



FOR THE PEOPLE

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The Widow

By Toni Chappell

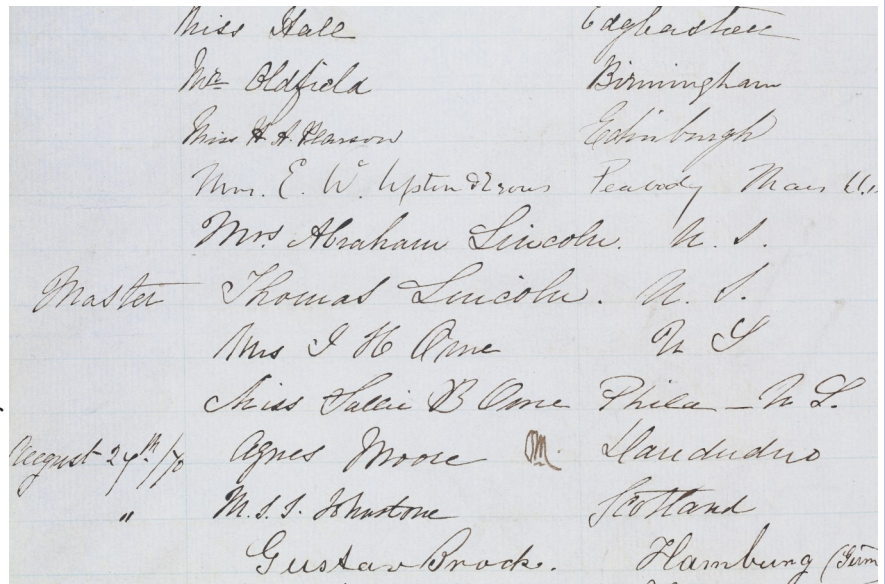
Saturday, August 27, 1870. An American woman dressed in widow's weeds enters a house on Henley Street in Stratford-upon-Avon. Having recently arrived from a self-imposed exile in Germany, she steps across the threshold and pauses for a moment before addressing the imposing visitor's log where she signs her name: Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. It will be more than 150 years before history records her pilgrimage.

Though hundreds of Mary Lincoln's personal letters survive, tracking her journey abroad in the years after her husband's assassination remains a difficult task. Her letters offer a scattered roadmap only. Arriving in Frankfurt, Germany, in October 1868, Mary and Tad Lincoln used the city as a base for exploration until the summer of 1870 when the escalation of the Franco-Prussian War forced many travellers, including the Lincolns, to flee to England. Mary's last known letter from Frankfurt, dated by historians, was written August 17th, 1870 (Turner and Turner, p. 575). In the next letter of record, dated September 7, York, England, Mary notes a recent visit to London. By September 10th, Mary and Tad are in the Midlands.

In three weeks' time, Mary and Tad had travelled from Frankfurt to London (likely via Southampton), on to Stratford-upon-Avon, Liverpool, York, and Leamington Spa. Even today, this is an ambitious itinerary, but in an age of steamships, railroads, and carriages, it was even more so. Now, thanks to the archives at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (SBT), we know a bit more about Mary's journey, including the visit she paid to Shakespeare's childhood home. Contemporary issues of the *Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser*

and the *Leamington Gazette* offer additional insights into Mary's movements.

On September 3, the *Leamington Gazette* reports that "Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. J. H. Orne, Miss S. B. Orne, Mr. T. Lincoln, Mr. P. B. O'Neill," had recently arrived at the Regent Hotel in Leamington. Given the newspaper's weekly distribution schedule, we can assume the travellers checked in between the 26th of August and the 2nd of September, suggesting that a tour of the house on Henley Street on Saturday the 27th of August had been a priority.



