

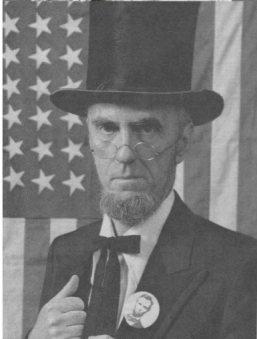
LINCARNATIONS

Volume 28 No. 1

July 2021

“Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all”

Association of Lincoln Presenters



Dan Bassuk,
ALP Founder

As many of you already know, we have recently lost two charter members of the ALP:



Lewis “Abe” Clymer was a Life Member of the Association of Lincoln Presenters. Born on April 7, 1931, he began presenting as Lincoln in his early 20’s. He died on April 23, 2021, following a short hospitalization. A memorial service was held in Vandalia, IL on June 26, 2021.



Dr. Beryl F. (B. F.) McClerren was a Life Member of the Association of Lincoln Presenters. Born on May 30, 1929. As a teacher, one of his favorite courses was the Lincoln Senior Seminar. B. F.’s presenting of Lincoln was interrupted by Covid. He died at home on June 18, 2021. A memorial service is scheduled for July 10, 2021.

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ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS

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July 2021

Summer greetings, Members!

In recent months my mail frequently has included your expressions of disappointment over no opportunity for membership to get together. With the lifting of Covid restrictions, circumstances are such that we can again meet and greet one another. Plans are being made for such an event as part of the Hodgenville (Ky.) Lincoln Days. Come on Friday morning to share your talent in *pro bono* presentations, and join together in the afternoon to visit local sites. ALP fellowship will follow as we break bread together at the restaurant of Charlie Long's (deceased Life member) daughter (details on page 7).

It is time to plan ahead! After due deliberations and consultation with conference hosts, the ALP Board has scheduled the 2022 conference in Leavenworth, Kansas (April 21-24) with Murray Cox as host. We anticipate the conference will be as was scheduled for 2021, with only changes of necessity (e.g., speaker who can't make it this year; facility isn't available). Watch for further details.

The ALP Board has been wrestling with how to best address our declining membership. Laura Keyes has suggested we focus on marketing our organization. The Board has developed a Marketing Job Description, and appointed Larry Elliott to fill that position.

When the ALP Board decided to provide Dan Bassuk's book to every ALP household, we thought the task would be easy. PO boxes and Amazon Prime were a problems; correcting these problems revealed many directory phone numbers and some email addresses were obsolete. With Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, many don't routinely check email inboxes. To correct this dilemma, we have a special request: Please check your website information. Advise John Cooper (fourscore7yearsago@yahoo.com) and Stan Wernz (Lincolnwernzs@peoplepc.com) of any changes. If you aren't on the website, provide us with your current address, email address, and phone number. Having current directory information is imperative when we need to reach you.

Additionally, if you are not on the website but would like to be, please send your bio (100 words max) and your photo (200 pixels wide, min) to Stan (email above). If you are listed on the website, but have no photo, please submit a photo that we can use. Thanks!

I hope to see you in Hodgenville come October; if you can't be in Hodgenville, join us in Leavenworth next April.

Stan

Meet Maryanne Mathews

Submitted by John Cooper

Maryanne Mathews from Carmel, Indiana is a life member of ALP since 2015. She portrays Mary Lincoln and has developed a one-woman play titled "Mrs. President - a visit with Mary Lincoln." She wants to give Mary a voice and stresses how remarkable she was as a woman in her times. She also has a women's suffrage program where she performs as an unnamed suffragette, talking about the movement in its times and referencing many of the famous suffragettes.

Maryanne became Mary Lincoln in 2013 after performing in a play at the Lincoln Ampitheatre in Lincoln Boyhood State Park in southern Indiana (which incidentally featured ALP member Dean Dorrell as the adult Lincoln). The play was about Lincoln's boyhood. Maryanne became fascinated to learn about Mary Lincoln and decided to begin portraying her. She has an appropriate stature (being less than five feet tall) to be Mary.



