



# FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2012

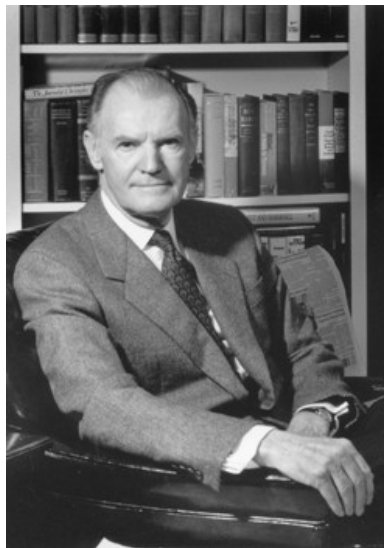
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

## JANE LENNON REMEMBERS HER FATHER

### ROBERT S. ECKLEY

(1921-2012)

*Robert S. Eckley, former president of The Abraham Lincoln Association, died on April 15, 2012, in his home after a four year battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (commonly known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease). He was 90 years old. A remembrance of his life was held on April 19, 2012, in Evelyn Chapel on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois. Several members of the Eckley family paid tribute to Bob. His daughter, Jane Lennon, made the following remarks.*



Robert S. Eckley  
(1921-2012)

As many of you know, my father devoted much of the last portion of his life to Leonard Swett, the legal partner and forgotten friend of Abraham Lincoln. In Dad's biography of Leonard Swett, set to be published this coming October and currently available for preorder on Amazon.com, my father presents the speech that Swett gave at the October 22, 1887, dedication and unveiling of the "Standing Lincoln" statue by the French sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens at the south end of Lincoln Park in Chicago. Swett eloquently captured an unusual and unique characteristic existing in both my father and in Abraham Lincoln, so I would like to paraphrase Swett's remarks on Lincoln here as a tribute to Dad. Swett said,

*A very remarkable and useful trait of Lincoln's character was that of mental equipoise. He was disturbed by nothing, nor diverted from the pathway he had marked out. Although prosecuting the war for two years simply from a sense of duty and not from a belief in its success, he kept right on and was nei-*

*ther depressed by disasters nor elated by success. He seemed to comprehend the magnitude of the contest in which he was engaged more thoroughly than other men. In moments of adversity, he was not disheartened, but was cool, collected and determined. In moments of victory, when everybody else was carried away by the joyousness of the occasion, Mr. Lincoln had the same mental equipoise and was as self-restrained and determined as before. In short, he was a monument of strength, and the other great men at Washington learned to gain renewed strength from his calmness, to lean upon his own great arms for support.*

Next, I would like to read some words from Adlai Stevenson about his midwestern roots and the Bloomington community that he came from. Again, these words seem to apply equally to

both Dad and Stevenson. Like Stevenson, my father embodied those qualities often associated with a midwestern background and he respected and appreciated the environment that is bourne of his family and many of you. Stevenson said,

*I have Bloomington to thank for the most important lesson I have learned: that in quiet places, reason abounds, that in quiet people there is vision and purpose, that many things are revealed to the humble that are hidden from the great. ... The spirit of Bloomington is the midland concept of Americanism, progress coupled with order, liberty without license, tolerance without laxness and thrift without meanness.*

But out of this land locked part of the country grew in my father a love for the sea, a passion nurtured during World War II when he served on an escort ship for Naval convoys going across the north Atlantic. During our childhood he sprinkled us with nautical metaphors, advising us to "stay the course" or hold "steady as she goes." So, it is appropriate to end by honoring him with the language of the sea from Alfred Tennyson:

*Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;*

*For though from out our bourne of Time  
and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crossed the bar.*

## Dr. Matthew Holden, Jr. New ALA Board Member Welcomed

*We are honored to have Dr. Matthew Holden, Jr., as a member of the ALA Board of Directors. His impressive credentials and engaging personality have made him a popular addition to the University of Illinois - Springfield and the Lincoln scholarly community.*

*Matthew Holden, Jr. is the Wepner Distinguished Professor in Political Science, University of Illinois - Springfield, a position he has held since August 2009. He is the convener of the Wepner Symposium on the Lincoln Legacy and Contemporary Scholarship ([www.uis.edu/wepner](http://www.uis.edu/wepner).)*



