



LINCARNATIONS

“Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all”

ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



Taking Care of Business

We're going to try something new in the coming months.

Our goal is to send out a printed copy of Lincarnations twice a year – in June and January. But we wanted to figure out a way of engaging the ALP membership on a more regular basis, as well.

Beginning in July, those of you with email access will receive a monthly “newsletter” that will link closely with the “Member to Member” feature on the ALP website (<http://www.lincoln-presenters.org/members/>). We expect there will be a few learning curves as we work out the specifics; your patience will be appreciated.

Meanwhile, we urge all of you who have email access to make sure the organization has your correct address. (Vicki sent out a message a couple of weeks ago and 10 or so came back as undeliverable.) Please send ANY updated contact information to:

John Cooper, Membership Chair, fourscore7yearsago@yahoo.com; 11781 Julie Dr., Baltimore, Ohio 43105, and to
ALP President Stan Wernz, Lincolnwernzs@peoplepc.com; 266 Compton Ridge Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45215.

We also invite you to share your ALP communication ideas with the Lincarnations team: Vicki Woodard, (vwoodard@ciu.edu, 217-932-5378); Dean Dorrell (abe@honest-abe.com, 812-254-7315); and Gerald Payn (gmpayn@sssnet.com, 330-345-5547).

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Association of Lincoln Presenters

266 Compton Ridge Drive

Cincinnati, Ohio 45215

May 18, 2015

Greetings, ALP Members!

The Vandalia Conference is now history. Those of us in attendance witnessed what Abe Clymer had reported to us in Columbus and Natchez when he said, "The people of Vandalia want us to hold the 2015 ALP Conference in Vandalia, Illinois." The red carpet was out from our arrival time until we departed. A big thank you to Abe, his committee and all the people of Vandalia for making us so welcome.

At our business meeting, those present elected the ALP Board of Directors for the 2015-16 year. The new ALP Board is made up of John Cooper (*Ohio*); Murray Cox, treasurer (*Indiana*); Larry Elliott, second vice president (*Kentucky*); Susan Miller (*Kentucky*); Mark Rehagen (*Missouri*); Homer Sewell (*Georgia*); Stan Wernz, president (*Ohio*); Joseph Woodard, first vice president (*Illinois*); and Sue Wright (*Tennessee*). Our thanks to Joan Howard (*Kentucky*) and Sharon Wood (*New Hampshire*) for their years of service to the ALP Board. They have provided exemplary service; I appreciate their many contributions to our discussions. I am honored to be re-elected your president, and am eager to work with our board members in accomplishing our mission.

There have been some committee changes, as well. John Cooper is now serving the association as membership chairperson. All information for potential new members should be sent to John. We express our appreciation to Robert Brugler (*Ohio*), who has filled this important role for the last several years.

Likewise, we thank Joan Howard for her service to the Awards Committee and the Future Conferences Committee. Institutional memory is valuable, and Joan has been with ALP from the start. Sharon Wood will take Joan's spot on the Awards Committee, and Laura Keyes (*Illinois*) will work with Joe Woodard on the Future Conferences Committee. We are grateful to these members for their willingness to serve.

As we board our carriages for a busy summer, have safe travels and rewarding encounters. Don't forget to reserve April 14-17, 2016, for our conference in Southern Indiana. Dean Dorrell is our host, and promises another enlightening experience as we join the state of Indiana in celebrating its Bicentennial of Statehood.

Your humble servant,

Stan

21st Annual Conference Report
Vandalia, Illinois
Submitted by Joseph Woodard, Illinois

The Association of Lincoln Presenters' 21st annual conference began in Vandalia, Ill., on Thursday, April 16, 2015. The ALP Board of Directors met at the conference's official hotel -- the Holiday Inn Express & Suites -- from approximately 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Signs reading "Lincolns," with appropriate arrows guiding visitors from the hotel to other conference venues, were erected along the side of the roadway each day, including Thursday evening when the signs guided us to the Vandalia Country Club where we had a buffet-style supper. There, we were officially welcomed by Vandalia's mayor, Ricky J. Gottman. Following the meal, we were serenaded by Vandalia's own gospel music group, the FourGiven.

