

# FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

Volume 14 Number 3

FALL 2012

Springfield, Illinois

## **GEORGIA NORTHRUP**

(1922-2012)

#### **GEORGIA NORTHRUP**

Funeral First Presbyterian Church July 27, 2012

Remembrance by Richard E. Hart

Friends,

On behalf of the Abraham Lincoln Association, I offer our condolences to the family of Georgia Northrup-Melinda, Judy, Susan, Mark, Charles, and their families.

For more than five decades, Georgia was a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association--the ALA. For thirty years, she faithfully served on its Board of Directors and she remained an Emeritus Director until the time of her death.

For over two decades, she tended to the Association's membership records and welcomed each new member with a handwritten note.

Under Georgia's watch, the Association's membership grew from 240 to 800 members.

For many years, she personally labeled and saw to the mailing of the Association's *Journal*, newsletter, symposium and banquet notices and membership correspondence.

Georgia's husband, Chuck, with a twinkle in his eye and a mischievous smile, often reminded everyone that from January 1 through February 12 of each year there were no meals



served in the Northrup dining room as it became the boiler room for planning the details of the annual ALA Lincoln banquet. Each attendee had a name card, and Georgia could barely keep up with the last-minute telephone requests for special seating. There were just not enough seats up front to accommodate all of those with hearing issues. And only Georgia knew enough to keep the Springfield Hatfields apart from the Springfield McCoys.

She was always there to greet firsttime banquet attendees and make them feel welcome. Her gracious spirit and warm smile were the heart not only of the banquet, but of The Abraham Lincoln Association. During her service, she became the public face of the ALA.

On February 12th, 2008, Georgia's extraordinary service was recognized at the ALA's Lincoln Day Banquet. She was presented with

the Logan Hay Medal, the highest honor given by The Abraham Lincoln Association.

But this bland accounting of service to the ALA only partially describes the Georgia we all knew and loved and will miss. The Georgia who was self-effacing and kind and whose encouraging words to many of us in private chats have served us well in many respects. The Georgia who was a nurturing person to many --especially to younger persons in the ALA as well as many other civic organizations and this church. The Georgia who so faithfully cared for her family and especially her husband during his later years. The Georgia who never knew a stranger and whose authentic charm and good works made her the friend of everyone she met. The Georgia whose sweet smile, engaging manner and wonderful hugs will be remembered and missed. The Georgia who was our good friend.

As Abraham Lincoln so wisely observed, "The better part of one's life consists of his friendships."

In an age that has become self-centered, strident and materialistic beyond belief, Georgia was from the Old School that unapologetically and unselfconsciously put family, community, country, church and friends above all. We will all be the lesser for her absence, but the richer from having known this sweet lady - Friend Georgia.



# Robert Davis ALA Board Member

Robert Davis, author of *A Soldier's Story*, serves on the Board of Directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Sangamon County Historical Society, and the Looking For Lincoln Heritage Coalition. He has studied the Civil War for more than thirty years and is well known as a Civil War re-enactor, particularly for his presentation about African American Andrew Lewis, who served in the Illinois 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry, United States Colored Troops.

Mr. Davis has made many presentations at schools and before various audiences including the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, the Sangamon County



Robert Davis

Historical Society, and the Quincy Cultural Festival - African American Heritage Program.

Mr. Davis taught at the University of Illinois Springfield and Lincoln Land Community College in Illinois and retired as Fiscal Officer at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, in Springfield, Illinois.

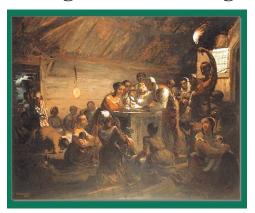
Mr. Davis received his BA from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan; MPA from Princeton University, and MBA from the University of Chicago. He and his wife Patricia presently live in Springfield, Illinois.

### The Origin of Watch Night

On December 31, 1862, one hundred and fifty years ago, American slaves, freemen, abolitionists and common folks sat in churches, meeting houses and fields all over this great nation, watching and waiting for the first day of freedom to roll in. Freedom was to occur the next day on January 1, 1863, when President Lincoln was to issue a Proclamation emancipating or freeing the slaves in states or parts of states that were in rebellion against the Union.

