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At 31, Lincoln Falls For Matilda, 18



By Michael Burlingame

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In 1840, thirty-one-year-old Abraham Lincoln became engaged to Mary Todd but later that year he broke the engagement in large part because he had fallen in love with Matilda Edwards, the beautiful, “very bright” eighteen-year-old cousin of Mary’s brother-in-law, Ninian W. Edwards. Though abundant evidence supports this explanation, some historians have denied it.¹ Among them are Mary Todd’s hyper-defensive biographer, Ruth Painter Randall, and David Herbert Donald, a protégé of Mrs. Randall’s husband, James G. Randall. Professor Donald stated that people “who blamed Matilda Edwards for the rupture [in Lincoln’s relationship with Mary Todd] seem to have their information from Mary Todd, who was looking for a face-saving reason for Lincoln’s actions. There is no credible evidence that Lincoln was in love with Matilda Edwards.² Mrs. Randall similarly maintained that Matilda Edwards “had no part in the broken engagement.”³

In the autumn of 1840, Matilda Rachel Edwards came from Alton to Springfield with her father, Cyrus Edwards, and stayed with Mary Todd at the home of Ninian W. Edwards and his wife, the former Elizabeth Todd. Like many other young women, Matilda was visiting the capital during a session of the Illinois General Assembly to attend the numerous parties given at that time. In those days, a “legislative winter was as eagerly looked forward to by the ladies of the State as the politicians because it promised a season of constant gaiety and entertainment. An invitation to spend such a time in Springfield was a coveted honor. The pretty girls from all over the State flocked [t]here under the care of fathers,

uncles, brothers, cousins, any relation, however remote who could be induced to bring them.”⁴

Matilda Edwards was “something of a coquette” and “a most fascinating and handsome girl, tall, graceful, and rather reserved,” who “moved at ease among the social and refined classes at Alton.”⁵ Her “gentle temper, her conciliatory manners, and the sincerity of her heart made her dear to all who knew her.”⁶ Among the many young men who held her dear was Lincoln’s closest friend, Joshua Speed, who described her thus in a letter to his sister: “Two clear blue eyes, a brow as fair as Palmyra marble touched by the chisel of Praxiteles – Lips so fresh, fair, and lovely that I am jealous even of the minds that kiss them – a form as perfect as that of the Venus de Medicis – a Mind clear as a bell[,] a voice bewitchingly soft and sonorous and a smile so sweet lovely and playful and a countenance and soul shining through it.” Speed marveled that all of “these charms” could be “combined in one young lady.”⁷ In the winter of 1840-1841, Matilda Edwards and Mary Todd “seemed to form the grand centre of attraction. Swarms of strangers who had little else to engage their attention hovered around them, to catch a passing smile.”⁸ A niece of Matilda Edwards reported that “Never did any one have so many offers of marriage as Mathilda did” during that winter. Allegedly twenty-two men proposed to her before she wed Newton D. Strong in 1844. Seven years later, she died childless at the age of twenty-nine.⁹

Both David Herbert Donald and Ruth Painter Randall wrote before the publication of an interview with Orville H. Browning conducted in 1875 by Lincoln’s principal White House secretary, John G. Nicolay. Browning, an attorney in Quincy and a good personal friend and political ally of Lincoln, told Nicolay that “Lincoln became very much attached” to Matilda Edwards and “finally fell desperately in love with her.” He then “told Miss Todd that he loved Matilda Edwards.” Browning explained that “In those times I was at Mr. Edwards’s a great deal, and Miss Todd used to sit down

with me, and talk to me sometimes till midnight, about this affair of hers with Mr. Lincoln. In these conversations I think it came out, that Mr. Lincoln had perhaps on one occasion told Miss Todd that he loved Matilda Edwards, and no doubt his conscience was greatly worked up by the supposed pain and injury which this avowal had inflicted upon her.” According to Browning, when Lincoln broke his engagement to Mary Todd, he “was so much affected as to talk incoherently, and to be delirious to the extent of not knowing what he was doing.” This “aberration of mind resulted entirely from the situation he . . . got himself into – he was engaged to Miss Todd, and in love with Miss Edwards, and his conscience troubled him dreadfully for the supposed injustice he had done, and the supposed violation of his word which he had committed.”¹⁰

In January 1841, legal business had taken Browning to Springfield. He had first met Lincoln in the mid-1830s, when they both served as Whig members of the Illinois legislature. In 1872, he wrote that “our relations were very intimate: I think more so than is usual. Our friendship was close, warm, and, I believe, sincere. I know mine for him was, and I never had reason to distrust his for me. Our relations, to my knowledge, were never interrupted for a moment.”¹¹

Others had similar recollections of Lincoln’s love for Matilda Edwards, which he was too timid to express. (She told Elizabeth Edwards: “On my word, he never mentioned Such a Subject to me: he never even Stopped to pay me a Compliment.”)¹² William Herndon, Lincoln’s law partner and biographer, thought that Lincoln succumbed to “insanity” for the same reason cited by Browning.¹³ Mary Todd’s sister, Elizabeth Edwards, told Herndon that Lincoln “declared he hated Mary and loved Miss [Matilda] Edw[ar]ds.”¹⁴ Her husband, Ninian W. Edwards, recollected that Lincoln “fell in Love” with Matilda Edwards, but “did not Ever by act or deed directly or

(Continued on page 2)

(Burlingame-continued from page 1)

indirectly hint or speak of it to Miss Edwards.” Mary Todd “became aware of this – Lincoln’s affections – The Lincoln & Todd Engagement was broken off in consequence of it – Miss Todd released Lincoln from the Contract.”¹⁵ James H. Matheny, one of Lincoln’s groomsmen at his 1842 wedding to Mary Todd, recalled that Lincoln “loved Miss Matilda Edwards . . . and not Mrs Lincoln – Mary Todd.”¹⁶ Mrs. Nicholas H. Ridgely (née Jane Huntington), a leader of Springfield society in Lincoln’s day, told her granddaughter, Octavia Roberts Corneau, “that it was common report that Lincoln had fallen in love with Matilda Edwards.” There “was never the least doubt in her mind that this was the case, and she left the story to her daughters.”¹⁷ One of Matilda Edwards’s nieces confided to Mrs. Corneau that it was “an undisputed fact that Lincoln was in love with her [Matilda]. She never cared for him.”¹⁸ Another of Matilda Edwards’s nieces reported that “We were always told in the family that Lincoln courted her [Matilda Edwards], a fact which she divulged only to her nearest and dearest.”¹⁹

