



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Thomas F. Schwartz 2014 BANQUET SPEAKER

A familiar face will return to Springfield for the 2014 Banquet. Dr. Thomas F. Schwartz will be the banquet speaker on Wednesday, February 12, 2014. His address is entitled, “*Everything is darkness and doubt and discouragement*”: *Lincoln and the Election of 1864*.

Tom worked in special collections at the Illinois State Historical Library, now the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, from 1985 to 2011. He was Illinois State Historian from



Dr. Thomas F. Schwartz
Director of the Herbert Hoover
Presidential Library-Museum

1993 to 2011 and Director of Research and Collections at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum from 2005 to 2011. He is currently the director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum in West Branch, Iowa.

Please join in giving Tom a welcome worthy of his many past services to the ALA. See page 9 for making your reservations. Be prompt as this will likely sell out at an early date.

Lewis Martin Grave Marker Dedicated

The following is the memorial speech given by Robert J. Davis at Oak Ridge Cemetery on November 2, 2013.

By Robert J. Davis

*Historical Interpreter and Re-enactor
29th Inf. Reg. USCT and
ALA Board Member*

Pvt. Lewis Martin and His Regimental History

One hundred and two years after the death of Pvt. Lewis Martin, historians took notice of his life when a photograph of this Civil War soldier was discovered in his pension file. The image is haunting: a young, bare-chested, African American man, wearing a beaded necklace, but missing an arm and a leg, looks with sad eyes, directly into the camera. It is a powerful symbol of the Civil War, and the sacrifices made by African Americans in battle. The image’s discovery sparked an interest in Pvt. Martin’s life. Yet very little was known about this young soldier, who



Participating in the ALA wreath laying ceremony at the dedication of the Lewis Martin grave marker were from right to left, Robert J. Davis, Mary F. Shepherd, Kathryn M. Harris, and James W. Patton III.

was immortalized, by one small but iconic photograph. Then in 2012, it was discovered that, after the war, Lewis Martin had lived and died in Springfield, Illinois.

This commemorative service is in honor of Pvt. Martin who, since his death in 1892, has been buried in this unmarked grave here at Oak Ridge Cemetery a short distance from the

(Continued on page 3)

*Book Review****Gettysburg: The Last Invasion***

Gettysburg: The Last Invasion
by Allen C. Guelzo

Published by Knopf;

First Edition (May 14, 2013), 656 pages.

Reviewed by William G. Shepherd
*ALA Board Member and
Membership Chairman*

You will recall that Lincoln scholars of a past era asked “whether the Abraham Lincoln theme had been exhausted?” Of course the answer was an emphatic “no” as evidenced by the prodigious proliferation of insightful Abraham Lincoln biographies in recent years.

Similarly the same type of question gets asked when a new book is published on the Battle of Gettysburg. Of course, the answer is also an emphatic “no” — the Gettysburg theme is not exhausted. Thousands of books and scholarly articles have been written about the Gettysburg Campaign, usually narrowed down to one or two aspects of the three-day battle. And “Gettysburg” even has its own eponymous magazine wherein authors and writers contribute new insights and interpretations of the epic battle.

Perhaps I am not the only ALA member who was surprised to learn that Allen C. Guelzo had written *Gettysburg: The Last*

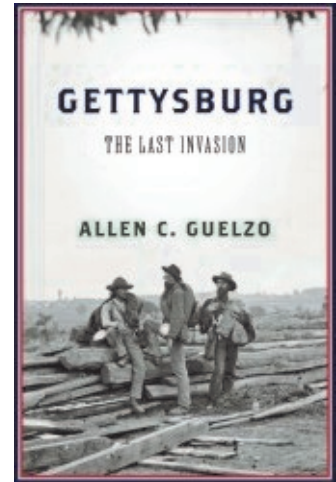


Allen C. Guelzo

Invasion. After all, Dr. Guelzo had already written a number of extraordinary tomes about Abraham Lincoln, but never until now published a full-length treatment of a Civil War battle or campaign. And his first try at this was not just any battle or campaign, but he was taking on Gettysburg, perhaps the most complex and controversial (Stuart, Ewell, Sickles, to name a few) military engagement of the Civil War.

And it should be noted that very few authors write a full treatment of the Gettysburg Campaign in one volume. Stephen Sears and Noah Andre Trudeau have done so in the recent past, while Edwin Coddington offered up his magisterial book *The Gettysburg Campaign: A Study in Command* in 1968.

