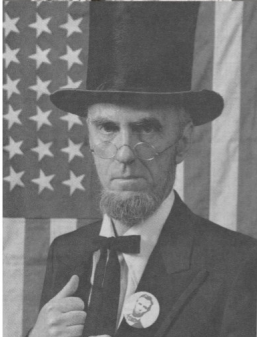
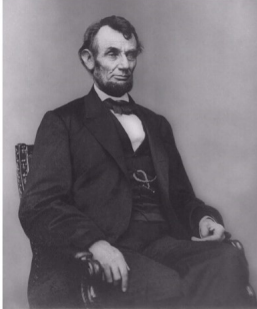


“Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all”

Association of Lincoln Presenters



Dan Bassuk,
ALP Founder

Mark Your Calendars:

2020 ALP Conference – April 16-19, 2020, Springfield, Illinois
(See <http://www.lincolnpresenters.com/2020-conference/> for details.)

2021 ALP Conference – April 15-18, 2021, Leavenworth, Kansas



Future Conference Site Selection

Proposals for future conference sites are presented at the annual business meeting, with conference sites chosen two years in advance of a conference. Thus, when the Association of Lincoln Presenters meets in Springfield in April, we will choose the site of our 2022 conference.

Each annual conference must have a sponsoring ALP member (a.k.a. host/hostess) who has primary responsibility for arrangements and programming. Would-be hosts are encouraged to contact either one of the members of the Future Site Committee – Laura Keyes (lfkeyes@gmail.com; 815-494-4313) or Joe Woodard (vwoodard@eiu.edu; 217-932-5378) – for information and/or advice. You will be placed on the agenda to present for your site.

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ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS

266 Compton Ridge Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45215-4120

January

Greetings, ALP Members!

We continue to be blessed with members willing to take initiative and responsibility to plan our conferences. The special effort of these leaders has resulted in learning opportunities and supportive discussions for us. The 2020 ALP Conference in Springfield, Ill., promises to be another outstanding experience for attendees. We will walk and visit places where Lincoln once stood and spoke. Randy Duncan is planning a memorable experience for us at our 26th annual conference! As you review registration information (available soon), I urge you to adjust your schedules as necessary and join us in learning and fellowship from April 16-19, 2020, in Springfield!

Each year at our conferences we hold our annual business meeting. This is a time to learn about our operations, to select our future conference site (out two years), and to elect our ALP board members and officers. This year three board members' terms expire (Robert Broski, John Cooper and Homer Sewell). All three have indicated they are willing to run for re-election. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Teena Baldrige will offer to host our 2022 conference in Dayton, Ohio. (*Recently John McKee provided information about the Lincoln statue being placed in Dayton at the Veterans' Medical Center. You may have noticed Teena in one of the pictures.*) Are there any others of you who plan to submit a site offer?

I have recently learned that from time to time members have been dissatisfied with postings to social media and/or activities supported by the ALP. If you find yourself unhappy with something, please clearly articulate the specifics to the person(s) in charge and responsible for the matter if it deserves attention. Unless we bring these issues to the responsible leader's attention, nothing will change. Ninety-plus percent of the people are problem-solvers and want to do a good job, but we all come from different backgrounds. What is obvious to one person is not obvious to others. As I one time told a colleague, "The problem is that the problem isn't recognized." Help by assisting leadership in recognizing the problem. If in doubt about who to notify, notify one of your ALP board members.

I hope to see you in Springfield!

Stan

Meet Your Fellow Lincoln Leslie Goddard

Submitted by John Cooper, Baltimore, Ohio

Leslie Goddard (from Darien, Ill.) joined the ALP in 2015 in the "Other" category as a presenter of a number of women, most notably Jackie Kennedy. Some other characters she portrays are Amelia Earhart, Louisa May Alcott, Eleanor Roosevelt, Queen Elizabeth II, and Rachel Carson. She joined the ALP at the encouragement of her friend, ALP member Laura Keyes, with whom she does a joint Mary Lincoln-Jackie Kennedy presentation. Laura and Leslie treated the membership to this presentation at the Freeport, Ill., conference in 2018. Leslie has performed her characters full time since 2012, making more than 440 appearances in the past year alone. (Yes, that's more than one per day!)