**Dr. Matthew Holden, Jr.**  
Wepner Distinguished Professor  
in Political Science  
University of Illinois - Springfield

Matthew Holden was born in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, and grew up in Chicago. He is married to the former Dorothy Amanda Howard and they are the parents of Paul Christopher Hendricks and John Matthew Alexander Holden. Dr. Holden is an alumnus of Northwestern University (M. A., Ph. D., Political Science, Anthropology minor), Roosevelt University (B. A., Political Science, History minor), and Wendell Phillips High School (Chicago). He holds the LL.D. (Hon.) from Tuskegee University, the L. H. D. (Hon.) from Roosevelt University, and the L. H. D. (Hon.) from Virginia Theological Seminary.

Dr. Holden has taught at Wayne State University in Detroit, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of Virginia, where he was the Henry L. and Grace M. Doherty Professor of Politics. He has been the Newman Visiting Professor of American Civilization, Cornell University, and a visiting professor at Jackson State University. Holden served in the United States Army, with sixteen months in Korea in the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Artillery.

He is a former president of the American Political Science Association and the Policy Studies Organization. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Senior Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

In his writings and experience, Holden has emphasized the connection of politi-

cal science concepts to the actual world they seek to explain. He has emphasized learning from the actual world to refine concepts.

Professor Holden has written extensively in many fields of political science. His work has included energy politics and environmental policy; regulatory policy and practice; urban and metropolitan politics; public policy and administration; executive politics; law and politics; and race and ethnic politics. Among his works are *Continuity & Disruption: Essays in Public Administration*; a study of race and politics entitled *The Divisible Republic*; an edited volume on *Varieties of Political Conservatism*; and contributions to a joint volume on *Resources and Decisions*.

His articles include pioneering models of bureaucratic "imperialism" and metropolitan governance based upon international relations. His 1966 paper entitled *Pollution Control as a Bargaining Process* shows why, even with the highest ethical standards, command and control must be limited and executive leaders of agencies must to a degree bargain with those over whom they have authority. This theme is expanded in a joint article with Gene William Giannotta, "Politics and Military Command," *The Forum* 9, Issue 3, Article 8 (October 2011), 1-11.

In 1973, Dr. Holden published *The Politics of the Black "Nation"* and *The White Man's Burden*, perspectives on race relations and civil rights.

Holden's recent publication from the University of Oklahoma Press, *The Practice of Power*, is a study of public administration and political power. The book is based on the 2001 Rothbaum Lecture in Representative Government, and rewritten over the past decade. Other research and writing projects include *The World and the Mind of Isaiah T. Montgomery: The Greatness of a Compromised Man*, which examines the lone African American delegate in the Mississippi Constitutional Convention of 1890, and a book on regulatory policy and practice.

Holden has been engaged in a wide range of activities. He has been a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and Commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He has also been a member of the Electricity Advisory Board (U. S. Department of Energy), Task Force on Electric System Reliability (U. S. Department of Energy), the President's Air Quality Advisory Board, and the Board of Directors of Atlantic Energy, Inc.

Holden has given Congressional testimony on D. C. government organization and energy policy, and has been a witness before the House Judiciary Committee on historical and constitutional standards on Presidential impeachment. He has also been a witness on state legislative hearings on energy.

Holden served as a member of the National Urban League's Delegate Assembly and Education and Youth Incentives Committee. He served on the boards of directors of the Madison, Wisconsin and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Urban Leagues

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Wepner Symposium on the Lincoln Legacy October 19-20 2012

## *Emancipation: What Came Before, How It Worked, and What Followed*

The current Wepner Professor, Dr. Matthew Holden, Jr., has convened two symposia in Springfield, Illinois, on the themes of presidential leadership and the lessons of the Civil War. A third is planned for October 19-20, 2012, centered around Lincoln's role in emancipation.

The inaugural Wepner Symposium was held in October 2010, on the theme of "Presidential Options, Presidential Decision-Making, and Social Consequences." The Symposium brought distinguished scholars from many institutions including Princeton, Yale, Bowdoin College, Purdue, the University of Oregon, to discuss the importance of Lincoln's presidency in historical and social science context. The

second Wepner *Symposium* focused on the lessons of the Civil War and "civil war" as a more general phenomenon.