It was a highly emotional time. Many of the slaves and free black men and women chose to sit in open fields that night so they would not miss witnessing one second of the dawning of the first day of freedom. As they watched and waited, they sang songs and testified to the glory and the goodness of the Lord. They gave thanks to President Lincoln, whom many called Father Abraham, and famous abolitionists like Horace Greeley, Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, and others who strongly and relentlessly urged Lincoln to emancipate the slaves. They also gave thanks for the sacrifices of slaves themselves who had boldly risked all in a desperate push to crack open the door to freedom and to the death of slavery.

Slavery was the great plague on this young North American nation. Since its beginning, the Free states and the Slave states had tried to reconcile their differences over this fundamental issue. There was the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, the Mis-



Watch Night
White House Art Collection

souri Compromise of 1820, the 1850 Compromise, the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, and the Dred Scott Decision of 1857. Yet, all of these compromises strengthened the hand of slavery and left it intact. Moreover, the compromises were inconsistent with the alternative vision of America expressed in the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence, which states that, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

This alternative vision of our nation was shared by Lincoln, the abolitionists and freemen along with many members of the Anti-Slavery movement. The belief was

that slavery could not permanently co-exist alongside freedom and liberty. Thus, at the beginning of the Civil War, Black leaders and abolitionists pressed Lincoln to emancipate the slaves and to let the black man join that Civil War fight for the Union and freedom. Lincoln realized that, if the Union was to be preserved, a new military strategy was required. He also realized that the mood of the nation had changed such that political conditions were ripe for use of his authority as Commander-in-Chief of the armies and navy to emancipate the slaves as a military necessity. As he had said earlier, "We must think anew and act anew." So on September 22, 1862, Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which states, "That on the first day of January in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any state, or designated part of a state, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be, thenceforth, and forever free." For the next three months, slaves as well as those who wanted to abolish slavery watched and waited for the dawn of the first day of freedom, January 1, 1863. Watch night has been celebrated every year since, as part of the American tradition, especially in African American churches all across this nation.

# Wepner Symposium on the *Lincoln Legacy and Contemporary Scholarship*October 19-20, 2012

The 2012 Wepner Symposium on the Lincoln Legacy & Contemporary Scholarship will be held on October 19 and 20, 2012. At this time three major presentations with Professors Paul Finkelman, Rogers Smith, and Steve Schwark are scheduled. A revised schedule with the remainder of the participants will be posted as soon as finalized. You can follow the progress at:

uiswepner.tumblr.com/post/27407492480/2012-symposium-schedule

#### FRIDAY OCTOBER 19, 2012

#### Holtz Memorial Lecture Brookens Library

How a Railroad Lawyer Became the Great Emancipator: Lincoln and the Constitutional Limits of Emancipation by Paul Finkelman, William McKinley Professor of Law at Albany Law School.



#### **SATURDAY OCTOBER 20, 2012**

Morning Theme: "The Politics of Emancipation and Civil Rights"

**8:00 - 9:10** *Topic & Papers TBA*.

9:20 - 10:30 Lincoln's Legacy and Struggles for African American Rights and Women's Rights, 1895 - 1945 by Rogers M. Smith, Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania.

**10:40 - 11:50** *Topic & Papers TBA*.

# Afternoon Theme: "Remembering Emancipation"

**1:00 - 2:10** Cultural Bias and Historical Memory papers TBA.

**2:20 - 3:30** African American Ideas on the Lincoln Legacy: What Contemporary Scholarship Shows papers TBA.

**3:40 - 4:50** Nothing to Lose but Their Chains: Comparative & International Perspectives on the Emancipation of People and States, Panel led by **Steve Schwark**, Professor of Political Science at the University of Illinois Springfield.

## Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation

# Lincoln Legacy Lecture Series at UIS October 11, 2012

Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation is the theme of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Lincoln Legacy Lectures to be presented on October 11, 2012, from 7 to 9 p.m. in Brookens Auditorium on the campus of the University of Illinois Springfield.

The featured speakers are ALA Director **Dr. Allen C. Guelzo**, Henry R. Luce Professor of the Civil War Era at Gettysburg College, and **Ron Soodalter**, an author and member of the board of the Abraham Lincoln Institute.

Guelzo's lecture will focus on *Four Roads* to *Emancipation*.

Soodalter will discuss A Blight on the Nation: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today.

**Dr. Michael Burlingame**, Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies at UIS, and an ALA Director, will serve as moderator.



