

MARCH 2015 "LINCARNATIONS" - ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS
"WOULD I MIGHT ROUSE THE LINCOLN IN YOU ALL"

A note from our ALP President, Stan Wernz

Greetings, members and friends.

By this time you should have in hand information about our annual conference in Vandalia, Illinois. As you read the program, you likely noted the numerous opportunities to see places where Lincoln stood, talked and worked. You also can note that the program committee honored member requests for conversation time. We are especially fortunate, during times of government cutbacks, to have been granted permission to hold our annual Business Meeting in the legislative chamber where Lincoln served. That will be on Friday, April 17, at 3:00 PM in the Old State Capitol Building. There will be an auction of donated Lincoln items and other memorabilia again. Bring your items and get them to La Tisha and Marilyn.

If you haven't already returned your registration form, please do so now. Return your form to The City of Vandalia, who is graciously assisting with this event; based on their welcome during our 2004 conference, I am confident you will be treated to the finest mid-west hospitality!

Have you reviewed your ALP website information recently? Last year the ALP Board decided to limit the length of those entries to 100 words. We asked that you make any needed reductions in length. If you need more than 100 words, we suggest you include a link to your website where interested people can find your complete information.

I look forward to our 2015 Conference in Vandalia; hoping to see you there, I bid you safe travels!

Your humble servant, Stan

Report on the October, 2014 Lincoln Days, Hodgenville, KY, submitted by Jim Sayre

Those present were; the Boggs (Tennessee), Ron Carley (Michigan), the Damrons (North Carolina), Donna Ebert (Kentucky), the Elliotts (Kentucky), Debbie Grise (Kentucky), Joan Howard (Kentucky), the Kleiners (Ohio), David Kreutz (New York), the Mansfields (Tennessee), the McMahons (Tennessee), Susan Miller (Kentucky), Vern Risty (Illinois), The Sayres (Kentucky), Bruce Spear (Colorado), the Towlers (Indiana), and Rick Yarbough (Indiana).

Contests - Oratory: 1 David Kreutz, 2 Bruce Spear, Whitt McMahan, Paul Towler

-Look-Alike; 1 Larry Elliott, 2 David Kreutz, 3 Whit McMahan, Ron Craley, Bruce Spear, Paul Towler

Mary Lincoln Contest; 1 Mary Elliott, 2 Susan Miller, 3 Donna Ebert, Stacy McMahan, Debbie Grise

Jim reported that the weather was cold and windy but everyone had a great time !
They had a good breakfast and lunch provided by Hodgenville!

Mary's Velvet Rose by Sharon Wood, MTL Chair

My dear friends,

What a winter this has been! Our trip from snowy New Hampshire to the ALP convention every year has always been a harbinger of spring. We look forward to traveling to where there are green grass and flowers in bloom, especially when we're leaving snow and ice behind us at home. ! This year, parts of our country that have not had to worry about the arrival of spring are anticipating its arrival even more than we New Englanders! I hope that the thought of our gathering in Vandalia, Illinois will tempt many of you join us, whether you've been a loyal attendee, haven't come in recent years, or are brand-new ALP members thinking about attending your first convention. !

Ladies, we will be enjoying a Strawberry Social in Vandalia, which will provide us with some time to visit with each other and to hold our annual business meeting. Those of you who are ALP members, please remember to keep your dues current so that we have you listed among the MTL members of ALP. Any lady who has not formally paid dues to become a member of the ALP, but attend the convention with your Lincoln partner, is most welcome to join us for the social. Of course, we also welcome you to become a member. ! It's amazing how we can see each other only once a year and still feel a warm friendship through our shared interest in Mary and Abraham Lincoln.

Some of us have been keeping in touch throughout the year with emails or via Facebook. The Association of Lincoln Presenters Facebook page has attracted 333 followers, as of this writing. That is wonderful, and I encourage you to check it out if you haven't already. <https://www.facebook.com/LincolnPresenters> ! This is a place where ALP members can post pictures, comments and links about their programs and events. We also link to other pages that have information of interest about Abraham and Mary Lincoln and their families. It's just one more way that members can see how others are carrying out our mission of "bringing the Lincolns to life through presentations that educate, entertain, and inspire." ! As you can see by the high number of "likes," not everyone who follows the page is an ALP member. The page is also valuable as a tool to raise awareness about our organization, perhaps to encourage the hiring of a Lincoln presenter at events, and to promote our mission to honor the words and the works of the Lincolns. !

