



# FOR THE PEOPLE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 4

WINTER 2023

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

[www.abrahamlincolnnassociation.org](http://www.abrahamlincolnnassociation.org)

## Our Banquet Speaker Will Be Nigel Hamilton

ALA members and their friends can look forward to hearing a world-renowned writer on “Lincoln and Roosevelt: Two Wartime Commanders in Chief” when we meet in Springfield, Illinois, on Saturday, February 17, 2024 to mark Lincoln’s 215th birthday.

**Nigel Hamilton**, whose credentials are unsurpassed as an analyst of political helmsmen and their military leaders, will be drawing in part on research for a dual biography of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis (Nov. 2024).

Professor Hamilton, now teaching at the McCormack Graduate School at U. Massachusetts - Boston, was born in England and is now a U.S. citizen. His prize-winning trilogy (2014-2019) about Franklin D. Roosevelt as a wartime president was preceded by a trilogy on Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, the basis for a documentary film. Those were preceded by two volumes on Bill Clinton; a news-making portrait of John F. Kennedy, *Reckless Youth* (which ended the Kennedy family’s cooperation with him and thus cut short the trilogy); and a book inspired by Roman history, updated as 12 chapters about *American Caesars: Lives of the Presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to George W. Bush*.

Professor Hamilton has led a fascinating life. He has four grown sons. His father was editor of the *Times* of London. His early career as a book publisher and then as owner of a bookstore gave him an ear and an eye for the well-written popular but scholarly history. He helped to revitalize the storied London borough of Greenwich, with its naval and time-keeping roles, and then along with his mother wrote a guidebook about the place. Proving his breadth early on, his first book had been a dual biography

of the German novelist-brothers Heinrich and Thomas Mann. Professor Hamilton, it may be evident from all this, has thought deeply enough about the writing of dramatic lives that he established an institute in London for the revitalization of biography itself, summarized in his essay “The symbiosis of history and biography.”



Please tell your friends and ask them to join you for this exceptionally interesting night at the banquet. It will be, in other ways too, a signal event: Professor Hamilton marks his own 80th birthday on the night before our banquet, and the evening will be the dénouement of Professor Michael Burlingame’s four years as president of the Abraham Lincoln Association. (More news by or about him appears on pp. 3 and 5.)

Register online now at our website or await the formal invitation to all ALA members, which will appear in mailboxes soon. See you there!

*(George Will, who was announced in the Fall newsletter as the banquet speaker, has been obliged to withdraw.)*



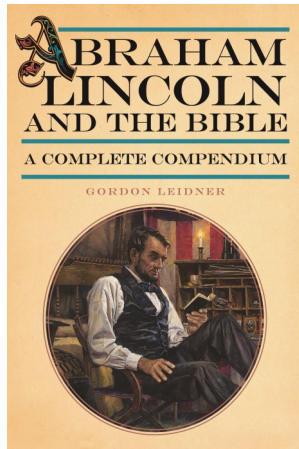
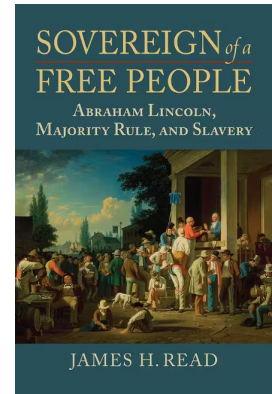
## And See Page 2 for February 17th Symposium Speakers

The Benjamin P. Thomas Memorial Symposium, free to all listeners, and the Thomas F. Schwartz Luncheon for \$45.00, have an all-new line-up of 4 speakers for 2024. Please see page 2 for the full listing. Note that those who do not pay for the luncheon may sit alongside to hear that talk. Reservations are now being taken at [abrahamlincolnnassociation.org/symposium](http://abrahamlincolnnassociation.org/symposium). Or call Kay Smith at 217.546.2656. As before, all events will be held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, at 7th and Adams in downtown Springfield. Please mention the ALA for the group rate if booking a room by calling 217.544.8800, or at <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/abrahamlincolnnassociation24/>.

