



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

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Abraham Lincoln in Goshen Indiana's 1860 Campaign Banner

By Ervin Beck

Ervin Beck is Professor Emeritus at Goshen (Indiana) College, where he taught English and folklore. He is on the Board of Directors of the Elkhart County (Indiana) Historical Society and president of the Michiana Anabaptist Historians.

The campaign banner reproduced here was painted by J. H. Dille for the Wide Awake club of the Republican Party to use in a daylong rally in Goshen, Indiana, for the Lincoln-Hamlin ticket. The rally, on Saturday, October 6, 1860, featured a speech by the famous abolitionist U.S. Senator Cassius M. Clay of Kentucky.

The banner depicts Abraham Lincoln, candidate for President of the United States; Hannibal Hamlin, candidate for Vice-President; and Henry Smith Lane, candidate for Governor of Indiana.

Since about 1902 the banner has been kept in a room of the Elkhart County Court House, most often in the office of the judge of the circuit court, inaccessible to public view. It was included in exhibits in Goshen for the U.S. bicentennial in 1976 and again in 1981 for the Goshen city sesquicentennial. Recently it received the wider exposure it deserves with its inclusion in the exhibit "Abraham Lincoln: The Man You Never Knew" at the Northern Indiana Center for History in South Bend, from June 13, 2009, to February 28, 2010. A photograph of the banner was used as the cover image for the first issue of *Judicial Year in Review*, which covered Indiana Supreme Court activity in 2008.

One collector of Lincolniana was "awestruck by it." An organizer of the exhibit regarded the banner as the most important item in it.

Although the banner is now appreciated as a rare piece of historical art, it gains its true meaning when placed in the context of its origin and use in 1860. And the banner's fate in the 150 years following is enlivened by the conflict over exactly who owns it.



Courtesy of "Radecki Restorations."

The [Goshen] Times, a Republican paper, claimed that 20,000 people attended the Lincoln-Hamlin-Lane rally, at a time when Goshen's population was only about 2000 people. The no-doubt partisan inflation of attendance is understandable, but that gathering on the courthouse square might still be the largest political rally ever to be held in Elkhart County.

The day began with "a booming salute from Old Bullion," the cannon that still stands in the west lawn of the Elkhart County courthouse square. It welcomed the massive waves of visitors who arrived by carriage and railroad from Elkhart and surrounding Indiana counties and southern Michigan, all channeled into orderly lines by the chief marshal and his assistants.

As *The Times* reported: "The train from Elkhart brought about two thousand persons, including the Wide Awakes from Elkhart, Mishawaka, South Bend, and a splen-

did company from Cassopolis [Michigan]... But these were but a drop in the bucket compared with those who came in on foot, on horseback, and in carriages."

From Middlebury came a procession of 120 wagons, some with 20 to 40 persons each. Two hundred wagons came in a cavalcade from Elkhart. "We noticed with especial pleasure a huge flat boat manned with over a hundred gallant boatmen from Middlebury and LaGrange,—a half-dozen car loads of young ladies in uniform representing the states—a load of 'Little Indians' from Milford—with divers rail-splitter, rails, mauls, etc, etc, a dozen bands of music, a splendid Artillery Company from Warsaw, and another from Porter, Michigan."

1200 Wide Awakes, clad in black oilcloth caps and capes, "marched to the Public

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Square, and placed themselves under the command of Capt. Milo S. Hascall [1829-1911]. Their evolutions through the day, their marches and counter-marches, their fine appearance and their general good conduct were the theme of universal admiration.”

By 12 noon the 2000 seats arranged around the special stand in the courthouse square were full of people waiting for the program to begin. At 1 p.m. Dr. Ellis introduced Cassius Clay, who was greeted by “round and round of applause” by the audience, who then gave him “breathless attention.”

“In most thrilling language he portrayed the strides of the slave power toward absolute despotism, its contempt of free labor, its designs to grasp at the territories and reduce them to its sway—the fallacies of the dogma of Squatter Sovereignty, and the duplicity and dishonesty of the leader of the Democratic forces, Stephen A. Douglas.”

The evening program began with performances by the Wide Awakes, who “were out in full strength, numbering 803 torches,” and with fireworks, “the most brilliant display ever witnessed on our streets.” The main evening speakers were U.S. Senator Kingsley S. Bingham, former governor of Michigan, and a Mr. Chadwick of Three Rivers, Michigan. In side venues, smaller groups listened to speeches by Andrew Anderson of South Bend and George W. Frazier of Kosciusko County, Indiana.