Logbook image: Courtesy of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

On October 1, the *Gazette* reports the arrival of "Mr. W. Henderson, London, Mrs. Orne, Miss Sallie Orne, Mr. P. B. O'Neill." Listed separately are "Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, U.S.A." On October 8, another announcement of the arrival at the Regent of "Mrs. Lincoln" and "Master Lincoln, U.S.A." (continued on p. 3)

George Will Is Our February 2024 Banquet Speaker

The internationally known columnist and political commentator George Will is to be the featured speaker at the annual ALA Banquet this winter. The date falls on the Presidents Day 3-day weekend again: Saturday, February 17, 2024, at the President Lincoln Hotel in downtown Springfield. Social hour at 6:00 p.m.; banquet at 7:00. Watch our website soon for reservation links. The free Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium is on the same day, same site, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; then the book-signing. Prices for lunch or banquet and the symposium speaker names will run in the December newsletter.

Lincoln News Notes

Photo on p. 8: Sculptor Bill Wolfe clasped hands with his own bronze creation at a major unveiling in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on Sunday 27 August 2023. The ALA made large financial grants and helped to sponsor this project, which now graces the spot where Lincoln gave his only speech in the nation's 26th state, on 27 August 1856 when he stumped for the first Republican presidential candidate, John C. Frémont.

Photo below (l-r): unknown new Lincoln fan; Scott Schroeder and Brian Steenbergen, ALA directors who greeted the crowd and handed out ALA literature.

It was the **Kalamazoo Lincoln Institute**, co-chaired by Dr. Tom George and Cameron Brown, that marked for the first time the Bronson Park speech, which was not fully recorded by researchers until many decades later. Fremont carried Michigan that year, as did Lincoln in 1860 and again in 1864.



Our query in the Summer issue about the location of the 3rd replica model (2nd surviving) of Lincoln's Tomb has been answered by Sandy Vasko of Lockport, Illinois. It is in the Kibbe Hancock Heritage Museum, in Carthage, Hancock County, Illinois. This one, however, lacks models of the statuary. A full replica remains on view at the Long Nine Museum, Athens, Ill.

The Lincoln Presidential Foundation's first documentary film, ***Warning Signs: Lincoln's Response to Rising Tensions in the 1850's***, has been nominated for a Regional Emmy, on top of winning 3 earlier awards.

The **Lincoln-Douglas Society** of Freeport, Illinois, will present the one-person drama *Mr. Lincoln*, by Herbert Mitgang and starring John O'Connor, on Saturday, Oct. 26th at 1:30 p.m. in the Winnishiek Theatre, Freeport. This show premiered in 2013 at New Salem's Theatre in the Park. Call 815.975.7631. Donations accepted.

Since 2006 Karen Needles, with recent help from devoted interns at Pittsburg (Kansas) State University, has operated the **Lincoln Archives Digital Project**, www.lincolnarchives.org, a public service that digitizes the federal records created during the Lincoln Administration, including Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branchess, as well as such other wartime materials as newspapers. Write her at Karen.needles@gmail.com, or 240.462.9802.

The Beaumont Endowed Lincoln Legacy Lecture, hosted by UI Springfield, returns in a new locale: the Presidential Museum, downtown Springfield. The date is Friday October 6th, 7:00 p.m. (heavy hors d'oeuvres at 6:00). Speakers are **Michelle A. Krowl** (an ALA director) and **Christopher Oakley** (professor of New Media at UNC Asheville), on how interdisciplinary research and the digital humanities advance our understanding of Lincoln.

Coming in the Fall (44:2) *Journal of the ALA*

Thomas G. Cannon, "Abraham Lincoln's Genealogical Quest, 1848-1865"

Glenn W. LaFantasie, "Lincoln and the American Military Tradition"

A review by Gordon Leidner of Allen C. Guelzo, *Abraham Lincoln: Redeemer President*, Second Edition, Updated and Revised.

A review by John McKee Barr of Fred Lee Hord and Matthew D. Norman, eds., *Knowing Him by Heart: African Americans on Abraham Lincoln*.

"Recollections of Lincoln" by Rev. Noyes W. Miner, 1881-1882— the first complete transcription.