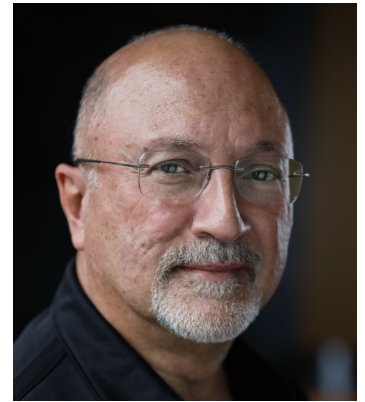
## Benjamin P. Thomas Symposium and Thomas F. Schwartz Luncheon, Saturday 17 February 2024



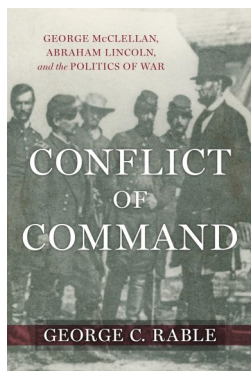
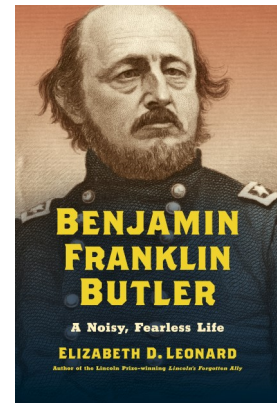
James H. Read is Professor of Political Science at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University of Minnesota. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1988. His new book, his 4th, is *Sovereign of a Free People: Abraham Lincoln, Majority Rule, and Slavery* (2023). He lives in Avon, Minnesota, where he also serves as chair of the city's Planning Commission.



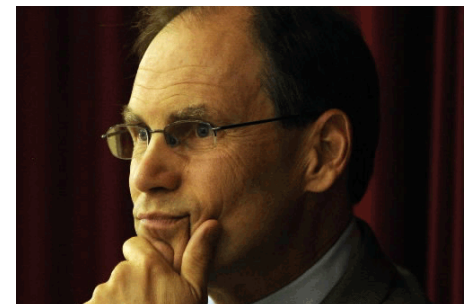
Gordon Leidner's graduate studies centered in Leadership Theory at the University of Maryland, and he has written on Lincoln's effectiveness as a transformational leader. In the new *Abraham Lincoln and the Bible* he continues to examine that leadership, focusing on how he was changed by the Bible and used scripture to inspire the northern people to sacrifice to eliminate slavery.



The Luncheon speaker, Elizabeth Leonard, taught at Colby College for 3 decades and previously published on Joseph Holt as Lincoln's Judge Advocate General (Lincoln Prize co-winner, 2012). Her new book is a much-discussed revision of, and addition to, our knowledge about General Benjamin Butler.



George C. Rable is Professor Emeritus at the University of Alabama. His seven books on the Civil War era include *Fredericksburg! Fredericksburg!* (Lincoln Prize, 2003). Among his many honors, he served as president of the Society of Civil War Historians in 2004-2008. He will address us on his 2023 book (LSU Press), *Conflict of Command: George McClellan, Abraham Lincoln, and the Politics of War*.



The cost of the luncheon is \$45.  
 James H. Read 10:00 a.m.  
 Gordon Leidner 10:45 a.m.  
 Luncheon 11:30 / E. Leonard 12.  
 George C. Rable 1:15 p.m.  
 Roundtable, with Prof. Michael Burlingame moderating, 2:15-3.

Coffee & registration begin at 9:30.

**Book-signing from  
 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

ALL FOUR SPEAKERS, as well as Nigel Hamilton, will be making their first appearances in front of the ALA. Let us give them a deservedly warm welcome.



## The Abraham Lincoln Association

Michael Burlingame  
*President*

William G. Shepherd  
*Vice President*

James M. Cornelius  
*Secretary*

Donald R. Graham  
*Treasurer*

Bob Willard  
*Immediate Past-President*  
Kay Smith  
*Executive Manager*

### Board of Directors

Kenneth L. Anderson

William E. Bartelt

Roger D. Billings, Jr.