“As the clock struck ten, with three rousing cheers for Old Abe, and three times three for the cause, the meeting adjourned. . . . It was the greatest demonstration ever witnessed in the St. Joseph valley.” Cassius Clay “was exceedingly gratified with the demonstration, and said that but two meetings during the campaign had exceeded it in numbers.”

The Goshen Democrat’s minimal coverage of the rally grudgingly acknowledged the “unusually large” size of the crowd, but pointed out that most attendees were not residents of Elkhart County, claimed that the event was “totally devoid of enthusiasm” and that Clay merely repeated the “absurd and exploded” charges that had been leveled against Senator Douglas.

Nowhere in the newspaper coverage of the event is the Dille campaign banner mentioned, although the *Times* refers to many “banners flying, with every conceivable device of motto and emblem.” However, Dille’s large, bright banner was visually prominent throughout the daytime and evening programs, since the Wide Awake groups from all of the participating towns marched behind the Goshen unit, which carried it at the forefront of the procession. The banner was also carried in all Wide Awake rallies later that year.

Although the banner was allowed to languish and decay for almost fifty years following, by 1909 Wilber Stonex (1852-1929)—lawyer, scholar and president of the Elkhart County Historical Society—could say that it possessed “a value which no other relic or memento of the past in our possession approaches.”

J. H. Dille (1832-1918), the maker of the painting, had arrived in Goshen from Fort Wayne in 1857 and established himself as a portrait painter and, later, photographer. In 1858 he married Libby, daughter of Oliver Crane, who was the third settler on the Elkhart Prairie and helped lay out and name the town of Goshen, which was also the name of Crane’s hometown in New York.

Dille painted the Lincoln banner in 1860 when he was 28 years old, “never having taken a painting lesson in my life.” For an unnamed health problem, doctors advised him not to go to Europe to study painting nor to join the army during the Civil War. He proved the doctors wrong by living until 1918, when he died at the age of 86. From Goshen he moved back to Fort Wayne in 1865, for better prospects, and ended his life, in penury, at Amelia, Ohio, near Cincinnati, where he is buried.

Other portraits by Dille are owned by the Elkhart County Historical Museum and The History Center in Fort Wayne. In his later years he painted mostly landscapes (“Beech trees are my specialty,” he said) and still lifes of fruit (“His apples are very fine indeed,” said a friend). A postcard photograph of him in the last years of his life shows him painting a fruit still life, with a landscape standing behind him.



J. H. Dille (1832-1918), the artist who created the Goshen Campaign Banner.

Courtesy of the Elkhart County Historical Museum, Bristol, Indiana.

The Wide Awakes who commissioned the painting were cadres of young male members of the Republican Party who created spirit at political rallies by singing, shooting off fireworks and, in this case especially, marching in a torchlight parade en masse in disciplined formation behind a large banner depicting the party’s candidates. Rail Splitters were younger boys who contributed to rallies in a similar way.

Because the Wide Awakes could not afford regular portrait prices, and because Dille was “one of the boys,” he received only \$30 for painting the banner. “But it was a matter of love for me,” he added.

For his image of Lane, Dille used a photograph of him that he took in “Mr. Heddon’s gallery” in Goshen the year before Dille became a professional photographer. Mrs. Lane had offered Dille a portrait “done in very poor wagon painter’s colors.” According to Dille, it made the un-handsome man “positively ugly.” For his image of Hamlin, Dille used the photograph now in the Whitehurst Gallery in Washington, D.C.

For his image of Lincoln, Dille used a photograph of Lincoln taken by Hesler of Chicago in February 1857. Hesler photographed Lincoln in two different sittings, the first with Lincoln facing farther left and with hair and clothing somewhat disheveled; the second a bit more head-on, with the face dominating the photograph rather than Lincoln’s “ruffled” hair and clothing. Hesler’s second pose may be the same one used by Currier and Ives in their “The Grand National Banner” of Lincoln and Hamlin, a color lithograph suitable for framing. In fact, the design

(Continued on page 4)

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PRESIDENT ROBERT J. LENZ'S GREETING

Dear Members of the Abraham Lincoln Association,

Thanks to all of you who attended the February 11 and 12th events in Springfield. We are grateful to the Symposium Keynote Speaker Dr. Steven E. Woodworth for his excellent presentation and to our partners at the University of Illinois Springfield. We also want to thank the symposium speakers, Dr. Stephen Engle and Dr. Phillip Magness for their outstanding talks. Thanks as well to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum for partnering with us in bringing in Dr. Matthew Pinsker. We all enjoyed his fascinating luncheon speech. I want to give a special thanks to Brooks Simpson, James Cornelius, Thomas Schwartz, and Michael Burlingame of the Abraham Lincoln Association Symposium Committee for planning another spectacular event.