So it’s all the more impressive that Dr. Guelzo’s new book adds new insight and interpretations to the Gettysburg story. Of course, anyone familiar with the Guelzo oeuvre knows that he is an exceptional writer, the type of writer who invites the reader along for the ride, seemingly to live in the historical moment captured in his books. And the Guelzonian latitude of analysis based on his historical study is indeed quite broad in this book. For example, General Robert E. Lee’s decision to order General Pickett’s frontal assault on July 3rd is put into the context of what Lee probably was thinking when he ordered Longstreet to commence the charge. As Guelzo explains on pages 382-383 of his book, Lee had a rational basis to think “Pickett’s Charge” could succeed. The successful charges across open fields at the Battle of Alma in the Crimean War and the Battle of Solferino in Italy preceded Gettysburg by only a few years.



Most scholars or devotees of the Gettysburg Campaign do have a favorite character or hero they celebrate. Guelzo offers up a few underappreciated combatants such as Union General George Sears “Old Pappy” Greene. “Old Pappy” recalled the recent debacle at Chancellorsville and ordered his troops to dig in and prepare abatis type fortifications on Culp’s Hill; Greene’s decision to do this likely saved the Union hook of the “fishhook” defensive line. Similarly, Union commanders such as Strong Vincent and Samuel Carroll each made decisions in the heat of the battle that saved the Union flanks just in the nick of time. And Guelzo gives John Buford his due as the master tactician defending the ridges west of Gettysburg until John Reynolds’s First Corps arrived just in time to impede the Confederate advance.

The sesquicentennial of the Battle of Gettysburg brought forth a number of commendable books, articles and conferences on the battle. *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion* will now take its rightful place as the preeminent touchstone of that battle.

Endowment Fund

Please consider a 2013 year-end gift to the Abraham Lincoln Association Endowment Fund. Continued growth of this fund allows the ALA to provide support for traditional as well as new projects. This year’s income from the fund has allowed the ALA to make grants to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln and to Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation’s Restore the Lincoln Gate at Oak Ridge Cemetery Project.

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

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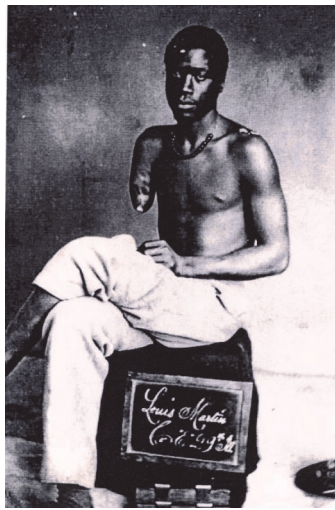
tomb of his Commander in Chief -- that great man -- Abraham Lincoln.

Pvt. Martin, while living in Upper Alton, Illinois, joined the Union Army on February 9, 1864. He mustered into the Illinois 29th Infantry United States Colored Troops (USCT) two and a half months later at Quincy, Illinois, where his regiment was organized. Following the War Department's General Orders #8 and #9, the regiment was attached to the Army of the Potomac, 9th Army Corps, 4th Division, 2nd Brigade; and later the Army of the James, 25th Army Corps, 2nd Division, 3rd Brigade.

Pvt. Martin's first combat experience was in "skirmishes near Chancellorsville, VA, as part of General Grant's James River Campaign. Casualties were minor. Then on July 30, 1864 in Petersburg, Virginia, the regiment -- a unit of the all-black 4th Division, Army of the Potomac -- participated in one of the war's most fierce and ferocious fights, the "Battle of



A memorial salute was given by the 114th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Reactivated.



Photograph of Private Lewis Martin found in his pension file at the National Archives.

the Crater." During this vicious, bloody battle, Pvt. Martin was severely wounded. His wounds resulted in amputations of his right arm above the elbow and left leg below the knee.

In that same fight, his highly respected regimental leader, Lieutenant Colonel John A. Bross, was killed. After 5 color bearers had fallen, Lt. Col. Bross grabbed their flag, planted it on the parapet, drew his sword, took his hat in his hand, and cried "Forward my brave boys." Shortly thereafter, he was shot and killed.