Please note that in 2021 the Journal shifted from Winter and Summer issues to Spring and Fall. This forthcoming issue should reach all members during October.

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The Widow (continued from p. 1)

Leamington became a new base for the Lincolns – Tad attending to his studies while Mary appears to have traveled back to Frankfurt at least once (Turner and Turner, p. 578). Then on November 19th, the *Gazette* notes “Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln of 6 Wellington Street” had removed themselves to London. The next extant letter from Mary is addressed to her daughter-in-law and presumed by the Turners to have been written in November from London. The timing fits, though further research into the address in Leamington may prove more illuminating.

These pins in the map of Mary’s travels are helpful, but what of Mary’s tour through Shakespeare’s birthplace, and why does it matter? Her visit to Stratford offers a poignant reminder of heartache in the wake of loss. Grief clung to Mary Lincoln, and she clung to the obsequies of her bereavement, evident in her mourning clothes and near-constant allusions to her loss. Yet, up to this point, Mary had shown a fondness for traveling incognito (ostensibly to avoid criticism from the U.S. Congress and the press that she was gallivanting around Europe). Would she pass up the opportunity to represent herself and her husband in this special place? After all, by the end of August 1870, Mary’s battle with Congress to secure a widow’s pension had ended in her favor. Her anxiety was, for the moment, assuaged.

“Mrs. Abraham Lincoln,” she wrote in a practiced hand, then, placing her pen in the far left column (something no one else on the page had done), she wrote, as if the formality of it bore witness to the gravity of the moment, “Master Thomas Lincoln.” Mary’s friend, Sally Orne, signed next, followed by Sally’s daughter.

History is replete with stories of the Lincolns reading Shakespeare and attending theatrical performances. In 1862, Mary had gifted her oldest son, Robert, an eight-volume set, *The Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare* (now in Ft. Wayne’s Lincoln Financial collection). So, it is easy to imagine Mary’s skirts dusting the floor of the old Tudor house, a place both she and her husband might have visited together had an assassin’s bullet not ended Abraham Lincoln’s life at the close of America’s Civil War.

Meantime, Tad Lincoln, recently turned 17, was a young man versed in German and French, well-travelled, and increasingly homesick for his brother Robert and Rob-

ert’s young family. A devoted and almost certainly burdened son, Tad may have escorted Miss Sallie Orne, age 16, through the rooms, the teenagers rapt or paying scant attention to the details of Shakespeare’s life. Did Tad’s mother impress upon him the importance of this pilgrimage and what it might have meant to his father? Perhaps Tad and the young Miss Orne discussed President Lincoln’s penchant for reading aloud his favorite Shakespearian passages. Maybe they wrote their names on the wall or etched their initials into the window glass as so many other visitors had done.

England was the last stop on Mary and Tad’s Grand Tour. Tad had been pressing his mother to send him home to Chicago, but Mary was reluctant to put her son on a ship alone. She persuaded Tad to stay in England until the following spring. In early May 1871, the pair set sail from Liverpool aboard the *SS Russia*, arriving in Chicago by May 21st (Turner and Turner, p. 587). Two months later, Tad was dead. The same typhoid fever that had killed his brother Willie in the White House had likely weakened Tad’s heart and lungs. He had picked up a cold on the Atlantic voyage to New York. Whether he succumbed to pleurisy, to pneumonia, or to congestive heart failure, Tad Lincoln, only 18 years of age, died on July 15, 1871, leaving his mother and only surviving sibling to navigate what would continue to be a fraught relationship.

I like to picture Mary on that late August Saturday in 1870, climbing the narrow stairs, gazing out of the window in the room where Shakespeare is said to have been born, and casting her mind back to happier days with her husband and sons. The signatures in the Shakespeare Birthplace visitor logs are a poignant waypoint in the tragic life of Mary Lincoln, and a discovery weighted with deeply sorrowful implications.

