

# FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1

SPRING 2016

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

<http://www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org>

## Abraham Lincoln's "Forgotten" Act to Encourage Immigration

By Jason H. Silverman

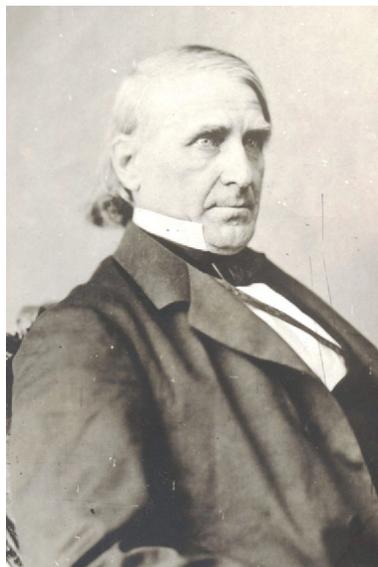
*Ellison Capers Palmer, Jr. Professor of History  
Winthrop University*

Lost in the media and scholarly attention to the sesquicentennial was one of President Lincoln's signature pieces of legislation, The Act to Encourage Immigration, July 4, 1864 -- the first and only major law in American history to encourage immigration. As immigration is in the daily news on global basis, this is a surprising omission of an act that he saw as the bright future of the United States.

Long before he spoke about the evils of slavery, Abraham Lincoln spoke about the need for free labor, and he consistently articulated an economic philosophy that relied heavily upon immigrant labor. In his earliest speeches, Lincoln saw immigrants as farmers, merchants, and builders who would contribute mightily to the nation's economic future. There seems to have been no significant pressure for a public role in immigration until, in his Annual Message to Congress on December 8, 1863, Lincoln called for government assistance:

"I again submit to your consideration the expediency of establishing a system for the encouragement of immigration. Although this source of national wealth and strength is again flowing with greater freedom than for several years before the insurrection occurred, there is still a great deficiency of laborers in every field of industry, especially in agriculture, and in our mines, as well as of iron and coal as of the precious metals. While the demand for labor is thus increased here, tens of thousands of persons, destitute of remunerative occupation, are thronging our foreign consulates and offering to emigrate to the United States if essential, but very cheap assistance, can be afforded them. It is

very easy to see that under the sharp discipline of the Civil War, the nation is beginning a new life. This noble effort demands the aid and ought to receive the attention of the Government."



Congressman Elihu Washburne  
(Illinois Republican)

*Photograph courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln  
Presidential Library & Museum*

This section prompted Congress into action. A bill to encourage and protect foreign immigrants and to make more effective the Homestead Act, which had become law on May 20, 1862, was presented in the Senate. Elihu Washburne (R-Ill.) chaired a House committee that took it up. Less than a month after Lincoln's message, a joint bill was introduced to establish a formal Bureau of Immigration.

Senator John Sherman of Ohio, chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, shared Lincoln's belief in reporting

that "labor has special wants in every department of industry; vacancies caused by recruiting calls for a large increase in foreign immigration to make up the deficiency at home. Furthermore, the South, after the war is over, will present a wide field for [waged] voluntary white labor and it must look to the immigrant for its supply."

A bill was passed on March 2, 1864, providing for a Commissioner of Immigration under the State Department, who was to encourage immigration by circulating in Europe information to stimulate it. The Commissioner and various consuls at European posts were to cooperate. An office was to be established under a Superintendent at New York, who would protect immigrants from frauds, make contracts with railroad companies for the tickets to be paid for by the immigrant, and facilitate travel to their destination or the place where their labor would be most productive. He was also to see that the Passenger Act of 1855 was enforced for the well-being of travelers to America. President Lincoln could, under this bill, use his judgment to appoint a Superintendent of Immigration at New Orleans. The appropriation for all this was \$50,000.

In a speech on the floor of the House on February 27, 1864, Ignatius Donnelly (R-Minn.) emphasized that the need for labor was so great that private enterprise had already established societies in Boston and elsewhere to encourage immigration. "Let us stimulate, facilitate, and direct that stream of immigration," he declared, "throw wide the doors to emigration ... and in 20 years the results of the labors of the immigrant and their children will add to the wealth of the country a sum sufficient to pay the entire debt created by this war."