Leslie has a theater degree from Stanford University, a master's in theater from Illinois University, and a PH.D. in history and women's studies from Northwestern. Not being athletically or musically inclined, her hobbies are museums and reading history and biographies. Prior to becoming a full-time performer, she worked at the Charles Gates Dawes house (former vice president of the U.S.) in Evanston, Ill., where someone who learned of her theater background asked her to do a portrayal in 2004. She has been expanding her repertoire ever since. In 2008, she added Jackie Kennedy, who is her most satisfying and requested character, but also most challenging. Everyone knows Jackie's appearance and many are familiar with her voice. Leslie listened to a lot of Jackie interviews to fashion a similar voice style.



She really enjoys her joint presentations with Laura Keyes, as they explore the similarities and differences between Mary and Jackie. They both loved shopping for clothes (and were criticized for it); they both re-decorated the White House; both lost a child in the White House, and both witnessed their husband's assassination. But Jackie was never a "political partner" to her president husband as was Mary. Jackie played a very public role in her husband's funeral, while Mary was noticeably absent. Jackie also described her years as first lady as the happiest of her marriage because it was when they were closest as a couple, while Mary suffered frequently from depression.

Leslie has been married for 12 years to Bruce Allardice, an amazing historian and genealogist, who teaches American and European history at South Suburban College in South Holland, Ill. They have no children, but spoil their two pug dogs. Bruce helps her with a lot of her historical research and keeps her accurate in her programs. But he has yet to don period clothing to appear with her as the equally famous husband of one of her characters.

One of the great joys in portraying her characters is revealing their complex and fully human qualities. For instance, Jackie Kennedy was often seen as "eye candy," notable only for her beauty and fashion. But she was remarkably astute at shaping public opinion. Much of what we remember about the Kennedy era as "Camelot" -- a time of youth, glamor and hope that valued arts and historic preservation -- was shaped by Jackie Kennedy. The two books she recommends about Jackie Kennedy are "Grace and Power: The Private World of the Kennedy White House" by Sally Bedell-Smith (2005), which weaves the biography of Jackie with the political history of the Kennedy administration, and "Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis: The Untold Story" by Barbara Leaming (2014), which deals with Jackie's struggle with PTSD after 1963.

Leslie wishes she could attend ALP conferences (she's only attended the portion of the Freeport conference when she performed for us), but her busy schedule makes that difficult. She does hope to make at least a day of the Springfield conference. She hopes to have the opportunity to network with others doing similar work. She says it is so rare in the world of historical portrayals to get together with others, learn what they are doing and share experiences and advice.

Meet Your Fellow Lincolns Max and Donna Daniels

Submitted by John Cooper, Baltimore, Ohio

Meet the Daniels, Max and Donna, from Wheaton, Ill., who are charter members of the ALP. Max was one of the first Lincolns to be contacted by Dan Bassuk when Dan was considering creating the ALP. They served as the first vice presidents of the organization when it was formed. The Daniels made their first Lincoln appearances in 1988, and by 1994, it had become their full-time occupation. They've been self-employed as President and Mrs. Lincoln ever since.

Before that, Max was assistant maintenance supervisor with a local banking system in the Chicago area. Donna was a receptionist with a law firm in Wheaton.

How did they get started as Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln? Both were involved in the local community theater. They used to be involved in almost every production, although since they've been portraying the Lincolns, they really don't do much "other theater" anymore. In 1988, Max was cast in a play as Lincoln, mainly because of his remarkable physical resemblance. At the time, it was just the next role he was going to play. But someone who saw him in that play asked him to participate in an historical pageant, which led to an invitation to be in a parade. It just kind of grew from there. About the fifth or sixth event he was invited to, someone finally said, "Oh, and could your wife come as Mary?" Ever since then, they've been more or less a "package deal." They each have individual programs that can be performed separately, but their claim to fame has been as Mr. *and* Mrs. Lincoln.