**Daniel Weinberg of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago, Illinois, examined a digital photograph of Mary’s signatures and submits the following: “Though I have examined only a computer image of the signature, it appears to be in Mary Lincoln’s hand and, hence, is an exciting discovery.”*

— Dr. Toni Chappell recently completed her Ph.D. in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University in Bath, England. She seeks an agent for her debut novel, *Widow Lincoln*.

Abraham Lincoln and James Semple in the Ninth G.A.

By George Provenzano, Ph.D.

On December 7, 1835, Abraham Lincoln of New Salem joined General James Semple (1798-1866; fn. 1) of Edwardsville in answering Governor Joseph Duncan's (1794-1844) proclamation to convene in a special session of the Ninth General Assembly in Vandalia.(2) The chief reason for this irregular event was that the Assembly had in its previous session adopted a resolution from John T. Stuart of Springfield to reapportion state representatives and senators among counties to align with population estimates from the recently completed Illinois State Census of 1835.(3) This important reapportionment would mark the watershed between the early dominance of southern Illinois and the subsequent ascendancy of central and northern Illinois in producing elected majorities in the General Assembly.

Lincoln and Semple entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, which occupied the entire first floor of the decrepit state capitol building. Plaster was falling from ceilings; exterior walls were sinking. In the following summer, Governor Duncan ordered the building to be replaced. Abraham took his chair at one of the wooden tables long enough to seat three members. The tables were set in rows in school-house fashion. Each representative sat facing forward toward a single elevated, rickety table that served as Mr. Speaker Semple's podium.

At an uncommonly tall 6' 3", Semple, who was in his second term, could look the gangly 6' 4" first-term Lincoln squarely in the eye when attempting to discern his political inclination on an issue. Members of the General Assembly did not yet sort themselves out according to party affiliation, Democrat or Whig. Instead, they were Jackson men (the incumbent president) or Clay men (a U.S. Senator from Kentucky), depending on whom they had supported in the 1832 presidential election. Although Jackson men maintained a clear majority in the Illinois House and Senate, there were gradations in these members' willingness to adhere to Old Hickory's policies. 'Whole hog' Jackson men were the President's most loyal supporters, while those in the 'milk-and-cider' camp refused to follow some of his dogmatic partisan directives.

Semple, who self-identified as a Jackson man, was easy-going; others regarded him as straightforward in all his dealings. A year earlier, at the beginning of the Ninth General Assembly, Semple had been elected Speaker of the House, defeating another Jackson man, Charles Dunn of Pope County, on the first ballot. Lincoln, in his first recorded vote in the General Assembly, voted against Semple for Speaker.(4) Yet

their differences were more complex than this single vote reflecting one man's ambition.

The House and Senate proceeded with the scheduled business of the special session for about three weeks until December 26, when jarring news arrived from Washington, D.C.: U.S. Senator Elias Kent Kane of Randolph County had died unexpectedly on December 12, aged 41. Vandalia erupted with considerable excitement and politicking over who would replace Kane. With the



James Semple, ca. 1860; published for the first time. Courtesy of Elsay Historic Foundation, Elsay, Illinois.

G.A. already in session, a senatorial election could be held without delay. Nine candidates announced their interest in seeking the office.(5)

Two days later, Governor Duncan provided the General Assembly with the official communication from Washington of Kane's death. The House immediately passed a resolution to meet in joint session with the Senate the next day, December 29, to elect a new senator.(6) Four principal contenders emerged -- all Jackson men of varying degree: Speaker Semple, who was considered the overwhelming favorite; State Senator William Lee Davidson Ewing (1795-1846) of Fayette County; Richard Young, circuit judge from Quincy; and recently elected Lieutenant Governor Alexander Jenkins from Jackson County.