*Continued on page 7*

## Membership Matters!

By Joseph Garrera

Membership in the Abraham Lincoln Association is extremely important. In a rapidly changing world, people need the lessons and inspiration of Lincoln's achievements as a path to the future. Like so many others, I have had my life enriched by studying the life of Lincoln. Our understanding of the challenges and struggles Lincoln overcame empowers and inspires our own lives.

The strength of the ALA starts with our members. Your membership support allows the association to publish our journal and this newsletter. It also helps support Lincoln scholarship, symposia, and outreach to the public. The list of projects the ALA has supported over the years is impressive and important. Many of the more recent projects are listed on the ALA website.

Members of the ALA make new initiatives possible. Whether you are a member 1,000

miles away, overseas, or in Illinois, your support is appreciated, and indeed vital.

Members are our partners, and I speak for the entire Board of Directors in thanking you for your support and involvement in this organization. Membership truly does matter.

*Joseph Garrera is a Director of The Abraham Lincoln Association and a member of the Membership Committee.*

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-or join at our website [www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org](http://www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org)

If you have any questions please call 866-865-8500

## Welcome to our 36 New Members!

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## REPORT FROM MADAM PRESIDENT

Greetings from your new President,

It is indeed an honor for me to pen this, my first report as President of our Association. I thank all of you for the trust and support you have shown me to elect me to this position. I will do my best to prove myself worthy of this trust.

What a wonderful Banquet we had on February 12, 2016. The program was excellent, and Bernice King's remarks caused us to reflect on the issues in today's world while looking through the lens of our 16<sup>th</sup> President. I was filled with pride as I looked about the room and witnessed the diversity that was present, and I believe that Mr. Lincoln would be pleased to see the progress we have made in expanding the circle of our Association.

We will continue to strive and to work to keep Mr. Lincoln's legacy relevant to today's world; the need for civility, reconciliation, and polite discourse in today's political climate is great. Lincoln's words in the Second Inaugural can inspire us to achieve that.

I cannot close without acknowledging the passing of our member, gentleman, lawyer, scholar, and friend, Tom Johnson. We are grateful for all that he did, not only for our Association, but also for his leadership of the Lincoln Academy. He will be missed.



Happy Spring to you,

Kathryn M. Harris,  
President

## Abraham Lincoln 2016 Birthday Banquet



**Banquet Speaker  
Bernice King**



**Banquet Speaker Bernice King and  
ALA President Kathryn Harris**



**Outgoing ALA President  
Robert Stuart**



**114th Illinois Volunteer Regiment (Reactivated)**

**February 11, 2016**  
**Edwards Place Reception**  
**Celebrating Return of Restored Piano from Lincoln's Time**



Edwards Place curator Erica Holst listens to Christian McWhirter speaking about music during Lincoln's time

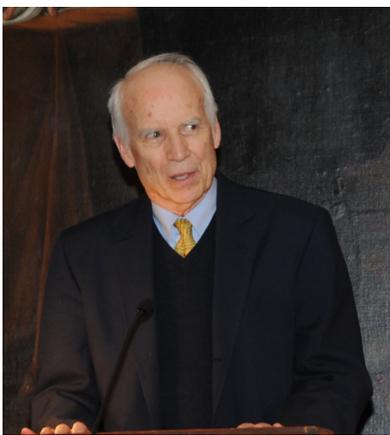


ALA guests listen to the circa 1835 piano played at the Lincolns' wedding



ALA guests listen to Frank Butterfield playing *Dixie*

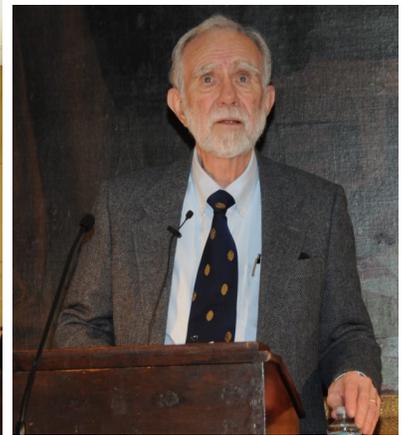
**Keynote Speech at the Old State Capitol**