They have done as many as 250 appearances in a year, but that kind of pace quickly began to take a physical toll. They are now semi-retired, which means they've cut back to about 100 appearances per year.

They have not attended many recent conferences due to conflicts with booked appearances, but they did attend the Freeport conference where Max was one of the featured performers at the event's first evening production. He participated in a joint performance with Franklin Roosevelt when both were interviewed by a moderator. (This program was developed eight years ago and Max and R.J. Lindsey perform it several times each year.) They are pleased that more of the recent conferences seem to have started refocusing on how to better portray the Lincolns -- expanding our knowledge about them, tips on where needed items can be found, mentoring newcomers, etc.

Donna especially enjoys rehabilitating Mary's reputation by presenting her side of the story. Most people don't know how well-educated Mary was, that she had actually lost not only her husband but three of her four children, or that she did not spend the rest of her life in an insane asylum. Donna loves hearing people say, "Wow, I never knew that about (Mary)!" She always hopes that she's provided some food for thought, or at least motivated an audience to consider Mary from a different perspective.

One unique experience occurred at a Civil War reenactment in Pipestone, Minn. Many Lincolns have been thanked by descendants of slaves for having freed their ancestors, but here Max was thanked by a Vietnam veteran, who was a member of the Sioux nation, for sparing the life of his ancestor. His great-great-grandfather had been on the list of Indians to be executed at Mankato, Minn. For those

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who don't know, Mankato was the site of the largest mass hanging in U.S. history when 38 Sioux were hanged on the same gallows after an uprising. However, 305 Sioux were condemned to be hanged and Lincoln commuted the sentences of all the others to prison sentences.

Another time they did a school program and Max picked the wrong child to come up and make sure Mr. Lincoln's beard was real. The little cherub had both hands in the beard and both feet off the floor! That day, they learned to never pick the child sitting next to the teacher -- there's usually a reason for that!

The Daniels have been married for 35 years. They have a son and a daughter from Max's previous marriage, and they each have two children, so that provides them with four terrific grandchildren. They each attended college, but no degrees. Like Lincoln, they have done a great deal of self-study, using their extensive book collection. So far as physical activities, they specialize in running around in circles and jumping to conclusions. And like Lincoln, Max thinks he has "a voice that is well worth paying for... NOT to sing," and both admit that they "dance in the worst way." Donna, however, does sing with the church choir sometimes.

What they like most about their portrayals is being able to educate and teach history in a fun and entertaining way. Bringing these historical figures to life, making them real people (especially for children), and using their characterizations to explain the history of our country - *and* why it's still relevant -- is very satisfying.

They recommend "Team of Rivals" by Delores Kearns Goodwin, "Lincoln" by David Herbert Donald, "Lincoln Encyclopedia" by Mark Neely, and the biography by Benjamin Thomas being among their favorites from the close to 1,000 books they've accumulated, and there is something to be learned in every one of them!

"Having been doing this for about 32 years now, we kind of feel like we are now among some of the 'elder statesmen' of the group, with quite a bit of experience under our belt," the Daniels said. "We recognize that 'we stand on the shoulders of giants.' We got a lot of help and advice when we were starting out, and we believe in paying it forward. We now consider it our mission to mentor others, and help others who are starting out, the same way someone helped us."

"Our Members Take the Floor..."

What do you consider your major challenge to be as an Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln, et al., presenter and why? What have you done to face that challenge, and were your efforts effective?



John Cooper of Ohio writes, "When appearing as Lincoln, the question that most rankles me over the past several years (and I still hear it today) is, 'Have you killed any vampires today?' I usually answer, 'Obviously not enough, because there are still blood-suckers around Washington today, only now we call them Congress.' That usually gets a good chuckle."



According to **Laura Keyes of Illinois**, her "major challenge is to convince people that Mary Lincoln has her own story to tell. I have been told that no one needs to hear her story because 'We've already hired an Abraham Lincoln presenter.' Things I have done to face the challenge are to research, write and perform five different and wonderful presentations as Mary Lincoln. I tell her story wherever I can. I hope my efforts have been effective, but I think time will tell. I still encounter casual misogyny, and I don't think that will really go away anytime soon. What would help is other Abraham Lincoln presenters giving Mary Lincoln presenters the respect, time and attention they deserve."

