



FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

<http://www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org>

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 4

WINTER 2017

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Richard Carwardine — 2018 Annual Banquet Speaker

As an undergraduate at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in the 1960s, Richard Carwardine took his BA in Modern History. After graduation, he took up the Ochs-Oakes Graduate Scholarship in American History at The Queen's College, Oxford; he spent a year at the University of California, Berkeley, during an era of campus convulsions (1969-70).

Dr. Carwardine taught American History at the University of Sheffield from 1971 to 2002, serving a term as Dean of the Faculty of Arts. From 2002 to 2009 he was Rhodes Professor of American History and Institutions at Oxford University, and a Fellow of St. Catherine's College. In 2010, he returned to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, as President, serving until his retirement in 2016.

In 2009, Dr. Carwardine was elected to the Order of Lincoln, the highest honor of the State of Illinois.

He is a Fellow of the British Academy, a Founding Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales, and a founding member of the Council for the Defence of British Universities.

Dr. Carwardine has held visiting positions at Syracuse University (1974-75); at the



University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1989); and as the Stewart Fellow in Religion at Princeton University (2011).

His books and many essays on American religion and politics include, most notably, *Transatlantic Revivalism: Popular Evangelicalism in Britain and America 1790-1865* (Greenwood, 1978) and *Evangelicals and Politics in Antebellum America* (Yale, 1993).

His analytical biography of Abraham Lincoln won the Lincoln Prize in 2004 and was subsequently published in the United States as *Lincoln: A Life of Purpose and Power* (Knopf, 2006).

In July 2009, as an adviser to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, he convened an international conference in Oxford to examine Abraham Lincoln's global legacy. The proceedings appeared as *The Global Lincoln* (Oxford University Press, 2011), co-edited with Jay Sexton.

His most recent book, *Lincoln's Sense of Humor* (Southern Illinois University Press), was published in November 2017.

He is currently working on a book for Alfred A. Knopf, New York, entitled *Building a Righteous Nation: Religion in American National Construction from Washington to Lincoln*.

His recreations include theatre-going and acting, and especially performing Shakespeare. He is a founding member of the Abbey Shakespeare Players, who have performed annually since 1987 at St. Dogmaels Abbey, in his native Wales. Roles have included *Lear*, *Richard III*, *Shylock*, *Prospero*, *Falstaff*, *Antony*, and *Claudius*.

Major Lincoln Collection Goes to Mississippi State University



By George Buss

An enthusiastic crowd gathered on the entire fourth floor of Mitchell Library at Mississippi State University as the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library and the Frank J. and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolniana were officially opened on November 30, 2017, in Starkville, Mississippi.

The next morning Harold Holzer delivered the Inaugural Frank and Virginia Williams Lecture on Grant and Lincoln iconography. The lectures will be delivered each November at Mississippi State.

Williams, Past President of the Abraham Lincoln Association, and his wife, Virginia, donated the 30,000 piece collection gathered over forty

(Continued on page 3)

Pictured (l-r): Gregg Harper, Carla Hayden, Frances Coleman, Mark E. Keenum, Frank J. Williams, Phil Bryant, Virginia Williams, and George Buss portraying Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln Roundup

By Robert Willard

Visit to Lincoln Sites in Nation's Capital Precedes Lincoln Forum

The Lincoln Forum symposium, held in Gettysburg each November on the three days prior to the celebration of Abraham Lincoln's timeless Gettysburg Address, attracts a number of Abraham Lincoln Association members. Some from central Illinois, under the leadership of former ALA Presidents Robert Lenz and Roger Bridges, visit historically significant sites on their annual drive to Gettysburg. In 2017, the destination was Washington, D.C., where four days were spent visiting sites associated with the 16th president.

The group included current ALA President Kathryn Harris, ALA Executive Manager Mary Shepherd, and some members of the ALA Board of Directors. They saw the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Archives, the National Portrait Gallery (site of Lincoln's second inaugural ball), the Library of Congress, the U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theatre, President Lincoln's Cottage, Arlington Cemetery, Frederick Douglass's home, and other historical sites. The group was able to attend the monthly meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Washington, D.C., and a reception in their honor presented by the member of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia.

Highlights included a visit to the National Archives where the group viewed the official letter Lincoln sent to General George Meade following the Gettysburg battle. The group also visited the Library of Congress where they viewed the more critical

letter Lincoln wrote to Meade but then stuck in a drawer with the notation "Never sent. Never signed." Also viewed were the Bible Lincoln used at his first inaugural and the contents of his pockets on the night he was shot at Ford's Theatre.

In Gettysburg, ALA Directors Daniel Weinberg and James Cornelius presented a panel on "Lincoln Collecting." Jonathan W. White discussed dreams in the Civil War and Guy Fraker and Edna Greene Medford took part in a panel on "Lincoln's Friends."

Lincoln Colloquium at Chicago History Museum

The Chicago History Museum was the site of the 32nd Lincoln Colloquium on October 21, 2017. ALA is a long-time co-sponsor of this annual event. Chicago attorney Tom Campbell, Anderson University professor Brian Dirck, Springfield legal historian Christopher Schnell, Bloomington attorney and ALA Director Guy Fraker, and Illinois Supreme Court historian John Lupton presented papers on various aspects of Lincoln's law practice and concluded the full day program by responding to questions from the audience and each other. Russell Lewis, the Museum's chief historian and a member of ALA's Board of Directors, organized the colloquium and was master of ceremonies.

Rep. Fred Schwengel: ALA Member

Members of Congress make sure they, in the words of historian David Donald, "get right with Lincoln." In the mid-Twentieth century, Lincoln had no greater friend in Congress than Fred Schwengel, a Congress-

man from eastern Iowa. Schwengel was responsible for arranging Carl Sandburg's address to a joint session of Congress on the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, reenactments on the 100th anniversaries of both



Fred Schwengel—Lincoln's friend in Congress

the first and second inaugurals of Lincoln, and a concert on the Potomac River with the U.S. Marine Band celebrating the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. Schwengel also served as president of the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia and was the founder and first president of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society.