Dr. Michael Burlingame



Keynote Address  
 In the Hall of Representatives



Keynote Speaker  
 Dr. Douglas Wilson

**February 12, 2016**  
**Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium at Old State Capitol**  
**Thomas F. Schwartz Luncheon at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**



Symposium speaker Dr. Louise Stevenson



Luncheon Speaker  
 Dr. Thomas Carson



Symposium speaker Dr. Jason Silverman

**Roundtable with all the speakers**



**Lunch at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library**



**Banquet Guests**



**Dick Hart, Michael Burlingame, and Bob Willard**

**Patricia and Robert Davis**

**James Bass, Mary Daniels, Teresa Haley, Richard Bowen, and Cheryl Goza-Smith**



**Kathryn Harris, Stephanie Pace Marshall, and Wanda Tracy**

**Carla Knorowski and Bernice King**

**Kay Smith and Brynn Henderson**



**Keri Nekrasz, Peggy and Bob Lenz, and John Elliff**

**Sarah Chapin, Jim Singleton, Nancy Chapin, and Mary Anne Singleton**

**Kathryn Harris and Robert Stuart**

*All photographs from the Symposium and Banquet by Dave Blanchette*

## The Friends of Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park

By Judge Ronald Spears

In March 1830, Abraham Lincoln was 21 and moved with his family from southern Indiana to “a new place on the north side of the Sangamon River, at the junction of the timberland and prairie, about ten miles westerly from Decatur.” They built a log cabin and raised a crop on around 10 acres.

The Lincoln family remained there for only a year, due in large part to the 1830-31 winter of the “Deep Snow.” Abraham then set out to find his own way, eventually ending up down the Sangamon River at New Salem. His father and step-mother and family moved to Coles County. But that first Illinois location, where the famous “Lincoln the



Rail-splitter” first split Illinois rails and plowed Illinois soil, is today a state park in need of rejuvenation and care. A private group is seeking to help in that effort.

The Friends of the Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park is a group of volunteers dedicated to “restoration and preservation of the site, making the park a destination where fun

and learning go hand in hand with recreation and the cultural and natural history of the region.”

The group meets the third Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m., at Rock Springs Nature Center in Decatur, Illinois. Many improvements and activities are planned between now and 2030, the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lincolns calling it home.

For information on upcoming events or how you can help at the site, please contact Margaret Evans at [mmedec@aol.com](mailto:mmedec@aol.com) or Judy Parrish at [jparrish@mail.millikin.edu](mailto:jparrish@mail.millikin.edu).

Judge Ronald Spears is a Director of The Abraham Lincoln Association.

## Three New Films About Lincoln

### Things Will Get Better

Younger, newer, or simply media-savvy students of Lincoln will want to see (or re-see) a 5-minute music video called “Things Will Get Better” (The Phelon Company, in partnership with the Lincoln Home, the Old State Capitol, the Tomb, and the Organization of American Historians). It was shown at the ALA Banquet on Mr. Lincoln’s 207th Birthday. Springfield native Antonio Neal, the composer-performer, appears in winter scenes around the Lincoln Home, bookending the visual story of an African-American middle-schooler and her mother as they visit the local Lincoln sites as a way to connect with history. Park Service historian Tim Townsend and Historic Sites manager Justin Blandford have been working with African-American youngsters at these venues in recent years, with Mr. Neal’s video a musical culmination of their outreach. Free at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvXwRhjFFSU>

### Now He Belongs to the Ages: Lincoln Tomb

*Now He Belongs to the Ages: Lincoln Tomb* by Chris Ryder (Autumn Leaf Productions) enshrines the story and the beauty of that final resting place. The Lincoln Monument Association, a private support group who coordinate with state employees at the historic site, sponsored this film, which had its rough-cut premiere at the Old State Capitol in September 2015 and became available as a polished DVD in January 2016. Includes additional 26-minute CD of its soundtrack by the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band. See [www.lincolntomb.org](http://www.lincolntomb.org). Proceeds benefit the site and the LMA.