On August 9, 1864, Pvt. Martin was transferred from the field to L'Ouverture Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia. While he convalesced, the 29th was engaged in more combat. There was fighting along the Weldon Railroad, skirmishes near Popular Grove Church, intense fighting

near Boydton Plank Road and around Hatcher's Run. Then there was more fighting again along the Weldon Railroad. "On April 2, 1865 the regiment participated in the attack on Battery 45, the last Confederate works defending Petersburg." The next day the 29th marched into Petersburg as part of the triumphant Union Armies. Then on April 9, 1865 the 29th participated in the final fight that led to Lee's surrender of his Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

Official records show that Pvt. Martin was honorably discharged due to his disabilities and, although absent from the ceremony, was mustered out of military service on November 6, 1865 along with his regiment then stationed in Brownsville, Texas. The unveiling of this headstone and memorial marker celebrates and memorializes his service and those along whose side he served.

I would like to invite my Co-chair, Kathy Heyworth, who discovered that Lewis Martin is buried here at Oak Ridge Cemetery, to stand with me in our unveiling of the headstone and memorial marker for Pvt. Martin. In so doing, Kathy and I would like to express our sincere gratitude and say "thank you" to all who contributed and supported this effort. We would not be standing here today, honoring this true American hero, who sacrificed so much, were it not for your kind generosity.

Thank you!

Lincoln Home National Historic Site

George L. Painter Looking for Lincoln Lectures

Lincoln and Education

By **Tim Townsend**

Historian

Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Lincoln Home National Historic Site invites the public to attend the George L. Painter Looking for Lincoln Lectures on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at the Lincoln Home Visitor Center, 426 South Seventh Street, Springfield, Illinois. The Visitor Center will open at 8:00 A.M.

This year, three lectures will provide insight into the historic importance of education in our communities. The presentations will include information on archeological excavations at the Jameson Jenkins lot, relating to pre-Civil War education in Springfield; updates on excavations at historic New Philadelphia, including recent efforts to locate the town school site; and, insights into Lincoln Home neighbor and Springfield resident Julius Rosenwald and

his efforts to provide quality education throughout the segregated south through what came to be called "Rosenwald Schools."

Anyone wishing to obtain further information regarding the Lectures is welcome to visit <http://www.nps.gov/liho/historyculture/painter-lectures.htm> or contact Lincoln Home National Historic Site at 217-391-3241.

ALA Project Nears Completion

New Sound System at Old State Capitol House of Representatives

By David Joens
ALA Board Member
Chairman of Old State Capitol
Sound System Project



Work has begun on an Abraham Lincoln Association led project to install a new sound system in the House of Representatives chamber in the Old State Capitol Historic Site in Springfield. The project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2014.

The Old State Capitol is a building closely associated with Abraham Lincoln. He served there as a state representative. In 1858 in the House of Representatives chamber he delivered his famous House Divided speech, and it was in that chamber that his body lay in state following his assassination. Recognizing the importance of the Old State Capitol in Lincoln's life, the federal government as part of the Lincoln bicentennial issued a Lincoln penny with an image of the Old State Capitol on it.

For the Abraham Lincoln Association the Old State Capitol also is important. It is the home of the ALA Lyceum and a place where the organization holds board meetings and special events. When the building was restored in the mid 1960s, the ALA raised more than a quarter of a million dollars to purchase furnishings for it. And it was ALA board member Wally Henderson who served as architect for the restoration of the building.

The current audio equipment in Representatives Hall is inadequate and outdated. It is difficult to hear speakers due to the 19th century design of the room and our 21st century expectations. As such, it has long been on the wish list of the Old State Capitol that the sound system be updated. Such a system needs to be state of the art and it needs to be installed in a way that doesn't affect the 19th century look of the facility.

The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, which manages the Old State Capitol and 55 other historic sites and monuments in Illinois, simply does not have the money for a project like this. With that in mind, ALA President Robert Lenz decided that the ALA should assist the Old State Capitol in purchasing a new, high quality sound system.

Wally Henderson recommended Kirkegaard and Associates, an internationally known audio/visual firm out of Chicago, to consult on the project. Kirkegaard and Associates has provided acoustic consulting services for everything from the Civic Opera House, Navy Pier, and Orchestra Hall in Chicago, to Carnegie Hall in New York and the Salt Lake Tabernacle in Utah. The firm was thrilled to be asked to participate in such an important project in its home state and even waived some fees in order to help.