Correspondence and other records about these contributions to public history are found in the Schwengel Papers at Truman State University in Kirkwood, Missouri. The library has produced a comprehensive finding aid that will be made public shortly. In a recent visit to the library, a copy of a 1950 letter to The Abraham Lincoln Association was found. In it the forty-six-year-old Schwengel notes that he has just read enough of the *ALA Quarterly* to know that he wants to have his own copy. "If I can be a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association, I would gladly send the subscription or dues."

In 1993, Fred Schwengel died, still a member of ALA. His memory is preserved by Truman State University through its annual Lincoln contests in art, essay, and oratory established by Fred and his wife Ethel, both alumni of Truman State.

--Robert Willard is ALA Vice President.



Pictured in front of the Gutzon Borglum bust of Abraham Lincoln in the U.S. Capitol Crypt (l-r): Robert Lenz, Sarah Thomas, Rodney Ross, Tom Link, Ray Rongley, Al Azinger, William Shepherd, Mary Shepherd, Guy Fraker, Kathryn Harris, John Elliff, Roger Bridges, Roger Billings, Bob Willard, and Robert Davis.



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Letter from President Harris

Happy New Year to All!

The hectic holiday season has ended, and a New Year with new beginnings, new challenges, and new opportunities is here. I wish all of you good cheer, good friends, good health, and good times in 2018.

As I come to the end of my tenure as your President, I can truthfully say that it has been my honor and privilege to serve you and to represent our Association. As I recall the events of the past two years, I have many wonderful memories that not only include the Banquets and the Symposia, but also the many special events and the informative articles that have appeared in our Journal and this newsletter.

To me, a stroll down memory lane is warranted and it brings to mind highlights that include the 2016 Banquet where Rev. Bernice King was our keynote speaker and her parents were honored. In Spring 2016, we joined with the Illinois State Library and distributed to Illinois libraries two beautiful books by Board member Michael Burlingame and photographer Robert Shaw: *Abraham Lincoln Traveled This Way* and *Lincoln at Gettysburg*. These volumes were well received at the libraries and served not only to keep alive the legacy of our 16th President, but also to bring recognition to our Association. A July 2016 trip to Costa Rica with Past President Robert Lenz will always be cherished: learning about “their” Lincoln, Juan Rafael Mora, and zip-lining above the canopy! That summer, Alan Lowe, the incoming Presidential Library & Museum Executive Director, accepted from our Association for the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection an extra-illustrated three-volume edition of Isaac N. Arnold’s 1884 *The Life of Abraham Lincoln* that contained long-hidden manuscripts.

At the 2017 Banquet, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner shared with Banquet attendees what Mr. Lincoln meant to him and how he influenced his life, and our colleague Thomas Johnson was posthumously awarded the Lincoln the Lawyer Award. In the summer months we sponsored a series of “Porch Chats” at the Iles House. Especially well attended was the “chat” about Thomas Lincoln’s furniture and life that was coordinated by Past President Dick Hart. The inaugural meeting of the Korea Abraham Lincoln Society was held in April, and incoming President Bob Willard was honored to be the keynote speaker at the event in Seoul. The summer’s Eighth Circuit bus tour, coordinated by Guy Fraker and Nancy Chapin, with help from Ann Kramer, was a rousing success. I hope that ALA will sponsor more of these tours for our members and friends in the future. And finally, in November 2017 I travelled to Gettysburg with several ALA members, and we had an amazing tour of libraries, museums, and historic sites along the way. My sincere thanks go out to everyone who made this trip informative and memorable. The Lincoln Forum was chock-full of information, and I was pleased to be named to the Advisory Board.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the passing of Board members and friends during my tenure: Fred Hoffmann, Tom Johnson, Molly Becker, Earl “Wally” Henderson, Brooks Davis, and Betty Hickey. I will forever remember and thank them for their contributions to our Association and for their tireless dedication to and love of our 16th President.

Finally, as I turn the leadership reins over to our outstanding and capable Vice President, Bob Willard, I am confident and assured that the work that lies before us is in good hands and that our Association will continue to keep the legacy of our 16th President alive and relevant and honored.

Thank you for allowing me to be your President these last two years. I bid you a fond and affectionate farewell.

Kathryn Harris



(Collection—continued from page 1)

years to MSU realizing their wish to have an institution in the south serve as repository for their collection but that is also available for study and research purposes. The recent \$10 million addition to Mitchell Library will now serve as the permanent location for both the Williams Collection and the Grant Library.

Congressman Gregg Harper, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, Archivist of the United States David Ferriero, Dean of MSU Libraries Frances Coleman, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, and the Executive Director of the U.S. Grant Papers John Marszalek also spoke at the opening. “Thousands upon thousands will come to see these exhibits,” Governor Bryant said. “They will marvel that it is here in Mississippi, and they will come to know us better. This is a great day for Mississippi’s future.”

Grant and Lincoln interpreters Curt Fields and George Buss were on hand during the entire day’s festivities for conversation and a myriad of pictures.

--George Buss is an educator and nationally recognized Lincoln presenter.

ALA Supports Youth Camp Teaching Lincoln and Leadership



By Amy Hathaway

Making history relevant to the younger generation is no easy feat. Fortunately, the Looking for Lincoln (LFL) organization has developed a solution in *LEAD: The Spirit of Lincoln Youth Academy*. LEAD is a week-long camp that not only teaches children about Abraham Lincoln, but also uses immersive experiences to empower young adults to develop those qualities that made Lincoln a great leader. The ALA has recently joined as a sponsor.

