oldest academic honorary society. Founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary, Phi Beta Kappa has 276 chapters on college and university campuses and well over a half -million living members. Its purpose is to advocate and recognize excellence in the study of the liberal arts and sciences. As secretary, Churchill is the Society’s chief executive officer and the head of its national office.

Churchill was born in Hector, Arkansas, and was reared in Little Rock. He was educated at Rhodes College, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, at Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar, and at Yale University, where he was awarded the Ph.D. in 1978.

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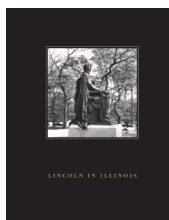
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William G. Shepherd,
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The Abraham Lincoln Association Board of Directors Annual Meeting on the afternoon of February 11, 2012, in the Old Reading Room of the Old State Capitol. The photograph was taken by Board Member, Nancy Chapin, who is not pictured.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our 40
new members from six
states.

Andrew Barr
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Bloomington, Illinois
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Logan Hay Medal Presented to Richard E. Hart

The following remarks were made by ALA Vice President Robert A. Stuart, Jr. at the ALA Lincoln Day Banquet on the evening of February 12, 2012.

The purpose of the Logan Hay Medal is to recognize individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the mission of the Abraham Lincoln Association. The Medal is our highest award and is given to very few individuals.

This evening, it is my privilege to present this award to a special individual. This man majored in history at the University of Illinois and then attended law school there. He is a past President of the Sangamon County Historical Society and the recipient of Springfield's "Preservationist of the Year," award

recognizing his preservation of Lincoln era structures—German Settler's Row, the Elijah Iles House and the Strawbridge Shepherd House. He chaired the advisory board of the Lincoln Legal Papers and was a member of the Illinois Bicentennial Commission. He helped develop the format and provided his personal research to *Looking for Lincoln*. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Elijah Iles House Foundation, the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum, and Oak Ridge Cemetery, the site of Abraham Lincoln's burial.

His name first appears in the *ALA Journal* in 1986. His publications *Springfield's African Americans as a Part of the A. Lincoln Community*, and *The Underground Railroad in Lincoln's Springfield* led him to become a speaker at an ALA Lincoln Symposium. In his years as ALA President, he brought us together with the NAACP to commemorate our common 100 anniversary date of founding and to produce and present an original musical program, *An American Dream*, performed by the Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

Our calendars contain copies of photographs of Civil War Soldiers from his personal collections. He produces our banquet programs and the ALA's newsletter *For the People*.

In celebration of the 200th Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth and the 100th anniversary of our Association, there were two men who were the keys to all activities culminating in our 2009 banquet having the President of the United States with us — Senator Dick Durbin and Dick Hart. Each of us in attendance that night received the results of three years of this man's tireless efforts in creating a book of photographs of statues of Abraham Lincoln in Illinois — *Lincoln in Illinois*. On behalf of the Abraham Lincoln Association please join with me in recognizing our friend, Richard E. "Dick" Hart. I am pleased to present him with the Logan Hay Medal.

Robert A. Stuart, Jr., Vice President



Dr. James M. Cornelius — New ALA Board Member Welcomed

We are pleased to welcome James M. Cornelius as a new member of the ALA Board of Directors. Many of you are familiar with James and his monthly *Treasures of the Lincoln Collections: Artifact of the Month* at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, but here is a little more about him.



A native of Minneapolis, James M. Cornelius received degrees from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. For ten years he worked as an editor in New York City, at Doubleday,

Random House, and *Collier's Encyclopedia*, then for eight years at the University of Illinois Library's heralded Illinois Historical and Lincoln Collections.

In May 2007 he became Curator of the Lincoln Collection at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, in Springfield, Illinois, the premier repository in the world of Lincoln manuscripts, family possessions, published works, and fine or popular art. Most of what he knows about Lincoln he learned from John Hoffmann and Tom Schwartz.