As the days get longer and hopefully, consistently warmer, we in NH enjoy maple sugaring season. We love to travel to local sugar houses and watch the steamy process of boiling sap down to that special sweet treat--Mother Nature's reward for making it through the winter! Steve and I know that when NH Maple Sugar Sunday comes, the ALP Convention isn't far behind. !

We do have another incentive to getting things squared away at home before we travel. Our tax return must be filed before we can leave home! There has been more than one year when the envelope was dropped into a mailbox somewhere along the way as we headed West! Now with online filing and TurboTax, the process is much easier! !

Happy Spring! See you in Vandalia!

Sharon

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Book Reviews submitted by Murray Cox

"Chained To The Land", Edited by Lynette Tanner

When we visited Frogmore Plantation during our 2014 conference, our hostess Lynette Tanner told of her soon to be published collection of stories of former slaves-stories gathered during the depression as part of a WPA program. The book is now available, and it gives some interesting insights into slave life. There are stories of the Union Army's appearance during the war. Some stories are of course better than others, and there are two or three that are quite good. One tells of fleeing from the south with his former owner as the war ends, traveling to Colorado and back. Another tells of being born free, then being kidnapped and sold into slavery. Most of the stories include how they were treated as slaves, both good and bad, giving first-hand accounts of lives of those in slavery.

"Our One Common Country; Abraham Lincoln and the Hampton Roads Peace Conference of 1865"; by James B. Conroy

I almost didn't purchase *Our One Common Country*. I had read of the Hampton Roads Conference several times, in several different books. I had the general idea, but since I was studying up on the various efforts and discussions of peace, I decided to see what new could be had. I am glad I did.

The book details the various attempts and suggestions of peace talks and discussions by various parties, some of which Lincoln may or may not have been aware of. It discusses conflict within the confederacy. Of particular interest to me was the background and brief biographies of the various persons, both North and South, but especially those in the south, and the close friendships Blair had with the Davis's prior to the war. I found the author's Cast of Principal Characters at the beginning of the book very helpful to me in keeping the story-line straight. Because of this, I didn't lose my train of thought, as I sometimes do when I have to search back through the book to remind myself of the role of the person being mentioned.

This book clearly discusses the three trips he made to try to get to Richmond to meet with Davis, two of which were successful, and how his trips led to the Hampton Roads conference. It also gives an interesting account of the role General Grant played, working around Secretary Stanton's instructions, and even those of Lincoln, in getting the meeting to occur.

This is an easy to read account, the chapters were not lengthy, and were segmented in a way that fit my short attention span, and were very informative. If Lincoln Presenters plan on talking of the various peace attempt as the 150th anniversary of the Hampton Roads conference nears, this books will be a valuable read.

"Honest Abe" Abraham Lincoln "Rap" submitted by David Wells

Born in a log cabin on the Kentucky frontier, Lincoln came from humble folks, hard-working pioneers.

They moved to Indiana, a placed called Pigeon Creek; His mom taught him the Bible, the Will of God to seek.

He knew the scriptures well, could quote chapter and verse; He never smoked or drank, saw no need to curse.

When he had questions, doubts and qualms, He often found refuge in the book of Psalms.

From farming to business to politics and law; His Illinois neighbors liked the virtue they saw.
 They liked his sense of humor; they laughed at his stories; They admired his honesty and his
 gift for oratory.
 To speak like a prophet took courage and bravery, With an evil splitting up our land, a system
 known as slavery.
 The Fatherhood of God calls for the Brotherhood of man; He said a House Divided could not
 forever stand.
 With hope for the Union and faith in Almighty God, He entered the White House, with his boys
 and Mary Todd.
 Whether speaking to the people, or even the legislature, He always appealed to the "better
 angels of our nature."
 The shells fell at Sumter; he called for volunteers, Not knowing that the conflict would last 4
 years.
 With North and South at war, would America turn to dust? Lincoln placed on the coins "In God
 We Trust."
 So many tough decisions, Abe often felt alone; At times the Heavenly Father seemed myster-
 ious and unknown.
 The death of their son Willy brought agony and grief; Lincoln's faith in Providence was his only
 relief.
 Gettysburg, Antietam, Shiloh's devastation-- Was this God's curse on America: total
 annihilation?
 Through bloody battles, mangled men, terrible travails, The president said simply, "The will of
 God prevails."
 The war to save the Union became a war for Emancipation; Freeing the slaves would help
 restore the nation.
 American democracy, the last best hope of earth; A nation under God would see freedom's new
 birth.
 He struggled with the purpose of this fiery trial; When the war was over, could we ever
 reconcile?
 After four long years of conflict and his reelection, His second inaugural speech reached out to
 the Southern section.
 "Fondly do we hope--Fervently we pray-- That this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass
 away."
 "With malice toward none, with charity for all," For justice and forgiveness, he gave his
 trumpet-call.
 He never lived to guide us through the just and lasting peace; Killed by an assassin, days after
 the battles ceased.
 "Now he belongs to the ages," a cabinet member said. They laid his body in his tomb, but his
 legacy's not dead.
 With the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job, This rail-splitter's leadership was felt
 throughout the globe.
 May we always remember Lincoln, and believe what he knew: The judgments of the Lord are
 righteous and true.