### Lincoln’s Funeral

The once-in-a-century effort to recreate the days of 3-4 May 1865 are now available on DVD as “Lincoln’s Funeral: The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reenactment,” produced by the Central Illinois Film Commission in cooperation with the City of Springfield. Nearly 10,000 people came to town in May 2015 to pay tribute or take part, 1,000 of them in period dress. The 50-minute film premiered at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, courtesy of superintendent Dale Phillips, on 26 February 2016. Copies are available at the Lincoln Home Visitors Center store, and halfway down the page at [www.centralillinoisfilmcommission.com](http://www.centralillinoisfilmcommission.com).



Continued from page one

By April, Washburne reported from a House special committee: "The vast number of laboring men, estimated at nearly 1.25 million, who have left their peaceful pursuits and patriotically gone forth in defence of our government ... has created a vacuum which has become seriously felt ... Never before in our history has there existed so unprecedented a demand for labor ... It exists in the agricultural districts of the southwest, in the central states, in New England, and among the shipping interests of the lakes and seaboard, and is felt in every field of mechanical and manufacturing industry... in the coal and iron mines ... the lead mines ... and in the gold and silver mines of California, Nevada, Idaho, and Colorado. There are 20 railroads now in process of construction ... in the west alone, which would furnish employment for 20,000 laborers.... [and elsewhere for] 10,000 more. ... [D]emand for laborers on our railroads alone will give employment for the entire immigration of forced laborers in 1864."

The bill did not try to establish any independent bureau, just a Commissioner of Immigration to be under the direction of the Department of State. It further provided that emigrants would make contracts to pledge their wages to repay their transportation expenses. The Treasury with the President was empowered to reduce tonnage duties on vessels bringing in immigrants.

Symbolically and appropriately, the bill became law with Lincoln's signature on July 4, 1864. The Act, in 8 sections, authorized the President, by and with the consent of the Senate, to appoint a Commissioner of Immigration for a term of 4 years at \$2,500/year; and a subordinate Superintendent in New York at \$2,000/year. Section 2 provided that emigrants pledge in the foreign countries their wages for no more than 12 months to cover their transportation here, but barred "any contract contravening the Constitution of the United States, or creating in any way the relation of slavery or servitude."

Section 3 exempted all immigrants arriving after the passage of the act from compulsory military service unless the immigrant voluntarily renounced under oath his allegiances to the country of his birth, and declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States. Section 5 disqualified any person either directly or indirectly involved in any corporation having land for sale to immigrants. Annual statistics on immigration and ex-

penditures were to be kept, and section 8 appropriated \$25,000, or any part of it, as the President's discretionary fund for the recruitment of immigrants.

This Act to Encourage Immigration undoubtedly had received backing from employers of labor because their interests dictated such support. President Lincoln's message on this subject seems to have begun a wave of support for federal action and other plans to encourage immigration lasting well into the next decades. John Williams, editor of the *Hardware Reporter*, enthusiastically welcomed Lincoln's message in April 1864. "Future historians," he wrote, "will assign [it] a most important place in history. Surely no more profitable use of the people's money could be made in expending a moderate sum in facilitating emigration of a large number of laborers, especially skilled workers, to this country." He urged that Congress encourage employers also to make "systematic effort" for increased emigration from Europe to the U.S., while separately opposing complete government control over such importation.



Danish women in 1864, forced off the land and bound for America

Photograph courtesy of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum

Lincoln's message seems to have strongly motivated at least one diplomat, W.W. Thomas, Jr., stationed at Gothenburg, Sweden, who wrote to Assistant Secretary of State Frederick Seward that he was encouraging Scandinavian emigration by distributing information in every way within his power. He recommended "that 2 or 3 unaccredited agents, who speak Swedish and are acquainted with this country, be sent with the first vessel to make known the demand for labor in the United States and the inducement of immigration."

So strong was feeling on this matter that the 1864 platform of the Republican Party (running as the Union Party) noted "That foreign immigration, which in the past has added so much to the wealth,

development of resources, and increase of nations, should be fostered and encouraged by a liberal and just policy."