At 10 a.m. Friday, April 17, we met at the Old Statehouse. We were divided into four approximately equal-sized groups. While one group took a walking tour of the "Looking for Lincoln" wayside exhibits (historical markers) with the writer thereof, Dale Timmerman, another toured the Old Statehouse. A third toured the Fayette County Museum, while the fourth visited the National Road Interpretive Center. The groups rotated between these activities.

Lunch in souvenir tin pails was served at noon at the Old Statehouse. The official conference photographer was available from 1 to 3 p.m. for individual portraits at the Old Statehouse, while volunteers continued to make the Fayette County Museum, Little Brick House and National Road Interpretive Center available to visitors.

The annual business meeting convened at 3 p.m. in the Old Statehouse's House of Representatives Chamber. President Stan Wernz (*Ohio*) presided. Jim Sayre (*Kentucky*) and Homer Sewell (*Georgia*) were recognized for attending each ALP conference to date. No Excellence Award was presented this year because no nominations were submitted to the Awards Committee. Lexington, Ky., with Susan Miller as hostess, was selected as the site for our 23rd (2017) conference. (Atlanta, Ga., was also up for consideration.)

A plated supper was served later that evening at the First United Methodist Church on Fourth Street within sight of the Old Statehouse. Following the meal, Professor Paul Strobel spoke to the group on "Lincoln in Vandalia: Politics and Lifestyles." The group later removed to the Copper Penny, located directly across the street from the Old Statehouse, to have dessert and join the Abe Clymer family in a surprise birthday party for our conference host.

The next official event of the conference, a Lincoln Forum, began at 10 a.m. Friday, April 18, in the House Chamber of the Old Statehouse. The first presentation was by Terry Sprouse, author of "How Lincoln Used Stories to Touch Hearts, Minds and Funny Bones." His talk, drawn from his book, discussed the why and how of Lincoln's stories and how we might profit from his example. The second presentation was by ALP members Steve and Sharon Wood (*New Hampshire*), a short extract from their longer stage show, "The Long and Short of It." Third came member John Mansfield

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(*Tennessee*), speaking in Lincoln character about “Lincoln’s Faith.” The fourth presentation was “The Siege of Cincinnati, Ohio (Sept. 2-12, 1862),” by Stan Wernz. The fifth presenter was our former sole overseas member, Kevin Wood, on “Lincoln in Spain” -- a discussion of his experiences presenting Lincoln in Spain in both Spanish and English and about some problems in getting across the flavor of Lincoln’s oratory when in translation. Our final presenter of the forum was Linda Hanabarger, a local historian and genealogist, who reminded the group of the significance of that very room in which we were gathered, the House of Representatives Chamber, to the career and life of Lincoln.

Just before the forum concluded, Mayor Gottman and State Rep. John Cavaletto came in to greet and welcome the group. Cavaletto presented Abe Clymer with a United States flag that had flown over the Illinois Capitol.

At around 11 a.m., ALP members posed for a group photo on the steps of the Old Statehouse.

Shortly before noon, a hot lunch was served on the rear lawn of the Old Statehouse, and around 1 p.m., most (if not all) of the conference attendees rode or walked in a parade through downtown Vandalia.

Following the parade, many of our members repaired to the Old State Cemetery where the “ghosts” of some of those buried there told us something about their lives and deaths.

The Mary Todd Lincoln meeting and strawberry social took place from 3 to 4 p.m.

Later that evening, the membership met at the local Moose Lodge to meet and mingle with other conference registrants and interested visitors and local people. During much of our social time, we were serenaded by Bobby Elliott and Kevin Bricker, performing folk and popular music from the mid-19th century. A buffet-style supper was served at 6:30 p.m., followed an hour later with a dance to the music of the Salt Creek String Band. The festivities concluded shortly after 9:30.

Sunday brought rain, ending the warm and dry weather the conference had enjoyed until then. Conference attendees were welcomed to divine services that morning at the Vandalia First Church of God. Participation by ALP members included three hymns sung by the Lincoln Singers (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8lGwA0sVW8>) and a 10-minute talk by Jim Sayre.

After services, a lunch was provided by the church, supported by a free-will donation. Thus ended one of our most relaxed, slower-paced conferences with plenty of unscheduled time built in.

