

LINCARNATIONS

“Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all”

PORTRAYING ABRAHAM LINCOLN: BEING PRESIDENT

By Robert Brugler, Worthington, Ohio

Portraying Lincoln seemed like a good idea. Using hindsight, what was I thinking? In portraying President Lincoln, I would be giving a first-person presentation of one of the most loved (or, in some areas, most hated) and most well-known persons in American history. There is more to Living History than simply putting on clothing. There is a great amount of research that must go into becoming a first-person interpreter. You must know the man.

A historical interpreter of Abraham Lincoln does not just grow a beard and don a stovepipe hat and other period garb. A true first-person presenter is not an actor saying lines. He is a person with the knowledge of Lincoln, the president and his era.

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ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



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ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS

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The 24th ALP Annual Conference was held April 17-20, 2018, in Freeport, Ill. We were blessed with a well-planned and -executed event, and with wonderful weather. The conference was packed with activities (reported elsewhere in this newsletter), including our annual business meeting.

The first major new business decision was selecting our conference site for 2020. Two sites were presented: Springfield, Ill., (Randy Duncan, Caitlin Justice) and Leavenworth, Kan. (Murray Cox). Springfield was selected in the closest possible vote. The tentative conference dates are April 16-19, 2020. The 2019 conference will be at Amicalola Falls, Ga. (near Atlanta) on April 11-14. An additional conference-related item is being developed with the Scholarship Fund. More will follow on this topic.

Election results: For the ALP Board, three were to be elected. From the field of candidates, Kevin Wood (*Oak Park, Ill.*), Sue Wright (*Oak Ridge, Tenn.*) and Stan Wernz (*Cincinnati, Ohio*) were elected. Board officers were then elected. Results are: president, Stan Wernz; first vice president, John Cooper (*Baltimore, Ohio*); second vice president, Susan Miller (*Nicholasville, Ky.*); secretary, Sue Wright; and treasurer, Murray Cox (*Wabash, Ind.*). I am grateful for the trust you have in me, reelecting me as your president. I offer our thanks to retiring board member Larry Elliott (*Louisville, Ky.*) for his years of service on the ALP Board.

Jim Sayre (*Lawrenceburg, Ky.*) brought to our attention that our by-laws included no provision for distribution of assets should dissolution of the ALP occur. The matter was researched, and By-law 25 was passed to bring our documents into compliance with IRS regulations. Upon dissolution, we can designate 501(c)(3) organizations with a similar mission as the ALP to receive any assets. If no designation is made, assets will be distributed as a Court of Competent Jurisdiction shall direct.

Following ALP Board discussion of the award process, I announced that the Awards Committee would consist of the most recent recipients of an ALP award. As new recipients are named, more distant recipients will retire from the committee. This decision is made in an attempt to have a wider net in getting nominations. All members are eligible to nominate candidates for the award. Nomination forms will be available on our updated website. Please consider nominating a deserving member!

Our website is being updated! The new design will make the site mobile media friendly for those of you and our visitors who access the site by phone or other mobile device. When completed, if you note something missing, or corrections that need be made, please let us know. Our redesigned site will also make alterations easy.

To maintain a strong organization, input from the membership is essential. I urge you to put April 11-14, 2019, on your calendar for Amicalola Falls, Ga. It promises to be another great conference! Also, consider submitting an article for future publications of *Lincarnations*.

Your humble servant,

Stan

Conference Talk

Farewell to Freeport, Illinois (*April 2018*)

Submitted by Laura Keyes, Freeport, Ill.

Freeport, Ill., was pleased to host the 2018 annual conference of the Association of Lincoln Presenters. The event officially began Thursday, April 19, with a special theatrical presentation hosted by Winneshiek Players, the local community theatre. Many thanks to the ALP members (Max Daniels, Donna Daniels, R.J. Lindsey, Laura Keyes, Leslie Goddard and George Buss) who donated their time for “Lincoln in Conversation,” which saw Presidents Lincoln and Roosevelt debate who was the better wartime president, First Ladies Mary Lincoln and Jackie Kennedy discuss their many differences and similarities, and Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln revisit their famous Freeport Debate. With their help, the ALP raised more than \$650 toward the costs of the conference.