The estimated cost for this project is \$70,000. The Abraham Lincoln Association has contributed more than \$30,000 to the project. Individual ALA members have also contributed generously, as have several outside organizations. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency has contributed time, labor, and in-kind work.

One of the stated purposes of the Abraham Lincoln Association is to preserve and make more readily accessible the landmarks associated with Lincoln's life. With this project, the ALA is again fulfilling that mission.



Donors to the Old State Capitol Sound System Project

Institutional Donors (alphabetical)

Abraham Lincoln Association
 Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation
 Chicago Jewish Federation
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 Old State Capitol Foundation
 Sangamon County Historical Society
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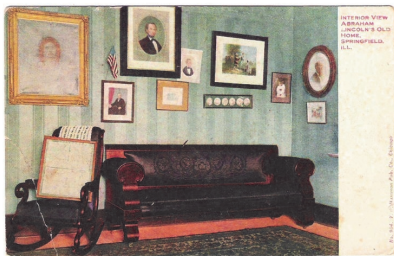
An Exciting Discovery During Restoration of the “Courting Couch”

By Erika Holst
Curator of Collections
Springfield Art Association



In 1840 Abraham Lincoln frequently walked from his boarding place at Third and Madison down to the Ninian Edwards House on South Second Street to call on vivacious young Mary Todd. Twenty-five years later, Elizabeth Edwards recalled: “Mr. L and Mary Saw Each other in that parlor there. I have happened in the room where they were sitting often & often and Mary led the Conversation — Lincoln would listen & gaze on her as if drawn by some Superior power, irresistibly So: he listened — never Scarcely Said a word.” After a rocky, on-and-off again courtship, the Lincolns were married in the Edwardses’ parlor on a rainy Friday evening in November, 1842.

Ninian Edwards’s house is no longer standing, but an Empire-style, horsehair-covered sofa from Ninian Edwards’s parlor survives in the collection of the Springfield Art Association. This is the sofa where Abraham and Mary sat as they were courting, and where the Lincolns’ wedding guests sat as they watched the future President and First Lady exchange their vows.



An image of the “courting couch” from c. 1910, when Ninian and Elizabeth’s son Albert was caretaker of the Lincoln Home.

This sofa is currently at The Conservation Center in Chicago, where it is slated to undergo conservation treatment. Upon initial examination an exciting discovery was made: the original, patterned seat back upholstery was found, “hidden in plain sight” underneath a more recent layer of fabric.

The staff at the Springfield Art Association is delighted, having never expected to see the actual upholstery that Abraham and Mary rested against.

With the pleasant shock of this discovery came a second, uncomfortable shock to the Art Association: the “sticker shock” that came when the actual price for conservation came in \$5,000 higher than what had been estimated.

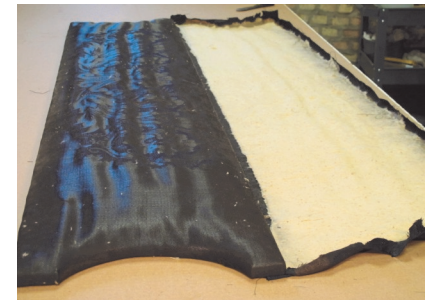
The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, the Abraham Lincoln Association, and several private individuals have come forward to contribute to the restoration fund, but there is still a ways to go. If you would like to help preserve this matchless piece of Lincolniana for generations to come, please send a donation to the Springfield Art Association, 700 N. Fourth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62702, or call 217-523-2631.



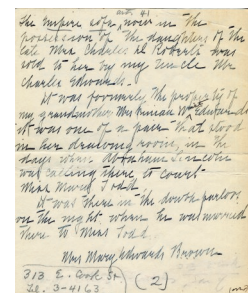
Conservators also found the original upholstery for the armrests stuffed inside the sofa’s arms.



The “courting couch” dates to the 1830s and was originally the property of Ninian and Elizabeth Edwards.



Staff at The Conservation Center in Chicago discovered the original horsehair upholstery beneath the show cover.



A handwritten note by Ninian and Elizabeth’s granddaughter Mary Edwards Brown states that this sofa “stood in [her grandmother’s] drawing room, in the days when Abraham Lincoln was calling there to court Miss Mary Todd.”

Dedication of Restored Courting Couch

On the evening of February 11, 2014, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. the Lincoln Courting Couch will be unveiled and dedicated at a special event at Edwards Place. All ALA members are invited to attend. Hors d’oeuvres and cash bar. Park on 4th or 5th streets or take the shuttle. See page 11 for details of the shuttle schedule.