Alluding to Matilda Edwards, Joshua Speed recalled that “Lincoln – seeing another girl [Matilda Edwards] – & finding he did not love [the woman who eventually became] his wife wrote a letter saying he did not love her.” Speed reported that “Lincoln did Love Miss [Matilda] Edwards – ‘Mary’ Saw it – told Lincoln the reason of his Change of mind – heart & soul – released him [from the engagement].”²⁰

Supporting the many reminiscent accounts of Lincoln’s unspoken love for Matilda Edwards is a contemporary account by one Jane D. Bell, who wrote from Springfield on January 27, 1841: “It seems he [Lincoln] had addressed Mary Todd and she accepted him and they had been engaged some time when a Miss Edwards of Alton came here, and he fell desperately in love with her and found he was not so much attached to Mary as he thought. He says if he had it in his power he would not have one feature of her face altered, he thinks she is so perfect (that is, Miss E.) He and Mr. [Joshua] Speed have spent the most of their time at [the home of Ninian and Elizabeth] Edwards this winter and Lincoln could never bear to leave Miss Edwards’s side in company. Some of his friends thought he was acting very wrong and very imprudently told him so.”²¹

In light of all this evidence, it seems clear that David Herbert Donald and Ruth Painter Randall were wrong to doubt that Lincoln broke off his engagement to Mary Todd because of his strong feelings for Matilda Edwards.

Endnotes

¹ Albert S. Edwards in Walter B. Stevens, *A Reporter’s Lincoln*, ed. Michael Burlingame (1916; Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1998), 113. On Matilda Edwards and Lincoln, see Douglas L. Wilson, *Honor’s Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln* (New York: Knopf, 1998), 219-42, and “Abraham Lincoln and ‘That Fatal First of January,’” in Douglas L. Wilson, *Lincoln Before Washington: New Perspectives on the Illinois Years* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1997), 99-132; J. Bennett Nolan, “Of a Tomb in the Reading Cemetery and the Long Shadow of Abraham Lincoln,” *Pennsylvania History* 19 (1952): 262-306; Orville H. Browning, interview with John G. Nicolay, Springfield, 17 June 1875, Michael Burlingame, ed., *An Oral History of Abraham Lincoln: John G. Nicolay’s Interviews and Essays* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1996), 1-2; Harry O. Knerr, two essays, both titled “Abraham Lincoln and Matilda Edwards,” enclosed in Knerr to Ida M. Tarbell, Allentown, 26 October 1936, Ida M. Tarbell Papers, Allegheny College; Allentown (Pennsylvania) *Morning Call*, 9 February 1936; William H. Herndon to Ward Hill Lamon, Springfield, 25 February 1870, Lamon Papers, Huntington Library, San Marino, California; Jane D. Bell to Anne Bell, Springfield, 27 January 1841, copy, Lincoln files, “Wife” folder, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee; Octavia Roberts, “We All Knew Abr’ham,” *Abraham Lincoln Quarterly* 4 (March 1946): 27; William O. Stoddard, *Abraham Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life* (New York: Fords, Howard, & Hulbert, 1884), 122.

Lincoln had earlier been smitten by a beautiful girl. In August 1827, it is reported, he was captivated by the beauty of Julia Evans in Princeton, Indiana. John M. Lockwood to Jesse W. Weik, Mount Vernon, Indiana, 4 January 1896, and two letters to Mr. J. A. Stuart of Indianapolis, dated Princeton, Indiana, 25 and 26 January 1909, one from an unknown correspondent and the other from “Hastings,” in Jesse W. Weik, *The Real Lincoln: A Portrait*, ed. Michael Burlingame (1922; Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2002), 365-67.

² David Herbert Donald, *Lincoln* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995), 612, n. 87.

³ Ruth Painter Randall, *Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1953), 42.

⁴ Caroline Owsley Brown, “Springfield Society before the Civil War,” in [Edwards Brown, Jr.], *Rewarding Years Recalled* (privately published, 1973), 33-34.

⁵ Alice Edwards Quigley (a niece of Matilda Edwards) to “Dear Sir” [probably Harry O. Knerr], Alton, Illinois, 22 March 1935, typed copy appended to an essay, “Abraham Lincoln and Matilda Edwards,” by H. O. Knerr, enclosed in H. O. Knerr to Ida M. Tarbell, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 23 September 1935, Tarbell Papers, Allegheny College; Virginia Quigley to [Octavia Roberts] Corneau, Alton, Illinois, 13 July [1939?], F. Lauriston Bullard Papers, Boston University; Orville H. Browning, interview with John G. Nicolay, Springfield, 17 June 1875, Burlingame, ed., *Oral History of Lincoln*, 1; Albert S. Edwards, in Stevens, *A Reporter’s Lincoln*, ed. Burlingame, 113.

⁶ *Alton Telegraph*, n.d., copied in the *Illinois State Journal* (Springfield), 3 March 1851.

⁷ Quoted in Joshua Wolf Shenk, *Lincoln’s Melancholy: How Depression Challenged a President and Fueled His Greatness* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2006), 54.

⁸ James C. Conkling to Mercy Levering, Springfield, 7 March 1841, Carl Sandburg and Paul M. Angle, *Mary Lincoln: Wife and Widow* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1932), 180.

⁹ Octavia Roberts [Corneau], “My Townsman – Abraham Lincoln,” typescript of a talk given to the Lincoln Group of Boston, 18 November 1939, 12, Abraham Lincoln Association Reference Files, “Reminiscences,” folder 5, Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield. Cf. Jennie Edwards Nisbet to William E. Barton, La Jolla, California, 8 January 1927, Barton Papers, University of Chicago, and Virginia Quigley to [Octavia Roberts] Corneau, Alton, 13 July [1939?], F. Lauriston Bullard Papers, Boston University.

¹⁰ Orville H. Browning, interview with John G. Nicolay, Springfield, 17 June 1875, Burlingame, ed., *Oral History of Lincoln*, 1-2.

¹¹ Browning to Isaac N. Arnold, Quincy, Illinois, 25 November 1872, Arnold Papers, Chicago History Museum.

¹² Statement by Elizabeth Todd Edwards, [1865-1866], Douglas L. Wilson and Rodney O. Davis, eds., *Herndon’s Informants: Letters, Interviews, and Statements about Abraham Lincoln* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1998), 444.