As many of you know our banquet speaker, Professor Stephen L. Carter, was unable to make it to Springfield for the banquet due to the storms in his home of Connecticut. We are fortunate that ALA Director Dr. Brooks Simpson of Arizona State University stepped in and gave a wonderful speech. C-Span History taped the presentation, and it be on C-Span History on April 21, 2013. The program will air in the "Presidency" slot Sunday, April 21 at 8:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on C-SPAN 3. All times Eastern. You may view it online: <http://www.cspan.org/History/>.

On December 31, and January 1, we hosted two special events, Watch Night and First Day, celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. These two events were among the most moving that I have ever attended. Kathryn Harris and Robert Davis of the ALA Board deserve sincere thanks for their efforts in making these two events such a success. Thanks as well to our partners: The Old State Capitol Foundation, The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Westminster Presbyterian Church, The Lincoln Home National Historic Site, and the Springfield and Central Illinois African American Museum.

As we look ahead, **please save the dates of August 2nd and 3rd** for the second part of our continuing programs on the Emancipation Proclamation. We will be sponsoring a special two-day event exploring the United States Colored Troops, which promises to be another spectacular event for the entire family. More information will follow.

Thank you to all the members and friends of the Abraham Lincoln Association who make it such a pleasure to be a part of this organization.

Robert J. Lenz, President

JOIN THE ALA

Your membership is essential to the ALA's success. It allows the ALA to provide you with the *For The People* newsletter and the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* and to sponsor many worthwhile programs related to the life of Abraham Lincoln. Please join.

William G. Shepherd,
Membership Chairman

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

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(Continued from page 2)

of the entire Dille banner resembles the design of that mass-produced national banner.

In Wilber Stonex's analysis of the painting, Dille somewhat softened some features in idealizing his subject. "The easy pose and somewhat negligent attire" give "the appearance of unstudied negligence and unconsciousness of self which was characteristic of the man." Stonex credits Dille with adding to the photographic image "the smooth, ruddy, almost youthful face of the strong man, fresh from the triumphs won in the debates with his great opponent, moving forward with confident bearing, the acknowledged leader of the people in that moral conflict which he championed in fighting against the further extension of the evil of human slavery." According to Stonex, this earlier, self-assured image of Lincoln precedes the "deepened furrows" that he eventually developed because of "the weight of the responsibility which that leadership brought."

In a letter to Stonex, Dille said of his painting: "I fell in love with the dear old face of Lincoln at the sight of this photograph and always stoutly contended that it was not ugly as many people seemed to think it was. I know I saw too much of the sweetness of the great spirit within and shining through, to see ugliness in the face. If I made it too beautiful it was as I saw it." Dille apparently liked his work so well that he signed both the individual portrait of Lincoln and the banner as a whole.

Dille was a nonpartisan painter of portraits. He also made a two-thirds-length portrait of Stephen A. Douglas for the Democratic Club of Goshen, for which he earned \$40. When Douglas spoke at a rally at LaPorte, Indiana, during the 1860 campaign, Douglas saw the portrait. According to Dille, "As the Club was passing the stand, Douglas stopped them and said, 'Boys, you have there a better portrait of me than one for which I paid \$500.00 in Washington, D.C.'" Dille's portrait of Douglas, when last heard of in 1905-6, was owned by a French artist in Monroe, Michigan.

The history of the banner's preservation and the status of its current ownership are

almost as interesting as the banner itself.

The loan of the banner to the South Bend exhibit in 2009-2010 was by the formal, legal approval by the Elkhart County Board of Commissioners, who are "technically the work's owners," according to Elkhart *Truth* reporter Tim Vandennack. But the exhibit placard that identified the banner said that it is owned by "the citizens of Elkhart County." That ambiguous attribution is a wise way of coping with the issue of whether it is truly owned by the county commissioners, by the circuit court, or by the Elkhart County Historical Society.