Michael F. Bishop

Roger D. Bridges

Julie Cellini

Joshua A. Claybourn

Chris DeRose

Joseph Fornieri

Guy C. Fraker

Jacob K. Friefeld

Joseph E. Garrera

Allen C. Guelzo

Kathryn M. Harris

David Joens

Ron J. Keller

Michelle A. Krowl

David H. Leroy

John A. Lupton

Sue S. Massie

Dan Monroe

James W. Patton III

Tiffany A. Player

Mark B. Pohlad

Roger D. Rudich

Scott T. Schroeder

Ronald D. Spears

Ruth E. Squillace

Brian Steenberg

Robert A. Stuart, Jr.

James L. Swanson

Louise Taper

Andy Van Meter

Daniel R. Weinberg

Jonathan W. White

Stephan M. Young

### Honorary Directors

President Joe Biden

Governor J. B. Pritzker

Senator Richard Durbin

Senator Tammy Duckworth

Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski

Congressman Darin LaHood

Congresswoman Mary Miller

Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis

Mayor Misty Buscher

### Emeritus Directors

Robert J. Lenz

N. Ronald Thunman

### Distinguished Directors

Doris Kearns Goodwin

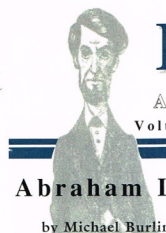
Lewis E. Lehrman

Thomas F. Schwartz

Wayne C. Temple

Thanks to former ALA president Bob Willard for noticing that Winter 2023 marks the 100th issue of this newsletter since its inception in Spring 1999. The image at right shows that we have not changed much since those glory days under the editorship of Tom Schwartz; it also shows that many leading Lincoln scholars are still regularly published here.

If you are curious to see what else ran in those 8 pages a quarter-century ago, or in any other issue since then (and you somehow cannot find your back issues in the basement), go to the ALA website under 'Scholarship' and scroll down. They are all there.



by Michael Burlingame

Most moviegoers are aware that Abraham Lincoln's letter of condolence to Lydia Bixby, a widow who purportedly had lost five sons in the Civil War, looms large in Stephen Spielberg's recent film, *Saving Private Ryan*. Dated November 21, 1864, the letter reads as follows: "I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of Freedom. Yours, very sincerely and respectfully, A. Lincoln."

Although extravagant praise has been lavished on this document, it is surrounded by ironies. Mrs. Bixby was deemed "the best specimen of a true-hearted Union" ever seen, yet she was in fact a Confederate sympathizer who ran a whorehouse. In addition, Mrs. Bixby lied about her sons; despite her claim that five of them had been killed, she had really lost only two boys in the war.

## For the People

A Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association

Volume 1, Number 1

Spring, 1999

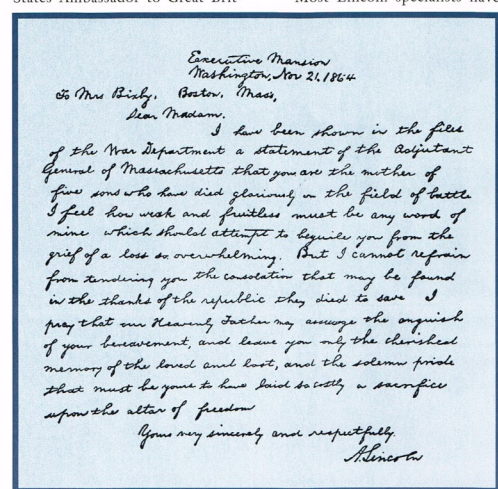
Springfield, Illinois

### Abraham Lincoln, John Hay, and the Bixby Letter

Moreover, this beloved Lincoln letter was almost certainly composed by assistant presidential secretary John Hay. Several people, including the British diplomat John Morley, literary editor William Crary Brownell, United States Ambassador to Great Brit-

Although no direct, firsthand testimony shows that Hay claimed authorship of the Bixby letter, Hay did in 1866 tell William H. Herndon that Lincoln "signed without reading them the letters I wrote in his name."