¹³ Herndon to Ward Hill Lamon, Springfield, 25 February 1870, Lamon Papers, Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

¹⁴ Statement by Elizabeth Todd Edwards, [1865-1866], Wilson and Davis, eds., *Herndon’s Informants*, 444.

¹⁵ Ninian W. Edwards, interview with Herndon, 22 September 1865, Wilson and Davis, eds., *Herndon’s Informants*, 133.

¹⁶ James H. Matheny, interview with Herndon, 3 May 1866, Wilson and Davis, eds., *Herndon’s Informants*, 251.

¹⁷ Octavia Roberts Corneau, “My Townsman – Abraham Lincoln,” typescript of a talk given to the Lincoln Group of Boston, 18 November 1939, Abraham Lincoln Association Reference Files, “Reminiscences” folder 5, p. 11, Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield; Octavia Roberts Corneau, “The Road of Remembrance,” unpublished manuscript, 119, Corneau Papers, Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield.

¹⁸ Virginia Quigley to [Octavia Roberts] Corneau, Alton, Illinois, 13 July [1939?], F. Lauriston Bullard Papers, Boston University.

¹⁹ Nancy Reed Gordon to the editor of the *New York Times*, South Norwalk, Connecticut, 15 July 1922, *New York Times*, 21 July 1922. Mrs. Gordon’s mother was a younger sister of Matilda Edwards. Cf. Horace Green, “New Cases of Women’s Influence over Lincoln,” *New York Times*, 11 February 1923.

²⁰ Speed, interview with Herndon, [1865-66], Wilson and Davis, eds., *Herndon’s Informants*, 474-75.

²¹ Jane D. Bell to Anne Bell, Springfield, 27 January 1841, copy, Lincoln files, “Wife” folder, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee.



COUNTDOWN TO NANCE'S EMANCIPATION

Editor's Note

The following two pieces tell amazing stories about the first people Lincoln legally freed from bondage in the 1841 case *Bailey v. Cromwell*. In the first, John D. Bybee writes of African American Nance Legins-Costley's fight for freedom. In the second, Carl Adams, who has spent more than a decade researching the life of Nance Legins-Costley, writes of the surprising things he discovered in his research about Nance's son William.



By John D. Bybee

This Lincoln anecdote is little known. By one interpretation, it was vigorously suppressed in the first part of the 20th Century by white supremacists whose numbers swelled with the popularity of D.W. Griffith's 1915 silent film *Birth of a Nation*.

At age 19 Abe Lincoln was a resident of Little Pigeon Creek, Indiana, which lay about 16 miles from the Ohio River. James Gentry, founder of Gentryville, was a prosperous businessman who owned 1,000 acres of land. Lincoln and Gentry's son Allen were best friends and hatched the idea of getting Allen's dad to hire them to deliver a load of hogs and corn to the market in New Orleans. The elder Gentry agreed. Allen was to be the captain and Abe his bow man at the rate of \$8.00 a month. The two youths constructed their flatboat and launched it in early 1828.

Gentry and Lincoln poled and floated their way south to Cairo, Illinois, where the Ohio River flows into the great Mississippi. On the lower river, especially between Natchez and New Orleans, they drifted past increasing numbers of African-American slaves working the vast cotton and sugar plantations lining the river banks. They arrived in New Orleans in spring 1828. Young Abe's psyche was scarred at the sight of Negro slaves being led in chains to auction blocks where they were paraded like domestic beasts of burden and sold to the highest bidder. It took

Gentry and Lincoln a few days to sell their cargo and flatboat. Lincoln thought the city of 40,000 was in the main a cruel place. He was glad to walk, pole, and ride a steamboat back to a free Indiana.

For 14-year-old Nance, 1827 was a year of despair. Nance had been born in 1813 in the home of General Thomas S. Cox in Kaskaskia. Nance was a descendant of the approximately 500 slaves brought from San Domingo to Fort Chartres (20 miles north of Kaskaskia) in the period 1717-1721 to work the projected gold and silver mines. Kaskaskia, once the metropolis of Northern French Louisiana, was the first capital of Illinois. The Cox home was the site of Illinois's first Constitutional Convention. General Cox was one of Illinois's first state senators, serving from 1818-1820. Cox advocated that Illinois become a slave state. He moved to Springfield in 1823. In an 1825 referendum, the slave state proposition was soundly defeated. Cox also owned two other slaves: a girl named Dice and a boy named Reuben. Massive losses in land speculation put Cox in severe financial straits by 1827. He removed to Iowa, leaving his wife Jane to sort out his business affairs. His wife and daughter Mary left their home in Springfield to live in a rough cabin at the edge of town.

During this period of financial turmoil, Nance filed suit for her freedom, but with the Illinois Black Codes of 1819 in effect, her case was dismissed as being without merit by the local court. She appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court, but they declined to hear it.

In 1827, Sangamon County Sheriff John Taylor was authorized by the local court to sell Thomas S. Cox's assets to satisfy Cox's debts. Dice was sold quickly without any fuss. Sangamon County Coroner John Howard was delegated to conduct the auction of the fiery, troublemaking Nance. He led the ill Nance in chains from her place of confinement in the old salt house to the auction block near the corner of 6th and Adams in Springfield (near Lincoln's future law office). Major Nathan Cromwell of Pekin was the successful bidder. Cromwell asked Nance if she would go and live with him. Nance refused. Cromwell told Howard to take Nance back to where he had brought her from. Howard tied the struggling Nance tighter and returned her to the salt house. One may as-

sume at the salt house physical persuasions were employed to make her accept her new home in Pekin.

Nathan Cromwell was one of the founders of Pekin, and his wife Anna Elizabeth chose the name "Pekin" for the new town. Nance, in Tazewell County on October 6, 1827, filed suit for her freedom in *Nance, a Negro girl, v. Nathan Cromwell*. In December 1828, Nance filed a second suit, *Nance, a Negro girl, v. John Howard*, for John Howard's role in depriving a free woman of her liberty. Local courts dismissed her arguments and again the Illinois Supreme Court refused to hear her pleas.

On June 13, 1836, Cromwell sold the rebellious Nance to David Bailey for a \$377.00 promissory note. David's wife was Sarah Ann Brown, daughter of Chicago Underground Railroad conductor Rufus Brown, Sr. In December 1836, Nance declared herself free and left the Bailey household. Shortly after, Major Cromwell died. His son Dr. William Cromwell handled his father's estate. David Bailey never paid for Nance. (In 1836, President Andrew Jackson refused to renew the charter of the Second Bank of the United States, which dropped the Baileys and others from middle class to bankruptcy by 1842.) Cromwell sued Bailey to recover the value of the note and costs. Judge William Thomas of the Tazewell Probate Court in Tremont awarded Cromwell \$431.97 and ruled that Nance was a possession and could be sold to pay the debt.