Ron Soodalter



Dr. Allen C. Guelzo

The lectures will be webcast live at: <a href="http://www.uis.edu/technology/uislive.html">http://www.uis.edu/technology/uislive.html</a>.

The UIS Lincoln Legacy Lecture Series is sponsored by the Center for State Policy and Leadership in cooperation with Professor Burlingame.

The event is free and open to the public. No reservations are required.

A light reception and book signing will follow the lectures.

For additional information, contact Barbara Ferrara at <u>bferr1@uis.edu</u> or 217-206-7094.



# Albert E. Bachelet's Discovery of Possible Stereoscopic Photographs of Abraham Lincoln

Albert E. Bachelet's widow, Janet Bower Bachelet, donated some of his working materials to the Presidential Library & Museum in 1999; and more material in 2012. Here she provides a reflective account of the origins and results of Mr. Bachelet's interest in the possibility that Lincoln was photographed by a stereoscopic camera.

#### Janet Bower Bachelet

Al was a Member of the fabled Bell Telephone Laboratories (BTL), a science breeding ground similar to Apple or Microsoft today. As an expert in transmission circuitry in the early days of long-distance telephony, he was hired in 1923 by Western Electric. Later he worked on the Earthstation, building Telstar, and retired from BTL in 1966. He had 45 patents, 6 of them kept secret during World War II.



Albert E. Bachelet

In the 1940s and 1950s, the company's Hobby Club was popular. Al joined colleagues in forming a group whose pastime was stereoscopic photography. In a newspaper on Lincoln's birthday in 1943, Al saw two photographs of Abraham Lincoln side by side and wondered if there might exist some true stereoscopic pictures of him as yet undetected. At this point, everyone knew that Mathew Brady had photographed Lincoln many times, but all the photos were single portraits, mainly sold as *cartes de visite*, the small "visiting card" kind. None were known to be stereoscopic -- though some sellers of stereographic



cards, popular around the Civil War, sold single photos of Lincoln placed side by side on one card to produce pseudo-stereos for handheld viewers.

In 1944 Frederick Hill Meserve, an attorney and the foremost collector of Mathew Brady and Lincoln images, published *The* Photographs of Abraham Lincoln, a selection with text by Carl Sandburg. When Al looked through Meserve's book, many of the photographs in the book, apparently identical, appeared to his scientist's eye to be stereoscopic. Having made pencil notes about possible pairs in the margins of his copy of the book, Al then approached Mr. Meserve to request access to his fine plates and prints. These, he hoped, would provide the degree of definition necessary to determine absolutely whether any were stereoscopic.

Mr. Meserve, though courteous, was at first inaccessible. Al said he made several well-spaced letters and telephone calls before Mr. Meserve agreed to have lunch with him uptown. Once persuaded that the search was serious and worthwhile, Mr. Meserve willingly gave Al access to his collection. Al reported to me that the first time he was in the collection room on the top floor of the East Side townhouse in Manhattan, the telephone rang and Mr. Meserve left Al holding a Brady plate that Al could only hope not to drop before Mr. Meserve returned.

When Al did indeed find pairs in the collection, they both wondered how that had occurred. Mr. Meserve suggested that Al get in touch with Miss Josephine Cobb at

the National Archives. Miss Cobb was also looking for stereoscopic pairs of Lincoln photographs among the plates in that collection. She hoped to find out whether or not Brady had used a stereoscopic camera.

Miss Cobb had realized that Mathew Brady's plates had broken edges that could be matched like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. She had assembled several sets that fitted together both horizontally and vertically, and some in groups of three or four; but she had not found the stereoscopic pairs she was looking for. To enable Al to continue his research, she sent him prints of the plates that she had used in her search.

Al saw that adjacent photographs in Miss Cobb's assemblages would produce a stereoscopic image *if the photographs were transposed*, left to right, and that three or four single plates in a row produced one pair that was stereoscopic *without* left to right transposition. Both researchers were thus mystified as to the kind of camera Brady must have used.

Al said that he remembered pacing the streets of Greenwich Village, trying to envision an appropriate camera. Finally, he came up with a solution: a four-lens camera with a sliding back that would produce *two sets of four photos each* in one sitting. Al was gratified when Brady's camera was soon found and a picture of it showed that he had been right.