Most Lincoln specialists have



The original copy of the Bixby Letter has never been located.

ain, Walter Hines Page, Louis A. Coolidge, a Washington correspondent for a Boston newspaper, and Spencer Eddy, Hay's personal secretary, testified that they heard Hay claim authorship or had heard that assertion made by a third party quoting Hay.

doubted that Hay composed the Bixby letter. In 1982, Mark E. Neely, Jr., declared: "There is not a scrap of reliable evidence to prove" Hay's authorship of the Bixby letter.

But there is. Hay's papers at continued on page 3

## The Long Reach of the Journal of the ALA

As we transition to a new editor for the *Journal of the ALA* — Prof. Glenn LaFantasie, a long-time member and contributor, who will be teaching at William & Mary College in 2024 — we offer a timely snapshot of our reach to the public.

The University of Illinois Press, which prints the *JALA*, compiles data now and then on which articles and book reviews are most often accessed via JSTOR, and which libraries are receiving the most requests for those contents.

In the 3rd quarter of 2022, for example, 149 people requested Kenneth Winkle, "Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made Man" (Summer 2000); 136 sought Chandra Manning, "The Shifting Terrain of Attitudes Toward Abraham Lincoln and Emancipation" (Winter 2013); Allen C. Guelzo, "Does Lincoln Still Belong to the Ages?" (128; Winter 2012); on down to Jennifer Weber,

"Lincoln's Critics: The Copperheads" (74; Winter 2013) and William Gienapp, "Lincoln and the Border States" (13; 1992). Those were among the top ten, in one quarter.

Also gratifying is that libraries ranging from Collins College in Texas, to the Boston Public Library, to Arizona State University made between 38 and 116 requests in that quarter. Usage spanned the U.S. map; and, separately, we know that hundreds of hits on the websites come in weekly from Peru, Thailand, Kenya, the Philippines, Ukraine, Taiwan, and other small and large nations.

Need another angle? Campus usage seems to peak each year in early April and in early November — when term papers are getting started. Or is it that the assassination and the Gettysburg Address continue to capture the historical imaginations of young and old?

All *JALA* contents are also on our website.

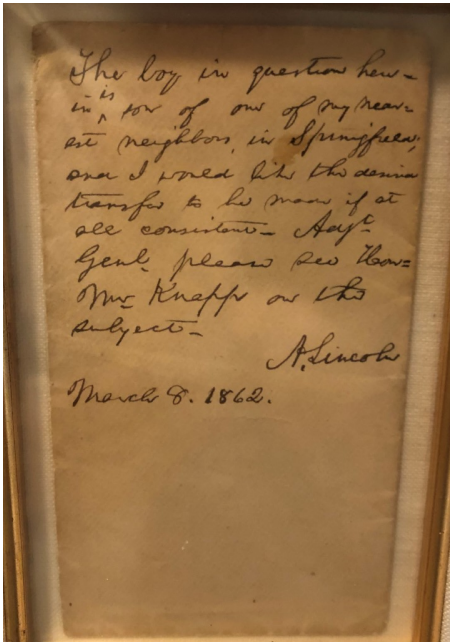
## A Newly Revealed Lincoln Note of 1862

By Allen C. Guelzo, an ALA director

As if the tasks of overseeing a civil war, managing domestic policy, and standing as the national leader of his political party were not enough, Abraham Lincoln also managed to devote an enormous amount of presidential time to the most hum-drum petitions and requests – from relatives, from former neighbors, from all sorts and conditions in distress. One such request came in March 1862, from the family “of one of my nearest neighbors,” who was trying to wangle a “transfer,” possibly from one branch of the service, or unit, to another.

Who this “nearest neighbor” might have been is unclear: At least 20 neighbors on either side of the Lincolns’ corner at Eighth and Jackson served in the Civil War, including Lincoln and William DuBois (the sons of Jesse DuBois), James and Josiah Kent, and three sons of the Springer family.<sup>(fn 1)</sup> The “Adj. Gen.” to whom Lincoln forwarded this request was the Army’s Adjutant General, Lorenzo Thomas.