The House and Senate met in joint session and conducted this unusually competitive election. On the first 8 ballots, Semple led, and Ewing was second. Young and Jenkins each garnered enough votes to prevent either of the two leaders from obtaining a majority. Lincoln voted for Young on the first 4 ballots, then switched to Jenkins. When Young dropped out on the 8th ballot, Lincoln went over to Ewing, who won on the 12th ballot.(7) Oddly, Lincoln and Semple had both voted for Young in December 1834 when he ran against incumbent U.S. Senator John McCracken Robinson for a 6-year term in Washington.

Semple was clearly embarrassed by the General Assembly's selection of Ewing, but he could hardly blame Lincoln for his loss. There wasn't a Clay man running to replace Kane, and Lincoln was only one of a handful who stubbornly voted for the two laggard candidates. Semple lost because he failed to chip away any votes from his chief rival Ewing's loyal bloc. The main reason for a steadfast adherence to

(continued on p. 5)

Semple (cont'd from p. 4) Ewing was that Semple was the Martin Van Buren caucus candidate, chosen during the state's first-ever Democratic Convention, which had been held in the statehouse three weeks earlier.⁽⁸⁾ Ewing rejected this outcome; he attended the convention but was unwilling to allow the caucus system to select nominees for public offices. Ewing had managed to tar Semple, the elected president of the convention, as an ardent supporter of Van Buren's Democratic Party machine. Ewing claimed that his own policies aligned with Van Buren's but preferred being accountable to the voters and not to caucus members, a view that resonated in particular with Whigs in the G.A. Instead, Ewing announced that he supported U.S. Senator Hugh Lawson White of Tennessee (whom Lincoln later came to support, too).

A correspondent for Springfield's Whig *Sangamo Journal*, who may have been Lincoln himself, described Semple's fate in rather unflattering terms. Dated Dec. 29, the dispatch noted that the Democratic Convention exposed divisions in the party's willingness to unite behind Van Buren for president. The correspondent then rubbed salt into the wound of Semple's defeat by concluding that the convention exposed the Speaker as the leader of the faction most loyal to Van Buren: "These two [Semple and Ewing], mind ye, are large fowls: they'll kill them off faster when once they get among the little ones."⁽⁹⁾

*More on the relationship between Abraham Lincoln and General James Semple will be presented in a forthcoming issue of the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*.

George Provenzano, an economist, retired after more than 50 years in research and teaching at universities and in the public and private sectors. He resides in Godfrey, Illinois.

Footnotes: 1) "Cronology (sic) of James Semple, of Illinois," undated, typed manuscript of James Semple's handwritten list of his significant life events. Eugene Semple Papers, Box 9, Folder 25, Special Collections, University of Washington Library, Seattle; William Burton, "James Semple: Prairie Entrepreneur," *Illinois Historical Journal*, Vol. 80, No. 2 (Summer 1987), 67-68. 2) *Illinois State Register and Vandalia Advocate*, Oct. 28, 1835, 3. 3) *House Journal*, 9th G.A., 1st Session, February 13, 1835, 561. 4) *House Journal*, 9th G.A., 1st Session, December 1, 1834, 5. 5) "Death of Senator Kane," *Sangamo Journal*, January 2, 1836, 3. 6) *House Journal*, 9th G.A., 2nd session, December 28, 1835, 164. 7) *House Journal*, 9th G.A., 2nd session, December 29, 1835, 175. 8) The Democratic Convention, held only to select electors pledging to vote in the Electoral College for Van Buren, was not part of the G.A.'s proceedings but was held in the capitol during the first two days of its special session. *Sangamo Journal*, Dec. 5, 1835, 2. 9) Lincoln composed many anonymous dispatches about legislative events for the *Sangamo Journal*. Although his journalistic contributions are difficult to identify, William Baringer was persuaded that the folksy style of the Dec. 29 dispatch was Lincoln's. "Vandalia, Dec. 29, 1835," *Sangamo Journal*, Jan. 9, 1836, 2; see Baringer, *Lincoln's Vandalia: A Pioneer Portrait* (New Brunswick: Rutgers Univ. Press, 1949), 66-67; Burlingame, *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*, 2 vols. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2008), 95-96.