Take a glimpse of the Vandalia conference as seen through the eyes of the media:

<http://projects.aljazeera.com/2015/05/lincoln-convention/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02qhx2f>

Our Members Take the Floor...

Via a recent email, our members were asked to weigh-in on the following question: What do you think Abraham Lincoln's greatest mistake was during his presidency? Thanks to all who shared their thoughts and ideas.

(My apologies if I missed anyone's response. A couple of them were hiding in my junk email folder; I hope I got them all. Vicki)

From John Cooper, Ohio (fourscore7yearsago@yahoo.com)

The biggest mistake was appointing George McClellan as commander of the Army of the Potomac after first Bull Run. Lincoln should have considered other candidates. He relied on a report of McClellan's "success" at Rich Mountain on July 11 (which was written by McClellan as commanding officer and embellished by him, taking credit for everything), when the truth is that William Rosecrans executed the maneuver that captured half of the Confederate force, while McClellan failed to attack the remainder of the force (because he estimated their strength), allowing it to escape. Had Lincoln looked a little closer at Rich Mountain, he may have discovered the trait that McClellan would continually show during his command, that of overestimating an enemy's strength. But, of course, the answer has always been that there were not many candidates and Lincoln personally had so little experience in military matters that he chose to rely on a couple recommendations of people he thought would know best.

From Larry and Mary Elliott, Kentucky (larrylikelincoln@gmail.com)

I believe his biggest mistake was doing basically nothing between Nov. 6, 1860, and his First Inaugural when his words were strong but a little too late! He needed to act quickly when South Carolina was gathering (its) folks together in December of 1860. They were threatening to be the first state to secede. Andrew Jackson had threatened South Carolina quite harshly in the 1830s and they backed off. Once South Carolina seceded (on) Dec. 24, 1860, it was much easier for six more states to quickly follow. It could have prevented the whole Civil War, especially, with a little bit of time, the South would realize Lincoln was not going to do away with their institution of slavery just because he was president.

Oh, yeah... By the way, Mary thinks his greatest mistake was not allowing Mary to attend the Cabinet meetings. ☺

From Dick Freeman, Georgia (dickfreeman0827@comcast.net)

I feel like there were two significant mistakes. Ranked 1 and 1A.

1. Lincoln's dumping of Hamlin for Johnson in the '64 election. Hamlin would have been of a mindset far closer to Lincoln's for the reconciliation between the victors in the north and losers, the south. But he chose Johnson for the supposed political advantage of having someone from the south (Tennessee) and the electoral votes. The result of this decision manifested in many ways. The fact that even after nearly 100 years of "peace," the freed slaves were hounded for many years and denied their voting rights. Johnson was no friend of the negroes. The south -- even to this day -- is still paying a price for that.
2. Appointing McClellan not once, but twice. McClellan could organize, but could not - or

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would not -- fight. Precious time was lost in these decisions. The cost in lives as a result was huge.

From Mel Maurer, Ohio (melmaurer@sbcglobal.net)

I understand why Lincoln picked George McClellan to lead the army, but I think this was his greatest mistake. Another general who knew how to immediately take advantage of the North's superior numbers and the proximity of the Confederate Army still close by after the first Battle of Bull Run could have overwhelmed the South, or at least severely crippled it, and thereby shortened the war by years.

From Rick Miller, Pennsylvania (rickmyoga@yahoo.com)

It's a toss-up:

-- Not making Grant in charge of the Army of the Potomac following his win at Ft. Donelson.

-- Not having Mary and the boys spend more time at the Soldiers Home to protect their health and making sure Willie (was) properly dressed for winter pony rides.

From Jerry Payne, Ohio (gmpayn@sssnet.com)

I imagine my answer to your question will be the same as many others. Lincoln's greatest mistake was "putting up" with George McClellan as long as he did. If McClellan just would have moved when he had the opportunities, the war would have been over much earlier and saved hundreds of thousands of lives. Of course, the next few generals who followed McClellan in the Eastern Theater were quite incompetent also, until Gen. Meade's victory at Gettysburg. Bringing Gen. Grant to the east and promoting him as general-in-chief after Vicksburg fell and the Confederate siege of Chattanooga was repelled was an excellent decision!