Elizabeth Jane Todd Grimsley and The Illinois Todds

By Richard E. Hart

ALA Board Member and Past ALA President

Elizabeth Jane Todd Grimsley is known by Lincoln scholars as Mary Lincoln's cousin who spent six months in the Lincoln White House and lobbied hard to be appointed post-mistress of Springfield, Illinois. Abraham Lincoln referred to her affectionately as "Cousin Lizzie." Despite a divorce from her husband, Harrison J. Grimsley, and perhaps by her own design, she has also been erroneously known as the widow of Harrison J. Grimsley or the "Widow Grimsley."

Through Mary Lincoln, Cousin Lizzie gained access to Abraham Lincoln's world, otherwise largely dominated by males. Perhaps more than any other person, Elizabeth was a reliable and steady presence in Mary's life and also to a lesser extent in Lincoln's after his marriage to Mary.

Elizabeth was a witness to most of Mary and Abraham's important life events — bridesmaid at their wedding, witness to Lincoln's Springfield Farewell Address and passenger on the inaugural train from Springfield to Washington, guest in the White House for the defining first six months, witness to Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, fellow traveler with First Lady Mary on shopping and vacation trips, witness to Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, recipient of Mary's most revealing letter about her sisters, first friend summoned by Mary at Lincoln's death, Robert Todd Lincoln's escort at his father's Springfield funeral, confidante and friend of Robert Todd Lincoln, grieving aunt at the funeral of Tad, Mary's comforter after Tad's death and a distant observer of the insanity trial, and finally, Robert Todd Lincoln's escort at Mary's funeral. She indeed was a commanding and continuing presence in the Lincoln family circle. No other female Todd can match the depth of the love, admiration and respect that the Lincolns held for Elizabeth.

Despite Elizabeth's importance to the Lincoln family, she is mentioned only



Elizabeth Jane Todd Grimsley

briefly in most biographies of Abraham Lincoln. She appears more often in biographies of Mary Lincoln, but she is still treated as a minor figure with nothing much included that is personal about her or her family.

Lizzie is but one of the many Todds who have had their personal stories smothered by general descriptions of Todd Family characteristics. As is the case with such generalizations, the particular details and truths of individual lives are lost to the generic.

Stephen Berry's recent book *House of Abraham* examines the Todd family. Jason Emerson's review states that *...we see the Todd clan's collective and ubiquitous negative qualities of pride, vanity, selfishness, cruelty, quick temper, vindictiveness, and even insanity—characteristics well known and criticized in Mary Lincoln. The long family history, however, shows that Mary was not an aberration as a Todd or as a woman, but rather a member of a large, tumultuous family (and a family with a long history of mental illness). My, how does any Todd dig out from under such an indictment?*

Clearly, Berry's list of generic Todd characteristics does not describe those Illinois Todds descended from Dr. John Todd, Elizabeth Jane Todd

Grimsley's father and the patriarch of the Springfield Todds. They also do not apply to the descendants of John Todd Stuart. Both of these Todd families are the antithesis of the Todds described by Berry. The description of the Illinois Todds that follows shows them to be quite different and distinct from the Berry Todds whose characteristics are enumerated in Emerson's review.

Elizabeth Todd and Mary Todd had the same grandfather, Levi Todd, a Revolutionary War hero, one of the earliest settlers and political powers of Kentucky and the founder of Lexington.

Elizabeth's Father Dr. John Todd

Elizabeth's father, John Todd, was one of Levi's eleven children. John and his siblings grew up at Ellersley, Levi's 21-room Lexington, Kentucky estate. John was well educated at Lexington's Transylvania University and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He served in the War of 1812 with great honor.

Dr. John Todd left the Lexington cocoon of Todds in about 1815 at the age of 28 and moved to Bardstown, Kentucky for a few years and then on to Edwardsville, Illinois, the home of his fellow Kentuckian and friend Ninian Edwards. He was a doctor in both communities. In 1823 and 1824, Dr. John Todd campaigned vigorously against continuing slavery in Illinois. His view prevailed.



Dr. John Todd

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In 1827, Dr. Todd was appointed Registrar of the Land Office at Springfield. He moved there with his family and they became the first Todds to reside in Springfield. Their residence was the town's only two-story house and was situated on a square city block known as Todd Square. Springfield's First Presbyterian Church was organized in this house on January 30, 1828. In this house and later in one on South Sixth Street, Elizabeth and her four brothers were raised.