The Third Wepner Symposium, scheduled for October 19-20, 2012, will examine the role of Lincoln's leadership as president in the emancipation process. Since 2012 is the sesquicentennial year of President Lincoln's announcement of his intention to issue an emancipation proclamation in 1863, the politics and legacy of emancipation are the focus of this year's symposium.

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals are welcome from (a) any field of political science and any of the forty-odd organized sections of the American

Political Science Association; (b) from colleagues who study politics from the conceptual terrain of anthropology, economics, history, psychology, sociology, law, and the humanities, including American Studies and African-American Studies.

*Our goal is to expand the scope of our activities to build on these symposia with a greater online presence, more events, and publication opportunities - all with the aim of promoting the mission of bringing greater scholarly attention to the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and spreading that knowledge to the public.*

Dr. Matthew Holden, Jr.

*(Continued from page 2)*

and of local NAACP chapters. He is an active layperson in the Episcopal Church.

Dr. Holden has been a strong advocate for improving the analytical basis of African American politics. In recent years, he has advanced the concept of a think tank on politics, economics, and government—especially in the Lower Mississippi Valley. One of his major current interests is historic preservation, especially in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where the vicissitudes of the contemporary

economy have had a severe and adverse effect.

The Matthew Holden, Jr., Symposium Lecture at Jackson State University was created to recognize his work and a donation of the 4,000-volume library by Matthew and Dorothy Holden. The volumes are housed at Jackson State University in *The Mrs. Dorothy Howard Holden and Dr. Matthew Holden, Jr. Reading Room*. Holden's academic, personal, and official papers have mainly been donated to the University of Virginia Archives. When those papers are processed, they will

provide one of most extensive collections in any university of materials on regulatory policy and procedure, as seen from a commissioner's standpoint.



## 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

- Student.....\$25
- Railsplitter.....\$50
- Postmaster.....\$100
- Lawyer.....\$250
- Congressman.....\$500
- President.....\$1,000

You may join through our website at:  
**abrahamlincolnassociation.org**  
Call toll free for more information:  
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## Oak Ridge Cemetery Stereoviews Discovered in Cincinnati

Richard E. Hart

The Sangamon Valley Collection at Springfield, Illinois' Lincoln Library has an extensive accumulation of articles and photographs pertaining to the history of Lincoln's Springfield. While recently reviewing their vertical files, I found photocopies of a number of 19th century stereoviews of Oak Ridge Cemetery, the site of Abraham Lincoln's burial. The photocopied images were very faint and difficult to discern. The photocopied pages were stapled together and a name, Cincinnati address and phone number were hand written at the bottom of the first page. While it did not so state, I assumed that the name and contact information was that of the owner of the stereoviews.

That evening I called the Cincinnati telephone number thinking that it would have long since been disconnected or changed. To my amazement, the lady answering the telephone identified herself as the person whose name appeared on the photocopy. She was equally amazed that I was calling her and confirmed that indeed she was the owner of the cache of original stereoviews.

But how did these Springfield stereoviews come into her hands in Cincinnati? She quickly answered with a story that illustrates the often serendipitous nature of

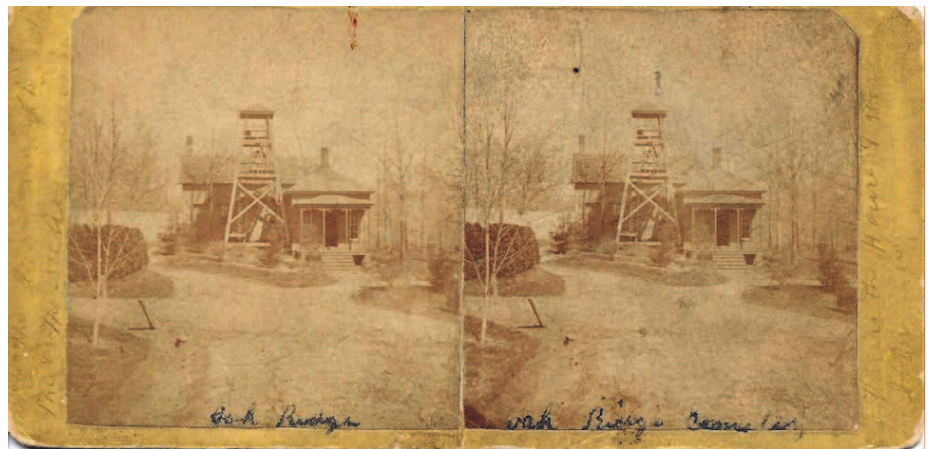
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Photograph of George Willis, the sexton of Oak Ridge Cemetery at the time of Lincoln's funeral in May 1865.