The program targets middle school-aged students who participate in 4-H, a worldwide organization that has been committed to developing leadership, citizenship, responsibility, and life skills in children for over a century. The students in LEAD are chosen for their *potential* for leadership. The organizers of LEAD strive to maintain a diverse but manageable group (up to 40 students) of participants. Currently LEAD is available to the 4-H chapters in the Lincoln Heritage Corridor, but LFL has plans to expand the program.

For one full week, the “emerging leaders” explore the qualities that made Abraham Lincoln a great leader and learn why those same traits are important in our leaders today. They also are shown how they can apply those qualities as they develop their own leadership skills for the future. One important aspect of the program is that participants can literally walk in Lincoln’s footsteps when they travel to the various historic sites within the National Heritage Area (LEAD participants at Lincoln Tomb appear

in picture above).

Guided by LFL staff, history professionals, and college students who serve as mentors, LEAD participants are afforded the opportunity to see how people were able to make a difference in their communities and effect change in their state and their nation.



Through a series of group discussions and projects, students learn how people in today’s world face many of the same challenges as those faced by Lincoln and other leaders of his day, including issues such as racism. As they learn the leadership qualities of honesty, empathy, humility, and perseverance, students develop a plan for incorporating those qualities into their own lives as they return home. Their connection to LEAD does not end there: one of their assignments is to write a letter to themselves to be read two years after their experience.

To date, 69 youths from 32 communities have taken part in LEAD. While spearhead-

ed and administered by LFL, the program is truly a public/private partnership involving the Union Pacific Railroad, Illinois College, 4-H University of Illinois Extension, Lincoln Home National Historic Site / National Park Service, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum, Niemann Foods (County Market), the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and now the ALA as well. The program’s cost of \$1,000 per child is born by the generosity of the program’s sponsors -- a small investment for such invaluable return.

-- Amy Hathaway is an ALA Director.

In May 2016 long-time ALA Board member and leader Molly Becker died. She left an unrestricted bequest to the Abraham Lincoln Association. At its October meeting, the ALA Board of Directors authorized that the first payment from the bequest would be directed to supporting 2018 activities of LEAD. The Board also invited the LFL leadership to submit a proposal for future expansion of the program that could be financed by the Becker bequest. ALA President Kathryn Harris, who had worked closely with Molly in the past, said, “Molly would be so pleased to see that her generosity will have life-changing effects and that the importance of Abraham Lincoln is being passed along to the next generation.”



Molly Becker

President Lincoln (and others) at St. John's Church, Washington, D.C.

By Richard F. Grimmert

After arriving by train at Washington, D.C., in February 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln checked in to Willard's Hotel. The next morning, Sunday, February 24, he joined Senator William Seward to attend a church service at St. John's Episcopal Church on Lafayette Square. Seward had been a member of St. John's Church for some time, and owned a pew in the church. Lincoln and Seward sat in that pew (No.1) near the altar for the service. As reported at the time, despite the prominent location of Seward's pew, few in the church recognized Lincoln, including the rector, Rev. Dr. Smith Pyne. This church service, at St. John's Church, was the first one in the nation's capital that Lincoln attended after winning the presidency.¹

Thus began the association of Lincoln with that building. During his presidency, Lincoln found time to visit the church again. St. John's, at its founding in 1816, set aside a pew (No. 54) for the exclusive use of the President of the United States whenever that person would attend a service. Lincoln, as president, used this pew, located in the center section of pews in the church eight rows back from the altar, but he did so infrequently. Jane Wilkes, daughter of Admiral Charles Wilkes (who captured the British mail ship *Trent*), occupied a pew in St. John's Church, owned by her father and used by her and the Wilkes family from the 1840s until her death in 1921. The Wilkes pew (No. 46) was in a direct line with the President's Pew a few rows behind it. Jane Wilkes stated that when Lincoln occupied the President's Pew, he was accompanied by his private secretaries, John Nicolay and John Hay.

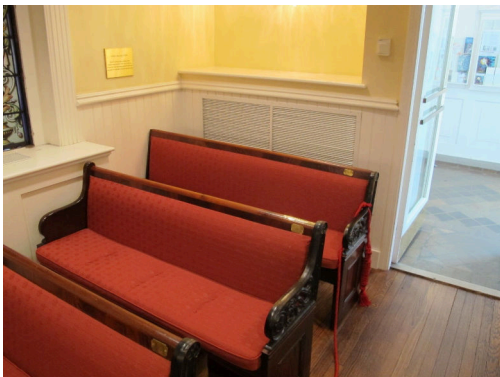
More often President Lincoln would quietly slip alone into the last pew tucked into the far right back wall of the church on its south side, adjacent to an exit. Use of this pew



St. John's Church, Lafayette Square (circa 1863)

allowed Lincoln a period of quiet reflection without drawing attention to himself, which would be the case were he to sit in the prominently located President's Pew. Rev. George Williamson Smith, a young assistant minister of St. John's in 1863-64, noted that Lincoln was always alone when he occupied this pew (No. 89); that he would come for Evensong (late afternoon) services or an evening service. Consistently, Lincoln would depart prior to the end of these services and walk back to the White House. A plaque for "Lincoln's Pew" has been placed on the wall near pew No. 89.²

Research in 2017 turned up another notable figure in the Lincoln story attending the church: Major Henry Rathbone, who accompanied the Lincolns to Ford's Theatre on a fateful night. The son of a well-off mayor of Albany, NY, Rathbone bought a centrally located pew in December 1865 for \$240. After his marriage in 1867 to Clara Harris (whose father Ira in March 1861 had taken up Mr. Seward's Senate seat), the young family and children attended for several years, from their nearby home also on Lafayette Square. It is not known whether Major Rathbone knew of Lincoln's back-row pew, but, eerily, the Rathbones' pew and the solo "Lincoln Pew" both bore the number 89 at different times.