(Continued on page 5)

#### The Abraham Lincoln Association

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#### PRESIDENT LENZ'S GREETING

Dear Abraham Lincoln Association Members:

We are very excited about the Watch Night Service and the Emancipation Proclamation Signing and Press Conference planned for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. We are joining together with Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Old State Capitol Foundation and other supporting organizations to present these two events.

I want to give special thanks to two members of the ALA Board who have worked very hard to make these events possible: Kathryn Harris and Robert Davis. Kathryn is the Chairperson of the Special Events Committee and Bob is the designer and author of the two events. They have put countless hours into planning and coordinating these programs.

The Abraham Lincoln Association relies on the help of the membership to keep on fulfilling the Association's mission "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."

Thanks to Kathryn, Bob and all members who assist with the Association's programs.

Robert J. Lenz, President

#### (Continued from page 4)

In the end Al made two discoveries: first, that stereoscopic photos of Lincoln had always existed; and second, how Brady's camera produced them.

In 1956 the company-wide Bell Telephone Laboratories Hobby Club Show offered a chance for Al to show the Brady-Lincoln stereo discovery to the general public. Al obtained a stereoscopic viewer with the same interocular and focal distance as Brady's camera. He used positive transparencies obtained from original glass negatives in the National Archives and mounted other pairs for use with this viewer. Looking through the viewer allowed everyone to see Lincoln exactly as he would have been viewed by Brady himself.

In the mid-1950s Al's discoveries made news in *The World Herald* and in *The World-*

Telegram and Sun. His stereos were a major attraction for the Hobby Club show; his work was featured in the Bell Labs newsletter The Record. It was a major event at various group meetings in New York City. Later, for a week the stereoscopic viewer, with Brady's image of Lincoln fixed in place, stayed in the main entry area of the largest photography shop in Manhattan for the public to admire.

The Bachelet Collection at the ALPLM, one box plus the stereoscopic viewer, includes original and carbon correspondence, the marked-up copy of the Meserve-Sandburg book, publications announcing the discoveries, and the many glass slides and prints used in the research. The ALPLM thanks Mrs. Bachelet for these donations, which are open for use.

Dr. James Cornelius

#### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our 5 new members.

Griessman & Associates *Atlanta, Georgia* 

Douglas King *Springfield, Illinois* 

Steve Scheid
Sun Prairie. Wisconsin

Todd W. Van Beck *Memphis, Tennessee* 

David Noon Juneau. Alaska



The 146th Illinois Infantry Volunteer Regiment Band

Visit our website at www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org

# ALA Mid-Year Meeting Held in Chicago

#### Abraham Lincoln Book Shop

In June the ALA Board held its mid-year meeting at the *Abraham Lincoln Book Shop* in Chicago. Daniel Weinberg, shop owner and ALA Board member, hosted the meeting and after the formal meeting gave a presentation on the history of the shop.



For any of you who have not yet visited the book shop, please plan to do so. The shop was established in 1938 by former ALA Board Member Ralph Newman and specializes in all things Lincoln. It is the favorite of Lincoln and Civil War collectors and scholars, professional historians and independent writers, dedicated first-edition hunters and casual history enthusiasts. The shop is located at 357 West Chicago Avenue (west of Franklin Street), and their website is:

www.alincolnbookshop.com.

#### Chicago History Museum

After the meeting, Board members had lunch at the Chicago History Museum and then took a behind the scenes tour of the Chicago History Museum thanks to Board member Russell Lewis, Executive Vice President and Chief Historian. In addition to the wonderful things on exhibit at the





museum there are thousands of items I storage and we learned how they are properly stored. We were also allowed to look at several special items from their extensive Lincoln collection.

The Museum is located at 1601 North Clark Street in Chicago, and their website is www.chicagohs.org.

Thanks to everyone who made this trip possible.

#### WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER

Your membership is essential to the ALA's success. It allows the ALA to provide you with the *For The People* newsletter and the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* and to sponsor many worthwhile programs. Use the form below to enroll as a member.

William G. Shepherd, Membership Chairman

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

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

Name:

Address:

City:

Zip:

Email:

Student\$	25
Railsplitter\$	50
Postmaster\$1	00
Lawyer\$2	250
Congressman\$5	00
President\$1,0	000



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

### Jameson Jenkins Grave Marker Restored and Rededicated

Richard E. Hart

The Abraham Lincoln Association continues its leadership in the restoration of grave markers of those who knew Lincoln and are buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. Previous restorations have included the Lincoln Tomb and markers for Judge Samuel Treat and Lincoln photographer Christopher Smith German.