The Third Street or east entrance to Oak Ridge Cemetery. It was through this entrance that the Lincoln funeral procession passed on the afternoon of May 4, 1865. This stereoview was taken by Springfield photographer Marcel Duboce circa 1867.



The Sexton's Residence at Oak Ridge Cemetery. From 1860 until 1867, this was the home of the first sexton of Oak Ridge Cemetery, George Willis. This stereoview was taken by Springfield photographer Marcel Duboce circa 1867.



The road running west through the valley from the Oak Ridge Cemetery's Third Street entrance. It was along this road that the Lincoln funeral procession passed on the afternoon of May 4, 1865, stopping at the Receiving Vault where Lincoln's body was placed. The stereoview was taken by Ridgeway Glover of Schrieber and Glover, Philadelphia photographers. Glover was present at Lincoln's funeral and took this stereoview at the time of the funeral in early May 1865.

## The Abraham Lincoln Association

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## PRESIDENT LENZ'S GREETING

Dear ALA Members:

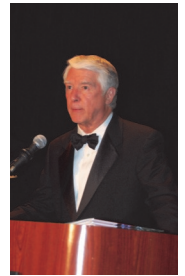
We are saddened by the passing of board member Robert Eckley. Bob was a past President of the Association, and in 2008 received the Association's highest honor, the Logan-Hay Medal, given to recognize individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the mission of the Association. Bob initiated the ALA Endowment Fund to enable the Association to participate in the continuing evolution of Lincoln studies and the dissemination of Lincoln information. It is a tribute to Bob's hard work and foresight that the fund has a current balance in excess of \$350,000.

Dr. Eckley, a World War II veteran, earned a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard, where he taught economics. He was a senior economist at the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank and the chief economist at Caterpillar Corporation in Peoria, Illinois. For 18 years he was President of Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois. He served on numerous boards of civic groups and businesses.

Bob authored five books and numerous scholarly articles. Just a month before his death, he finished his final book, *Abraham Lincoln's Forgotten Friend, Leonard Swett*, which will be published this fall. We will have more information about the book in the fall edition of *For The People*.

Bob and his wife Nell raised four wonderful children, one of whom authored the cover piece about her father. Bob will be missed by everyone at the Association; he was a great friend and mentor to all of us.

Robert J. Lenz  
President



## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our 7 new members.

Wallace Ashenfelter  
*Virginia Beach, VA*

Gwen and Bob Edwards  
*Bloomington, Illinois*

Michelle Hamilton  
*Spring Valley, California*

Robert Haxter  
*Crozet, Virginia*

David Jester  
*Ridgecrest, California*

David Keehn  
*Allentown, Pennsylvania*

Bruce Telfeyan  
*Bellevue, Nebraska*

## Lincoln Monument Association

The Lincoln Monument Association has recently been reformed to continue the purposes of the original association in assisting in the care of the Lincoln Tomb. Your support of the Association will help insure that the traditions of the original Association will endure.