Thirty-two-year-old Lincoln, in the summer of 1841, took Nance's appeal of *Bailey v. Cromwell* to the Illinois Supreme Court, which at that time sat in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Springfield. Did Lincoln take Nance's case pro bono or did an unseen wealthy abolitionist bankroll her defense? Perhaps Lincoln sensed her case was a test case with which to set a precedent? Lincoln aggressively prepared a legal brief on behalf of Bailey and Nance.

In the Illinois Supreme Court on July 31, 1841, Lincoln in careful, precise lawyerly language argued that the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 clearly specified that there was to be no slavery nor involuntary servitude in the territory of Illinois. The Illinois Constitution also prohibited the same.

(Continued on page 11)

Pvt. William Henry Costley's Grave

Pursuit of a Tangible Legacy of Lincoln



By Carl Adams

In early October 1888, grave diggers on a windswept hill of the Minnesota State Hospital at Rochester laid to rest a mental patient in almost total obscurity. After burial and the routine quotations from the Bible, the staff placed a white wooden cross with only the patient's number #1745 over the black man's grave.

Recorded as William Henry Crossley, he had been in the asylum only five months. The ward knew very little about him, not even his correct name since he was illiterate and was committed during a psychotic episode as incoherent.

Unknown to the hospital, the Civil War Pension Bureau had tracked Bill's paper trail to the hospital as Pvt. William Henry Corsley, disabled veteran of Civil War Company B, 29th Regiment US Colored Infantry from Illinois.

Since suffering sunstroke on July 4, 1887, William Crossley had faded in and out of psychotic episodes for ten months. One day in April 1888, Bill was incoherent and waving his pistol around recklessly when his landlord had him admitted. Bill Corsley was still in the process of applying for "Invalid" status with the Pension Board; it was a process he had applied for four years before in October 1884.

Due to a shoulder injury sustained in the Battle of Petersburg, 1865, Bill was already on 50% disability. However, Bill Corsley had been demoted from hostler to "horse groomer." He now lived in poverty and needed the full benefits of one hundred percent disability to survive. Pvt. William Henry Corsley would not live to get it.

So on windswept Quarry Hill in Rochester, Minnesota, is the grave of Private William

Henry Costley, virtually unknown to anyone for over a hundred years. Just another poverty-stricken black man laid in a pauper's grave. Nothing special about him, really. Only that he had grown up along the Pekin-Peoria road traveled by attorney Abraham Lincoln riding the circuit from 1849 to 1859. Bill might see this man as he passed his house from four to eight or more times a year.

Moreover, Bill Costley had an additional affection for the tall, thin lawyer. Lincoln had legally emancipated his mother, Nance Legins-Costley, from indentured servitude through the Illinois Supreme Court case of *Bailey v. Cromwell* in 1841 when Bill was less than a year old. The case ended the servitude status of Nance and her first three children: Amanda Costley-Lewis, Eliza Jane Costley, and William Henry. Unfortunately, Bill had suffered head trauma at age 16 in 1856, similar to what happened to Lincoln at age ten. Bill was kicked in the forehead by a horse.

According to the research of Edward A. Miller in the National Archives for his book *Black Civil War Soldiers of Illinois* (1998), the 29th Regimental Surgeon Dr. David Mackay reported to the Pension Board that the Ku Klux Klan had invaded his office and ransacked his files for the avowed purpose of denying black soldiers the records needed for pensions they legally deserved. And in a letter in Bill Costley's file, the Surgeon General's Office confirmed in March 1885, "... Medical Records of the 29th USCT are not on file."

This was the great obstacle of illiteracy. Bill had to start a letter-writing campaign to officers, sergeants, and doctors, trying to prove his case for Invalid status. This is the apparent reason that Bill Costley's file was open and active for the last four years of his life and the probable reason he was never awarded a hundred percent pension.

The motive to find William H. Costley's grave grew out of frustration at not finding Nance's gravestone in Pekin.

The most common assumption offered was that Klan sympathizers did not want the

truth of the goodness of Nance to be known, so the grave was deliberately obscured.

In the late 1990's, I played a hunch that Nance's son William might have served in the Civil War. With only one black regiment from the state of Illinois, that information was easy enough to locate. However, then I discovered the 29th USCT had no known written regimental history. As an army reserve officer myself, I set out to write their military history based on all the information in the "Remarks" column of the Illinois Adjutant General's report and other secondary sources. This resulted in the first publication to show that the 29th Illinois USCT was at the first celebration of "Juneteenth" in 1865.

I wrote to Springfield for state records and to the National Archives for the William H. Corsley (Costley) pension file and the file of his brother-in-law Edward Lewis to assist in writing the unit history, then filed it away for the next decade. My history of the 29th Regiment USCT was published as a serial story in Peoria's only black newspaper, *Traveler Weekly*, in 2000.

After publishing my book *NANCE: Trials of the First Slave Freed by Abraham Lincoln*, I was still feeling regret over never finding her grave as a tangible legacy of Nance and Lincoln. Then I remembered that some of the details in William Henry's pension file included addresses in Iowa and Minnesota and that he had been hospitalized. So after years, I pulled the file and blew the dust off. My goal: Find William Henry's gravestone as a tangible legacy of Lincoln.

Since moving with other family members to Germany, my only method was to hire a local St. Paul researcher who was familiar with that state's history files. Previously, I had hired a genealogist in Maryland to trace the history of Nathan Cromwell, Jr., a party to the 1841 court case.

Mr. Rich Arpi advised me via email that he was rather busy. Busy people tend to be better at time management, so I hired him. I agreed to \$25 an hour and mailed him an advance for three hours. He emailed back

(Continued on page 6)

President Lincoln's Coat's Long Journey

By Reignette Chilton

Reignette Chilton is a native of Denville, New Jersey, who lives in Mount Arlington, New Jersey. She became fascinated with the coat from Lincoln's fatal night when she worked at Brooks Brothers' Manhattan office. This story first appeared in the (Morris County, New Jersey) Daily Record in 2014.

This is a story about a coat.

A silk-lined greatcoat, adorned with the embroidered declaration "One Country, One Destiny," that was made for President Abraham Lincoln on "the occasion of his second inauguration."