A news release on the exhibit published in the South Bend *Tribune* summarizes the main oral tradition that speaks to ownership. According to reporter Tom Moor, whose sources were a 1920 newspaper article and Terry Shewmaker, current Circuit Court Judge, painter Dille gave up the painting to O. V. Walker for a \$25 debt in a card game. After Walker's death, James M. Gowing claimed the painting and gave it to Judge James S. Drake in 1917 "on condition that it remain at the courthouse in downtown Goshen."

The actual history is less colorful, more complicated, and much more ambiguous. Dille did not lose the painting for a gambling debt. Nor did Gowing exactly say that the painting must stay in the courthouse. The painting had been paid for by the Wide Awake club, who owned it—not Dille. The Goshen Wide Awakes used it in succeeding public rallies and, after the election, hung it in their room on the third floor of the Hawks Building on East Lincoln Avenue in downtown Goshen.

After the Wide Awake movement faded, the banner somehow ended up in the possession of one of the last surviving Wide Awake members living in Goshen, Benjamin C. Dodge, a Civil War veteran who had been elected county recorder. At first, he hung it in his court house office, but later he took it to his rented "scantily furnished single room" and hung it over his bed, where it remained until his death in 1897—37 years after the rally.

Dodge had actually given up ownership of the painting years earlier, when, in a signed statement, he gave it to his friend

and landlord, O. V. Walker, in lieu of rent and a cash loan that enabled him to travel to the Lake Superior region for a visit with his brother. Upon Walker's death, the painting was inherited by his son-in-law James M. Gowing (1850-1916), who apparently allowed Dodge to continue to keep it in his room.

During the McKinley presidential campaign, John W. Cornell (1840-1919), commander of the local GAR post, borrowed the banner from Dodge to decorate the Cornell Brothers' mercantile store on the southwest corner of Main and Lincoln in downtown Goshen. He had the banner framed and hung it over the front door of the store. Gowing saw it and claimed ownership but stated that he thought the GAR would be a proper repository for it.

Soon after Dodge's death, Cornell removed the banner from Dodge's room and took it to the GAR post, where it remained for five years until the GAR moved from its headquarters in the Masonic Block at 126 North Main Street. By then the banner had been removed from its frame, exposing its tattered condition, "split up to the chin of Lane." Passing by while the GAR move was in progress, Gowing saw his banner lying rolled up on the sidewalk, claimed it and took it to Marion Isbel in the court house.

Gowing, who was bailiff for the circuit court, asked some attorneys to pay for a frame for the banner and hang it in the attorneys' room. A subscription campaign, led by Anthony Deall, raised only \$7 of the needed \$21, perhaps because even historian Stonex saw that "the picture was torn and looked so badly that it would not pay." But by 1909 the painting again looked "bright," thanks to two different restorations paid for by Gowing.

Two days before Gowing died in 1917 he asked that the painting be given to the custody of James S. Drake, Circuit Court judge, to be "eventually passed on to some person or organization that would keep it in good condition." As of 1925 it was still in Drake's chamber, where it has remained ever since.

The most obvious "organization that would keep it in good condition" was the Elkhart County Historical Society, founded in 1896, which maintained an

(Continued on page 7)

Three Named Distinguished Directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association: Doris Kearns Goodwin, Lewis E. Lehrman, and Wayne C. Temple

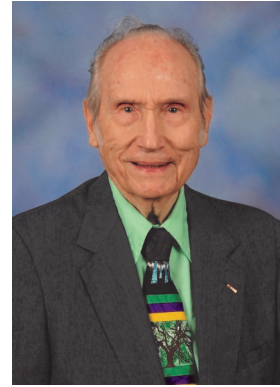
The bylaws of the Abraham Lincoln Association provide that “There shall be a class of Directors known as ‘Distinguished Directors’ consisting of such other persons as the Board may elect out of respect for distinguished reputation in Lincoln scholarship. If not otherwise specified, the term for each Distinguished Director shall be life.” At a recent meeting, the Board of Directors named Doris Kearns Goodwin, Lewis E. Lehrman, and Wayne C. Temple as Distinguished Directors. The resolutions naming each are printed here.