On September 30, 2012, the restored grave marker of African American Jameson Jenkins will be rededicated. A ceremony at the grave in the "Colored Section" will begin at 4 p.m. with a blessing and remarks, including those of ALA Board Member Robert Davis who portrays Jameson Jenkins. You are all invited to attend.

In addition to the ALA, other organizations have contributed to the restoration project. The Arnold Monument Company restored the grave marker. Oak Ridge Cemetery poured the grave marker foundation and assisted in the rededication as its contribution. The other organizations who assisted with the restoration and who will have representatives at the rededication ceremony are:

Eastern National-Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Oak Ridge Cemetery Association Oak Ridge Cemetery, City of Springfield Sangamon County Historical Society Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum



The restored obelisk grave marker of African American Jameson Jenkins, friend of Lincoln and Underground Railroad Conductor.

#### Who Was Jameson Jenkins?

Jameson Jenkins was an African American Springfield resident who lived one half block south of the Lincoln Home and who carted Lincoln and his luggage to the Great Western Train Station when he left in 1861. Jenkins was also an active Underground Railroad conductor. He is an important historical figure in the history of Springfield and Abraham Lincoln. The three brief articles that follow give one a glimpse into the life of Jenkins.

#### Jameson Jenkins Leaves North Carolina Home and Travels North on the Underground Railroad

In the summer of 1835, Jameson was living in Wake County, North Carolina as a freeman. He left his home with a permit to visit Guilford County, North Carolina. There he was assisted by the Quakers in heading north along the Underground Railroad route to Levi Coffin's residence in Richmond, Indiana. He remained there until circa 1844 when he and his young family moved to Illinois.

#### Permit

State of North Carolina Wake County this 12<sup>th</sup> April 1838

Dear Sir certify that the son of the above Nancy Jenkins was known by me to be a freeman of colour and further certify that I gave him a permit to leave this Country for him to make a visit to Gilford County some time in the summer of 1835.

Ezra Gill, Justice of Peace

#### Jameson Jenkins, Underground Railroad Conductor

On the evening of January 16, 1850, Jameson Jenkins assisted 7 runaway slaves by secreting them from Springfield to Bloomington in a stage coach.

On January 23, 1850, the *Journal* reported that the rumor that the runaway slaves had been betrayed by a local African American [Jameson Jenkins] was false. To the contrary, Jenkins had gone north by stage to Bloomington with some of the runaway slaves. The affidavit of J. C. Goodhue, stage coach agent, stated, "This is to certify that Mr. Jenkins left for Bloomington on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1850 in the stage."

#### Jameson Jenkins Drives Lincoln's Carriage to Railroad Depot for Departure From Springfield

At about 7:30 a.m. on Monday, February 11, 1861, Abraham Lincoln left the Chenery House at the northeast corner of Fourth and Washington Streets in Springfield for the Great Western Railroad depot to start his trip to Washington. Jameson Jenkins drove Lincoln's carriage from the Chenery House to the Great Western railroad depot.



The obelisk grave marker of African American Jameson Jenkins before restoration. It had fallen from its base and was mostly buried after years of lying on the ground.



The Jameson Jenkins lot in the block south of the Lincoln Home where his house was located.

#### FOR THE PEOPLE

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

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# THOMAS SCHWARTZ PRESENTED NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD

CHICAGO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE HIGHEST HONOR

On Friday, September 14, The Chicago Civil War Round Table presented ALA Officer and Board Secretary Thomas Schwartz with the Nevins-Freeman Award. It is the group's highest honor. Former recipients include Bruce Catton and Ed Bearss. The award in part acknowledged Tom's contribution in creating the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and his work promoting Lincoln's legacy.

Tom's address was titled A People's Contest: Lincoln, Soldiers, and the Dilemmas of Democracy. He talked about the meaning of the war as expressed by Abraham Lincoln and common soldiers in their letters home. The speech was very interesting and well received.



William Shepherd, Larry Gibbs, Thomas Schwartz and Daniel Stowell at the September 14th meeting of the Civil War Round Table where Thomas Schwartz was presented with the Nevins-Freeman Award.