The coat began its journey in the workrooms of the venerable New York clothing house of Brooks Brothers, where its tailors, and a young seamstress, crafted a uniquely designed coat for the president. Its wool was "finer than cashmere," and its silk lining was embroidered with the design of an eagle holding in its beak a long streamer with the declaration "One Country, One Destiny."

Inauguration Day, March 4, 1865, the occasion for which the greatcoat was made, was a momentous time in the nation's history. For on that historic day, before thousands of rain-soaked yet exuberant spectators on the east portico of the U.S. Capitol, the weary yet hopeful chief executive delivered his second inaugural address and issued a reconciliatory plea:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan -- to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

On the Good Friday evening of April 14, 1865 -- weeks after the president's second inauguration -- President and Mrs. Lincoln and their guests, Major Henry Rathbone and Clara Harris, attended a performance of the British comedy *Our American Cousin*, starring the renowned actress Laura Keene.

As the late-arriving members of the presidential party made their way into Ford's Theatre, the actors ceased their performance; the cheering audience rose in appreciation, and the orchestra, under the baton of William Withers, played "Hail to the Chief." The illustrious party then progressed to the beautifully decorated presidential box where the president settled into a cushioned rocker.

As the British farce proceeded, the president rose once to put on his resplendent Brooks Brothers greatcoat.

Then shortly after 10 p.m., halfway through the third act of the comedy, the celebrated actor John Wilkes Booth crept into the presidential box, aimed his single-shot Derringer at the back of President Lincoln's head, and fired. The president slumped forward and would never regain consciousness. Nine hours after the calamity, at 7:22 a.m. on April 15, 1865, the Great Emancipator drew his last breath.

"How can I preach today?" eulogized a minister during an Easter Sunday service on April 16, 1865. "Oh it is hard to think, and I must utter the unwelcome thought, that the president, the good president is dead! That Abraham Lincoln, our Abraham Lincoln, whose name is fraught with so many endearing associations, is gone."



Weeks after the grieving nation's "Black Easter," the president's distraught widow Mary Lincoln gave many of his garments to those who revered him. To Alphonso Donn, a doorkeeper at the White House and a kind friend to the Lincolns' youngest son, Tad, Mrs. Lincoln's generosity included the martyred president's suit coat, trousers, vest, tie, and Brooks Brothers greatcoat, all worn on the fateful night of April 14, 1865. "For your devoted attentions to President Lincoln, I gave you those clothes," the grieving widow later wrote.

"Retain them always, in memory of the best and noblest man who ever lived."

Alphonso Donn stored the treasured garments, stained with the martyred president's blood, in an old army chest. "The precautions taken by both Mrs. Lincoln and my grandfather regarding these clothes were greater than would have been taken in an ordinary suit belonging to the president," wrote Mr. Donn's granddaughter in 1933.

Even the showman P. T. Barnum, and his offer of \$20,000, could not sway the devoted doorkeeper to sell the sentimental clothing. Nor could Donn be tempted with the lure of a large brick house in exchange for the relics. "Nothing," noted a family friend "could induce him to part with them."

The faithful doorkeeper cherished the relics for the rest of his life. Upon his death in 1886, the garments were placed under the watchful care of his son and daughter-in-law.

In 1924, after futile attempts to acquire a patron to purchase the clothing and exhibit it in Washington D.C. "where it unquestionably belongs," Donn's heirs placed the clothing, including letters from Mrs. Lincoln and her oldest son, Robert Todd Lincoln, up for sale at a prestigious auction house in Philadelphia.

The February 19, 1924, auction of "Valuable Americana," which also included a pincushion that belonged to George Washington, attracted nationwide publicity. Despite the attention, however, the sale of the Lincoln relics failed to meet the reserve price of \$20,000. Nevertheless, a mysterious "Mr. Douglas" paid the auctioneer \$6,500 for the garments and gave them back to Mr. Donn's granddaughter.

Shortly thereafter, the artifacts returned to a bank vault where they would rest in a suitcase for decades.

In 1967, Alphonso Donn's tenacious granddaughter, now an elderly woman, placed an ad in a prominent newspaper with the offer to sell "The Donn Collection of Lincolniana." The asking price was \$50,000.

(Continued on page 7)

Edwards Place to Restore Piano Lincoln Heard

By Erika Holst
Curator of Collections,
Springfield Art Association

[Mr. Lincoln] liked music, although I never in my life heard him attempt to sing... but he liked to hear the piano, and he liked to hear us sing. My sister had a good piano. Mr. Edwards was quite prosperous and lived in very good style.

So said Mary Lincoln's sister Frances Wallace in an interview with the *Daily Illinois State Journal* in 1895. The "sister" to whom she referred was Elizabeth Todd Edwards. And the "good piano" she mentioned is a square grand, made by Emilius N. Scherr of Philadelphia and dating to ca. 1835-40. This instrument played the music that entertained Lincoln on his many visits to Ninian and Elizabeth Edwards's house, first as a young suitor to Elizabeth's sister Mary Todd, and then a relative by marriage socializing with his in-laws.

This piano is currently in the collection of the Springfield Art Association. It typically holds a place of honor in the parlors of Edwards Place (home of Ninian's brother Benjamin), across from the "courting couch" which also belonged to Ninian and Elizabeth Edwards in the days when Lincoln visited their house. Like the couch, for the past several decades the piano has been a silent relic of the time when Lincoln courted Mary Todd in the Ninian Edwards Parlor.



Now, however, an effort is underway to restore the piano to playable condition. The piano is currently in the hands of The Piano People in Champaign, Illinois, where piano technician Steve Schmidt and his team are working on restoring it to playable condition. When it is finished, visitors to Edwards Place will have the opportunity to hear the same music Lincoln heard on the same instrument Lincoln heard it on.

The Springfield Art Association has two-thirds of the \$15,000 cost of restoration in hand. It hopes to raise the rest by launching a campaign through Kickstarter in No-

vember, 2015. Private donations to the restoration will also be gratefully received.

Work on the piano is scheduled to conclude by January 2016. A piano concert will be held on Saturday, January 30 at 7 p.m. in the parlors of Edwards Place. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards will host Mr. Lincoln and ticketed guests for an evening of Mr. Lincoln's favorite songs. Tickets are \$60. Please see www.edwardsplace.org or call the Art Association at 217-523-2631. Members of the Abraham Lincoln Association are invited to visit Edwards Place, newly restored to its 1850s appearance.