While the Act of 1864 did not establish an independent Bureau, the State Department under Secretary William Seward used its own discretion and created a Bureau of Immigration. During its short lifetime of 3 years, that Bureau had 4 Commissioners of Immigration assigned to Washington (in order, James Bowen, H.N. Congar, E. Peshine Smith, and R.S. Chilton), and 1 subordinate superintendent in New York City, John P. Cumming. The Bureau, among other things, worked to increase both encouraged and voluntary immigration; restricted certain contract-labor companies while cooperating with others; contracted with railroads to sell tickets; encouraged States to pass supportive laws; and published large numbers of pamphlets in English, German, and French.

Numerous queries were received especially from the former slave states asking permission to import Chinese laborers. In all of these instances the Bureau rejected the requests, pointing out that the importation of Chinese laborers was a violation of the California "Act to Protect Free White Labor Against Competition with Chinese Coolie Labor, and to Discourage the Immigration of the Chinese into the State of California," commonly known as the "Anti-Coolie Act of 1862."

While the Bureau did not keep in active contact with the various immigrant importing agencies, it worked very closely with one of them, the American Emigrant Company (AEC). As soon as Lincoln's Act was passed, the AEC established an office at No. 3 Bowling Green, New York. Another editorial in *Hardware Reporter* said that the AEC will be the "handmaid of the new Bureau of Immigration ... applying private enterprise just at the point where official interference becomes impracticable." This statement quickly proved prophetic when the Bureau opened an office in the same building as the AEC!

Trying to send laborers where most needed and where they might receive the highest wages, the Bureau wrote to more than 1,000 U.S. agricultural societies to request a statement of local wages for mechanics, artisans, and common laborers. Meanwhile, many aid requests coming from immigrant groups abroad were forwarded through State's consular system to the Bureau showing that some of these groups had been misinformed --

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they expected the government to pay their travel expenses. At the same time, J.D.B. Curtis of Florida, whose family owned 300,000 acres, requested the government to help him pay for the transportation of 3,000 to 7,000 settlers to help him build a model colony, "where God will be glorified . . . children made better than their fathers ... faithful to the Union and opposed to slavery, and, ... control the political destiny of the State."

The Bureau's difficulties in enforcing the passenger laws, the dissatisfactions the private companies encountered over contract provisions, and frauds upon immigrants resulted in strenuous efforts to amend the Act to Encourage Immigration. Lincoln himself, in his Annual Message to Congress on December 6, 1864, stated, "The act passed at the last session for the encouragement of immigration has, so far, as was possible, been put in operation. It seems to need Amendment, which will enable the officers of the government to prevent the practice of frauds against the immigrants while on their way and on their arrival in the port, so as to secure them here a free choice of vocations and places of settlement."

After his assassination Lincoln's law met further obstacles. The Senate on January 23, 1865, had amended the 1864 Act as well as the Passenger Act of 1855 as Lincoln hoped. No action was taken during

that 38th Congress, but in the first session of the 39th Congress, after Lincoln's death, both houses acted. Efforts were made to give the Commissioner of Immigration additional power to strengthen the passenger acts; provide more rigid penalties for violations; and power to sue and collect through the courts all penalties. Additional U.S. emigrant offices were to be established in 5 cities under the direction of superintendents with the same powers as the 1 in New York. But with hundreds of thousands of soldiers returning home in mid-1865, and William Seward convalescing from his wounds, frustration and political pressure were apparent when a Senate committee surprised everyone by reporting "That the Act entitled An Act to Encourage Immigration, approved July 4, 1864, be and is hereby, repealed." This marked the death of the movement in Congress to amend the Act of 1864, the only act the federal government ever passed to encourage immigration.

Lincoln's plan for the country to welcome and embrace immigrants was technically repealed by a section of the Diplomatic and Consular Bill in 1868. Although two bills in 1868 purported to establish immigrant societies abroad, and several states later petitioned Congress to encourage immigration, no other action was ever taken by Congress to do so.