**Article about ALP Life Member William Peck -
San Diego Union Tribune - By Logan Jenkins, June 15, 2014**

A rose — the "Never Forget What He Did Here" award — to William Peck, better known to generations of North County schoolchildren and Civil War enthusiasts as Abraham Lincoln.

For more than 30 years, the San Marcos gentleman, a model of 19th century decorum, has traveled the country to represent the nation's most beloved president. No one could be better cut out for the role — familiar craggy features, lanky physique, dark beard (sans mustache), frock coat, stovepipe hat and carpetbag.

Sadly, the 84-year-old Peck's professional career as a Lincoln stand-in is coming to an end. He was diagnosed last year with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease. Peck, a former Marine who grew up in Illinois near Springfield, is accepting with his innate dignity a progressive decline in his ability to present Mr. Lincoln.

Last month, Peck appeared at Roosevelt Middle School's Heritage Day, needing help to take a stool in front of the rapt audience. In character, Peck delivered the Gettysburg Address and announced to the children, many of them in historic costumes, that this would be his last appearance.

As you might expect from a man who's spent much of his life channeling the style and substance of the nation's greatest president, Peck echoes another Yankees' famous speech at a baseball stadium, one in which Lou Gehrig said that, despite his fatal disease, he was a lucky man.

"I haven't made a whole lot of money," Peck told me last week. "But I've made a whole lot of friends."

That you have, Mr. President!!

You could almost hear the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," playing soft and low in the background, as Peck reflected on the challenging days ahead, "We have Someone who is a higher authority. The only one who can heal us is Him."

Godspeed, Mr. President!!

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN, His Ancestry and the Extinction of His Line" submitted by Sally M. Chetwynd

In his professional portrayal of President Abraham Lincoln, my husband Phillip often is asked if any direct Lincoln descendants live today. The answer is no. The last of the line died in 1985, with no further issue. Only ten generations of Lincolns, of the line of which our 16th president is a part, lived in North America.

The first of Lincoln's ancestors to set foot in North America was Samuel Lincoln of Hingham, England, a teenager apprenticed to the weaver Francis Lawes of nearby Norwich, who immigrated in 1637 with family and business to Salem in Massachusetts Bay Colony. Within weeks, young Samuel was drawn to New Hingham Plantation (Hingham today) where two of his older brothers, Thomas and Daniel, had already settled, having crossed the fierce Western Ocean (as the Atlantic was called) in 1633.

1. SAMUEL married Martha Lyford, who bore eleven children, of whom four sons and four daughters reached maturity.

2. The fifth of these children, MORDECAI, born in 1658, trained in Hull as a blacksmith under Abraham Jones, whose daughter Sarah he married. She bore him two sons, Mordecai (1686) and Abraham (1688), the first Abraham in the Lincoln family, and three daughters. When Sarah died in the late 1690s, Mordecai married the widow Mary Chapin, who bore two children.

3. MORDECAI the younger and Abraham fledged their wings and settled in Freehold, New Jersey, where they established a forge in their father's tradition. Mordecai married Hannah, daughter of their landlord. Hannah bore Mordecai six children, one daughter of which died in 1720 at age three. Hannah died in 1727; Mordecai soon married Mary Robeson, who added three more sons to the family. In 1730, Mordecai pulled up stakes and headed into Schuylkill country, where his neighbors were the families of Daniel Boone of frontier fame.

4. Mordecai's oldest son JOHN married Rebecca (Flowers) Morris in 1743, a widow with one son. She had nine more children, five sons and four daughters. They lived near Lancaster, PA, for about 20 years, until 1768, when John moved the family to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, near present-day Harrisonburg.

5. ABRAHAM, John's eldest child, born in 1744 while the family still resided in Pennsylvania, was 24 when this move occurred. He wed Bathsheba Herring in 1770. His neighbor and friend, Daniel Boone, a frontiersman and explorer, told stories of the Kentucky land beyond the Blue Ridge Mountains, which sang a siren song that Abraham could not resist. He went with Boone in 1781 and purchased land there. In 1782, he packed Bathsheba, his four children - Mordecai, Josiah, Mary, and Thomas - and his goods through the Cumberland Gap, never to be seen again by the Valley folk. He was soon killed by raiding Indians while clearing his land.