From Homer Sewell, Georgia (ABEUSA16@aol.com)

Was it that he waited until Jan. 1, 1863 -- nearly two years after his first inauguration -- to sign the Emancipation Proclamation??? Would things have been different or the WAR ended any sooner had he done what he could have earlier??

From Roger K. Vincent, California (rogervincent@sbcglobal.net)

President Lincoln could have limited the time he was open to the public when he had so much to do.

From Phil Williamson, Ohio (alincolnohio@aol.com)

The major mistake, in this Abraham's opinion, (was) the selection of the Union generals, then his delay in replacing them.

From Joseph Woodard, Illinois (vwoodard@eiu.edu)

I think Lincoln suspended habeas corpus too much. I think it was an unnecessary infringement of civil liberty.

If you have a suggested question for "Our Members Take the Floor," please submit your idea



Mary's Velvet Rose

I know I speak for all of the MTL members in attendance in Vandalia when I say that we thoroughly enjoyed our time together at the 2015 ALP Conference. We did enjoy more time to visit and learn from each other than we have in the recent past and were grateful for that.

At our business meeting, Susan Miller (*Kentucky*) was nominated for the position of MTL Chair by Joan Howard (*Kentucky*) and elected by the members present. We then enjoyed a lovely Strawberry Social, with many elegant touches, prepared for us by the Soroptimists of Vandalia.

It has been a pleasure to serve as chair of the MTL Committee and I thank you all for your support and encouragement over my term. I offer my best wishes to Susan and know that we will enjoy her energy and enthusiasm as she takes on this role.

Sharon Wood, New Hampshire; sharon_wood@pobox.com

Our "hobby" (for lack of a better word) as Mary Lincoln presenters and educators is very special and unique. We share our knowledge of Mary at many different types of events and with people of all ages. Some of us have been representing Mrs. Lincoln for many years and some of us not so long. Everyone has a story of how they got involved in the Association of Lincoln Presenters. Each year we come together to learn more about the Lincolns, share experiences and become energized with new ideas. We look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones.

I am already looking forward to next year's ALP conference. Thanks to Sharon, I have put together an excel spreadsheet of "Marys." When you receive this newsletter, would you please take a moment to email me so I can be sure that I have your current information? Please send your address, phone number, birthday, Facebook page, the year you joined ALP and, of course, your email.

Susan Miller, Kentucky; sueshell1@windstream.net

Those attending April's conference are aware that Colleen Vincent (*California*) was injured in a fall there. Her husband, Roger, reports that Colleen "is fine, breathing out of one part of her nose," and was even scheduled to "do" Mary at the Mendocino Historical Museum in Willits, Calif. She's set to have an operation in August to open up her breathing. The couple express their deepest gratitude to their fellow ALP members who offered prayers, assistance and donations.

Association of Lincoln Presenters

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In Memoriam:

James E. "Boat" Boatright, 76, of Mascoutah, Ill., died Monday, March 16, 2015, at Kindred Hospital in St. Louis, Mo. Although he participated in the annual Hodgenville, Ky., Lincoln Look-Alike Contest for several years, the contest emcee never did seem to figure out the proper pronunciation of Mascoutah! Jim always took it with good humor. A full obituary can be found at:

http://mollfuneralhome.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=3008850&fh_id=13999.

Charry Y. Fines, 75, of Morrisonville, Ill., died Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at her residence. In her spare time, she enjoyed portraying Mary Todd Lincoln to children and historians alike. A full obituary can be found at:

<http://www.suttonmemorialhome.com/obits/obituary.php?id=539981>.

If you hear of an ALP member's passing, please notify Stan Wernz, 266 Compton Ridge Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215; 513-761-6120; Lincolnwernzs@peoplepc.com. This information will be shared with the membership and allow the Memorial Book to be updated.

Mark Your Calendars:

Lincoln Days Celebration, Hodgenville, Ky. -- Oct. 3 and 4, 2015:
(<http://www.lincolndays.org/>)

2016 ALP Conference, Spencer County, Ind. – April 14-17, 2016

2017 ALP Conference, Lexington, Ky. – April 20-23, 2017