Elizabeth's Uncle John Todd Stuart

In 1828, Elizabeth's uncle John Todd Stuart was the first of the Lexington Todd clan to follow Dr. John Todd from Kentucky to Springfield. One needs only to read Stuart's lyrical description of Caroline Lamb's 1855 wedding and his letters to his daughter and to Lizzie to know that he is indeed a Todd, but one quite apart from those of Berry's generic description.

Elizabeth's Mother

Elizabeth's mother, Elizabeth Blair Smith Todd, was the daughter of Rev. John Blair Smith. Little is made of the Smith family, yet Elizabeth's Todd family credentials pale in comparison to those of her mother's Smith family.

Elizabeth's great grandfather, Rev. Robert Smith, conducted a distinguished academy in Pequea, Pennsylvania Colony, and was a trustee of what is now Princeton University from 1772 to 1793.

Elizabeth's grandfather, Rev. John Blair Smith, graduated as valedictorian of his class at Princeton University in 1773. Later he was President of Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, the first President of Union College in Schenectady, New York, and minister of Philadelphia's Pine Street Presbyterian Church. He was a major force in the post-revolutionary Presbyterian Church and made important contributions to the dialog about the nature of the new government and religious freedom.

Rev. John Blair Smith's older brother, Samuel Stanhope Smith, was also valedictorian of his class at Princeton in

1769. He was a founder of what is now Washington and Lee University and of Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia. Samuel served as President of Princeton University for 30 years.

Elizabeth Todd's Brothers

Elizabeth had four brothers: John Blair Smith Todd, Francis Walton Todd, William L. Todd, and Lockwood M. Todd. Each was raised in Springfield and then left and went west.

John Blair Smith Todd



Elizabeth's oldest brother, John Blair Smith Todd or J. B. S. Todd, graduated from West Point and served in the military at a number of western frontier forts. He was a general during the Civil War. He eventually settled in the Dakota Territory where he became the first Dakota Territory representative to the United States Congress. Later, he was Speaker of the South Dakota House of Representatives. Todd County in South Dakota and Minnesota are both named for him.

Francis Walton Todd

Francis Walton Todd graduated from Illinois College and Cincinnati Medical school and for a while practiced medicine in New Orleans. He then went west to California and settled on what became known as Todd Creek in Todd Valley. After the discovery of gold near the Doctor's house, the town of Todd Valley developed. His ranch became a Mecca for miners purchasing supplies and receiving letters and papers.

Later, Francis lived in Stockton, California, where he practiced medicine until he was 72 years old. He was a member

of the California State Board of Health, President of the Stockton Board of Health, and Secretary of San Joaquin County Medical Society.

William L. Todd

William L. Todd learned the business of a druggist in Springfield. In 1845, at age 27, he led the Swasey-Todd Party to California, then a part of Mexico. This was before the Mexican War or the discovery of gold. William was present when the survivors of the Reed-Donner party arrived.

In June 1846, William and 23 other Americans conducted the California Bear Flag Rebellion. They invaded Sonoma, California, woke up Mexican Gen. Mariano Vallejo, commander of the Sonoma garrison, and informed him that he was a prisoner of war.



The Original California Bear Flag, created by William L. Todd.

When the 24 revolutionaries decided there should be a flag for the new Republic of California, William L. Todd designed and made the original California Bear Flag that today remains the California state flag.

Lockwood M. Todd

The fourth brother, Lockwood M. Todd, studied medicine and graduated from Saint Louis University School of Medicine. He was with Sherman as commissary in his march to the sea. In 1861, he requested President Lincoln to appoint him to a position in the San Francisco customhouse. Some local California Republicans asserted that Todd had opposed the Republican party. Others asserted that the charge was untrue. Todd denied the charges, but he was not appointed. In 1864, President Lincoln appointed him commissary with rank of captain. "Lock" married Emily Husband, and they lived in Virginia City, Montana Territory.

(Continued on page 9)

The Abraham Lincoln Association

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PRESIDENT ROBERT J. LENZ'S GREETING

Dear Members of the Abraham Lincoln Association,

As I reflect on the approaching end of my two terms as President of the Abraham Lincoln Association, I am very mindful of the dedication and hard work of all members of the Board of Directors and the loyalty of the ALA members across the country and around the world. The Executive Committee and Officers meet quarterly in between the two annual meetings of the Board of Directors. Mary Shepherd, our Executive Manager, meets with me at my office nearly every Thursday morning throughout the year; she is the spark that keeps everything moving in the right direction.