Maryanne is a retired teacher, who currently serves as an historic interpreter (furloughed due to the coronavirus) at Conner Prairie, a living history museum in the Indianapolis area, where she does hearth cooking, sewing and knitting. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University, then earned a master's degree in special education from West Virginia/Marshall University.

She's been married for 42 years to Garret, who is 6'1" to her 4'10". They have two sons, Colin and Evan and two grandsons, with whom she spends a great deal of time mentoring while they are unable to attend school.

She plays guitar and hammered and lap dulcimers and belongs to a musical group called Crossing Bridges, with three dulcimers, a violin, and her guitar. She also enjoys hiking and biking, history, writing, and singing.

She has attended a couple of conferences and loves the learning opportunities and the ability to share experiences with other historic presenters. She finds the Marys to be a very friendly bunch!

Maryanne believes that Mary Lincoln was a woman who, had she been born in modern times, would probably have been a mover and a shaker. She was very intelligent and for all her temper, very compassionate. Through her play, people not only learn new things about her that they didn't know, but develop a sympathy and respect for her.

One of her more memorable performances was at a Civil War weekend too far away to bring her set. The local high school art class was supposed to set up the scenery, but neglected to put trusses on the back to allow them to stand up. They balanced them the best they could. There was also a bed in the set that was an actual historic rope bed from one of the organizer's ancestors. They couldn't get the ropes tied tight enough. So during the performance, the bed was threatening to collapse and the "walls" of Mary's sitting room were wobbling with every step on the stage. "I thought to myself that if they fell down, I would simply have to say, 'As Mr. Lincoln said, a house divided against itself cannot stand.'"

She performs about 10 times each year with her play, meet-and-greets, or teas hosted by Mrs. Lincoln. She has also accompanied President Lincoln (portrayed by ALP member Danny Russel also of Carmel, IN) in a couple of parades.

Regarding books, she recommends Katherine Helm's book, [The True Story of Mary, Wife of Lincoln](#). She takes some of the childhood stories with a grain of salt, but they are family lore and show something about Mary's personality.

[This speech was prepared by Phillip and Sally Chetwynd in 2014, from books about Lincoln and from Lincoln's own writings. It is intended to provide information about the flag that Lincoln would have known or could have known. – SMC]

LINCOLN COMMENTS ABOUT THE STARS AND STRIPES

April 14, 1865

As we acknowledge our national standard today, I thought that you might be interested in some history with which I am personally familiar, regarding our Stars and Stripes.

Prior to the outbreak of this current conflict, our national flag was rarely displayed: primarily at military stations, at some government agencies, and frequently in political campaigns. My own presidential campaign used a flag imprinted with my image and that of my first vice-president, Hannibal Hamlin.

Upon my election in November of 1860, the ensuing unrest, North and South, stirred a national fervor around the flag. I could not be more pleased about the patriotic zeal which Americans now display toward the Stars and Stripes. The reason, however, deeply saddens me, for defending honor should not inspire one to bloodshed.

Poor old Samuel Morse. We can thank him for the advances in communications to the country with his invention of the telegraph, only 20 short years ago. But his political sentiment is not up to this struggle. He thought to retire in 1860, but with the fired-up rhetoric of the presidential campaign that year, he tried to turn his hand to diplomacy. He suggested a convention of states – a new national convention – in order to resolve their differences. I heartily supported that idea, and tried to arrange just that sort of meeting with Southern leaders, but without success.

I did not agree with Morse's alternative, however. If the national convention failed to resolve anything, Morse proposed that the Union let the Southern states go, to become a separate nation, retaining friendly relations with the remaining Union. He even proposed that the United States flag be cut diagonally in half, with the stars divided and with six and a half stripes for each half. Each nation, North and South, would hold one of the halves.

His idea was that if a foreign nation threatened one or both of the two new nations, they would band together as allies, stitching together their flag halves, and fight for their common defense under the united flag.