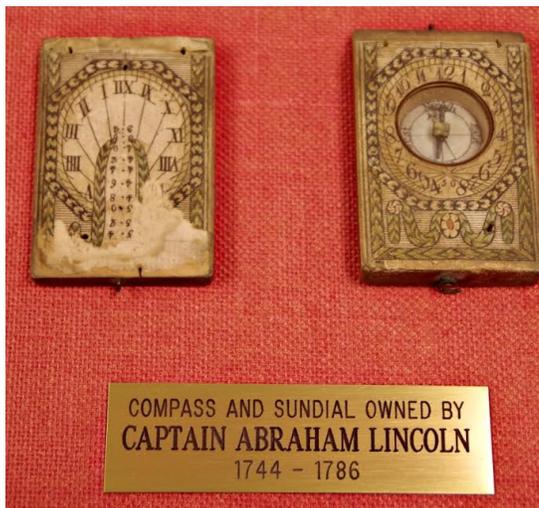
The repeal of Abraham Lincoln's Act to

Encourage Immigration could not, however, remove the effect it had upon immigration. Its important influence and aid to the states, the circulation of its recruiting materials abroad, the publicizing of the attractiveness of America for the immigrant, and the stimulus it gave to private enterprise foretold the massive flow of immigration to the U.S. in the following decades. The secondary effects of the act, such as the popularization abroad of another of Lincoln's landmark laws, the Homestead Act, encouraged thousands of immigrants to settle as farmers in the Midwest and West.

Though he did not live to see the completion of his dream, Lincoln deserves credit for initiating a plan that personified Emma Lazarus's words long before they were memorialized on the Statue of Liberty. For in so doing, the Great Emancipator was also the Great Egalitarian, who believed that the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution applied to all, regardless of their ethnicity or country of origin. Lincoln's America would eventually become what he had envisioned: a kind of mosaic of all peoples who sought to find a new life within its bountiful borders.

*Jason H. Silverman is the Ellison Capers Palmer, Jr. Professor of History at Winthrop University. He is the author of the recently published Lincoln and the Immigrant.*

## ***Unfinished Work* exhibit at ALPLM April 15-May 15**



A quick chance to see never-displayed artifacts on all facets of Lincoln's life and family will run at the Presidential Museum, Springfield, under the title "Unfinished Work." More than 70 items will touch upon his early work, his wider family, presidency, friends, Mary, and the assassination. Two-thirds of the items have not been displayed before.

The ALPL Foundation invited its supporters to 'sponsor' artifacts and documents, with the result that all manner of historical materials go on view: art, books, letters, legal forms, office ware, photographs, newspapers, etc. The only item on loan (see photo) is perhaps the oldest surviving personal possession of any Lincoln: his grandfather's pocket sundial and compass, from the Revolutionary War and Kentucky settlement period. It is bracketed by two extremely rare documents by that officer, whom the future president never knew, yet whose surveyor's sense he inherited.

Descended 240 years, through Lincoln's aunt Nancy Lincoln Brumfield, to present owner W. P. Clary, Jr.  
*Photograph courtesy of W. P. Clary, Jr.*

## Thomas S. Johnson (1942-2016)

Thomas S. Johnson, a long-time member of the Board of Directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association, and most recently chairman of its Nominating Committee, died unexpectedly at home in Rockford, Illinois, on Monday, February 15. Tom possessed a brilliant mind, a great sense of humor, self-deprecating wit, and personal charm that made him truly a “Lincoln-Hearted Man.”

He was a trustee, regent, and most recently chancellor of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, which administers the Order of Lincoln, the State’s highest award. He chaired the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of Winnebago County, and authored the pamphlet “Lincoln, Rockford, and the Black Hawk War” (2007). Tom was named a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel and served on the Board of Governors of the Illinois State Bar Association; he was a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association.

Tom graduated from Rockford College and Harvard Law School. He was a giant among Illinois lawyers. He conducted himself with great humility, and in the same manner as the greatest Illinois lawyer, Abraham Lincoln, whom he idolized and honored throughout his career.