For more information, visit its site:  
[lincoln-tomb.org](http://lincoln-tomb.org)

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historical research. She is an artist in Cincinnati and several years back had rented a studio whose previous occupant had been an antique dealer. When she moved in, she saw a package on a shelf in the back room. She left the package undisturbed thinking the antique dealer would return someday and claim the package. Years passed and the package remained on the back room shelf. One morning while reading the Cincinnati newspaper, she read the obituary of the antique dealer. Only then did she take the package from the shelf and open it. What she found were a series of 19th century stereoviews of Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois, and a cabinet card photograph of George Willis, who in 1860 was chosen as the first sexton of the Oak Ridge Cemetery and was the sexton at the time of Lincoln's burial there. In 1867, Miller moved from

Springfield to Cincinnati to become the sexton there at Spring Grove Cemetery. The stereoviews appear to have been Miller's private collection that he took with him when he moved from Springfield to Cincinnati. His treasures eventually found their way to the antique shop that became the artist's studio.

Years ago the Cincinnati artist had used the highest available technology — the copy machine—to share her treasures with the Sangamon Valley Collection. She now has graciously scanned the stereoviews and shared them with me and again with the Sangamon Valley Collection. As we approach May 2015 and the commemoration of the Lincoln funeral at Oak Ridge Cemetery, these as well as other photographs of Lincoln's funeral there will become matters of great interest.

## Staff Sergeant Robert James Miller – Honored Posthumously

**The Order of Lincoln  
Celebrates Lincoln's Illinois Heritage**

**By Thomas S. Johnson**  
*Chancellor of the Lincoln Academy  
ALA Board Member*



In recognition of its rich Lincoln heritage, the State of Illinois established the Order of Lincoln, the state's highest honor, which is awarded to six distinguished Illinoisans each year. The Order of Lincoln honors individuals whose contribution to the betterment of humanity have been accomplished in Illinois, or whose achievements have brought honor to the state because of their identity with it, whether by birth or residence, or whose dedication to the principles of public service inspire all Illinoisans to respond to what Lincoln called "the better angels of our nature."

To insure that no political connotation should surround the award, the Lincoln Academy of Illinois was established to administer the program and to choose each year's honorees.

Dr. Thomas F. Schwartz, secretary of the ALA and former Illinois State Historian, said of the Academy, "The Lincoln Academy of Illinois was created to recognize the living histories of those who walk among us believing, as Lincoln did, that those living histories remind future generations of the endless possibilities ahead."

Throughout its nearly fifty-year history, the leadership of the Lincoln Academy and the leadership of the Abraham Lincoln Association have included many of the same people, a happy relationship that continues even today. The governing board of the Lincoln Academy, and its emeritus members, includes several past or present directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association, including Molly Becker, Thomas Johnson, Judge Richard Mills, Judge Ronald D. Spears, and Don



Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller, recipient of the Medal of Honor in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, was honored posthumously when Illinois Governor Pat Quinn presented the Order of Lincoln to Sergeant Miller's mother. Present for the ceremony were three members of Robert's Special Forces Unit from Fort Bragg, North Carolina whose lives he had saved. Pictured above are those three men and Robert's mother. Left to Right: Major Robert Cusick, Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Wilson, Maureen Miller and Sergeant Major Pat Rotsaert.

Tracy.

During the celebration of the Lincoln Bicentennial, a special Bicentennial Edition of the Order of Lincoln was given to distinguished citizens of the world who had in lasting and significant ways preserved the memory of Abraham Lincoln or contributed to Lincoln's defining influence on the American Spirit.

Among those honored were authors, artists, historians, collectors, curators, and others who have honored Lincoln's memory. Several current and former officers or directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association have received the Order of Lincoln over the years, including: Paul Angle, John Trutter, Ralph Newman, David Herbert Donald (Distinguished Director), Michael Burlingame, Cullom Davis, Allen Guelzo, Harold Holzer, Ron Keller, Thomas F. Schwartz, Louise Taper, Daniel Weinberg, and Frank Williams.

The annual investiture ceremony, which was held this year in the Capitol Building in Springfield, was followed by a formal reception and Lincoln Academy dinner in the atrium of the PNC Center on the Old State Capitol Square. The investiture ceremony is a formal event with much pomp and pageantry. It is black

tie for the audience but white tie and tails and long dresses for the laureates and members of the Academy, the same attire worn by President and Mrs. Lincoln at formal White House events.



Former ALA President Don Tracy and his wife Wanda, chairs of the Lincoln Academy Dinner on April 21, 2012.