ALP members were joined this year by many non-members who registered for the conference, as well. Eighty-eight people officially registered for the conference. Of those 88, 48 were ALP members, and 40 non-members. Regardless of membership, we saw quite the range of people from history that weekend. Some of the people who were portrayed were: Abraham Lincoln, Mary Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, Jackie Kennedy, Gen. Grant, Mrs. Grant, Robert Lincoln, Gen. Garfield and Jefferson Davis. We also had guest speakers portray Gen. Thomas, Julia Dent Grant, Frederick Douglass and Cordelia Harvey. Conference attendees represented 14 states: California, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Attendees enjoyed mini tours of Freeport, where they heard detailed descriptions about the Lincoln-Douglas Debate site, the “Lincoln the Debater” statue donated to the city in 1929, and the Stephenson County Civil War Monument, dedicated in 1869 and restored and rededicated in 2016. We also toured the Stephenson County Historical Museum, learned more about Freeport’s history, both before and after Mr. Lincoln’s famous visit in 1858, and also saw some rare Lincoln items. Museum staff set out a number of artifacts from the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, as well as the second known photograph of Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln.

On Saturday, conference attendees had a low-key day, without all the traveling we accomplished on Friday. Five different lectures were arranged for folks to learn more about the Lincoln family and the Civil War in general. We learned about Captain Ira Ford’s capture and daring escape; Frederick Douglass’ experiences in Freeport; how and why Cordelia Harvey convinced President Lincoln to create hospitals only for veterans; songs the Lincoln family would have heard and enjoyed; and how Abraham Lincoln worked with immigrants, both before and during his presidency.

Saturday evening saw almost everyone enjoying good food, great music and wonderful dancing at the Freeport Club. Many ALP members, and plenty of local folks (43 of them), mixed and mingled while listening to music from Frogwater, learning about dancing from John and Elaine Masciale, and hearing stories from The Galena Generals, who traveled to Freeport for the evening. Many thanks to those who donated items to the silent auction, and to those who purchased items! The volunteers organizing the silent auction were overwhelmed with donations, a wonderful problem to have. The silent auction raised more than \$800 toward the costs of the conference.

On Sunday, a smaller group of attendees traveled to Galena, Ill., for a variety of activities to learn more about Gen. Grant’s connection with Galena, as well as Abraham Lincoln’s visit to Galena in 1856. Many of these activities were in connection with that weekend’s General Grant Birthday celebration, hosted by the Galena-Jo Daviess County Historical Society.

If you didn’t attend the conference this year, you missed out on a lot of fun, frivolity, great information, old friends and new acquaintances. A collection of photos is available from our official photographer, Mary Armstrong. She can be contacted at graceanhope@yahoo.com. Many photos, as well as news articles and videos, will be posted on the ALP Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/LincolnPresenters>). If you did attend the conference, please share your photos on the ALP Facebook page, or contact the Conference Hostess, Laura Keyes, at Keyes97@aol.com.

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ALP Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Murray Cox, Wabash, Ind.

As treasurer, I would like to provide you with a brief report on some financial matters of the ALP. While we had \$637 more in expense in 2017 than dues income, we had a profit of approximately \$2,860 on our 2016 conference in Lexington. For the year 2017, the ALP treasury ended up with \$815.67 more at the year's end than we had at the beginning. (For those of you checking my math, the numbers don't quite add up because some income and expense for the 2017 conference was received and paid in 2016, and some income and expense for the 2018 conference was received and paid in 2017.)

For our 2018 conference at Freeport just ended, not all income and expense has been finalized, but it appears it will yield a profit of about \$2,000. It is especially important to make a profit on the conference. That is because our dues received each year are less than our annual expense for insurance, postage, web-hosting, etc. The profit allows us to meet those expenses

At the Business Meeting in Freeport, an appeal for funds to financially help with a symposium at the Mary Todd Lincoln Home in Lexington, Ky., was made. The ALP agreed to donate \$200, with additional amounts solicited from members. In the end, \$800 more was donated by various members, and a check in the amount of \$1,000 has been sent.

The ALP remains in healthy financial condition. At 2017 year's end, we had a checking account balance of \$6,657 and two CDs totaling \$15,268. We consider the CDs an important reserve for the future, in the event that an annual conference runs into financial difficulty.

Looking Ahead Toward Georgia (*April 2019*)

Submitted by Homer Sewell and Joan Britton, Jasper, Ga.

First of all, let me say a few words about how far the ALP has come since Dan Bassuk began our organization way back in 1990. I don't think Dan or any of us new members ever dreamed that we would grow like we have. I know I speak for Jim Sayre (*Lawrenceburg, Kentucky.*), also, when I say that we are very pleased to have been a part of this wonderful group of folks who want to look like Jim and me! And Mary! It has been very rewarding to get to visit with all of you each year at our annual conference. And a BIG THANK YOU to Stan Wernz (*Cincinnati, Ohio*) for being OUR leader/president for all these years since Dan's passing. Stan has done an excellent job!