Lincoln's Pew, St. John's Church, Washington, D.C.

Endnotes

1. *Washington Evening Star*, February 25, 1861, 3; *Washington National Republican*, February 25, 1861, 3. The *Star* article explicitly noted that Lincoln and Seward sat in "Mr. Seward's pew (No. 1) near the altar." Seward's pew was renumbered in 1883 to No. 65, but was permanently removed from the church during its 2008 renovation, before its association with Mr. Seward under that new number had been discovered.
2. Jane Wilkes shared her recollections of this period, including Lincoln, with St. John's parish historians who knew her personally before her death. Rev. George Williamson Smith knew the White House residents through his weekday work as a clerk at the Navy Department. In 1864, President Lincoln appointed him a Navy Chaplain; later he served as President of Trinity College in Connecticut. After his retirement Smith rejoined St. John's Church in the capacity of assistant rector, from 1910 until his death in 1925. He often recounted to parishioners his pride in preaching to President Lincoln during his first years at St. John's, and specifically noted Lincoln's use of the last pew in the back right corner for late afternoon or evening services.

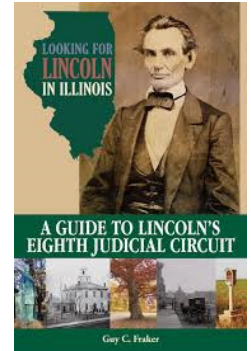
--Richard F. Grimmert is an historian and author of *St. John's Church, Lafayette Square: The History and Heritage of the Church of the Presidents*, Washington, D.C.

Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium Speakers



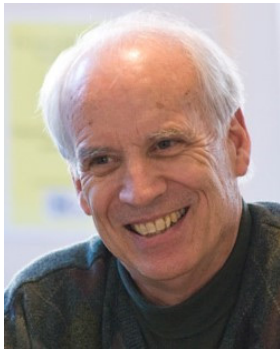
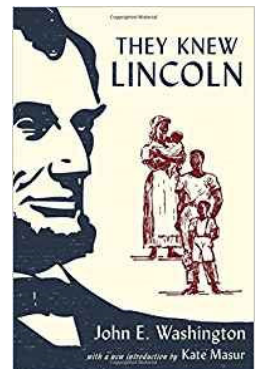
Guy C. Fraker

Guy Fraker has written two books on the Lincoln Circuit. The first, *Lincoln's Ladder to the Presidency: The Eighth Judicial Circuit*, was published in 2012 and was the first book ever specifically devoted to Lincoln and the Eighth Judicial Circuit. The second book is the companion book also dealing with Lincoln on the Circuit. *Looking for Lincoln in Illinois: a Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit* was published in October 2017. The book encourages the readers to visit the roads and towns of Lincoln's Circuit. It contains maps and directions to guide the reader around the Circuit as well as over 90 pictures. It is the third in a series of books published as part of Looking for Lincoln. Guy is a retired attorney living in Bloomington, Illinois and a member of the ALA Board of Directors.



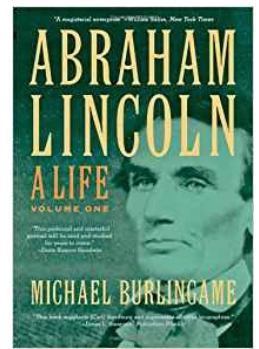
Kate Masur

Kate Masur earned her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 2001 and is an historian of the United States. Examining the intersections of law, politics, and everyday life, her scholarship explores how Americans grappled with questions of race and equality after the abolition of slavery in both the North and South. Her most recent project is the republication of a largely forgotten classic in Lincoln studies and African American history, *They Knew Lincoln* by John E. Washington. First published by E. P. Dutton in 1942, *They Knew Lincoln* excavates Lincoln's relationships with African Americans, including members of the White House staff and Lincoln's Haitian-born barber in Springfield, William de Fleurville. She is currently an Associate Professor of History at Northwestern University.



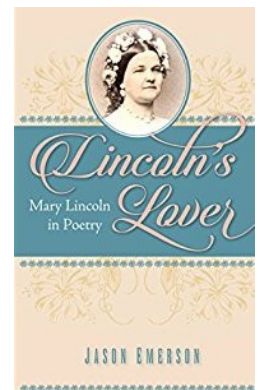
Michael Burlingame

Michael Burlingame, holder of the Chancellor Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies at the University of Illinois Springfield, was born in Washington, D.C. and attended Phillips Academy, Andover. As a freshman at Princeton University, he took the Civil War course taught by the eminent Lincolnian David Herbert Donald, who took him under his wing and made him a research assistant. When Professor Donald moved on to Johns Hopkins University, Burlingame upon graduation from Princeton followed him to that institution. There he received his Ph.D. In 1968 he joined the History Department at Connecticut College in New London, where he taught until retiring in 2001 as the May Buckley Sadowski Professor of History Emeritus. He joined the faculty of the University of Illinois Springfield in 2009. Professor Burlingame is the author of *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* (2 vols.; Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008) and *The Inner World of Abraham Lincoln* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1994). He is a member of the ALA Board of Directors.



Jason Emerson

Jason Emerson is an independent historian and journalist living near Syracuse, New York. He is currently the editor of the *Cazenovia Republican* newspaper. He is the author or editor of multiple books about Abraham Lincoln and his family, has published numerous articles and book reviews in both scholarly and popular publications, and has appeared on Book TV, American History TV, and The History Channel. He has worked as a National Park Service park ranger at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Gettysburg National Military Park, and the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (the Arch) in St. Louis. Jason has two books coming out in 2018: *Lincoln's Lover: Mary Lincoln in Poetry* (Kent State University Press) and *Mary Lincoln for the Ages* (Southern Illinois University Press).