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Lincoln and the Supreme Court: Little Drama, Much Impact

by Kevin Wood, Oak Park, Ill.

(Originally published in October 2018 in English and Spanish on his blog “Loath to Close... Still!”

To comment online, visit <http://www.mrlincoln.com/blog/?p=611>)

During his four-year, one-month presidency, Abraham Lincoln nominated five judges to the U.S. Supreme Court, including one chief justice. All five were approved within one week. That’s right: no drama, no meticulous background investigations, no rancorous and divisive hearings, no grandstanding politicians, and no endless media coverage!

But this is not to say that the topic of the Supreme Court didn’t generate controversy in Lincoln’s day. Just the opposite! Lincoln himself had even claimed – in response to the 1857 *Dred Scott v. Sandford* decision – that the Court was part of a vast conspiracy to nationalize the institution of slavery [see author’s June 27, 2015, blog for more on that]. And there was a huge ongoing debate about how to restructure the entire federal court system, which was outdated and overburdened due to the growth of the country in both size and population. Would it surprise you to learn that for decades Congress had been slow to modify the court system, in large part due to partisan and sectional bickering?

It should be noted that back then, Supreme Court justices also presided over the federal circuit courts; they actually travelled twice each year to their assigned regions to hear cases. In fact, they spent more time “riding the circuit” than in Washington. Lincoln himself had argued cases at Chicago before Justice John McLean, whose circuit included Illinois. And although in most cases there was not an explicit residency requirement, the justices were generally chosen from the regions they would serve, thus preserving a geographic diversity on the Court.

By the time Lincoln became president in 1861, the federal court system was badly in need of restructuring. In addition, one justice had died in 1860 and another did so just one month after Lincoln’s inauguration (McLean), and still another had resigned in order to join the Confederate government as assistant secretary of war (John A. Campbell, the only southern justice to resign).

In his first Annual Message to Congress on Dec. 3, 1861, Lincoln explained that he had not yet made nominations for the three vacancies in part because two of the seats had traditionally been held by southerners and this presented obvious difficulties:

Two of the outgoing judges resided within the States now overrun by revolt; so that if successors were appointed in the same localities, they could not now serve upon their circuits; and many of the most competent men there, probably would not take the personal hazard of accepting to serve, even here, upon the supreme bench. I have been unwilling to throw all the appointments northward, thus disabling myself from doing justice to the south on the return of peace; although I may remark that to transfer to the north one which has heretofore been in the south, would not, with reference to territory and population, be unjust.

Lincoln then described the great need for a restructuring, noting the very large population now contained in McLean’s circuit – “his circuit grew into an empire” – and the fact that “besides this, the country generally has outgrown our present judicial system.” He was especially critical of the lack of uniformity, as the last eight states admitted to the Union were excluded entirely from the circuit court system (they were attended by district courts instead), and concluded: “Circuit courts are useful, or they are not useful. If useful, no State should be denied them; if not useful, no State should have them. Let them be provided for all, or abolished as to all.”

In all this we see Lincoln’s overriding concern that fairness and justice be the goals of any changes to the court system. He then offered three proposals for fixing the problems:

Three modifications occur to me, either of which, I think, would be an improvement upon our present system. Let the Supreme Court be of convenient number in every event. Then, first, let the whole

country be divided into circuits of convenient size, the supreme judges to serve in a number of them corresponding to their own number, and independent circuit judges be provided for all the rest. Or, secondly, let the supreme judges be relieved from circuit duties, and circuit judges provided for all the circuits. Or, thirdly, dispense with circuit courts altogether, leaving the judicial functions wholly to the district courts and an independent Supreme Court.

Lincoln decided to fill McLean's seat in January 1862, nominating Noah Haynes Swayne, who like McLean was from Ohio, and whom the Senate confirmed just three days later. But then he waited on Congress.