He is the author of many books, articles, and book reviews about architecture, base-

ball, literature, and most of all American and British history — these days mainly blogs about Lincoln. At the ALPLM he hears from scores of people every month who are doing research on Lincoln or seeking information about pieces of Lincolniana; buys or accepts donations of manuscripts, books, and relics for the collection; helps to organize and write the museum exhibits; speaks to private and public gatherings; gives tours to visiting dignitaries; and arranges to lend artifacts to other museums. He feels that he may have the best job in the whole U. S. A. He and his wife Anne have two teenaged daughters.

ALA Places Wreath at Nancy Hank's Grave 50th Anniversary of Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial

By William E. Bartelt
ALA Board of Directors

Each year a Lincoln Day program is held at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Lincoln City, Indiana. The program is to remember the 14 years Abraham Lincoln spent in the Hoosier state and is traditionally held on the Sunday before his birthday. This year the program was held on February 19, the 50th anniversary of President John Kennedy's signing the bill creating the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. Additional events to commemorate the anniversary are scheduled for this summer.

This year's featured speaker was ALA member Robert Bruce, who discussed his book *Reading with Lincoln*. Following the ceremony in the Abraham Lincoln Hall of the Memorial Visitor Center, participants walked to the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln where on behalf of ALA, Board member Bill Bartelt placed a wreath on the grave of Abraham Lincoln's mother.



ALA Board Member William E. Bartelt placed a wreath on Nancy Hanks Lincoln's grave on Lincoln Day 2012 at the Lincoln Boyhood Home National Historic Site., Lincoln City, Indiana.

ALA Resolution Expressing Thanks to Senator Richard J. Durbin

At the February 12, 2012, ALA Lincoln Day Banquet, the following resolution beautifully printed and framed was presented to Senator Richard J. Durbin by the ALA.

WHEREAS, Richard J. Durbin, an Illinois native, currently serves as the senior United States Senator from the Land of Lincoln and served as a Congressman from January 3, 1983 to January 3, 1997, representing much of the District represented by Congressman Abraham Lincoln in the 30th Congress;

WHEREAS, Senator Durbin has advanced the legacy of Abraham Lincoln through his personal leadership and interest and his sponsorship of significant Congressional legislation;

WHEREAS, Senator Durbin has encouraged the preservation and restoration of the Springfield neighborhood where Abraham Lincoln lived, the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, and has maintained his Springfield office in the Shutt House, one of the restored historic structures within that neighborhood;

WHEREAS, Senator Durbin was an early advocate for the creation of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield and introduced and passed legislation to support its funding;

WHEREAS, Senator Durbin, a champion of the *Looking for Lincoln* project, has secured Federal funding to support that project by establishing the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, an area of 42 central Illinois counties with a mission to preserve, interpret and promote the heritage and culture of that area as exemplified by Abraham Lincoln's life;

WHEREAS, Senator Durbin has been a leader of the national celebration of the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, establishing and leading a Bicentennial Commission, securing the minting of commemorative coins and the issuance of commemorative postage stamps, and arranging for appropriate celebrations across the nation, including the participation of President Barack Obama at birthday commemorations in Washington, D.C. and Springfield, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the mission of The Abraham Lincoln Association is "*To observe each anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; to preserve and make more readily accessible the landmarks associated with his life; and to actively encourage, promote and aid the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of his life and career;*"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association conveys the deepest and most sincere expressions of gratitude to Senator Richard J. Durbin for the invaluable contributions he has made on behalf of the legacy of Abraham Lincoln; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be appropriately inscribed and conveyed to Senator Richard J. Durbin and that a copy be included in the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association held on February 11, 2012.



James Oakes Delivers Keynote Address

Evening of February 11, 2012—Brookens Auditorium UIS
The Emancipation Proclamation: Myths and Realities

The two days of ALA Symposium activities began on the evening of February 11, 2012. Before a packed audience at Brookens Auditorium on the campus of the University of Illinois Springfield, Dr. James Oakes, Distinguished Professor at the City University of New York Graduate Center, delivered the keynote address entitled *The Emancipation Proclamation: Myths and Realities*. The address was well received and met with many insightful questions and engaging discussion. Preceding Dr. Oakes' address, there was an ALA Board of Directors and UIS reception.