Lewis E. Lehrman



Doris Kearns Goodwin



Wayne C. Temple

Resolution Naming Doris Kearns Goodwin a Distinguished Director of The Abraham Lincoln Association

WHEREAS, Doris Kearns Goodwin received a B.A. from Colby College and a Ph.D in Government from Harvard University and was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow and a White House Fellow; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Goodwin taught at Harvard University, including the course on American Presidency, worked as an assistant to President Lyndon Johnson during his last year in the White House and assisted President Johnson in the preparation of his memoirs; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Goodwin is the author of five excellent books including the best seller *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, now a recognized part of American popular culture and the basis of Steven Spielberg’s movie *Lincoln*; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Goodwin has written numerous articles on politics and baseball for leading national publications; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Goodwin is the recipient of the Charles Frankel Prize given by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Sarah Josepha Hale Medal; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Goodwin is a presidential historian and a popular political news analyst frequently called upon to share her informed insights on the presidency and history to a mass audience. She shares her love of history and its lessons with the public through colorful stories and anecdotes; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Goodwin has been the 2000 and 2006 speaker at The Abraham Lincoln Association’s Annual Lincoln Birthday Banquet;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association honors Doris Kearns Goodwin for her lifetime of service in furthering our understanding and knowledge of Abraham Lincoln and American History by naming her as a Distinguished Director of The Abraham Lincoln Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be appropriately inscribed and conveyed to Doris Kearns Goodwin 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, 2013.

Resolution Naming Lewis E. Lehrman a Distinguished Director of The Abraham Lincoln Association

WHEREAS, Lewis E. Lehrman received a B.A. from Yale University and an M.A. in History from Harvard University, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lehrman is the author of *Lincoln at Peoria: The Turning Point* (Stackpole Books, 2008); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lehrman co-founded the Lincoln & Soldiers Institute at Gettysburg College, which annually awards the Lincoln Prize for the best work on the Lincoln era; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lehrman served as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lehrman established the Lincoln Institute, which has created award-winning websites on the sixteenth President and has supported original Lincoln scholarship in many ways, including the establishment of the annual Nicolay-Hay Prize for the best dissertation on Abraham Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lehrman has taught the Lincoln Senior Seminar at Gettysburg College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lehrman joined with Richard Gilder to establish the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition at Yale University, which awards the annual Frederick Douglass Prize; and to create the George Washington Book Prize with Washington College and George Washington's Mount Vernon; and to build the Gilder Lehrman Collection of original historical manuscripts and documents to teach American History from primary sources; and to establish The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to develop a teaching program for high schools and colleges throughout America and England; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lehrman received the National Humanities Medal in 2005 for his work in promoting the study of American history; and,

WHEREAS, in 2010 Mr. Lehrman, along with Mr. Gilder, received the William E. Simon Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Social Entrepreneurship for their work promoting the study of American history through The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lehrman was the Cardinal Cooke honoree of the Archdiocese of New York for his early work developing scholarships for New York inner-city schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lehrman has served as a trustee of the American Enterprise Institute, The Morgan Library, the Manhattan Institute, and the Heritage Foundation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association honors Lewis E. Lehrman for his lifetime of service in furthering our understanding and knowledge of Abraham Lincoln and American History by naming him as a Distinguished Director of The Abraham Lincoln Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be appropriately inscribed and conveyed to Lewis E. Lehrman 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, 2013.

AN OPEN INVITATION

If you, your USCT unit, or related civilian re-enactors would like to participate in the historic celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation described at page 9, please contact Robert Davis of the Illinois 29th United States Colored Troops Reactivated:

Robert Davis, Illinois 29th United States Colored Troops
Board Member and Program Chair, Abraham Lincoln Association
217-414-5016 (cell) 217-391-2655 (home) Rdavis5768@aol.com

Resolution Naming Dr. Wayne C. Temple a Distinguished Director of The Abraham Lincoln Association

WHEREAS, Dr. Wayne C. Temple received his Ph.D. in history (Lincoln studies) from the University of Illinois, where he studied under noted Lincoln historian James G. Randall; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Temple served as the John Wingate Weeks Professor of History at Lincoln Memorial University for six years and edited the *Lincoln Herald*, a journal on Abraham Lincoln, for 15 years; and,

WHEREAS, in 1964 Dr. Temple began work as Chief Deputy Director of the Illinois State Archives, a position he still holds; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Temple is the author of eight books on Abraham Lincoln, and his book *Abraham Lincoln: From Skeptic to Prophet* has made two lists of the 100 greatest Lincoln books of all time; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Temple is the author of numerous articles, book reviews, pamphlets, book chapters, and book introductions on Lincoln, and his first article in the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* appeared in 1951;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of The Abraham Lincoln Association honors Dr. Wayne C. Temple for his lifetime of service in furthering our understanding and knowledge of Abraham Lincoln by naming him as a Distinguished Director of The Abraham Lincoln Association.