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Morse called this a “secession flag” or “peace flag.” The idea not only found little favor with anyone, North or South, but provoked some violent reactions. The newspapers reported in April of 1861 that a man from Massachusetts who flew one from his home was tarred and feathered by his neighbors.

Upon the secession of the Southern states, many people in the North cut away eleven stars from their flags in protest. Even Congress proposed to remove the stars officially. I stood against these sentiments, for I firmly believe two things:

That our Southern brethren cannot by law remove themselves from our Union, and

That to remove those stars from our flag would acknowledge that those states had become a separate government, a new nation. This administration will never recognize the South as a separate nation; to do so would undermine what our founders fought so hard to give us, as well as what so many young men are fighting for – our Union. We cannot recognize that which we deny.

As part of my inaugural journey from Springfield, Illinois, in February 1861, I was privileged to participate in an early-morning flag-raising ceremony in Philadelphia, at Independence Hall. The date was February 22, Washington’s birthday. The crowd was huge, and their voices thundered with approval as I personally raised an American flag, a new one emblazoned with 34 stars, to include Kansas, which was admitted to the Union only three weeks earlier.

Later that day, when we had continued to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, my remarks included the statement that, during that deeply moving event that morning, “I could not help hoping that there was, in the entire success of that beautiful ceremony, at least something of an omen of what is to come. . . The flag of our country may yet be kept flaunting gloriously.”

Once South Carolina fired upon Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor on April 12, 1861, an intense patriotism consumed the land. The lowering of the Stars and Stripes two days later on April 14, when Major Robert Anderson removed our troops from the fort, precipitated the raising of the flag in the North - thousands of towns and homes blossomed with banners. The defense of the flag and what it stands for served as a unifying force for the oncoming war. The *New York World* called it “flag mania” a week after Fort Sumter surrendered. Everyone gave a speech, including my old friend Stephen Douglas, who spoke before the joint session of the Illinois legislature, imploring us all to preserve the flag, and calling us to rally under it.

A year later, Mr. George Root supported my July 2nd call for 300,000 more volunteers, by writing and publishing his song “Rally 'Round The Flag” also

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known as “The Battle Cry of Freedom.” It has served as a valuable recruiting tool.

A particularly sad note for me regarding the flag was the death of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth about a month after the outbreak of war. He was a young law clerk who had worked in my office in Springfield, and accompanied me to Washington. He recruited the 11th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, the “Fire Zouaves,” and when he spied a rebel flag flying from an inn across the river in Alexandria, within view of the Executive Mansion, he went to remove it. The innkeeper killed him as Ellsworth descended from the roof, with the rebel colors in his arms. Ellsworth’s soldiers brought the banner back to the Executive Mansion, where my wife Mary hid it away. She did not hide it well enough, however, for our young son Tad has often discovered it and pulled it out to wave at well-wishers who often assemble on the lawn.

As much as our family, and the nation, mourned for young Ellsworth, who was the first commissioned officer killed in this conflict, I was gratified to learn a little later that when our National Colors were once again hoisted over the City of Alexandria, that many of the residents wept for joy to see once again this familiar and much-loved emblem.

All during this war, the flag and the passion surrounding it have generated songs, poems, stories, and slogans. Booksellers often find themselves sold out of patriotic envelopes and stationery with printed images of the flag. Nearly every Union soldier has a Bible flag – small enough to tuck into his New Testament – which he carries in his haversack or breast pocket.

Seeing the war’s end in sight late during this last winter, I signed into law on March 2, only 6 weeks ago, a measure which requires our federal government to purchase bunting and flags only from American manufacturers, to foster a continuing interest in the honor of our flag. Until this law, we have been importing woolen bunting almost entirely from England. To meet this new demand, General Benjamin Butler founded the United States Bunting Company in Lowell, Massachusetts, and earlier this week, he presented me with the company’s first flag, one with 37 stars, which anticipates Nebraska’s upcoming entry into the Union.