Above: Martine Pauladen, Eileen Mackevich, James and Mary Patton, and standing, Nancy Chapin and Cullom Davis.

Below: Kathryn and William Bartelt, ALA Board Member.



Above: ALA President Robert J. Lenz and UIS Chancellor Susan J. Koch at the ALA reception at UIS.

Below: Michael Burlingame, James Oakes and Howard Jones.



Above: Judge Kenneth and Joy Anderson and Mike Marty enjoy the ALA reception preceding James Oakes' address.

Below: Stewart Winger and Kathryn Harris, ALA Board Members.



Above: Dorothy and Matthew Holden, ALA Board Member and UIS faculty member, arriving at the ALA reception.

Below: Brooks D. Simpson and William Shepherd, ALA Board Members.



ALA Symposium at Old State Capitol

Morning of February 12, 2012. House of Representatives, Old State Capitol
Lincoln Wages War, 1861- 1862.



Chandra Manning
 Georgetown University
Uncle Abe and His Ideological Nephews: Why Even Soldiers Who Never Saw Lincoln Loved Him.

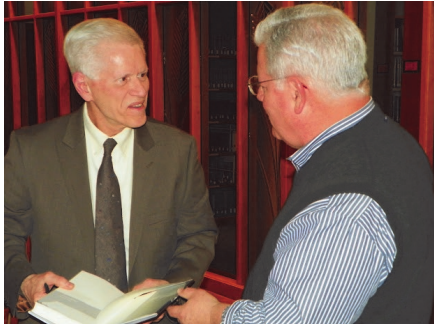


Brooks D. Simpson
 Chairman of the ALA Symposium Committee, welcomed attendees and introduced the 2012 Symposium.



Ethan Rafuse
 United States Army Command & General Staff College
'On the progress of our arms': Lincoln and the Conduct of the War in 1861-62.

Howard Jones Delivers Address at First *Thomas F. Schwartz Luncheon and Lecture* *Lincoln's Forgotten Craft: The Art of Diplomacy*



Howard Jones, University of Alabama, spoke to a sold out luncheon audience on *Lincoln's Forgotten Craft: The Art of Diplomacy*. The luncheon and lecture event was held at noon on February 12, 2012, in the atrium of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. This was the first *Thomas F. Schwartz Luncheon and Lecture*.

The Symposium Round Table

Afternoon of February 12, 2012—Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library



Following the luncheon and Dr. Howard Jones' lecture, there was a lively roundtable featuring Professors Oakes, Rafuse, Manning and Jones. The discussion was facilitated by Professor Brooks D. Simpson, Chairman of the ALA Symposium Committee. The event was held before a packed audience that asked penetrating questions that resulted in lively discussion and debate.



Lincoln Day Events

The Evening Reception and Banquet



114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Reactivated



Rozanne Flatt and ALA Board Member and former President, Dr. Roger D. Bridges, at the ALA Endowment Reception on the evening of February 12th.



Dr. Allan Stutz and Jeanne and Dr. Glenn Pittman and Mary Ann Singleton at the ALA Banquet.



ALA Board Member Vice Admiral N. Ronald Thunman, William Houlihan, and Brynn and Wally Henderson, ALA Board Member.



Evan and Stephanie Hart and ALA Board Member and Past President, Richard E. Hart, at the ALA Banquet.



ALA Board Member Vice Admiral N. Ronald Thunman and Springfield Mayor Michael J. Houston



114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Reactivated Auxiliary



Sandrine and Dr. Wayne C. Temple at the ALA Lincoln Day Banquet.



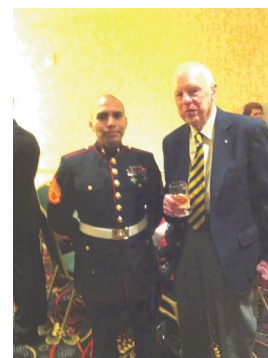
Mary Caroline and David Mitchell, and Marty and Dr. Allen Stutz



Farah Tamizuddin
2011 Winner of the Lincoln Essay Contest
Leads *Pledge of Allegiance* at the ALA
Lincoln Day Banquet.