Congress finally responded in July 1862 by redrawing the nine circuits to include all the states except California and Oregon in the far west, also making them more equitable in terms of population served. Since the north had grown much more than the south in population since the last restructuring in 1837, this had the effect of – to use Lincoln's earlier quaint phrase – “throwing the appointments northward.” Southerners had previously outnumbered northerners on the Court 5-4; now northerners would outnumber southerners 6-3.

The very next day, Lincoln asked Attorney General Edward Bates to prepare the nomination of Samuel Freeman Miller of Iowa for one of the newly redrawn circuits. Lincoln's hand-written note to Bates was remarkably brief and informal:

Please send me nominations, of Samuel F. Miller, of Iowa, as a Justice of the Supreme Court, for the Circuit in which Iowa is included; and of _____ Trigg (you have his first name) for District Judge in Tennessee.

That same day, Bates provided Lincoln with Miller's nomination and Lincoln sent it to the Senate: “*I nominate Samuel F. Miller of Iowa to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.*” The Senate confirmed Miller in just half an hour.

Later that fall, with Congress not in session, Lincoln appointed his old Illinois friend David Davis to the final vacancy by way of a recess appointment. When Congress reconvened on Dec. 1, Lincoln nominated Davis for a regular appointment, and the Senate confirmed him exactly one week later.

Congress made a further change in March 1863, adding a tenth circuit for California and Oregon, which therefore increased the number of justices on the court from nine to 10. Lincoln immediately nominated Stephen Johnson Field of California for the new position, and he was approved just four days later.

Then in October 1864, Chief Justice Roger Taney, author of the despised *Dred Scott* decision, did Lincoln a great favor by passing away. Not only was the Court rid of Taney, but now Lincoln had a convenient solution to his problem of finding a new post for his former secretary of treasury and presidential wannabe, Salmon P. Chase.

Lincoln's nomination of Chase as chief justice on Dec. 6 was approved by the Senate on the very same day. Whereas Taney had declared that black slaves and their descendants could never be citizens of the United States, one of Chase's first actions was to accept the application of John Rock, a black lawyer, to practice before the Court.

Lincoln's five appointments, including his appointment of Chase as chief justice, along with the redrawing of the circuits done by Congress, totally remade the Supreme Court. It is probably no exaggeration to say that Lincoln's impact on the Court was greater than that of all of our other presidents except for Washington (who named the entire first Court), John Adams (who appointed John Marshall as chief justice), Andrew Jackson (who appointed six justices, including Taney as chief justice), and Franklin D. Roosevelt (who appointed eight justices, although he failed in his attempt to “pack the court”).

And, as already noted, Lincoln's five nominees were approved by the Senate in three, zero, seven, four, and zero days, an average of less than three days (and one in just half an hour). One wonders what Lincoln would think of the current confirmation process!



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Candler Willis of North Carolina recalls that “early on I decided to make Lincoln presentations a mixture of his humor and serious material. The ‘jackass-prime minister’ story has been a most successful conclusion, but I have not found a substitute to provide variety that is its equal. Any suggestions? (Anyone with ideas for Willis can contact him at w667137@aol.com.)



And from **Joe Woodard of Illinois**, “As one who portrays the pre-presidential Lincoln, a great problem I encounter is the common misapprehension that Abraham Lincoln ‘always’ had a beard. I can seldom remain in my Lincoln character and respond effectively. To say as Lincoln, ‘I have never worn whiskers’ only confuses most of those who ask where my whiskers are. About the only occasion on which I have dealt with the problem effectively was once at the Hodgenville, Ky., look-alike contest when, for my presentation, I performed a dramatic monologue as Abraham talking to Mary about a letter I had received that day from a young girl named Grace Bedell, suggesting that I might consider growing a beard.”

Thanks to those ALP members who took the time to respond to this issue’s “Our Members Take the Floor...” question. If you have a question or idea for which you’d like the membership’s feedback, please send it to Vicki Woodard (vwoodard@eiu.edu; 602 N. Pine Street, Hazel Dell, IL 62428) for consideration in a future issue of Lincarnations.