(Continued from page 4)

exhibit space in the county courthouse. In fact, Stonex, president of the historical society, contacted three Wide Awake members who were still living, namely, John H. Baker, judge, who was president of the Wide Awakes; E. R. Kerstetter, who was first lieutenant; and C. W. Crary, who was song leader.

According to Stonex, as reported by H.S.K. Bartholomew, a later outstanding president of Elkhart County Historical Society, all three Wide Awake survivors gave verbal consent to ceding ownership of the banner to the historical society. Crary in a 1907 letter said: "Now, Mr. Stonex, as one of that immortal Club that

still survives, I will give my consent for you to take the painting and have it kept for future generations to look at."

The historical society wanted to do just that, at a time when the painting stood in a kind of limbo of ownership. However, no such transfer of possession or ownership every occurred. The office of Circuit Court Judge kept the banner. Gene Duffin, former Circuit Court judge, probably stated the final word when he said in 1998, "Possession is nine-tenths of the law."

Who can argue with a circuit court judge?

One might, however, make a strong case for the position stated by W. V. Fink in

1925 in *The Goshen Daily News-Times*, upon reviewing what was then known about the controversy: "Few people ever see the Lincoln-Hamlin-Lane picture as it hangs on the wall of the judge's room. It should be placed for a time where it can be seen by any person who cares to look at it."

The wider public attention that the banner has recently received may result in its more public display—not just "for a time," but for all time.

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

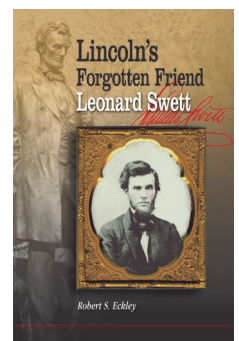
ENDOWMENT FUND PREMIUM

Lincoln's Forgotten Friend, Leonard Swett

Robert S. Eckley

In honor of Robert S. Eckley, anyone making a contribution of \$100 or more to the ALA Endowment Fund during 2013 will receive a free copy of Bob's book *Lincoln's Forgotten Friend, Leonard Swett*.

Send your check made payable to the Abraham Lincoln Association Endowment Fund to:
The Abraham Lincoln Association, 1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, Illinois 62701



Reflection on the Emancipation Proclamation Watch Night and Freedom's First Day Programs

By
Robert Julius Davis

The celebration of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation this past New Year's Eve and New Year's Day was a uniquely educational and historic experience. With the use of public readers, a practice common in the public square during the early days of the republic, local citizens were provided the rare opportunity to witness the issuance of the proclamation of freedom and to witness the reaction of the people. Many observers stated that prior to the re-enactment in the form of "Watch Night" and "Freedom's First Day," they had limited knowledge of the historical significance of Lincoln's most famous contribution to the principle of universal freedom ...the Emancipation Proclamation.

Yet, as I reflect on the people in attendance at Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Old State Capitol, I ask the question, "**What in our hearts were we celebrating?**" Perhaps we celebrated the feelings of slaves as human beings, as children of God, as fellow country men and women who for the first time could openly reveal their emotions and express their personal feelings. Perhaps it was in celebration of President Lincoln opening the door to the colored man to join that Civil War fight; the prayer of many abolitionists. Or could it have been Lincoln placing the Federal Government on the side of the antislavery movement, the feeling of many moderates who thought slavery wrong but so too secession? I suspect it was all of these and more. Taken together, I believe we were celebrating a new spirit of Freedom.

As I view pictures of the cast and reflect on this historic celebration, I playfully pondered the question, "What did each cast member celebrate?" Why did they spend so many hours working and rehearsing to ensure the success of Watch Night and Freedom's First Day? In short, "**What were their individual motivations?**" These are my joyful and thankful observations of each cast member.

For the Southerner, reared and educated in the South, her motivation may have been to hear and learn about the Emancipation Proclamation for the very first time. For the historian, it may have been an opportunity to portray and speak the words of historical characters he had researched and studied for much of his professional career. Then there is the actress who loves portraying strong women like her who were important Civil War heroines during this historic struggle for freedom. And then there was her close friend the Librarian who tells a good story and portrays historical women of color in the abolitionist movement. There is the woman who was enamored with the words of the great abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison after reading and hearing of him for the first time. She traveled twenty miles each way to prac-