This year's Lincoln Academy Dinner was chaired by former ALA President and Academy board member, Don Tracy, and his wife Wanda. They were honored at a Order of Lincoln luncheon held in the Illinois Executive Mansion.

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## Vice Admiral Ronald Thunman Receives Order of Lincoln from Governor

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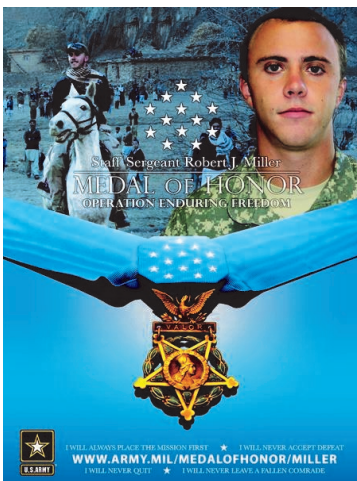
Funds raised from the annual Lincoln Academy Dinner help support 52 annual Lincoln Scholarships—one to a student at each of Illinois' four-year colleges and universities and one to a student representing all of the community colleges in Illinois—chosen by their school presidents on the basis of academic achievement and community service. The 2012 Lincoln Academy Dinner raised over \$50,000 to help fund the 52 Lincoln Scholarships.

### Vice Admiral Ronald Thunman Honored

This year ALA board member Vice Admiral Ronald Thunman was presented the Order of Lincoln by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn.

*"He joined the Navy at age 18, graduated from the Academy and served on active duty for 35 years. He became Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, winning three stars for his flag and the respect of a grateful nation."*

### Sergeant Robert J. Miller Honored



The emotional highlight of this year's investiture ceremony was the posthumous award of the Order of Lincoln to Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller, the only Illinoisan to have received the Medal of Honor in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Governor Quinn presented the award to Sergeant Miller's mother as three members of his Special Forces



Governor Quinn presents the Order of Lincoln to Vice Admiral Ronald Thunman, ALA Board member, at the 2012 Lincoln Academy of Illinois investiture ceremony held in the State Capitol House of Representatives Chamber in Springfield, Illinois, on the evening of April 21, 2012.

Unit from Fort Bragg, North Carolina whose lives he had saved looked on—resplendent in their dress blue uniforms, their chests covered with medals and fighting valiantly to maintain their composure as the story of their young team mate's courage was recounted.

Federal Judge Richard Mills, Academy board member and former ALA vice president, read the award citation for Sergeant Robert J. Miller.

*It is perhaps more than a coincidence that this convocation takes place during the 150th anniversary of the creation of the Medal of Honor by Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln's two most famous letters to the parents of those lost in the Civil War (including his young friend from Illinois—Elmer Ellsworth—age 24—the first union officer to be killed) apply with stunning eloquence to so many of our fallen heroes, including Staff Sergeant Robert James Miller—also from Illinois—also 24 years old.*

*In size, in years, and in youthful appearance, a boy only, President Lincoln wrote to the parents of his young friend, but his power to command men, was surpassingly great. So much of promised usefulness to one's country, and of*

*bright hopes for one's self and friends, have rarely been so suddenly dashed."*



Former ALA Vice President  
Judge Richard Mills

Judge Mills concluded his tribute with words addressed directly to Sergeant Miller's mother, quoting from President Lincoln's letter to another bereaved mother, Mrs. Lydia Bixby, nearly 150 years earlier:

*I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement—and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost—and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.*

**FOR THE PEOPLE**

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## LINCOLN WAS HERE: IRWIN PLACE (ILES HOUSE)

### Lincoln and Friends Play Euchre at Irwin Place

Robert and Clara Irwin were neighbors of the Lincolns. Robert and Abraham developed a friendship based upon more than just politics and business. Robert's nephew, William B. Corneau, recalled that Dr. Merryman, Stephen A. Douglas, Nicholas Ridgely, and Abraham Lincoln routinely gathered at Irwin's (the Iles House) for a game of euchre. "Mr. Lincoln...while not so enthusiastic at the game...was the humor of the evening and the pacificator of the losers."

The Iles House (Irwin Place) is located at the northeast corner of Seventh and Cook, just a block south of the Lincoln Home National Park in Springfield.