Joan and I will be your hostess and host next year when you come south to the mountains of North Georgia for our very special 25th Silver Anniversary Conference for ALP. We are planning lots of fun and educational activities for everyone and hope to see a record attendance!

We will stay at the Amicalola State Park Lodge overlooking the waterfall. I promise it will be one of the most beautiful lodges/motels/hotels we have ever stayed at in our 25 years of gathering.

As a lot of you know. I had bid on hosting our conference several times and finally, with Joan's help last year in Lexington, you voted for us to meet in Georgia. Our theme has become a TRAIN event. We will be taking a one-hour train ride from Blue Ridge over to McCaysville on Friday, April 12, with time to do some shopping in quaint shops at both ends of the run. Our evening meal will be at the famous Southern Charm Restaurant right across the street from the train depot in Blue Ridge. Tom and Sue Wright (*Oak Ridge, Tenn.*) have already had the opportunity to eat there with Joan and me. And they saw the lodge, too!

On Saturday, April 13, we will drive down to Kennesaw to see THE GENERAL LOCOMOTIVE and then to Atlanta to see THE TEXAS LOCOMOTIVE, two GREAT museums, and THE CYCLORAMA, which has been moved and restored.

For our Saturday evening meal, we will go to Madeline's in Jasper. Our speaker, Gerald Flinchum, author of "The Civil War in Pickens County," will delight us with his research of what happened here in my hometown of Jasper during the Big War.

My former pastor, Max Caylor, will conduct church services right at the lodge on Sunday morning for those who would like to attend before heading back home or to visit other sites (such as Stone Mountain) in North Georgia.

Joan and I are excited to be your hosts for 2019 and look forward to making it a very enjoyable visit south to the GREAT state of GEORGIA!

Mary Lincoln's "Finishing School"

Submitted by Susan Miller, ALP Mary Lincoln Chair (Nicholasville, Ky.)

Early on, Robert Smith Todd of Lexington recognized the precocious intelligence of his daughter Mary, and he furnished her a superior education that was extremely rare for women of her day. At a time when most young women of her social class ended their formal education after four or five years, Mary's lasted nine years. The first five she spent at Shelby Female Academy, followed by four more at a boarding school run by Charlotte Victorie LeClerc Mentelle and Augustus Waldemare Mentelle, both natives of Paris.

Waldemare Mentelle left France because of the Revolution, but he departed reluctantly. In late 1789, before the Terror, his father worried his son might be drafted into the army and purchased a passage to America for his son.

Mentelle spent a year in New York and Philadelphia looking for work. He caught a ride on a flatboat carrying troops down the Ohio en route to the Battle of the Wabash. The Americans were defeated by the Indians but fortunately for Mentelle, he disembarked at Gallipolis, a French settlement in Ohio.

He pined for the woman he left behind in France, Charlotte LeClerc, the daughter of an army doctor who raised her to withstand any hardship, making her swim the Seine before breakfast, locking her in a closet with the corpse of an acquaintance, and teaching her to ride and shoot. Soon LeClerc set sail to find Mentelle by herself. In April 1794, she arrived in Gallipolis armed with the blunderbuss her father had given her for protection. (This blunderbuss and a portrait of W. Mentelle are displayed at Waveland State Historic Site in Lexington, Ky.)

Mentelle and LeClerc married immediately, but Gallipolis was not to Charlotte's taste and they soon left for Kentucky. They settled in Washington where they raised and sold produce for a couple of years. In 1798, the Mentelle family relocated to Lexington because it was a larger and more cultured place where they hoped to make a living as teachers of French and dancing. When that did not succeed, they returned to farming on rented land just outside the city.

As the years went by, Waldemar was employed in many different occupations including house painter, horse veterinarian, potter, silhouette artist and commission merchant, selling such "curious, elegant and useful articles" as linen, china, brandy, figs, almonds, oysters, patent medicines, snuff, jewelry, mirrors, fiddles, toys and more. In 1817, Waldemar's friend Henry Clay found him a job in a bank.

But in 1820, Charlotte began the teaching career for which she would be most remembered. She founded Mentelle's for Young Ladies, a "finishing" school on five acres neighboring Henry Clay's Ashland estate, donated to them by Mary's great-aunt Mary Todd Russell Wickcliffe.