ALA Events Celebrating Abraham Lincoln's 209th Birthday Springfield, Illinois

1

Free and
Open to Public

ALA-Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium

Opening Address

Sunday, February 11, 2018

6:00 p.m. House of Representatives, Old State Capitol

Guy Fraker will speak on his new book, *Looking for Lincoln in Illinois: A Guide to Lincoln's Eighth Judicial Circuit*.

2

Free and
Open to Public

ALA-Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium

Monday, February 12, 2018

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. House of Representatives, Old State Capitol

Kate Masur will speak on John E. Washington, the first African-American to publish a book on Lincoln, *They Knew Lincoln* (1942).

Michael Burlingame will speak on other African-Americans in Washington, D.C. who knew Lincoln.

3

Reservations
Required -
\$30 per person

Dr. Thomas F. Schwartz Luncheon and Lecture

Monday, February 12, 2018

1:00-2:00 p.m. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Atrium

Jason Emerson will discuss "*Mary Lincoln for the Ages: She is Not the Woman We Think She Is*"

4

Free and
Open to Public

Round Table Discussion with All Speakers

Monday, February 12, 2018

2:30-4:00 p.m. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 2nd Floor

Book signing to follow

5

Reservations
Required -
\$85 per person

ALA Banquet

Monday, February 12, 2018

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 7th and Adams

Richard Carwardine

Lincoln's Humor

Banquet Reception: 6:00 p.m. Presidential Ballroom Lobby

Banquet: 7:00 p.m. Presidential Ballroom

All events are free and open to the public with the exception of the Luncheon (\$30 per person) and the Birthday Banquet (\$85 per person). Advance registration is required for these two events and can be obtained at the "Upcoming Events" page on the ALA website.

www.abrahamlincolnassociation.org

Entertainment in Lincoln's Springfield (1834-1860)

By Richard E. Hart

This essay is a summary of the book Entertainment in Lincoln's Springfield (1834-1860) by Richard E. Hart, published by the Abraham Lincoln Association in November 2017.

For many years while scrolling through low tech microfilm of the *Sangamo Journal* and the *State Register*, the two newspapers of Lincoln's Springfield, I noticed advertisements for various "entertainments." I thought that it would be interesting to collect these ads and share them with the Lincoln world, but the time to do that was something I didn't have. Several years ago, however, techie geniuses created a new website that contained these Springfield newspapers in a searchable form—it is called GenealogyBank. (<http://genealogybank.com>.) I thank those techie geniuses for their contribution to historians and their gift of time that allowed me to search in this quick and easy format and create *Entertainment in Lincoln's Springfield (1834-1860)*.

The earliest record of these entertainments and the first advertisement for what can be considered as "entertainment" in Springfield was for the Sangamon County Lyceum. The ad appeared in the *Sangamo Journal* and was dated January 4, 1834. The entertainment was to be held on Thursday evening, January 9, at the Presbyterian Meeting House and the question for discussion was *Ought the Gen-*

eral Government appropriate funds in aid of the Colonization Society?

Thereafter, on most succeeding Thursday evenings during January and February 1834, the Sangamon County Lyceum met for discussions, lectures, and debates. Titles of future Lyceum lectures and debates included: *Ought capital punishment be abolished? Do the signs of the present times indicate the downfall of this Government? Ought Texas to be admitted into the Union? Ought Aliens be permitted to hold civil office? Habits and foods natural to man. The Influence of poetry upon National Character.*

During all of the 1830s, Springfield was a small village with a population that grew from around 1,000 in 1830 to 2,600 in 1840. Much of the 1830s "entertainment" was similar to the 1834 Sangamon County Lyceum lectures and debates described above. In step with a national phenomenon—the creation of local lyceums—the Sangamon County Lyceum and the Springfield Lyceum were formed and provided a platform for Springfield men to learn and debate topics of current interest—Milton Hay, Dr. Anson G. Henry, and Edward Baker Dickenson, to name a few. Some of these lectures were free and open to the public. Others were open only to "members," and sometimes in the early days women were excluded. On some occasions women were invited to attend, but they were never invited to lecture. That honor was reserved for men. During the 1830s, the lo-

cals lectured, debated, sang songs, participated in choirs and performed popular theatrical pieces. This was the standard fare for entertainment during the 1830s.

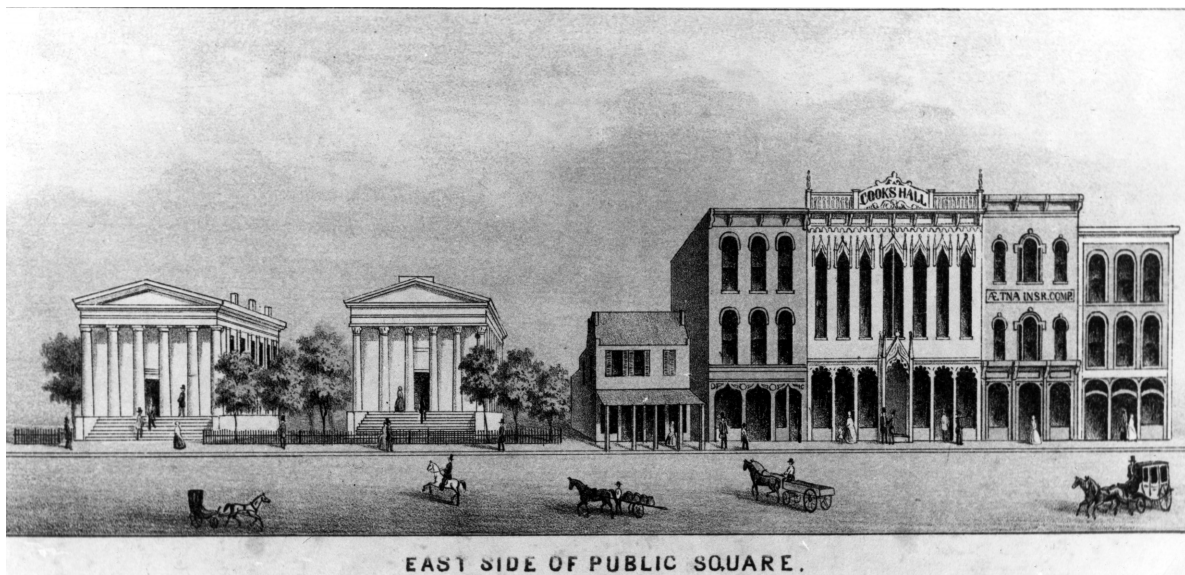
In 1838, The Young Men's Lyceum requested Abraham Lincoln, a 28-year-old newly arrived Springfield lawyer, to address its members. They met at the Baptist Church on Saturday evening, January 27, 1838, and Lincoln spoke on *The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions*. Much has been written about this Lincoln lecture. It has been scrutinized and debated by historians, who cite the lecture as a foreshadowing of Lincoln's later public policies and addresses. This is the most enduring of all the Springfield entertainments.