William Shepherd talking to Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon and her husband, Perry Knop at the ALA Endowment Reception.



Sgt Miguel Cuespinosa and Charles Chapin, the youngest and the oldest Marines in attendance at the ALA Lincoln Day Banquet.

Lincoln Day Events

ALA Lincoln Day Banquet



President Robert J. Lenz presided at the ALA Lincoln Day Banquet at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Illinois, on the evening of February 12, 2012. On the dais and singing the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* from left to right are: Rev. Lonnie Lee, Brooks D. Simpson, Thomas F. Schwartz, Richard McDaniel, President Robert J. Lenz, Banquet Speaker Senator Richard J. Durbin, and Vice President Robert A. Stuart, Jr.

Lincoln's Footsteps in the Senate

Senator Richard J. Durbin's speech, *Lincoln's Footsteps in the Senate*, was a fascinating tour of the Senator's world in the United States Capitol. He revealed an amazing number of Lincoln sites that he passes on his daily work rounds in the United States Senate. Thank you Senator for sharing with us and giving us a glimpse into Lincoln's lasting presence in the United States Senate.



Thomas F. Schwartz Introduced
Senator Richard J. Durbin



President Robert J. Lenz
Presided at the Lincoln Day Banquet



Senator Richard J. Durbin and
Vice President Robert A. Stuart, Jr.



United States Senator Richard J. Durbin
Lincoln's Footsteps in the Senate

FOR THE PEOPLE

The Abraham Lincoln Association
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1512

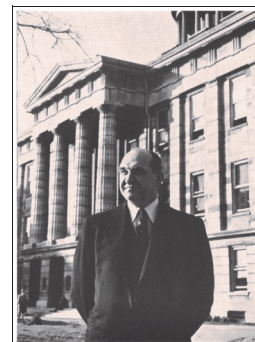
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BENJAMIN P. THOMAS REMEMBERED

On the 110th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin P. Thomas, it is indeed an honor for the Abraham Lincoln Association to accept a donation in his name from his daughter, Sarah Thomas. Sarah's gift will be used to financially assist the annual ALA Lincoln Symposium and henceforth, that Symposium will bear the name of Benjamin P. Thomas. As time goes by, Thomas' *Abraham Lincoln: A Biography* remains the classic single volume biography of Abraham Lincoln. We are all familiar with that wonderfully written book. With the passage of time, the number of those who personally knew him has declined, but the memories of his daughter Sarah and three of his now gone good friends, Ed Miers, Carl Sandburg and Paul Angle, give us a personal glimpse of the man whose words we all love and respect.



"Those of you who remember my father as a Lincoln author and historian, might be surprised to learn his primary passion was baseball. I learned more about baseball from him than I ever learned about Abraham Lincoln. At Johns Hopkins University he was the president of his senior class and one of only two in his class to earn Phi Beta Kappa keys. But being captain of the baseball team was perhaps his proudest achievement."

Sarah Thomas

"There was a simple goodness in Ben, the same simple goodness that was in his hero, and it brought to his *Abraham Lincoln* a success such as few books enjoy."

Earl Miers

"Ben Thomas was a great companion. In his talk, in his dealings with man, in his reach of compassion for the less lucky of the Family of Man, he was rare. Now that he is gone, it comes more vividly to some of us how rare indeed he was. Good it is that he wrote great books, and those of us who loved him can see his books moving on for the use of generations to come. They will find Ben Thomas, as we found him, a great companion, a rare teacher, and a lover of mankind."

Carl Sandburg

"He had friends everywhere. Everyone liked him – businessmen, cattlemen, historians, writers, publishers. He made no effort to impress or to be ingratiating; he was simply himself--kindly, gentle, humorous, interesting. It was a happy coincidence that on the afternoon we lowered his body into the grave the grass should still be green, the sun warm and golden. The day fitted his nature as the tomb of Lincoln, not far away, stood for his life achievement."

Paul Angle