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This was an intellectually rigorous and fashionable school with classes taught in French. Her most famous student and a star actress in the school's theatrical productions was Mary Todd. The future Mrs. Abraham Lincoln lived with the Mentelles from 1832 to 1836, preferring Madame Mentelle to her disagreeable stepmother. "My early home was truly at a boarding school," she later told Elizabeth Keckley, her White House seamstress.

Through Mme. Mentelle's rigorous academic training, Mary excelled "in every branch of good education." Moreover, Mentelle became for Mary a living example of female intelligence and independence. A vivid, excitable storyteller who deplored "girlish frivolities," Mentelle played the fiddle and was known to take vigorous walks, reading and talking to herself along the way. She was a feminist and had strong opinions about slave-owning Christians and corrupt politicians.

If Lexingtonians viewed the Mentelles as eccentrics, Mary found in their example an antidote to the sedentary life imposed upon her female relatives and peers. Living with the Mentelles, Mary gained a lifelong fluency in French, a love of reading and learning, and knowledge of the world that fueled her desire to flee Lexington.

One porcelain miniature image of Charlotte Victorie LeClere Mentelle is displayed at the Mary Todd Lincoln House in Lexington.

Born: Oct. 22, 1770, in Paris, France
Died: Sept. 8, 1860, in Lexington, Ky.

Obituary: Charlotte Victorie Le Clere Mentelle.
Kentucky Statesman. Sept. 14, 1860.

Baker J. H.. *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*.
New York: W.W. Norton and Company; 2008.

Runyon, Randolph Paul. *The Mentelles: Mary Todd Lincoln, Henry Clay and the Immigrant Family Who Educated Antebellum Kentucky*; University Press of Kentucky, 2018



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How to Appear as Mr. Lincoln

In every way possible, there must be an effort to provide an accurate impression. It takes time, determination and discipline to learn.

I do not play dress-up. The appearance of Mr. Lincoln must include period-correct clothing and grooming. Examples of Abraham's clothing are readily available and should be followed: a black frock coat, a shawl vest, a cravat (a type of bow tie of the period), a pocket watch, black shoes, etc. And having an accurate stovepipe hat is imperative.

A Lincoln-styled beard is essential. Children will want to know if it is real and may attempt to give it a tug. If a false beard is used, it is vital that it stays on. Nothing ruins the aura of a historical presentation more than when the beard falls off.

Presenting Lincoln

I never, under any circumstances, knowingly give incorrect information. Through study, a Lincoln presenter must develop a thorough knowledge of him and be able to share that knowledge in a way that represents the president in his mannerism, style and language. He should be able to answer questions in the language of his day whenever practicable and understandable to the visitors. Be the best Lincoln you can be.

While I am "being Lincoln" in full Lincoln garb, I do not say or do anything that would be out of character for the president. The information I know goes up to April 14, 1865. When asked questions after that time, my reply is, "Is that so?" or "Interesting. What have you heard?"

Adjustments must be made when presenting Mr. Lincoln. I gear my interpretation of his thoughts, speeches and methods of interacting to my audience.

With very young children, after my presentation I tell them that I am not the real Abraham Lincoln. If I was, I would be 205 years old. It is not good to be a ghost. Young children typically prefer a "show-and-tell" presentation. For example: The stovepipe hat, the beard, the

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pocket watch and period-correct straight shoes that I carry around in my carpet bag containing photographs from the 1860s, Lincoln's life masks, shackles, Minié balls, hardtack and tooth extractors, to name a few.

At schools, I ask the teacher to have the students come up with three of their own questions they would like to ask Mr. Lincoln and then narrow it down to their top choice. The students will then ask the questions in a press conference format: standing up, saying "Mr. President," then asking their questions. In working with the curriculum, I can examine it and cover some of the areas for them.

Often during a question-and-answer period at the end of my presentation, there will be questions that I cannot answer. I typically say, "I don't know, but I will try to find the answer for you. Please provide me with a method of communication with you."

It is important to know the Gettysburg Address, to understand its background and meaning. I use the Bliss copy as the version I give. (Lincoln wrote five copies to give to others; the Bliss copy was the final copy and was the version placed on the wall of the Lincoln Memorial.)

Martin Johnson, in his award-winning book, "Writing the Gettysburg Address," has concluded that the president read the speech not wanting to be misunderstood. In the three paragraphs, he spoke to the past, the present and the future. I believe the most important sections of the speech are found in the third paragraph in which Lincoln talks about the "unfinished work" and the "great task remaining before us." The war must continue and the Union be saved.