The Association is strong, active, and scholarly. The Association has found increased private sector support for its activities and continues important collaborations with many kindred groups.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your President.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Lenz



NEW MEMBERS

We welcome 22 new members.

Rachel Berchten
Berkeley, California

Frank Cicero, Jr.
Evanston, Illinois

James L. Cotton, Jr.
Oneida, Tennessee

Judith K. Fitzgerald
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Kelvin Flores
Carolina, Puerto Rico

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Emmaus, Pennsylvania
Ray E. Thompson
Galesburg, Illinois
Christopher Young
Crown Point, Indiana
Jill E. Youngken
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Holiday Gift!

Why not make a holiday gift of a membership in the ALA to a relative or friend? It is easy to do so by using the ALA website at: abrahamlincolnassociation.org

Or call the ALA personal shopper Mary Shepherd toll free at (866) 865-8500.



RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR THESE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014 EVENTS

There are three events on February 12, 2014, that you will need reservations to attend:

1. **Luncheon: \$25 per person.** 1:00-2:00 p.m. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
2. **Endowment Reception: \$75 per person.** 5:00-6:30 p.m. Lincoln Room, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel
3. **Banquet and Reception \$85 per person.**
Banquet Reception: 6:00 p.m. Presidential Ballroom Lobby, and
Banquet: 7:00 Presidential Ballroom, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel

Make your reservations now. Use the easy online reservation method or send your check.

Make your checks payable and mail to:

The Abraham Lincoln Association
P.O. Box 729
Bloomington, Illinois 61702

Online Reservations:

www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org
Attention: 2014 Banquet Reservations

Questions? Contact Mary Shepherd,
Executive Manager at:

maryshepherd.ala@gmail.com
Or call toll free: 866-865-8500

(Continued from page 7)

Like all human beings, the Todd brothers no doubt had their flaws, but nothing in their life stories brings them to the low level of the Todds described by Berry.

Elizabeth's Cover Blown

Elizabeth Jane Todd married Harrison J. Grimsley in 1846 and they had two children. Elizabeth's 1895 obituary was published in Springfield newspapers, the *Journal* and the *Register*. Both stated that her "husband" died in 1865. This implies that she was married to Harrison when he died.

By accident, I recently found Elizabeth's divorce file in the Sangamon County records. Elizabeth divorced Harrison in October 1859. Elizabeth's former husband did die in January 1865, while serving as a Union soldier in Savannah, Georgia. But his death did not make Elizabeth his widow.

After 154 years, Elizabeth's cover has been blown. She was not the Widow Grimsley, but rather the Divorcee Grimsley.

Revelation of Elizabeth's divorce is more than just a matter of correcting the historical record. It is a fulsome example of the extent to which one would go to avoid the low esteem given to a divorcee in Victorian Springfield and Lincoln's world.

Victorian judgments were harsh and often mean spirited. Elizabeth and her family no doubt wished to avoid such judgments. To do so, Elizabeth was presented as a widow to the outside world. Indeed, was Mary Lincoln obliquely referring to Elizabeth's marital difficulties when she described her? *She is a noble, good woman & has been purified, through much trial.*

If cover-up was the family's objective, then for 154 years they succeeded in making us believe that Lizzie was a widow. A recent example of that success is in the writing of friend Jason Emerson. Even Emerson, a meticulous and scholarly researcher, failed to uncover Lizzie's ruse, as he wrote:

... the Lincolns persuaded the sturdy, matronly Mrs. Grimsley to stay on until they found their bearings. It would be six months before that kind

lady returned to her husband and teenage son in Springfield.

Afterwords

Lizzie, we now know that you were divorced from that no-good Harrison and that there was no doting husband waiting for you back at home in Springfield. Your cover is blown. But we have all come a long way. These are kinder times and we think no less of you as the Divorcee Grimsley.

And, Lizzie, the good news is that you and your family have been sorted out from those crazy Kentucky Todds. You were much more than that, as were your parents and brothers and your uncle John Todd Stuart and his family. You were indeed a Smith-Todd of Springfield. An Illinois Todd.