*The boy in question herein is [the] son of one of my nearest neighbors in Springfield; and I would like the desired transfer to be made if at all consistent. Adj. Gen. please see Hon. Mr. Knapp on the subject. A. Lincoln March 8, 1862.*



The “Mr. Knapp” whom Lincoln expects will facilitate this “transfer” may be Anthony L. Knapp (1828-1881) of Jerseyville, Illinois, who then represented Springfield’s congressional district in the 37th Congress. Knapp had known Lincoln since the days of Lincoln’s own term in Congress, and Knapp’s uncle, Charles H. Knapp, wrote a letter of endorsement in 1849 for Lincoln’s application to become Commissioner of the General Land Office. However, by the time Anthony Knapp was elected

to fill the unexpired congressional term of John McClelland in December 1861, he was a committed Democrat and critic of Lincoln’s policies. At almost the same time as this note was written, Knapp was voting “against the bill forbidding officers in the army and navy from capturing and returning fugitive slaves.”<sup>(2)</sup>

So, it is also possible that Lincoln may have had in mind Nathan Morse Knapp (1815-1879) from Winchester, Illinois, who was prominent in Republican state politics and whom Lincoln described as “a very dear friend of mine.”<sup>(3)</sup> Knapp

served as a delegate to both the Illinois state Republican convention in Decatur and the 1860 Republican nominating convention, where he worked to promote Lincoln as the most available candidate “for unadulterated Republicans.”<sup>(4)</sup> Nathan Knapp had performed a similar service for one of his own neighbors, Edward Baker Jerome, the nephew of Lincoln’s old friend Edward Dickinson Baker, and for his own son, John Sullivan Knapp. <sup>(5)</sup>

The original note, which does not appear in the Basler edition of the *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, is from the personal collections of Juan C. Marrero of Raleigh, North Carolina.

### Footnotes

1. “Lincoln’s Neighbors and the Civil War,” Lincoln Home National Historic Site, National Park Service - <https://www.nps.gov/liho/learn/historyculture/civil-war-neighbors.htm>.
2. “The Contraband Question,” *Chicago Tribune* (March 5, 1862).
3. “To Simon Cameron” (October 4, 1861), in *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, ed. Roy P. Basler, et al. (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press for the Abraham Lincoln Association, 1953-1955), 4:548.
4. Michael Burlingame, *Abraham Lincoln: A Life*, 2 vols. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008), 1:601.
5. “To Edwin M. Stanton” (February 26, 1862), in *CW*, 5:138.

The last stanza of *Paul Revere’s Ride* (1860):

So through the night rode Paul Revere;  
And so through the night went his cry of alarm  
To every Middlesex village and farm, --  
A cry of defiance and not of fear,  
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,  
And a word that shall echo forevermore!  
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,  
Through all our history, to the last,  
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,  
The people will waken and listen to hear  
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,  
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) had been nationally known since the 1840s. He taught languages at Harvard, and although not a political poet he was an anti-slavery man, commented glowingly on The Gettysburg Address the day after its delivery, and concluded *Christmas Bells* (1864) thus:

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
“God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!”



## Book Review

Lewis E. Lehrman, *The Sum of It All: Autobiography* (Essex, Conn.: Lyons Press)  
Published on 23 November 2023; 448 pp.; \$34.95.

### Lincolnian *extraordinaire*

Lew Lehrman qualifies as a Lincolnian *extraordinaire* on several counts. He has written eloquently about our 16th president, most notably in *Lincoln at Peoria: The Turning Point*, a comprehensive, probing analysis of Lincoln's first (and arguably greatest) antislavery speech. Delivered in 1854, that three-hour oration brilliantly laid out the seminal arguments that Lincoln would elaborate on later, especially during his epic debates with Senator Stephen A. Douglas four years thereafter. Of all the monographs analyzing a Lincoln speech, this is one of the very best.

Lehrman presented an equally insightful assessment of Lincoln's presidential leadership in his comparative study *Lincoln and Churchill: Statesmen at War*, which showed how those two men demonstrated similar gifts as they inspired the morale of their people as well as formulating successful strategies and appointing men capable of carrying them out.