Abraham Lincoln Legal Legacy CLE for Practicing Lawyers

By William Shepherd, ALA Vice President

On September 8, 1856, attorney Abraham Lincoln was in federal district court in Chicago, Illinois, to defend his client "The Railroad Bridge Company" in a civil lawsuit that would help determine the method and means of interstate commerce in the United States. On September 8, 2023, one hundred sixty seven years later, the Illinois State Bar Association and the Abraham Lincoln Association collaborated on a continuing legal education (CLE) seminar that examined this famous lawsuit entitled *Hurd et al. vs. The Railroad Bridge Company* (commonly known as the "Effie Afton" case). The facts of the case involved the collision of a cargo steamship, the "Effie Afton," with the new railroad bridge over the Mississippi River, near Rock Island, Illinois. The collision caused the steamship to sink, resulting in significant monetary loss to the plaintiffs. Lincoln's legal skills were put to the test in this case, which ultimately was decided in favor his client at the appellate level.

This CLE was the Fifth Annual Abraham Lincoln Legal Legacy for Practicing Law CLE that the Abraham Lincoln Association began, with the ISBA, as an essential component of the ALA mission to bring the Lincoln legacy to the people. The 2023 program was held in Rock Island near where the collision of boat and bridge took place. A room full of lawyers studied that "Effie Afton" case along with a variety of 21st-century emerging issues such as artificial intelligence, intellectual property, and privacy in a cyberdrive age.

Kudos and thanks to the ALA members who shared their legal knowledge and experience in these CLEs : Ron Spears, Guy Fraker, Roger Billings, and John Lupton.



Lincoln with Boy on Bridge"
by Jeff Adams

Rock Island, Illinois

Commonly known as the "Effie Afton" Lincoln statue

Collecting Lincoln's Hair: Old and New Evidence

By Lee Eutsey

Mary Lincoln's first cousin Dr. Lyman Beecher Todd of her hometown Lexington, Kentucky, described Lincoln's assassination for journalist Ida Tarbell in his 1895 manuscript "An Account of Two Visits to Abraham Lincoln ... His last hours ... The Autopsy." He wrote that no fewer than three of Mary's Todd relatives from Kentucky were on hand for the tragedy in D.C., including himself, and that all three had access to the heavily guarded Petersen house as the president lay dying there.

Dr. Todd wrote to Tarbell of his being given a "special invitation" from Surgeon-General Joseph Barnes to attend the cranial postmortem examination of the slain President scheduled for Saturday April 15, noon, in the 2nd-floor northwest bed-chamber of the White House. He told Tarbell that "Through me he [Barnes] had extended an invitation to my brother-in-law, Mr. Wm. Edward Swift (also) of Lexington, Kentucky, who at that time was on duty in the department of War." Dr. Todd thereby implied that the Todd family privilege applied to extended family as well.

At one point during the cranial autopsy, we know by way of other historic documents, that hair from the rear of Lincoln's head was procured for a few attendees. The long-accepted historical narrative says that Mary sent a messenger for a lock of hair and that the Lincoln family physician, Robert King Stone, who shared authority with Surgeon-General Barnes over the postmortem procedure, clipped the hair for her, then for others present as well as for himself. The hair relics were later described as having been taken from "close to the wound."

But then there is Dr. Todd's 1895 "Account" for Tarbell. He wrote that the scissors were actually handed to him by no less than General Martin Hardin of Illinois (son of John J.), and that he both cut locks of hair requested by Cousin Mary and then boldly took a lock from the President's "left temple" for himself. Dr. Todd made no mention of the hair relics taken that day by participants as told in the usual historical narrative — relics which we know still exist in modern collections.