THE YOUNG MEN'S LYCEUM will meet at the usual time and place. In compliance with the request of the Lyceum, A. LINCOLN, Esq. will deliver an Address to the members of that body on Saturday evening the 27th inst. The public are invited to attend.
By order of the Lyceum. J. H. MATHESY, Sec'y.

Journal, Saturday, January 27, 1838.

Here is how William Herndon, who would become Lincoln's law partner in 1844, described the event:

...we had a society in Springfield, which contained and commanded all the culture and talent of the place. Unlike the other one [The Sangamon County Lyceum] its meetings were public, and reflected great credit on the community ... The speech was



After the February 13, 1858 fire, the east side was rebuilt with four, three-story brick buildings. One of them, the third building from the right, housed a large public hall on the second floor. It came to be known as Cook's Hall and was a popular place for public gatherings, theatrical performances, balls and parties, and drills of the Springfield Grays.

brought out by the burning in St. Louis a few weeks before, by a mob, of a negro. Lincoln took this incident as a sort of text for his remarks ... The address was published in the *Sangamo Journal* and created for the young orator a reputation which soon extended beyond the limits of the locality in which he lived.

By 1840, Springfield's population had grown to 2,579. During that decade, as well as the preceding decade, there was no "place" dedicated to indoor performances. Entertainments were held in churches and other public places. The hall of the House of Representatives and the chamber of the Senate in the State Capitol were favorite venues after about 1844.

The Springfield population in 1850 had grown to 4,533. That decade saw the coming of the railroad and after about 1853 specific places were dedicated to the commercial performing arts. These were not public places, but rather private entrepreneurial businesses. They were usually on the upper floor of a three-story building around the Public Square. There were a number of these: the Concert Hall on the north side of the Public Square, Cook's Hall on the East Side of the Square, the Masonic Hall at Fifth and Monroe, Chatterton's Hall, Clinton's Hall, and Gray's Saloon. When the Metropolitan Hall opened in early 1856 with 1,200 seats, it was by far the largest amusement hall in Springfield as well as in the State of Illinois.

In the 1850s, Springfield was fortunate to be on the tour route of many traveling entertainments as they moved between Chicago and St. Louis, often stopping in Springfield for a "gig." These "entertainments" were commercial ventures requiring the purchase of tickets to be entertained by traveling artists in an astounding variety of performing arts: singers, family bell ringers, opera singers, minstrel singers, magicians, pantomimes, lecturers on a number of subjects including science and education, violin and flute concerts, holiday celebrations and balls, panoramas, readers of plays and performers of plays from Shakespeare to Irish farce, band concerts, and balloon ascensions, Fourth of July celebrations, and celebrations of the birthdays of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Robert Burns.

Many of the names of those "entertaining" in Springfield are familiar to us even today. Horace Mann would be surprised to know that 150 years after his 1859 lecture in Springfield, one of its principal businesses is Horace Mann Insurance. Titans in mid-19th century American political and intellectual life lectured in Springfield between 1839 and 1860 and included the following abolition-

ists: Samuel Hanson Cox, D.D. (He was known for his skills as an "eccentric" orator who would sometimes lapse from English into Latin.), Rev. Joseph Parish Thompson, Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, James Rucker, Dr. Jonathan Blanchard, Rev. John Mason Peck, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Elihu Burritt, Rev. Theodore Parker, and Joshua R. Giddings. Their lecture titles gave no indication that the speaker was an abolitionist or that the speaker might speak about abolition.

On Monday evening, January 10, 1853, Ralph Waldo Emerson gave the first of three lectures in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the Illinois State House. His first lecture was titled *Wealth and The Anglo-Saxon*. Orville Hickman Browning, Whig, Republican, United States Senator and Secretary of the Interior, was present and made the following diary entries about his three evenings with Emerson lectures.

Monday January 10 At night I attended in the hall of the house, and heard a lecture from Ralph Waldo Emerson on the Anglo Saxon. His language was chaste, strong and vigorous—much of his thought just—his voice good—his delivery clear, distinct and deliberate—his action nothing. He limned a good picture of an Englishman, and gave us some hard raps for our apishness of English fashions & manners.

Tuesday, Jan'y 11 1853 Heard Emerson's lecture in the hall of the House of Rep; upon power. He is chaste & fascinating, and whilst I cannot approve all his philosophy, I still listen with delight to his discourses. They contain much that is good, and are worth hearing.

Wednesday, Jan'y 12 1853 Went to Ridgley's to supper, and attended Miss Julia [Ridgley] to the State House to hear Emerson's third lecture on culture.