In 1990, Lehrman kickstarted a golden age of Lincoln scholarship by co-founding (with the late Richard Gilder) the Lincoln Prize, a \$50,000 annual award for the finest scholarly work in English on Abraham Lincoln, the American Civil War soldier, or a subject relating to their era. Since that year, the outpouring of important, deeply researched biographical studies and monographs has dramatically increased.

As a collector of rare documents, Lehrman also partnered with Richard Gilder to create a treasure trove of invaluable Lincoln primary source materials and made it available as part of their exceptionally rich archive housed at the New-York Historical Society.

Lehrman has also created informative websites that facilitate Lincoln research by students and scholars alike, underwritten grants to individual scholars, and supported Lincoln-centered organizations like the Abraham Lincoln Institute in Washington D.C., to name but a few Lincoln-related beneficiaries of his philanthropic generosity.

His passion for Lincoln stems not just from his admiration for the Great Emancipator's ideas and achievements but also because he has good reason to identify with the 16<sup>th</sup> president. Though their backgrounds are quite dissimilar, those two men shared much in common, including an honorable ambition, a strong work ethic, a principled patriotism, a moral understanding of politics, a belief in the importance of education, a keen desire to improve himself in every way, and a profound respect for the free market system's ability to allow people to rise as far as their industry, talent, ambition, and virtue could take them.

Lehrman's ambition led him briefly into electoral politics, most notably in 1982, when he ran for governor of New York, and as with Lincoln's two senate bids, fell short. But he had determined as a college student that he really wanted to be a historian. Rather than following the traditional scholarly path, which he began to tread by entering a Ph.D. program at

Harvard, he resolved to go into business, make enough money to be able to retire early, and focus on historical study, not just of Lincoln and his era but America's Founding and European history in general. He toiled tirelessly to establish a highly successful drugstore chain, sold it when he was 37, and immersed himself in both the study of the past generally and in economic thought and philosophy. At that stage of life, Lincoln put politics aside for a time and studied political history as well as geometry, while keeping up his law practice.

An instinctive teacher, Lehrman wanted to share what he learned with others, so he wrote books about Lincoln and about economics, including the history of economic thought as well as current economic policies. Like Lincoln, he contributed many political pieces to newspapers.

After passing through the midlife transition, Lincoln plunged back into politics, focusing on the need to put slavery on the road to ultimate extinction, which he insisted was an issue whose moral dimension could not be ignored, while Senator Douglas insisted it should be ignored. Similarly, Lehrman at that stage became an outspoken pro-life champion, profoundly convinced that abortion was a moral issue that had to be addressed.

About-to-be-born children were humans entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, just as Lincoln insisted the African Americans were humans, not brutes, and thus entitled to those rights.

Lincoln acknowledged that every political thought he ever had stemmed from the Declaration of Independence and based his antislavery arguments on the idealism expressed in that document as well as the wisdom of the framers of the Constitution, who refused to acknowledge that there could be property in man. Lehrman has also focused attention on the era of the Founding, honoring Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton, as the thinkers and doers who laid the foundations for the new nation.

Lehrman's interests and philanthropy extend to many fields aside from Lincoln studies, but within that realm he has proved himself to be exceptionally generous and productive, truly *extraordinaire*. He has achieved success in so many roles – philanthropist, financier, historian, economist, public servant, businessman, husband, and father – that he calls to mind a statement about Lyndon Johnson, who allegedly had “extra glands that gave him energy, and that ordinary men simply don't have.” Lehrman took inspiration from Lincoln, just as readers of his engrossing autobiography will find inspiration in the story it tells.

--Prof. Michael Burlingame, *President of the ALA, whose acclaimed 2-volume Abraham Lincoln: A Life (2008) came out in October in a 1-volume hardcover (Johns Hopkins U. P.), as abridged by Jonathan W. White.*

**NEWS CRAWL:** Jon White and Edna Greene Medford will discuss Jon's recent Lincoln-themed books *A House Built by Slaves* and *To Address You As My Friend* on the stage of Ford's Theatre on Fri. 2 Feb. 2024, 7 p.m. with Ford's dramaturg Denise J. Hart. Actors will read excerpts. // James Swanson's best-seller *Manhunt*, on the assassination and aftermath, is the source for a new multi-part series set to air on Apple TV in early Spring 2024.