In giving the address, a presenter should speak slowly because Lincoln spoke about 105 words per minute in compared to the normal 150 words per minute. Also, he was speaking to thousands of visitors and needed to be heard. Many in the audience had lost loved ones, while others wondered why we should continue with the war.

I also like to provide a source of information for guests so they may

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continue to learn about Lincoln, the Civil War and its history, in general. If they are interested, they may go to my website (<http://www.visitwithabe.com/lincoln-resources.html>) to see the links found under Lincoln resources that I recommend, or to <http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/> or to the Civil War Trust's Lincoln resource hub (<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/collections/abraham-lincoln>).

Finally, as a presenter, I believe that if you acquire a person's heart first, that the head will follow. Interact with your audience before a presentation, get to know them, make them feel comfortable and important. Abe would do the same.

How to Learn About the President

Every attempt to READ accurate and important materials is made. While it is impossible to read all of the 16,000-plus books that have been written about Abraham, there are reliable primary sources and books that are considered the "cream of the crop."

Primary Sources

Angle, Paul McClelland; Earl Schenck Miers (1992). The Living Lincoln: the Man, his Mind, his Times, and the War He Fought, Reconstructed from his Own Writings.

Basler, Roy P. et al., eds. (1953). The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln. 9 vols. Available and searchable online at <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/l/lincoln/>.

Biographies

Donald, David Herbert. Lincoln (1999) The most useful scholarly biography.
Goodwin, Doris Kearns. Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln (2005)

Nicolay, John George and John Hay. Abraham Lincoln: a History (1890)

McPherson, James M. Abraham Lincoln (2009)

Thomas, Benjamin P. Abraham Lincoln: A Biography (1952; 2nd ed. 2008)

White, Jr., Ronald C. (2009). A. Lincoln: A Biography

Specialty topics

McPherson, James M. Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era (1988). Pulitzer Prize winner surveys all aspects of the war.

(The above is taken from <http://www.civilwar.org/education/teachers/teachers-regiment/teacher-articles/portraying-abraham-lincoln.html>.)

Meet Your Fellow Lincolns

Jack Olsen

Submitted by John Cooper, Baltimore, Ohio

Rev. Jack Olsen, our only member from Wyoming, became an ALP member in 2017. Jack began portraying Lincoln more than 20 years ago at the insistence of Diane, his wife of 38 years. (He had the beard and physique.) He performs about three to four times a year, mostly for schools in his hometown of Casper.

Jack has been a pastor for 41 years, currently serving as associate pastor of the Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church of Casper. He served churches in Ft. Collins and Grand Junction, Colo., and Deep River, Iowa, before moving to Casper. He holds his master's and doctor of ministry degrees from Trinity International University of Deerfield, Ill.

Jack shares a major experience with Abraham Lincoln. His father is a farmer and Jack was raised to be a farmer. He even received a bachelor of science degree in vocational agriculture from Colorado State University before embarking on a career as a minister.

Jack and his wife have one daughter and two sons. Each of their children have two children of their own, giving Jack and Diane six grandchildren, which leads to his favorite pastime -- playing with his grandchildren who range in age from one year to five years old. Jack's other favorite activities include jogging and hiking, particularly in the Rocky Mountains.

Jack believes Lincoln to be our greatest president. He enjoys the fact that Lincoln had perseverance and tenacity. When he teaches school children, he stresses to be "like Lincoln" and "never give up learning; never give up on your beliefs, and never give up on dreaming." He also emphasizes Lincoln's leadership ability, and points out that Lincoln set aside pursuit of personal popularity to always "do the right thing." One statement he tries to leave with the students is that Lincoln is a good example that "extraordinary things are done by ordinary people who dare to dream and never give up."

One of Jack's favorite Lincoln facts deals with Lincoln's application of schooling while still a teenager. Just about the time Lincoln's father was going to forbid him to attend any more school (when Abraham was 14), Thomas Lincoln was in the process of selling a quarter of his property in Indiana to a neighbor (John Carter). Lincoln happened to be with him when John Carter handed him the contract to sign. Thomas decided to have Abraham read the contract, just in case. That was a wise decision because Abraham discovered that the contract (had Thomas signed) would have sold all 160 acres of his property to Carter, who was trying to defraud Thomas of his entire property. And Thomas reconsidered the value of additional schooling for Abraham. Jack uses this story to emphasize the value of school to the students.