It would perhaps be easy simply to dismiss his deviation as a proposition in ego-feeding or glory-seeking. It can certainly be said that Todd's manuscript does fall prey to the sort of historical blundering that can make inquiring minds question the very foundations of the article. In places, readers may find themselves sympathetic to his aging memory's "creative flourishes," and in other spots Todd's factual flaws amount to nothing short of pure eyestrain. Take, for example, the passage in which he describes the night of the fateful shooting. He maintains as a fact that one "Dr. McMillan of our city of Lexington" was the first physician "lifted into the box" at Ford's Theatre and "in a moment" announced, "The President is fatally shot!" At no time in the past century and a half has a "Dr. McMillan" of Todd's hometown held any place in the Lincoln assassination story.

Fast forward to 2020 when Boston-based RR Auctions put up on the block a telegram from the night of the assassination

sent to Dr. L B Todd. The telegram in and of itself is a curious thing, but is largely unremarkable, save for the artifact folded within it: a 2-inch-long lock of hair bound with dark string. The inscription "Hair of A Lincoln" written in the lower-right-hand corner is in pencil. The paper telegram itself bears a stain of the blood of the martyr, presumably from capturing the hair within it and pocketing it while the hair was still wet with blood.

The 11:00 p.m. arrival of the telegram at the War Dept. on the evening of April 14 easily places Todd with it on his person by the following forenoon when the autopsy was about to take place. The presence of a pattern of blood on it suggests that the hair wrapped in the telegram was taken prior to three o'clock that afternoon, when embalming surgeon Henry P. Cattell was said to have begun his closing and suturing the head together. The hair and body were then washed of any traces of the tragedy. As suggestive as these circumstances may be, they still do not place the scissors in the hands of Dr. Lyman Beecher Todd in such audacious fashion.

Now consider the following: The Lincoln Financial Foundation of Fort Wayne, Indiana, has in its holdings a page from a 1988 auction catalog. The page offers no context for which auction it belonged to. One lot on this mysterious page offered bidders the following: "(Lincoln, A.): A large lock of Lincoln's hair" "This hair cut from head of Abraham Lincoln by Dr.



Lincoln's skull fragments. Courtesy of the National Museum of Health and Science.

L. B. Todd, cousin of Mrs. Lincoln – Taken with blood upon it. Mr. Swift, Brother-in-law of Todd, gave it to J. A. Dodge April 15 (1865)." It would seem, with the inclusion of the auction catalog entry, that Dr. Lyman Beecher Todd just may have attained some credibility where recently he has sorely lacked it. To repeat: W. E. Swift, who was previously claimed by Todd to have been at the autopsy, is now said to have had in his possession a lock of Lincoln's hair "taken with blood upon it" by Dr. L. B. Todd on the very date of the autopsy. A third party, J. A. Dodge, is named to confirm this. If we can all agree that this much is true, then what do we make of the previously "historically accepted" story as well as the other bits of hair taken that we know still exist in modern collections?

One narrative cannot be all right and the other all wrong. Taken together, however, could they begin to change the story we have always accepted into one that is new and more historically accurate? This one would both expose and celebrate the ultimately fascinating new common ground.

— *Mr. Eutsey, an ALA member in Bloomington, Illinois, is a Lincoln postmortem historian and speaker.*

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Or, as always, you can join or renew at abrahamlincolnnassociation.org

Important Note on Membership Mailings: Thank you to the members of the ALA for your continued support. The most important part of our organization are our members, who make all activities and publications possible. This year's activities included the annual February banquet and symposium; support of the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area for their continuing LEAD program -- a youth leadership academy; the continuing ALA grant program supporting Lincoln legacy projects such as the new statue in Kalamazoo (see p. 2); plus a one-day summer symposium in Wheaton, Illinois. Moreover, ALA board members continue to participate in myriad Lincoln-related conferences and panel discussions around the country.

An ALA membership makes a fine gift -- for a Holiday, for a birthday, or for a graduation.