(Adams-continued from page 4)

that there had been three State Hospitals in Minnesota and that he would have to search all three.

Back to Pvt. W.H. Corsley's pension file. I wrote back "Rochester" ... He was in Rochester. From that point it took only three hours of search. I called Mr. Arpi and he read me a few possible matches; when he read "William Henry Crossley..." Stop. Read that again ... That's him. You got him!

This was almost miraculous timing. By the early 20th century, the wooden crosses had all rotted away. There was nothing except the hospital records with numbered graves. William Henry Crossley's marker

has been in place since only the summer of 2013; he may have been impossible to find before then. We found him thanks to matching the patient number #1745 on his pension records and on the original marker.

The first male slave freed by Abraham Lincoln in 1841 lived a hard working life ... but he lived it as a free man. The last four years of his life were made miserable by the unforgivable sin by Klansmen of destroying the records of wounded servicemen, a crime that should get the blood up of every living American veteran of the armed forces.

For more information about this topic, go to nancebook.com

Carl Michael Adams was born and raised in Alton, Illinois, and has been a lifelong Lincoln scholar. He grew up near the monument to abolitionist publisher Elijah Parish Lovejoy, who was killed by a mob during an antiabolition riot in Alton in 1837.

Adams earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in 1979. He worked for over twenty years on Public Radio documentaries and network television news and is now semi-retired.

Adams lectured both for the Marines and the Army in the art and sciences of communications and military history.

Adams's book, Trials of Nance, required him to dig deep into Lincoln and Illinois history to recover the story of the first slave freed by Abraham Lincoln, a story that for over a hundred years was lost to history.

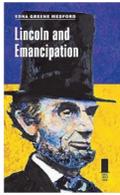
Book Review

LINCOLN AND EMANCIPATION

Lincoln and Emancipation

by Edna Greene Medford

Southern Illinois University Press (2015)



By Kate Shepherd

For decades scholars have debated President Abraham Lincoln's views of slavery and his motivation for championing the 13th Amendment. In Southern Illinois University Press's newest addition to its Concise Lincoln Library series *Lincoln and Emancipation*, Howard University history department chair Dr. Edna Greene Medford skillfully tackles the complex issue of emancipation as seen through the eyes of Lincoln and free and enslaved African Americans.

The book's goal is to put the voice of African Americans at the center of the emancipation story, which Dr. Medford excels at in just over 100 pages. Previous accounts have frequently underestimated the African American community as a "species of property" in their own liberation, according to Dr. Medford. "They were fervent, impatient participants in the emancipation

effort, showing an eagerness to get on with the business of freedom long before the rest of the country had embraced their cause," she writes in the introduction. When President Lincoln was ready for emancipation, they were able to work with the president to fight for freedom and for equality, which only made them all stronger.

Dr. Medford's research, expertise and passion for the topic make the book an important read for scholars and students of history. Her considerable writing skills make the book a pleasure to read and help to paint a cohesive picture of the social and political changes that led to emancipation. The book deftly explains how the times shaped Lincoln's views on slavery as a young man, how the tumultuous political climate during his presidency changed them, and what led Lincoln to find the courage to fight for the 13th Amendment.

The meaning of the war changed for the North as its people realized what a valuable asset the fugitive slaves who flocked to the invading Union soldiers for protection could be, Dr. Medford writes. Those men and women helped change the course of history, and she makes sure that we remember their bravery.

Kate Shepherd is a journalist based in Chicago.

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Jason Silverman

Rock Hill, South Carolina

Join: ABRAHAMLINCOLNASSOCIATION.ORG*(Chilton-continued from page 5)*

The nationwide attention proved to be timely. The Department of the Interior expressed interest in acquiring the relics for display in the newly restored Ford's Theatre, scheduled to open in early 1968 as a working theater and historic site. But the price of \$50,000, though negotiable, would not justify a congressional appropriation.

Thus, the search for a patron who would buy the relics and donate them to the nation began with a media-enhanced campaign. One newspaper described the Department of the Interior's quest for the historic garments as "desperate."

It took months, but the American Trucking Association Foundation made a donation of \$25,000 in the name of the American Trucking Industry, and the historic treasure was returned to its final

and most appropriate resting place.

But there would be one critical detail before the relics became a featured exhibit in the new Lincoln Museum. The five articles of clothing -- soiled, damaged, and packed in a suitcase -- were cleaned, repaired, and restored under the direction of Col. James Rice, "one of the nation's leading fabric conservators," for a cost of \$1,255.

By March, the relics would embark on a captivating odyssey, intriguing thousands of visitors for decades, including a young lady from New Jersey, who, in a letter to the museum, wondered why there wasn't any blood on Lincoln's suit. "The reason there is no blood on the suit," replied John T. Tiff, Ford's Theatre historian, "is because it was cleaned and mended before being put on display in the museum."

In 1990, when the Museum underwent

further restoration, Brooks Brothers donated \$7,000 to refurbish the fragile 125-year-old greatcoat. The clothier also created a striking replica thanks, in large part, to its master tailors who, when designing the model, measured the original greatcoat, had its fabric analyzed by textile preservationists, and gave hundreds of working hours to ensure a precise copy.

In 2011, the extremely fragile greatcoat — in poor condition and actively deteriorating — was retired from the permanent exhibition upon the recommendation of textile conservationists. But it was briefly displayed in 2015 at the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's death.

Otherwise, visitors to Ford's Theatre may view the greatcoat's impressive replica bearing the declaration, "One Country, One Destiny."

Fall Events in the Lincoln Country

2015 Annual Lincoln College and Lincoln Heritage Museum Colloquium

October 2 & 3, 2015

The Better Angels of Our Nature: The Influential Legacy and Character of Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln College and the Lincoln Heritage Museum host the **2015 Colloquium**.

Douglas Wilson on *Abraham Lincoln: Character or Calculation?*

William Pederson on *Lincoln Without Borders: Lincoln's International Legacy*.

John Barr on *Loathing Lincoln's Legacy*.

James Cornelius, Guy Fraker, Sarah Watson, Sara Gabbard, and Anne Moseley on *The Tangible Legacy in the Lands of Lincoln*.

Fritz Klein Abraham Lincoln interpreter as he goes *Fritz Klein Unplugged*.