tice. There is the man whose service in the nation's National Park System has contributed mightily to our youth through stories of important historical figures and their leadership traits. There is the man from Tennessee whose motivation may have come from stories heard all of his life about the Civil War and now has the opportunity to participate in bringing this history to life. There is the tall man from Springfield who devoted his adult life to promoting a major desire of the slave, "education"; for he knows that education is the key to unlocking the door to Freedom. There is the woman with the gregarious granddaughter who is determined to pass on the history and contributions of her people. There is the woman with a strong sense of civic involvement and social activism, which historically connects naturally with slave issues. There is the husband whose passion for history and progressive issues are parallel to the voice he brought to life. Who can forget the little woman who so convincingly and with great humor portrayed the great woman that met with President Lincoln in the White House? There was the doctor whose strong and steady voice reflected the strength of the freemen who preached the message of commitment and determination. And there was the preacher whose style sermonized the message of Christ validating the slave's continuous call during the darkness of slavery for guidance through the door of freedom. The young energetic site manager who possesses a passionate knowledge of this epic era and who was humbled and honored to bring these historic figures to life in the setting of the Old State Capitol completed this impressive cast.

Whatever the motives of the cast, it was the magnificent presentations of the individual soloist and the choirs, separately and jointly, that tied the wrap around the entire program in an evening of spiritual healing and thankfulness. The directors selected then blended songs to reveal hope and celebration, gladness and joy using singers from two different traditions. One group Presbyterians and the other non-denominational Christians. Together they expressed through traditional songs the fundamental hopes of people everywhere to share that historical yet new founded spirit of freedom.

In the final analysis, there were two visionaries with similar motivations, one white, one black ... Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. They saw the promise of a young America through the lens of the preamble to the Declaration of Independence. Early on, they had different agendas: One "to free a people," the other "to free a nation." Both came together at a crucial point in history which resulted in "a new birth of freedom" for this young nation.

FREEDOM'S FIRST DAY CELEBRATION: OLD STATE CAPITOL



New Year's Day morning opened with a Freedom's First Day Celebration at the Old State Capitol House of Representatives in Springfield. Pictured here is George Buss portraying President Abraham Lincoln.



Allan Woodson, Barbara Baldon, and ALA Board Member Justin Blandford participated in Freedom's First Day Celebration.



ALA Board Member Robert Davis portrayed Frederick Douglass.



ALA Board Member Roger Bridges, Nate Gibson, Pam King, Hope Turner, Doug King, and ALA Board Member Kathryn Harris.



Back Row: Patricia James Davis, George Buss, and Dale Rogers at piano. *Front Row:* Allan Woodson, Barbara Baldon, and ALA Board Members Justin Blandford and Robert Davis.



Linda Goza, Diane Geary, Roger Goza, Derrick Stapleton, Roderick Britts, with Dale Rogers on piano.

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION: 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Please save the dates of August 2 and 3, 2013 for the second ALA sponsored program on the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. The ALA sponsored special event in Lincoln's home town of Springfield, Illinois will shift focus dramatically.

We will confront the question: "Will the slave of the black man fight?" We will focus on views from the slaveholding and non-slaveholding states.

USCT: We will recognize the impact of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) and slaves on the Civil War and their contributions to America's "new birth of freedom." USCT units will read "Letters from the Front" — letters written by colored soldiers, sailors, and their officers fighting at the front.

Hari Jones Presentation: Hari Jones, assistant director and curator of the Washington, D.C.-based African American Civil War Freedom Foundation and Museum and one of the foremost authorities on the role of African Americans in the Civil War, will make a dynamic presentation about the USCT's contribution to the Union and freedom.

Critics of Emancipation Proclamation: We turn to Lincoln's critics of the Emancipation Proclamation. President Lincoln enters the stage: He and his supporters will confront and push back against the critics of his Emancipation Policy.

GAR at Oak Ridge Cemetery: We will visit Oak Ridge Cemetery to pay honor to the men of the GAR, including USCT, buried there just a short distance from Lincoln's Tomb.

Grand Parade: We will conclude with a commemorative grand parade of USCT and other Union soldiers marching to the Old State Capitol where Lincoln practiced law and served in the House of Representatives.

Youth Program: Volunteers will present living histories of infantry, cavalry, artillery, families, medicine, etc. on the lawn of the Old State Capitol and the Lincoln Home.

Lincoln Day Events

The Evening Reception and Banquet



Reverend Daren Zehnle, Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, and Sue Massie at the Reception on the evening of February 12th.



114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Reactivated preparing to enter the banquet hall. The flag bearers are Sgt. Jim Leinicke with the National Colors and Sgt. Richard Schachtsiek with the Regimental Colors.