*-- Robert J. Lenz, a past president of  
The Abraham Lincoln Association*



## The Abraham Lincoln Association Distributes Books to Illinois Libraries

The Abraham Lincoln Association announced that in conjunction with the books’ authors, they are donating copies of two recent, popular books about Abraham Lincoln to all 810 public and academic libraries in Illinois. The books will be distributed through the Illinois State Library’s Illinois Center for the Book with the help of Bonnie Matheis, Center for the Book Coordinator, and her helpful team.

“Abraham Lincoln loved to read, and a main part of the Lincoln Association’s mission is promoting knowledge of our 16th President, so this book donation is a perfect fit,” Abraham Lincoln Association President Kathryn Harris said. “Now these two well-researched and beautifully illustrated books will always be within just a few miles of everyone in Illinois, ready for free enjoyment and inspiration.”

The two books, *Abraham Lincoln Traveled This Way – the America Lincoln Knew* and *A Day Long to be Remembered – Lincoln in Gettysburg*, were written by famed Lincoln author and historian Michael Burlingame and illustrated by noted landscape photographer Robert Shaw.



Robert Shaw, Bonnie Matheis, Kathryn Harris, and Michael Burlingame (photo courtesy of Robert Shaw)

## African American History Museum Grand Opening Includes Some Lincoln

By Robert J. Davis

The Grand Opening of Springfield's newest museum on March 3, 2016, at its new home by the south gate to Oak Ridge Cemetery, hummed with excited anticipation as the spirit of pride hovered over the exhibits.

The new displays range from contemporary paintings by Preston Jackson of black women often left out of visual history, to other topics back in time.

*The Middle Passage: White Ships with Black Cargo* explains voyages across the Atlantic Ocean with their cargo of slaves en route to nations supporting that evil trade; each nation that supported slavery is represented by its national flag.

This emotionally heart-wrenching display is followed by *Journey on the Road to Freedom: A Time Line* marking the first recorded slave in the mainland colonies, in 1619, to ratification of the Reconstruction Amendments (13th, 14th, and 15th) to the U.S. Constitution, in 1865-70. The time line includes the Abolitionist Movement, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and responses to it, his honoring the contributions of U.S. Colored Troops, and a brief summary of Frederick Douglass's eulogy for Abraham Lincoln.

*The President's Men* chronicles the contribution of Black U.S. Marshals to law enforcement from 1875 and highlights the Ruby Bridges incident.



Board members and volunteers of the African American Museum of Springfield and Central Illinois: Robert J. Davis, Pamela King, Patricia James Davis, Kamau Kamayo, Minnie Gillespie, Lynn Williamson, Barbara Dickerman, Ann Abbott-Joseph, Nell Clay, AAHM President Doug King, and ALA President Kathryn Harris.

More current scenes include *Winfred "Doc" Helm's Photographs*, brilliantly depicting the daily life of the Springfield African American Community from the 1940s through the 1960s.

How nice it felt on opening day watching the joyous faces of local residents and hearing their warm laughter as they recognized past friends and acquaintances from the old neighborhoods in this exhibit.

*Honoring the Black Churches* is part of a larger church exhibit that recognizes their spiritual contributions to the soul of Black

folks in Springfield since the 1830s.

Looking to the future are diverse paintings with a 3-dimensional effect by new resident Olu 'Jimi' Adeniyi, illustrating warm and loving scenes of his childhood in Lagos, Nigeria.

*The site, in use by another museum in 2001-2008, will see ongoing improvements. Please stop in, then visit [www.spiaahfmuseum.org](http://www.spiaahfmuseum.org) for updates.*

*-- Robert J. Davis is a Director of The Abraham Lincoln Association.*

# EX PARTE MILLIGAN CONFERENCE 2016

September 22 -24, 2016 • Marriott Hotel & Conference Center • Normal, IL

This academic conference will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Ex parte Milligan* (1866) decision of the U.S. Supreme Court. In the decision, Lincoln's former campaign manager and appointee to the court, David Davis, struck down an important element of Lincoln's wartime policy. Davis wrote the majority opinion at his home in Bloomington.