To register, call (217) 735-7399 or e-mail museum@lincolncollege.edu



October 11 - 13, Allerton Mansion, near Monticello, Illinois

Inaugural "Experiencing Lincoln" Seminar: Conceived by Guy C. Fraker, with conversations and lectures led by Michael Burlingame and Steve Beckett (all 3 are ALA directors), as well as Nature Conservancy naturalist Fran Harty -- in the landscape that formed Lincoln.

\$435 -- Full 3-day seminar with overnights

\$105 -- 1-day pass

Call 217.333.3287 for information and reservations

Fall Events in the Lincoln Country

13th ANNUAL LINCOLN LEGACY LECTURES

Lincoln & Voting Rights

October 15, 2015
7-9 PM
Brookens Auditorium, UIS

Free and open to the public. No Reservation required.
 Doors open at 6 p.m. First come, first seated.
 Overflow seating available. Information: (217) 206-7094

"Voting Rights and the Meaning of Freedom: The View from the Civil War Era"

Dr. Michael Vorenberg



Associate Professor of History, Brown University

"Citizenship and Voting Rights in the Modern Era"

Dr. Ronald Keith Gaddie



President's Associates Presidential Professor and Chair, Dept. of Political Science, University of Oklahoma



"Lincoln and Black Voting Rights"

Opening remarks by Moderator, Dr. Michael Burlingame, Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies, UIS

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 SPRINGFIELD

Presented by the UIS Center for State Policy and Leadership and the Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies. Cosponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Association and the Illinois State Historical Society.

Spoon River Scenic Drive

Saturday and Sunday, October 3, 4, 10, and 11 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tours of the Vermont Cemetery.
 For specific details, visit: Spoonriverdrive.org or vermontcemeterytours.com

Thomas Lincoln and Other Furniture Makers of His Era

Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m.

As a part of its fall Fireside Chats, the Elijah Iles House will host Dale Ogden, a curator at the Indiana State Museum, who will speak on Thomas Lincoln and other furniture makers of his time. Dale curated the highly successful *Lincoln Family* exhibit at the Indiana State Museum in 2014. Free and open to the public. The Abraham Presidential Library has in its collection the 'plantation desk' made in Indiana by Thomas Lincoln (right). Location: Elijah Iles House, 7th and Cook Streets, Springfield, Illinois.



Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk

Sunday, October 11 from Noon to 4:00 p.m.

The Sangamon County Historical Society will conduct a walking tour *Echoes of Yesteryear: A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery*. Actors will portray Roland W. Diller, Vachel Lindsay, Dr. Henry Wohlgenuth, Judge Samuel Treat, and Phoebe Florville, a freed slave and wife of Lincoln's barber William. The Prairie Aires, an all-woman dulcimer group, will perform. Location: 1441 Monument Ave., Springfield, Illinois.

Evergreen Cemetery Walk

October 3, 4, 10, and 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Each year the Evergreen Cemetery Walk brings the voices of McLean County's history to life. Actors will portray diverse individuals on the grounds of the Cemetery. Tickets: General Public \$17. Museum Members \$14. Children & Students \$5. For ticket information, call 309-827-0428. \$2.00 discount on tickets purchased before date. Location: 302 E. Miller Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Iles House Sangamo Harvest Celebration

Saturday, October 10 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A unique evening of fall fun and food on the great lawn at the historic Strawbridge-Shepherd House on the Campus of UIS. Live Auction, Fiddle Player, Carriage Rides, Candlelight and Bonfire, 19th Century Sangamo Country Foods. For reservations at \$50 per person, call (217) 553-0055. Location: 5255 Shepherd Road, Springfield, Illinois.

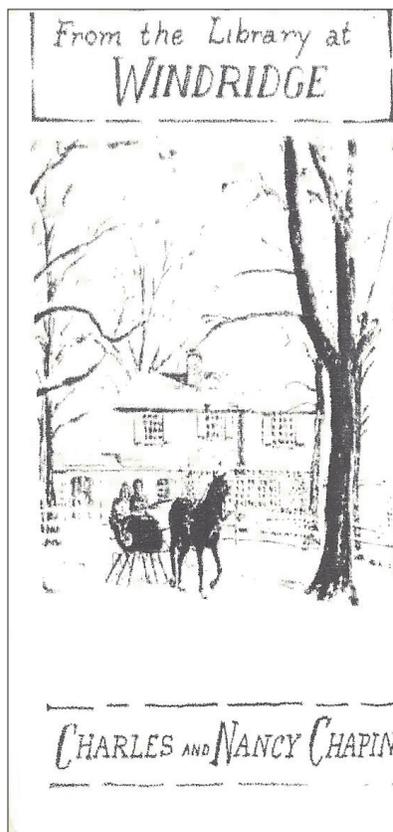
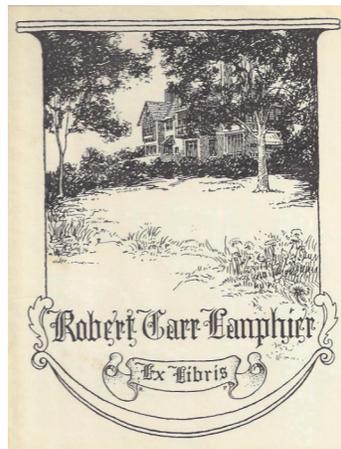


Reading Matters

By James Cornelius
ALA Director and Secretary
Curator, Lincoln Collection
Abraham Lincoln Presidential
Library and Museum

Nancy Chapin Donates Lanphier-Chapin Family Collection of Lincoln Books and ALA Publications

Members of the Chapin and Lanphier families have been members of the ALA since its beginning. Together they have attended most of the banquets since the first in 1909. Nancy Chapin is a current Board member. Nancy's husband, our good friend Charles "Chic" Chapin, died this last winter. Nancy has since assembled his collection, his parents' collection, and her father's and grandfather's collections of books and pamphlets about Lincoln and donated them to the ALA. They are now housed in the ALA Lyceum Room, on the mezzanine at the Old State Capitol. Ann and Dick Hart have donated a bookcase to house the collection. I have reviewed all of the books and had fun deciphering the autographs in many past ALA banquet programs. Of particular note are the bookplates. One for Nancy's grandfather Robert Carr Lanphier and the other drawn by Chic Chapin are pictured at right. Our thanks to Nancy for this generous donation in memory of Chic.