The war has raged for four long years, but with Lee’s surrender this past week, we have good reason to believe that the outlying bands of resistance will lay down their arms and submit to the Union. Even as I speak, Major Anderson is once again raising our beloved Stars and Stripes over the battered remains of Fort Sumter in South Carolina, restoring federal authority within that state. I’ve sent one of my secretaries, John Nicolay, to represent this administration at that ceremony.

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HODGENVILLE, OCTOBER 1-3, 2021

Greet ALP Members October 1!

The pandemic has played havoc with our ALP activities. We have been restricted by government mandates, and many have stayed home because of being in a “vulnerable” group. But things are looking up, and we want to take advantage of these opportunities. So come join those of us who can make it to Hodgenville Lincoln Days!

Lincoln Days are planned for Saturday and Sunday, October 2 and 3. For a full list of activities, visit www.lincolndays.org. ALP members will have our own mini-get-together on October 1. Some of us can visit schools on Friday from 9 am to noon. These will be 30-45 minute classroom visits. If you are interested, notify Joan Howard at cjhow5@yahoo.com or phone (502-545-1071). When Joan learns how many Presidents & First Ladies can attend, she will set up a schedule. Participants will only go to one school.

Friday afternoon can be spent visiting the Lincoln Birthplace, Boyhood Home and Lincoln Museum. There will be lots of opportunities to share happenings as we see one another along the way. Lincoln Days is also hosting a multi-day Art Show.

Friday evening ALP will gather for a catered evening meal. Some of you remember Charlie Long, an ALP Charter and Life Member who presented Lincoln for many years. His daughter and granddaughter have a café just off the square in Hodgenville that is dedicated to Charlie. They do not serve dinner, but will open for us at 6 pm Friday for a catered meal. Cost is about \$20 per person. Joan will take menu ideas for a caterer.

And we haven't forgotten sleep: Elizabethtown's Country Inn & Suites (Formerly Red Lion); 107 Buffalo Creek Drive; Elizabethtown, KY 42701; 270-769-1334. For the \$99.99 plus tax rate use code **Lincoln Days**. Make your reservations quickly as space is limited. Joan plans to be in Hodgenville on Thursday if you need anything.

Since this is the 50th Lincoln Days Festival, it would be really nice if several of us could attend. There are contests and fun activities. Learn more at www.lincolndays.org/booths. Jim Sayre has been to the last 39; Cliff & Joan attended regularly until Cliff's passing; Joan has continued their tradition since then. The community puts a lot of hard work into this weekend that honors our 16th President. We hope you can participate.

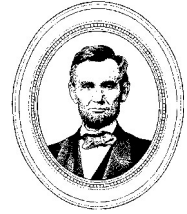
Special thanks to Joan for coordinating this gathering, and for handling on-site arrangements!

We hope to see you in Hodgenville!

Association of Lincoln Presenters

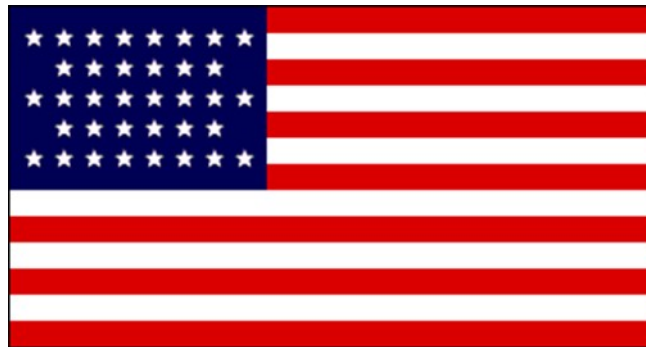
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I hope you will join me in saluting our National Colors today, and remembering the soldiers, sailors, and citizen patriots who have given their all under this banner, that we may stand here today in freedom. Thank you.



This flag has a 36th star, which was added upon the admission of the state of Nevada (October 31, 1864). It would not have been displayed, however, until July 4, 1865, after Lincoln's death.