Unlike Emerson's name, most of the names of the entertainers are not recognized by today's reader. Fortunately, technology in the form of Google search provides biographical information in an instant, unveiling the shadows of the past. One minstrel was said to have been Mark Twain's model for his descriptions of minstrel shows. Another entertainer, a French ascensionist, was said to have been the aero naught for Emperor Napoleon III in the Franco-Austrian War, one year after his ascension for an astounded Springfield audience.

In the category of "she went on to become" was Fanny Raymond Ritter, America's first female musicologist. Fanny was born some-

time between 1830 and 1840, most likely in England, and died in Poughkeepsie, New York in 1891. Her father was most likely Richard Malone, an Irish entertainer who immigrated to America and toured with his daughters in a family act using the stage name Raymond.

Fanny was a young lady when she made her Springfield appearance in *Abroad and at Home*, a vocal concert by Malone Raymond and family-- Fanny, Emily and Louisa. They appeared on Friday evening, August 29, 1851, at American House, Springfield's finest hotel located at the southeast corner of Sixth and Adams streets, opposite the Illinois State House.

Fanny excelled as a salon musician, teacher, vocalist, and keyboardist. She was described as a fine organist and "the mistress of the German language, in the songs of Schubert, Schumann, and Robert Franz." Fanny was also sought after as a translator, writer, and historian. Beginning in 1859, her translations, including Wagner's essays, were published. Her first original article appears to have been "A Sketch of the Troubadours, Trouveres, and Minstrels" for the *New York Weekly Review* on August 13, 1870. Fanny did original research as early as 1868 when she is credited with writing explanatory notes for her series of "historical recitals" performed at both Vassar and in New York. Many of these essays were then compiled in a book entitled *Lyre, Pen, and Pencil* published in 1891.¹¹ Her efforts culminated in the translation of Robert Schumann's *Gesammelte Schriften und Texten* published in book form in 1876.

One of Fanny's most significant essays, *Woman as a Musician: An Art-Historical Study* was written in 1876 for the Centennial Congress of the Association for the Advancement of Women. Fanny's essay was the first specifically musical writing of its kind and as such was a catalyst for dialogue in American musical circles concerning women's place in music.

Some of the itinerant entertainers were scoundrels, leaving unpaid advertising bills from their local stay. One soprano had been the former wife of the King of Bavaria and the mistress of many European notables. When she lectured on "fashion," William Herndon did not like that at all. He lectured the night following her appearance, scolding those who had attended and lecturing all on the general decline in community standards.

But, the most interesting, salacious tidbit from all of the entertainments involved a pianist, Sigismund Thalberg. He had been decorated by every European potentate. While touring Illinois, the mother of a young

member of Thalberg's troupe shot at him for "fiddling" with her daughter. The report is that Thalberg quietly left Illinois and headed back to Europe on the sly and in disgrace.

The saddest story involves a young boy named Nicholas Goodall, a flute player genius. Nicholas appeared at the Masonic Hall in Springfield on February 21, 1855. He was wildly popular and extended his Springfield stay. He was even invited to parties in private Springfield homes. There is no evidence to put Abraham Lincoln at any of his concerts, but he was in Springfield during this time and may have attended.

On the evening of April 14, 1865, Nicholas was purported to have been present at Ford's Theatre where his father was first violinist in the orchestra. It is said that young Nicholas witnessed the assassination of Lincoln and thereafter fell into a hopeless depression. His father placed Nicholas in an institution for the insane. Nicholas lived there and in the local alms house until his death at age 32 in 1881.

No doubt Abraham Lincoln attended some of these entertainments during his residency in Springfield from April 1837 to February 1861. He loved Shakespeare and the theater. There were a number of performances of that sort that he may have enjoyed—Mr. Emmett, reading Othello and Richard III; Mr. Boothroyd, reading Shakespeare; Mrs. Macready, reading scenes from Macbeth; Charles Walter Couldock, reading Macbeth; Miss M. Tree, reading Hamlet; and Rev. Henry Giles, lecturing on Women of Shakespeare.

Abraham Lincoln most likely attended several of the Springfield entertainments. *Entertainment in Lincoln's Springfield* notes the dates when Lincoln was in Springfield and could have possibly attended entertainments. The amazing fact, however, is that some of the entertainments that appeared in Springfield later appeared in Washington, D. C. and were attended by President Lincoln. Perhaps he also saw the entertainment in Springfield as well.

Bayard Taylor was one of those who appeared in Springfield and Washington. Taylor gave three lectures in Springfield on Monday, Friday, and Saturday, March 12, 16, and 17, 1855. He spoke in Metropolitan Hall which seated 1,200 at the invitation of the Young Men's Christian Association. He charged 25 cents for an attendee to hear him speak on Japan, India, and The Philosophy of Travel. Abraham Lincoln was in Springfield.

Taylor arrived in Springfield in a driving rain and found the town a mud hole. In 1859, he published his impressions in the first volume of *At Home and Abroad*. There he wrote:

I must do Springfield the justice to say that it has its sunshine side, when the mud dries up with magical rapidity and its level streets become fair to look upon. The clouds cleared away on the morning after my arrival, and when my friend, Captain Diller, took me to the cupola of the State House and showed me the wide ring of cultivated prairie, dotted with groves of hickory, sugar-maple, and oak, which in spheres the capital of Suckerdome, I confess that it was a sight to be proud of. The young green of the woods and the promising wheat fields melted away gradually into blue, and the fronts of distant farm-houses shown in the morning sun like the sails of vessels in the offing. The wet soil of the cornfields resembled patches of black velvet—recalling to my mind the dark, prolific loam of the Nile Valley.