## Lincoln Well-represented in Redecorated Governor's Mansion

By Dave Joens

The Illinois Governor's Mansion was built in 1855 under Democrat governor Joel Matteson. Two years later, William Bissell moved into the mansion as the first elected Republican governor of Illinois. Abraham Lincoln, a political ally of Bissell, was a frequent visitor to the home during the Bissell administration (1857-1860) and visited Bissell as he lay on his death bed there in March 1860.

Still used as a residence by Illinois governors, the mansion recently underwent a major and necessary restoration under the leadership of former Illinois first lady Diana Rauner. Ms. Rauner's efforts ensured that the building was physically sound after years of infrastructure neglect. After the Rauners left office in 2019, the job of redecorating its interior fell to current Illinois first lady MK Pritzker, who worked with noted interior designer Michael S. Smith on the project. As could be expected, Lincoln is very much present in the mansion following the redecoration.

He is most apparent in the refurbished Lincoln Parlor, where portraits and paintings of Lincoln adorn the walls. Included among the portraits is the original LeRoy Neiman expressionist portrait from 1968 (a large reproduction of which serves as the backdrop to the ALA's annual Lincoln Day banquet). Also located in the parlor is an 1860 painting of Lincoln by Rev. Lewis P. Clover, Jr., who followed Rev. Charles Dresser as the Episcopal minister in Springfield and knew the Edwards



Above: The portrait by Rev. Lewis P. Clover, Jr., 1860, who trained as an artist in New York before accepting the call to Springfield in 1857. Photo by Dave Joens

and Lincoln families well. In the painting, Lincoln is beardless, as Clover saw him. Five paintings commissioned by the Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway between 1932 and 1955 and showing scenes from Lincoln's life also hang in the Lincoln Parlor. All of the Lincoln art in the parlor is on loan from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, allowing the works to be seen by the public.

As part of the redecoration, Lincoln isn't confined to one room. Just off the main entrance is a 1925 portrait of a beardless Lincoln by Chicago artist William Patterson. An Albert Meyer painting from 1860, also of a beardless Lincoln and based on the famous 1860 Alexander Hesler photographs of Lincoln, hangs in the foyer. In the grand ballroom is a full-scale reproduction of George Peter Alexander Healy's 1869 portrait of Lincoln (originally part of 'The Peacemakers,' a grouping with Gen. Grant, Gen. Sherman, and Adm. Porter). This copy was commissioned in 1937 and owned by the Lincoln family; the original has hung in the White House since that time. In the mansion's library can be found one of the few copies of a bust by sculptor Thomas D. Jones. Lincoln posed for Jones at the St. Nicholas Hotel in Springfield for several weeks between December 1860 and February 1861.

Although Lincoln never slept in the so-called Lincoln Bedroom, there are ties to Lincoln there as well. On either side of the bed are portraits of Bissell and of Lincoln's close friend Edward D. Baker. The Lincolns had named their second son Edward Baker Lincoln after him, and the portrait was presented to Lincoln in the White House following Baker's death in battle early in the Civil War.

One artifact on display of particular interest is a handcrafted marquetry table that artisan Peter Glass, an immigrant to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, crafted in 1865 for presentation to President Lincoln. Unfortunately, Lincoln was assassinated before Glass was able to deliver the table. He later presented the work to Robert Todd Lincoln, whose grandson, Robert Todd Lincoln Beckwith, donated it to the mansion in 1976. The elaborate design contains approximately 20,000 pieces of wood, including some black walnut rails said to have been split by Lincoln. The embossed surface includes portraits of Lincoln, Vice-President Johnson, and Gens. Grant and Butler. Glass created two of these tables; the other is in the Smithsonian Institute.