Eileen Mackevich, Director of the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and ALA Board Members Brooks Davis and Roger Bridges, also a past ALA President.



Winning the awards for coming to the ALA Banquet from a foreign country were Bill Read of Canada and Alfredo Santos of Brazil.



Judge John P. Coady, from Taylorville, and past ALA President and Board Member Don Tracy.



ALA Board Members William E. Bartelt and Richard W. Maroc with Edmond Thornton and Kathryn Bartelt.



Lana Reyman, Marilyn Ferricks, Col. Donald Ferricks, Jan Miller, and Pvt. Brian Miller, all 114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Reactivated and Auxiliary.



Teresa McCain and Jan Lariviere at the ALA Banquet.



Susan Harris led in singing the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, the traditional closing song.



114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Reactivated Left to right: 1st Sgt. Duane Carrell, Cpl. Troy Gilmore, Cpl. Jason Fisher and Cpl. Ron Clark.



Lincoln Day Events

ALA-Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium

1863: Lincoln in Midstream



Phillip W. Magness is an Academic Program Director at the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University. He specializes in the history of the mid and late 19th century United States, with a dual emphasis upon slavery and abolitionism and the history of capitalism.



On the evening of February 11, 2013, Steven E. Woodworth [left] of Texas Christian University gave the keynote address *'Grant Is My Man': Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses Grant in 1863* at Brookens Auditorium, University of Illinois Springfield. On February 12, 2013, Brooks D. Simpson, Chairman of the ALA Symposium Committee, welcomed attendees at the Old State Capitol and introduced Steven E. Woodworth, Stephen D. Engle and Phillip W. Magness, this year's speakers at the ALA-Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium.



Stephen D. Engle is professor of history and Director of the Alan B. Larkin Symposium on the American Presidency at Florida Atlantic University.

ALA Lincoln Day Banquet

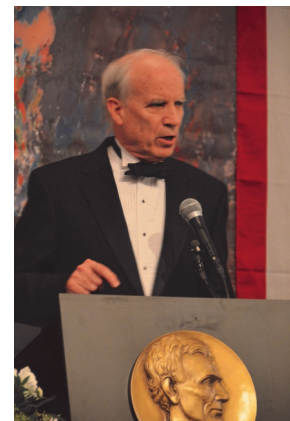


Kathryn Harris, Chair of the ALA Special Projects Committee, spoke of the successful Emancipation Celebrations.



Brooks Simpson delivers his speech as stand-in for scheduled speaker Stephen L. Carter, who was unable to attend.

Brooks Simpson's banquet speech will be on C-Span History on April 21, 2013. The program will air in the "Presidency" slot Sunday, April 21 at 8:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on C-SPAN 3. All times Eastern.



Michael Burlingame sparred with Brooks Simpson over issues raised by Simpson's speech.

Board Member Brooks Simpson volunteered to speak at the 2013 banquet as a last minute stand-in for the scheduled speaker Stephen L. Carter. Carter was prohibited by snow in the east from travelling to Springfield. Simpson is chair of the committee that has selected symposium topics and speakers for the last several years. At the close of his speech, Simpson respectfully sparred with Michael Burlingame on issues raised by his speech.

Kathryn Harris, Chair of the ALA Special Projects Committee, gave a report on the Watch Night and First Day programs and conveyed to all the tremendous success of both events. Kathryn also reported on the Emancipation Celebrations to be held this summer in Springfield on August 2 and 3.

FOR THE PEOPLE

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WATCH NIGHT DECEMBER 31, 2012



ALA Board Member Robert Davis as Frederick Douglass spoke from the pulpit of Westminster Presbyterian Church.



The cast of the ALA sponsored Emancipation Watch Night gathered on the steps of the chancel in Westminster Presbyterian Church on the evening of December 31, 2012. They are pictured left to right: Patricia James Davis, Armenta Johnson, Tim Townsend, Kathryn Harris, Roger Bridges, Wesley McNeese, Steve Richie, George Buss, Eleanor VanDeventer, and Robert Davis.



Vocal groups The Walnuts and The Messengers of Christ combined under the direction of Dale Rogers. *Back Row:* Joe Bohlen, Roger Goza, Derrick Stapleton, Bob Blythe, Roderick Britts. *Front Row:* Amanda Neubauer, Linda Goza, Diane Geary, Esther Davis, Eleanor VanDeventer, Julie Blythe.