6. THOMAS, age eight, witnessed his father's death. After living with various kinfolk, Thomas apprenticed himself in 1800 to a carpenter and cabinetmaker in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. By all accounts, Thomas became proficient in this trade, producing work of impeccable quality. By 1806, he had created a small estate for himself and married Nancy Hanks. He and Nancy had three children, Sarah, Abraham, and an infant son who died within a few days of birth. Sarah and Abraham lived into adulthood.

7. ABRAHAM grew up on the frontier in Kentucky and Indiana. He settled in Illinois once he reached his majority. Despite minimal formal education, he managed to learn how to read, write, and cipher. With these skills, he learned many trades, mastering few, particularly the law. He married Mary Ann Todd, whose family had founded Lexington, Kentucky. Their children numbered four: Robert, Edward, William, and Thomas, of whom only Robert attained adulthood. Abraham moved in and out of politics, serving four terms in the state legislature, one term in the U. S. House of Representatives, failed in his 1858 bid for the U. S. Senate, and succeeded in his 1860 bid for the White House. He presided over the conduct of the Civil War. As the war ended, shortly after his second inauguration, he was assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC.

8. ROBERT, a young man at the time of his father's death, took over as the family's administrator, attending to his mother's affairs the best he could in the deep grief and despair that dogged her for the rest of her days. He married Mary Harlan, and they raised three children in their Chicago home. Robert built a summer home in southern Vermont, which he called

Hildene, eventually retiring there. Of his and Mary's children - Mary, Abraham II, and Jessie Harlan - only Mary and Jessie lived into adulthood and married.

9. Robert's elder daughter MARY married Charles Isham, and they named their single child Lincoln. His younger daughter JESSIE married three times, but had children only in her first marriage to Warren Beckwith. One of the three children was stillborn. The other two were named Mary and Robert.

10. MARY LINCOLN BECKWITH lived from 1898 until 1975, spending most of her adult years in the Hildene homestead in Vermont. She never married. Her brother ROBERT TODD LINCOLN BECKWITH lived in several places around the country, eventually settling on an estate in Tidewater Virginia. He married three times, but none of these unions produced children. Born in 1904, he died in 1985.

Thus the bloodline from President Abraham Lincoln died out 348 years after it had begun in Hingham, Massachusetts. Today, many related Lincolns still live in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, all the descendants of great-greats of grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins related to our sixteenth president.

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"Trent Affair" submitted by Murray Cox

In preparing for a presentation on Lincoln's involvement in weapons, I learned a bit more about the Trent Affair that many may not be aware of??

We no doubt are all familiar with the Trent affair, and with Lincoln's decision to return the captured Confederates Mason and Slidell, who had been removed from the British mail steamer Trent, rather than risk war with England. "One war at a time" is said to have been his remark. My recent reading of Robert Bruce's book *Lincoln and the Tools of War* (Bobbs-Merrill, 1956) delves deeper into issues that surely played a part in his decision.

There are two elements in the Trent Affair of which I don't recall hearing of previously. One concerned the supply of potassium nitrate (niter or salt-peter) which was needed for gunpowder. The second was protection of northern ports.

Regarding niter, most of it at that time came from India, a British possession. By May, the Du Pont Company advised that only a six months' supply remained in the U.S. In an attempt to ensure a supply, the Navy had sent a man to England to quietly obtain all that was

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available. The purchases had been made and were being loaded for shipment when the Trent affair broke. When it did, the British prohibited all export of niter.

Regarding protection of northern ports, it should be noted that the British were already armoring some of its ships. It should also be noted that, while rifled cannon were deemed to be superior to smooth-bore guns, those in control of ordnance continued to feel that smooth-bored was better, although the newer rifled canon would be needed to penetrate an armored ship. Around this same time, McClellan had set up a Military Armament Board to decide on the best field artillery and cannon for fortifications. After a review by six distinguished military men, the board realized that there were not any guns protecting northern ports that would be capable of defending against even a lightly armored ship.

The failure to release Mason and Slidell surely would make the critical supply of niter unavailable for prosecuting the war, and could easily lead to war with Britain. When it was then realized that any armored British ship could sail into any northern port with little fear of serious damage, and the ensuing disaster for the Union was a real possibility, it is no wonder that Lincoln felt that "one war at a time" was wise, and had the men released.