Jack attended his first ALP conference this year in Freeport, Ill. He states he was "overwhelmed" by the event (in a good way). He appreciated the welcoming attitude of all of the Mary and Abraham Lincolns, who made him feel immediately like a part of the group. He enjoyed all the touring and presentations, but perhaps his highlight was the visit to "Little Cubs Field," a miniature replica of the real Cubs field in Chicago. Jack is a lifetime Cubs fan, so it was a unique pleasure to "play" baseball (as Lincoln; 10 Lincolns played a "mock" game for the cameras) on the replica of Cubs field.

In conclusion, Jack says "it is a great privilege to help others learn more about Lincoln. I believe that Lincoln was one of God's instruments and was placed in the presidency at just the right time."



Steve Wood

Submitted by John Cooper, Baltimore, Ohio

Steve Wood, from Claremont, New Hampshire, has portrayed Abraham Lincoln since 1995. He was asked to portray Lincoln in a Lincoln-Douglas debate reenactment in a local library. They had a Douglas and someone thought Steve bore a resemblance to Lincoln despite a full handlebar mustache, which he had to shave for the portrayal (and never grew it back). Although Lincoln had no beard during the Lincoln-Douglas debates, the locals preferred he wear the beard since that is how most people know Lincoln.

Steve has been doing Lincoln ever since, quite often as a team with his wife (of 48 years) Sharon portraying Mary Lincoln. He has performed as many as 75 times during a year (2009) and mostly in New England states, but as far south as Virginia. Recent years, he averages about 25 performances annually. Steve and Sharon joined the ALP around 2000, and have also performed as a team at several of the ALP conferences. He enjoys the phrase in reference to Abraham and Mary, "and that's the long and short of it."



Academically, Steve obtained a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maine in forestry management, which he put to good use during a 30-year career with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension as a forestry educator. He worked in the field, educating landowners about land use management. He took an early retirement in 2003, partly to become a full-time Lincoln. However, he still serves on the local Conservation Commission in a voluntary role.

Steve and Sharon have two sons and one daughter (but no grandchildren, yet). He enjoys playing trombone in a community band, as well as participating in his church choir and as a member of the "Singing Lincolns" for church services at our conferences. For exercise, he enjoys swimming.

Steve's first introduction to other Lincolns occurred when he attended a Hodgenville (Ky.) Lincoln Days event and participated with about 10 Lincolns in the annual contest. While he was waiting for his turn, a veteran Lincoln beside him said, "You don't have a mole." Steve replied, "No, I don't." And before he could say anything more, the other Lincoln pulled a "mole" out of a kit, applied some glue and pasted it onto Steve's face. He doesn't know how much of a factor the mole was, but Steve placed second in the contest that day.

Steve's favorite Lincoln story is the "homely man" story where Lincoln was riding through a woods and encountered a young woman who approached him and remarked, "Sir, you are the homeliest man I have ever seen." Lincoln replied, "That may well be true, but the fact is I cannot help it." Before the woman rode away, she made one last remark, "Perhaps, sir, you can't help it, but at least you should have the courtesy to stay at home."

One of his favorite performance moments was when he addressed the troops during a Civil War reenactment. He noticed there were twice as many rebel soldiers as union, so he was unsure how to proceed. He decided to make a plea for restoration of the union, stressing the importance of the United States and democracy as a beacon to the world. Afterward he was approached by one of the rebel soldiers (who actually was from Massachusetts), who said Steve's remarks as Lincoln were so moving that he "was brought to tears." That's why Steve enjoys being Lincoln, because Lincoln is so universally admired and is almost everyone's favorite president.

Finally, Steve recommends two of his favorite books. One is fairly recent, called "Lincoln's Gamble" by Thomas Brewster, which describes the events leading up to the Emancipation Proclamation. The other one is David Herbert Donald's biography titled, simply, "Lincoln."

Association of Lincoln Presenters

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Know a Member Worthy of Special Recognition?

Submitted by Stan Wernz, ALP President

In an attempt to receive more nominations for the annual ALP Award, the Awards Committee has been restructured. Awards are given in the areas of Performance, Writing, Film or Video, Scholarship, and/or Distinguished Service. Current committee members are Murray Cox, Laura Keyes, Vern Risty, Sue Wright and Tom Wright. They will be happy to hear your recommendations of ALP members who qualify for this recognition. If you have a candidate in mind, NOW is the time to make that nomination. Send pertinent information about the nominee to Laura Keyes (keyes97@aol.com) or Sue Wright (suewright104@gmail.com).