#### Featured speakers:

Historian: Michael Les Benedict -- The Ohio State University  
Constitutional Scholar: Louis Fisher -- Constitution Project

Other historians and commentators will also take part in plenary and individual sessions to examine what the decision meant, how it came about, and what it means today for national and international security.

<http://milliganconference.illinoisstate.edu>

## ALA in DC Presents: *A Lincoln Press Conference*

By Robert Willard

The Abraham Lincoln Association presented *A Lincoln Press Conference*, featuring famed Lincoln presenter George Buss, in the nation's capital on December 3, 2015. President Lincoln appeared before Washington reporters and local Lincoln enthusiasts to answer their questions on a number of issues including the progress of the Civil War and the plans for reconstruction. The program, which also featured former ALA president Bob Lenz, had been presented earlier at locations around Illinois.



George Buss with Rep. John Shimkus, and Bob Lenz with Rep. Jan Schakowsky in the Lincoln Room of the U. S. Capitol.

(Photo courtesy of Bruce Guthrie)

A number of organizations partnered with ALA to present the program. The U.S. Capitol Historical Society made available the venue in its headquarters, the VFW building on Capitol Hill. The National Press Club provided two of its former presidents to interrogate the President. Other co-sponsors included the Lincoln Group of DC, the Illinois State Society, and the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. The event took place on the 197<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the admission of Illinois to the Union.



George Buss, with some tourists, taking a selfie at the Lincoln Memorial (Photo courtesy of Linda Elliff)

While in DC, Buss and Lenz participated in other Lincoln-related activities. They appeared in a "Conversation with Mr. Lincoln" at the monthly dinner meeting of the Lincoln Group of DC. They met with Members of Congress in the U.S. Capitol and distributed copies of the ALA's 2009 *Lincoln in Illinois*, a book of photographs and essays featuring Lincoln statuary throughout the state.

Buss, in full Lincoln regalia, surprised lunch diners at the aptly named Lincoln Restaurant, and then went on to drop by the Lincoln Memorial, providing an unexpected thrill to the lucky tourists. Before heading back to Illinois, Buss and Lenz were able to visit some Lincoln sites in Washington, DC, and they attended a lecture on Reconstruction at the U.S. Supreme Court by Prof. Eric Foner of Columbia University.

-- Robert S. Willard is a Director of The Abraham Lincoln Association.

## Study of Lincoln Music Wins Prize



Thomas Kernan  
Winner of 2015  
Hay-Nicolay Prize

Thomas J. Kernan, assistant professor of music history at Roosevelt University in Chicago, was awarded the 2015 Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize on February 12, 2016, at the ALA Lincoln Banquet in Springfield. His 2014 dissertation (University of Cincinnati), "Sounding 'The Mystic Chords of Memory': Musical Memorials for Abraham Lincoln, 1865-2009," is a pioneering work that analyzes hundreds of published, and some unpublished, works about Lincoln he found in libraries and archives coast to coast. According to Kernan, music over this span "has portrayed Lincoln as martyr and saint, political advocate, friend to the foreigner and common man, and champion of equality. [The study] advances our understanding of the role musical culture can play in both shaping a presidential legacy, and promoting social and political causes."

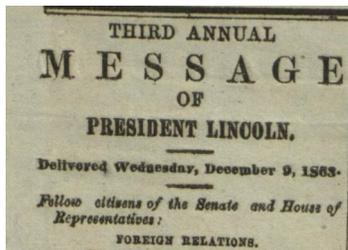
The Hay-Nicolay Dissertation Prize was jointly founded in 2001 by the ALA and the Abraham Lincoln Institute (based in Washington, D.C.) The two groups each provide 3 judges and half of the prize money. Please send any submissions for the 2016 Prize to [Samuel.wheeler@illinois.gov](mailto:Samuel.wheeler@illinois.gov).

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## Awards Presented at 2016 Banquet

### Spirit of Lincoln



Bernice King accepting the Spirit of Lincoln Award from Governor Jim Edgar, which was given in memory of her parents the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King.

### Logan Hay Medal



Robert Stuart presenting Robert Lenz with the Logan Hay Medal, given to individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to The Abraham Lincoln Association.