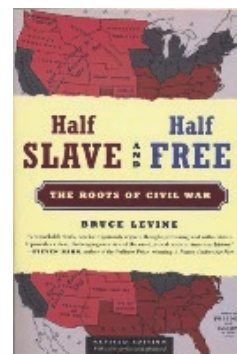
But Lizzie, there are limits to change, tolerance and revelation. Todd must still be spelled with a double "d."

The 2014 ALA Speakers

Bruce Levine



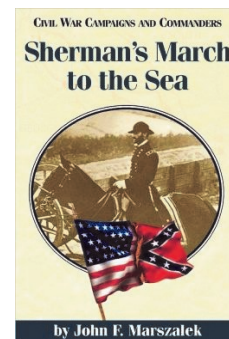
Bruce Levine is the J. G. Randall Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He has published four books about the era of the U.S. Civil War. *The Spirit of 1848: German Immigrants, Labor Conflict, and the Coming of Civil War* examined immigrants' experience during the pre-Civil War decades and reactions to the conditions of labor, both free and enslaved, in the U.S. The second, *Half Slave and Half Free: The Roots of Civil War*, surveyed the social, economic, cultural, and political causes of the war. The third, *Confederate Emancipation: Southern Plans to Free and Arm Slaves during the Civil War*, probed the Confederacy's last-minute attempt to arm its own slaves. It received the Peter Seaborg Award for Civil War Scholarship and the *Washington Post* named it one of the ten best non-fiction books of the year. His latest volume, *The Fall of the House of Dixie: The Civil War and the Social Revolution that Transformed the South*, was published and became a *New York Times* and the Barnes & Nobles best seller.



John F. Marszalek



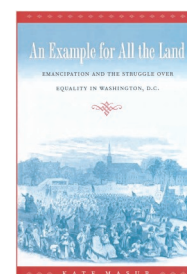
John F. Marszalek is a graduate of Buffalo's Canisius College and the University of Notre Dame. He taught at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania before coming to Mississippi State University in 1973 where he became a W. L. Giles Distinguished Professor of History in 1994. A specialist in the U. S. Civil War, the Jacksonian Period, and race relations, he is the author or editor of thirteen books and over 300 articles and book reviews. He is executive director and managing editor of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, and co-executive director of the Historians of the Civil War Western Theater. His books include *Sherman, A Soldier's Passion for Order*, and *The Petticoat Affair: Manners, Mutiny, and Sex in Andrew Jackson's White House*, and *Commander of All Lincoln's Armies, A Life of General Henry W. Halleck*. His most recent publications have been *Sherman's March to the Sea* and *A Black Congressman in the Age of Jim Crow, South Carolina's George Washington Murray*.



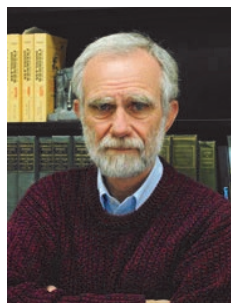
Kate Masur



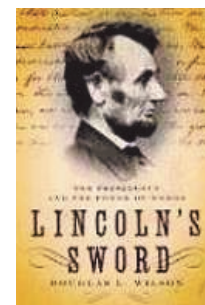
Kate Masur is associate professor of History and African American Studies at Northwestern University and the author of *An Example for All the Land: Emancipation and the Struggle over Equality in Washington, D.C.* (2010). She has published prize-winning articles about emancipation during the Civil War and, most recently, a piece about African American federal employees in Washington during and after the war. She has also written for the *New York Times's* Civil War series, *Disunion*, and about Stephen Spielberg's *Lincoln*. She is currently working on a book about slavery, race, and due process rights before and during the Civil War.



Douglas L. Wilson



Douglas L. Wilson is the George A. Lawrence Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus at Knox College, and Co-director (with Rodney O. Davis) of its Lincoln Studies Center. He has been teaching at Knox since 1961, even before earning the Ph.D. in English from Penn in 1964. Among the most prolific and celebrated experts on Lincoln, Wilson is author among other works of *Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln*, which won the Lincoln Prize in 1999, and of *Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words*, again a winner in 2007. He and Davis co-edited *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: The Lincoln Studies Center Edition* (2008), and *Herron's Informants: Letters, Interviews, and Statements about Abraham Lincoln*, a fundamental source for present and future study. His several articles in the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*, and shorter pieces in the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, *New York Times*, and other outlets make his name widely known.



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