Look for New Mail

Members will be receiving membership renewal notices soon. The notices will be sent by the University of Illinois Press (UIP). UIP has been a long-time partner of the ALA, as printer and distributor of the *ALA Journal*, and they will now be keeping track of ALA membership, too, including renewal notices. Beginning this Fall your renewal notices will be sent to you by UIP, and your membership renewal or new membership will now be processed at UIP.

Please do not disregard U.S. Postal mailings or emails from the University of Illinois! As always, renewals and new memberships can also be made at www.abrahamlincolnnassociation.org under 'Membership.' We thank you.

End of Year Charitable Giving — Please Consider the ALA

The Abraham Lincoln Association is a tax qualified charitable 501(c)(3). The ALA encourages you to make a tax deductible donation to the ALA Endowment by year end. This donation will help the ALA to further enhance its mission to bring the Abraham Lincoln legacy to the people. A donation beyond the ALA membership dues will provide the financial base to take the Lincoln message beyond the *Journal* and the newsletter. An additional way to support the work of the ALA would be a donation from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). If a donor is 70 ½ years or older and a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from the IRA must be made, a donation to the ALA Endowment could be made without an increase in the income tax liability of the donor. The donation must be from the IRA directly to the ALA, and the gift must be made without any material benefit to the donor. Please consult a financial advisor before making such a donation to the ALA Endowment. Thank you for your consideration.



Jacob K. Friefeld, Ph.D., was named the director of the Center for Lincoln Studies at the University of Illinois Springfield and started on August 16, 2023. Previously he had worked as the Illinois and Midwest Studies research historian at the Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield. As director, Friefeld (FREE-feld) will lead efforts to advance research, education, and public understanding of Abraham Lincoln's life, legacy, and historical significance. He takes over from interim director Anne Moseley, who continues on the UIS staff.

Faculty with endowed chairs in the CLS include Prof. Michael Burlingame, ALA President; and Prof. Graham Peck.



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See p. 2 for news item



Abraham Lincoln Association Grants Program

By Dave Joens, Grants Committee chair

Since 2016, the Abraham Lincoln Association has offered grants to help fund non-ALA projects that promote Abraham Lincoln and his legacy. Grant amounts typically range from \$500 to \$6,000.

Funding for the program comes from the ALA's endowment fund. Grants are awarded on a first come, first serve basis throughout the calendar year until the year's funding runs out. A formula determines how much funding is available each year, though the ALA typically has between \$13,000 and \$25,000 to distribute.

All grant applications are reviewed by the ALA's grants committee, then voted on by the ALA's Executive Board. Applicants can receive full or partial funding of their requests.

Grants typically go to fund the preservation of Lincoln materials; to sponsor or support Lincoln symposia or programs; or to help fund accessibility to Lincoln-related materials, including placing these materials on-line. Though a one-for-one match is not required, in most cases the ALA does not provide full funding for a project.

Examples from past years of grant recipients include:

Papers of Abraham Lincoln	\$6,000 to help fund its content management system
Lincoln Group of Washington, D.C.	\$500 to help fund a Lincoln-related lecture
Iles House Foundation, Springfield	\$600 to help sponsor series of talks on Lincoln
University of Illinois Springfield	\$1,000 to support two lectures on Lincoln
Looking for Lincoln	\$3,000 for programming
Indiana Historical Society	\$1,000 to assist funding the Lincoln colloquium
Lincoln Heritage Museum	\$2,500 to help pay for a Lincoln banner restoration
Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Project	\$5,000 to assist in the purchase of a statue
Watch Night Program, Springfield	\$1,000 to sponsor Emancipation Proclamation event
Peoria Historical Society	\$3,400 to fund a Lincoln-related historical marker
Monroe County, Ind. Civil War Roundtable	\$3,400 for two-day program on Lincoln

Application forms for grants can be found on the ALA website. Successful applicants are required to note the ALA's contribution in their publicity materials and to file an after-event report that details how the event was received by the public and how the money was spent. Please apply, and thank you for supporting Lincoln studies.