In 1862 during the administration of President Lincoln, Taylor entered the United States diplomatic service as Chargé d'Affaires under the minister to Russia at St. Petersburg. On Friday, December 18, 1863, Bayard gave a lecture on Russia at Willard's Hall, in Washington, D. C. President Lincoln attended the lecture and a week later suggested to Bayard that he prepare a lecture

on "Serfs, Serfdom, and Emancipation in Russia."

Lincoln's Springfield was indeed a small town on the western frontier of the United States. Such or similar descriptions have led many to assume that it was a backwater, a sleepy, uninvolved, intellectually barren place. Young John Hay, the recent class poet at Brown University, wrote to his friend back east that there was not much going on in Springfield and not anyone worth talking to. Abraham Lincoln's office was next door. Such are the errors of youthful perception.

To the contrary, Springfield was home to a vast array of interesting entertainments. From 1834 until the end of 1860, there were over 300 entertainments given in at least 22 separate Springfield venues. While minstrel shows are offensive by today's standards, most of the other entertainments are similar to those that remain current today. They would not be found in the popular culture of our time, but rather they would be classic fodder for PBS, National Geographic history programs, or today's performing arts centers. They would find it hard to compete with today's popular movie and television culture, and that speaks highly of the entertainments of Lincoln's Springfield!

I hope that readers will find *Entertainments in Lincoln's Springfield* interesting, fun, and helpful in filling in the details of the environment that Abraham Lincoln experienced in his 24-year Springfield residency. I have enjoyed preparing this glimpse and as always have been amazed at what I find in Lincoln's Springfield when closely examined. I am a strong believer that the minutiae of local history matters, particularly in helping us understand the world around those who acted on the larger stage of history.

--Richard E. Hart is an ALA Past President.

This article will also be carried in modified form in an upcoming edition of *Lincoln Lore*.

Footnotes available upon request.

Novel about Lincoln's Grief Is Honored in Great Britain



George Saunders won the 2017 Man Booker Prize for his first novel, *Lincoln in the Bardo*. This prestigious British award honors the best in English language fiction. Saunders's novel takes place in Georgetown's Oak Hill Cemetery where the body of Willie Lincoln has recently been placed. Numerous spirits interact with each other as they observe Lincoln on the evening he visits his deceased son.

According to the Booker Prize principal judge, "The form and style of this utterly original novel, reveals a witty, intelligent, and deeply moving narrative. This tale of the haunting and haunted souls in the afterlife of Abraham Lincoln's young son paradoxically creates a vivid and lively evocation of the characters that populate this other world. *Lincoln in the Bardo* is both rooted in, and plays with history, and explores the meaning and experience of empathy."

Plans for a major motion picture based on the book are under consideration.

Champaign County Courthouse Gets Bicentennial Portrait



At the Champaign County Courthouse in Urbana, Illinois, in November, officials unveiled a portrait of Lincoln taken by Alexander Hesler in June 1860. Kent and Marilyn Tucker of Rantoul donated it in honor of their late daughter, Jennifer, as part of the effort of the Illinois State Historical Society (ISHS) to place this portrait in all 102 Illinois county courthouses to mark the state's 2018 Bicentennial. To date, nearly fifty counties have taken part. Bill Furry of the ISHS spoke on Lincoln's connections to the county and the state, and ALA Director Guy Fraker, seen here at right, discussed the history of the Hesler photograph. Also attending were ALA Directors (from right) James Cornelius and Steve Beckett, along with John Hoffmann, longtime Lincoln and Illinois history expert from the University of Illinois Library.



Welcome new ALA members

Raymond Allamong
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Donna Becker
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Tom Doyle
Taylorville, Illinois

Jim Edwards
Gillette, Wyoming

Carolyn Evans
Edmond, Oklahoma

James R. Frick
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Greenwood Village, Colorado

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Alton, Illinois

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Washington, DC

Marshall Schacht
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Voigt and Sandra Smith
Sterling, Illinois

Matt Stark
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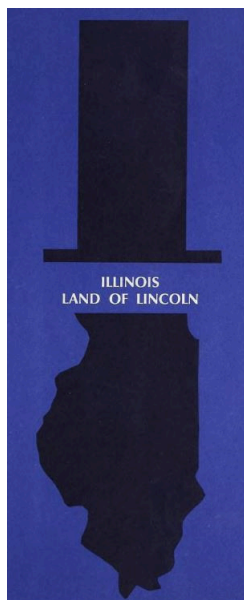


ALA to Participate in Illinois's Bicentennial

December 3, 2018, marks the 200th anniversary of Illinois's becoming part of the United States. Throughout the year, individuals and communities will undertake projects to honor the history of their state. The Abraham Lincoln Association will seek opportunities to engage in these celebrations, recognizing that the history of Abraham Lincoln is interwoven with that of the state he adopted as home at the age of twenty-one.

While other states and places may take pride in their connections with the history of Abraham Lincoln, Illinois proudly trumpets it. License plates have bragged about Illinois as the "Land of Lincoln" for more than six decades. (Illinois legislator Fred Hart, uncle of ALA Past President Dick Hart, was instrumental in the state's adoption of the "Land of Lincoln" slogan.) Every year, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to the state in the never-ending quest of Looking for Lincoln.

The State of Illinois held a very special place in Lincoln's heart, as does he in the hearts of Illinoisans.



"To this place and the kindness of these people, I owe everything." That is what he said in an emotional farewell as he left for the Nation's capital in February 1861. Illinois is where he learned a profession, practiced politics, nurtured a family, developed leadership skills, and debated the Nation's future in a way that reverberated across the whole country. In Springfield, he now rests for all eternity.

It is most appropriate that the Abraham Lincoln Association, with its own roots in Springfield, will join in the bicentennial celebration with a renewed commitment to the purposes which have guided it for the past century:

To observe each anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; to preserve and make more readily accessible the landmarks associated with his life; and to actively encourage, promote, and aid the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of his life and career.