A virtual tour of the redecorated Illinois Governor's Mansion, featuring an in-person tour by First Lady Pritzker, is available on YouTube. Also on YouTube is a program on the mansion which Ms. Pritzker gave at the Presidential Museum in October. Ms. Pritzker has also released a coffee table book on the mansion, entitled *A House that Made History*. With the interior restoration complete, free tours of the mansion are once again available.

*Dave Joens is Director of the Illinois State Archives and is an ALA director.*



## Membership Matters



Railsplitter \$50    Lawyer.....\$250  
 Postmaster \$100    Congressman....\$500  
 President \$1,000

You can mail this form and a check to: The University of Illinois Press,  
 Attn: Shelly Bolen, 1325 S. Oak St., Champaign, Ill. 61820

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email and / or phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Or, as always, you can join or renew at [abrahamlincolnassociation.org](http://abrahamlincolnassociation.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 to support Lincoln legacy projects such as the new statue in Kalamazoo; plus a one-day symposium in Wheaton, Illinois, last June. Moreover, ALA board members continue to participate in myriad Lincoln-related conferences and panel discussions around the country. (See p. 8, e.g.)

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

### *Did You Receive New Mail?*

As described in the Fall newsletter, members should by now have received a membership renewal notice, but this time from 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. A membership as always includes 4 issues of this quarterly newsletter. Notices will be sent to you annually by 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.abrahamlincolnassociation.org](http://www.abrahamlincolnassociation.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.



On 2 October 2023 Derrick Ward of the NBC-affiliate station in Washington, D.C., reported that this wax replica of the Daniel Chester French statue of Lincoln, placed on the lawn of Garrison Elementary School, was set fire via the many wicks implanted in it. Nominally for an art discussion among the kids and the neighbors, on the former site of Camp Barker, which Lincoln had passed when contrabands lived there, the action brought in police and fire departments. Headless Lincoln was then moved away. The replica was made with D.C. tax funds by a person from Richmond, Va.



The Abraham  
**Lincoln**  
Association  
Established 1908

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Springfield, Illinois  
Permit No. 500

Post Office Box 1865  
Springfield, Illinois 62705

*Marquetry by Peter Glass.  
Story on p. 6.*



---

## In Search of the “Holy Grail,” and ...

ALA Board members Michelle Krowl and John Lupton, along with Christian McWhirter, former editor of the *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association* and still an ALA member, led a discussion at the Lincoln Forum in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 18, 2023. About 50 people attended the breakout session entitled “What’s Left to Discover? Lincoln in the Archives.”

McWhirter discussed his research work as the Lincoln Historian at the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and his efforts to catalogue and verify objects within the Library’s collection. Krowl summarized her work as the Civil War and Reconstruction Specialist in the Manuscripts Division at the Library of Congress, covering the presidencies of James K. Polk to Theodore Roosevelt. Lupton spoke of his current work as the Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission and drew some parallels to his previous work with the Lincoln Legal Papers / Papers of Abraham Lincoln.

The panelists spent considerable time analyzing the context of Lincoln’s life and how objects and documents not connected to Lincoln personally can tell us more about his world. For example, the Illinois Supreme Court’s latest project to digitize all of the Court’s case files from 1818 to 1865 will allow researchers to definitively assess Lincoln’s appellate practice compared with that of other Illinois lawyers. The project is funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Among the many good questions posed to the panelists, an intriguing one concerned the “Holy Grail” of Lincoln manuscripts yet to be uncovered. Krowl responded that another copy of the Gettysburg Address could be extant, while Lupton wondered if there was an original Lincoln version of the Bixby letter still in hiding. McWhirter hopes to lay his hands on Lincoln’s handwritten copy of his final speech given from an Executive Mansion window on 11 April 1865 (current owner unknown).

Another attendee asked if the pages of Lincoln’s sum book (also known as the cipher book) would be reunited at some point. McWhirter replied that they *have* been—virtually—because of the work of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, which has digitized all pages of the sum book with annotations and locators. Krowl added that one of the more famous pages is at the Library of Congress, including Lincoln’s inscription:

“Abraham Lincoln his hand and pen he will be good but god knows When.”

—Contributed by John A. Lupton, an ALA director

---