Mariah Vance Research of Adah Sutton

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum acquired in August 2015 a box of papers and newspaper clippings amassed by Adah Sutton, the Danville, Illinois, woman who in 1900-1904 interviewed

Mariah Vance. "Aunt Mariah" was an African-American laundress and child-minder for the Lincolns in the 1850s. The much-altered version of that oral history saw publication in the 1995 book *Lincoln's Unknown Private Life* as compiled by Lloyd Ostendorf and Walter Oleksy. Scholars found gaping holes in the method by which those two put together the 500-plus pages based on these and other Sutton notes. Yet her acquaintance with the family was real, certified in 1896 when Robert Lincoln visited Mariah in Danville and spent a long, tearful evening reminiscing with her. These papers, which include correspondence with Louis Warren, Wayne Temple, *Reader's Digest*, Bobbs-Merrill Pub. Co., and others, may yield clues to how the non-historian Miss Sutton, who later lived for decades in Attica, Indiana, tried to reconstitute her notes and get the facts into print.

Charles H. Coleman's Thomas Lincoln

Charles H. Coleman (1900-1972), an eminent professor of history at Eastern Illinois University, left behind notes toward a full biography of Thomas Lincoln, father of the president. Now Mary Coleman, M.D., his daughter and a world-renowned pediatric neurologist, has published those notes in a 94-page book that includes the basic story and useful appendices about Thomas and his wider circle of family and acquaintances. See

www.ThomasLincolnTheBook.com.

Brussel Pamphlet on Mary Lincoln Acquired

Were you aware that James Brussel, the Army's professional psychiatrist at Fort Dix, New Jersey, in 1941 wrote an analysis of Mary Lincoln? It is a short pamphlet that uses a lot of big words. Only the second known copy of it has now come to the Presidential Library; the other is at the University of Illinois Library in Urbana.

An Apology and Correction

In the last issue of *For The People*, John D. Bybee wrote a very interesting article entitled *Abraham Lincoln in Vermont, Illinois October 26-27, 1858*. In inserting his photograph and biography, the editor erred and

inserted the photograph and biography of another person.

Upon Bybee's receiving the Summer Edition of *For the People*, I received a very polite and funny call from him. He informed me of my mistake. I apologized and I do so here also. John D. Bybee's second article, *Countdown to Nance's Emancipa-*

tion, and photograph are on page 3, and his brief biography is on page 11.

For information on the Spoon River Scenic Drive, which John helps to lead every year, see page 9.



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PRESIDENT ROBERT A. STUART'S GREETING

Dear Members of the Abraham Lincoln Association,

“Failure to plan, is a plan to fail.”

The past several months have been devoted to significant planning efforts by your Association. The Long Range Planning Committee has been active resulting in our Board's summer retreat focused exclusively on our mission, goals, audience and intended audience, membership, and projects. Just one concept was separating the symposium from the banquet and moving it to the spring of the year.



Planning continues on various projects. A “Presidential news conference” is on the schedule for presentation in Washington DC. We have brought together the tentative agenda for the February 12th festivities with the February 11th keynoter, the symposium speakers and tentative commitment to speak at the Banquet from Bernice King.

ALA's *Journal* and this newsletter continue to provide outstanding material. We have delivered our grant to the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, the work of which we have supported strongly from its inception and continue to support for its invaluable contributions to the field.

We are appreciative to each of you for your support of our Association in expanding the Lincoln Legacy.

Robert A. Stuart Jr., President

(Bybee-continued from page 3)

In addition the promissory note was illegal as there was no clear and legal paper trail to document that his client had ever been a slave or an indentured servant. Finally, as Nance was born in Kaskaskia, Illinois, she was automatically freeborn. Lincoln won.

Justice Sidney Breese wrote the opinion of the Illinois Supreme Court that overturned the lower court's decision and declared the sale of one free person, namely Nance Legins-Cox-Cromwell-Costley, was illegal and void. It had taken 13 years, but Nance was free, as were her first three children. A writ of liberty was issued in her favor.

Nance's husband was Ben Costley (1822-?), and the couple lived in a log cabin along the Illinois River at the north edge of Pekin. The couple's children were: Amanda E. 1836, Eliza Jane 1838, William H. 1839, Mary Jane 1842, Leonhard B. 1845, Harriet E. 1847, Eliza Ann 1850, and James. William H. fought in the Civil War with the First Regiment of Illinois Colored Volunteers. After Appomattox, William transferred to Texas and became one of the original Buffalo Soldiers. Nance's sons-in-law, Edward Lewis, George M. Hall, and one of the four Ashby brothers, also fought for the Union.

Nance passed away at age 60 in 1873. She was alleged to have been buried in the old Pekin cemetery at the foot of Koch Street on the west side of 2nd Street. She was the single victim of the only recorded slave

auction in the state of Illinois. Lincoln's precedent of 1841 carried forward in *Sarah v. Borders 1843*, *Jarrot v. Jarrot 1845*, and set the tone of his presidency 20 years hence. Proslavers were aware of Lincoln's views and watched his rise to prominence in the Republican Party, which was pledged to prevent the spread of slavery. Lincoln's views during the Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 and other speeches around the nation cemented his nomination for the presidency.

Today, we can feel his ghost, but the true-to-life Abraham Lincoln is hidden among the weaves of oral folklore, multiple biographies, novels, and the lens of the cinema. His teenage encounter at the New Orleans slave market saddened him. His victory for Pekin citizen Nance Costley inspired him to reach beyond his lifespan with a unity of purpose towards the future for the emancipation of all oppressed people worldwide.

John D. Bybee was born in Springfield, Illinois in 1948 and grew up in Canton, Galesburg, and Vermont, Illinois. He served in the U. S. Army in Okinawa between 1968 and 1970. He graduated from Spoon River College in 1972. From 1972 to 2008, John worked for the BNSF Railroad. In the 1990s, he rode as a reenactor with Co. L, 3rd Illinois Volunteer Cavalry out of Macomb, Illinois. Col. Don Crawford commanding. He is part of a group of local historians who conduct Civil War Cemetery Tours in the Vermont Cemetery during the two weekends of the Spoon River Scenic Drive.

FOR THE PEOPLE

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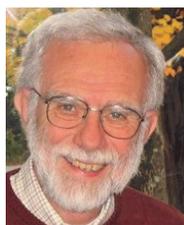
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February 12, 2016
ALA Banquet Speaker

Bernice King

Daughter of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



February 11, 2016
ALA Keynote and Roundtable Speaker

Douglas L. Wilson

George A. Lawrence Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus;
Co-director, Lincoln Studies Center, Knox College

Make your reservations now.

Use the ALA website at:
abrahamlincolnassociation.org

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