

# LINCARNATIONS

“Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all”

Association of Lincoln Presenters



Dan Bassuk,  
ALP Founder



Stan Wernz,  
President  
Emeritus

If anyone has any events or activities that should interest us as historic portrayers, living historians or researchers, please share through this (semiannual) newsletter, our Facebook, or webpage.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have just completed our 2024 conference in Dayton. Many thanks to Teena Baldrige, the local host, and Susan Miller, who assisted her from Lexington for their hard work organizing everything so that all events ran like clockwork. Thanks also to the Lincoln Society of Dayton which served as an organizational host and made a substantial financial contribution to the success of the conference. Many of our lecturers were members of this Society (Teena is their current President). We had about 55 people who attended at least one of the days. By the way, our President Emeritus, Stan Wernz, was able to attend for the Friday sessions. It was great to see him again. He came with our, webmaster, Scott Webb.

For those who missed out this year, start planning to attend next year's conference, scheduled for Kalamazoo, MI on April 24-27. Kevin Wood will be the host. The city is excited about hosting us and is helping Kevin with some of the plans. Lincoln once spoke in Kalamazoo. They have a statue of Lincoln to commemorate that speech. The Republican party held its first ever statewide convention in Jackson, MI in 1854 not too far from Kalamazoo. And Sojourner Truth lived a part of her life near Kalamazoo.

Our social media push to find new members has borne some fruit during the past year. Since last summer, we have added 12 new members. Glenn Murray (NY) as Lincoln; Jacob Truax (TN) as Lincoln, and Doug Miron (NC) as Lincoln. Julie Cope McMahon (Whit's wife from TN) as Mary Lincoln, and Laura Schlessinger (TN) as Mary Lincoln. Michael Baete (Conner's dad from KY) as Gen. Grant and Doug Ebert (OH) also Gen. Grant. Also, the following four presidents have joined: Frank Butwin (OH) who does William Henry Harrison and Francis Scott Key; Curt Radabaugh (OH) as George Washington; Greg Patterson (OH) as John Adams and John Quincy Adams; and Bob Mergel (OH) as Teddy Roosevelt. Our newest member is Loretta Williams (IL) who portrays Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, a mid-19th century Illinois activist for labor and women's rights.

*John Cooper, 740-862-6373*

## MEET YOUR FELLOW ALP MEMBER

### DICK FREEMAN

Dick Freeman of Alpharetta, GA portrays Abraham Lincoln's secretary, John Hay. He began playing the role of John Hay about 20 years ago. He has a friend (Lisa Arrindell) who is well known in the film industry & Broadway (see <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0027092/>). She watched him do a talk on Lincoln's life and lessons we could take from it. She convinced him to select a phase or part of Lincoln's life and do a one man one act play. He chose Lincoln's faith and spent a year researching his faith. His faith was an evolving thing, with research based on Lincoln's personal correspondence, his political correspondence, newspaper articles, etc. Given the amount of time and items that he read - it was a large accumulation of circumstantial evidence that convinced him that Lincoln was a Christian. And Lincoln came to it over time.



Dick enjoys being John Hay because he is real and was very close to Lincoln (like a son). Hay was also a poet (as was Lincoln – according to John Hay, Lincoln was a good poet). Lincoln once put Hay to sleep at the soldier's home reciting Shakespeare. Lincoln also memorized a book of algorithms – just to prove that he could do it. We frequently point to Jefferson as the most intelligent of all presidents. Lincoln was also highly intelligent and self-educated, with less than a full year of blab school learning.

Until about a year ago, Dick was doing about two performances a year. Audiences ranged from half a dozen – like family – to as many as 300, including many churches, retirement homes and service clubs. His last appearance was before a history society in Alpharetta, Georgia in an historical home. A tough Southern audience were kind to him. He is still willing to do his play as John Hay given the right venue. There have been some tentative inquiries recently.

Dick is married to his wife and partner, Shari and celebrated their 26th anniversary on May 2nd. Shari does not perform. She preaches and in her long career with SAP made many professional presentations both domestic and international. Shari just received her Master of Divinity degree. She is a former Dale Carnegie instructor.

Dick spent three years at Northwestern University - where he played baseball on a partial scholarship but did not finish. Because of financial issues, he ended up in Canada for a summer job and eventually stayed there for ten years. He met his first wife there and had 2 children while living there and a third in Toledo. Subsequently he lived in Lansing, Michigan and Springfield, Illinois (nearly 6 years there), before locating in Atlanta in 1980. He never regrets moving to Atlanta. It put him in the South and much closer to so many Civil War sites.

Dick started his work career with Retail Credit Company in Hamilton, Ontario. He worked his way up through the ranks in what eventually became Choice Point/Equifax. In 1974 he worked on a team to begin the automation of Equifax, which was a paper-based reporting company. Eventually, he was essentially focused on sales/marketing/building staff of technical people. His success

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was rewarded with a move and promotion to the Atlanta operation to turn around a region within the southeastern states. He served as a manager, regional manager, operations manager, and international sales manager during his tenure with Equifax. His last assignment was reporting to the president, with responsibilities to manage/maintain/grow the customer base in the U.S. and Canada. He retired from Equifax in 1990. Then he joined a couple start companies as a marketing manager before retiring for good in 2001.

Now at the age of 85, his time is committed to supporting his wife and church (he leads a men's Bible study, makes pastoral calls, and recently added some hospice volunteer work). He has three daughters, 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, all within an hour of his home. He continues to buy and read books on Lincoln and the war with a focus on the political and social vs military.

Dick has been a lifetime member of ALP since 2011 but has never attended a conference. There always seemed to be something else happening with church, volunteering, etc.

Dick wanted to include a nod to his great friend, Gene Griessman, ALP member from Georgia who passed away recently. He was a special friend, and mentor. Dick and Gene could talk all day on Lincoln. They respected one another a good deal. Gene's stage presence and ability to literally become Lincoln with his flat footed slouched slow walk were eerie. Dick and Gene were planning a joint gig as fund raiser for Dick's church. It would have been a standing room only performance. Unfortunately, Gene had a massive heart attack and passed away before they could make the presentation.

His most significant Lincoln story is how he was so determined to get the 13th Amendment passed and how he arm-twisted to get the number of votes he needed. He knew his Emancipation Proclamation could be overturned by his successor. He was a consummate politician.

One time when he was speaking to a school classroom of kids, some 2nd grader asked him how long Lincoln's horse lived after Lincoln died. He did not know, and it took a bit of effort to find out.

He has hundreds of books on Lincoln. He cites numerous favorite Lincoln books such as Sandberg's, but *Team of Rivals* he considers outstanding, though focused on a narrow period in history. Sidney Blumenthal has written a three-book set and that is surprisingly good. It is well researched for sure.

*Respectfully submitted by John Cooper, 740-862-6373*

## EARLY LINCOLN PORTRAYERS

### Charles Webster, the most prominent unseen portrayal

As I research Abraham Lincoln portrayals through history, I expanded my scope from the silent screen to sound films, to television, the stage, and now radio and voice-overs. I have ranged from “Lincoln without words” to “Lincoln unseen.” In the latter category, I came across Charles Webster (1889-19xx), who has performed Lincoln more times than stage and screen actors would do across their careers.

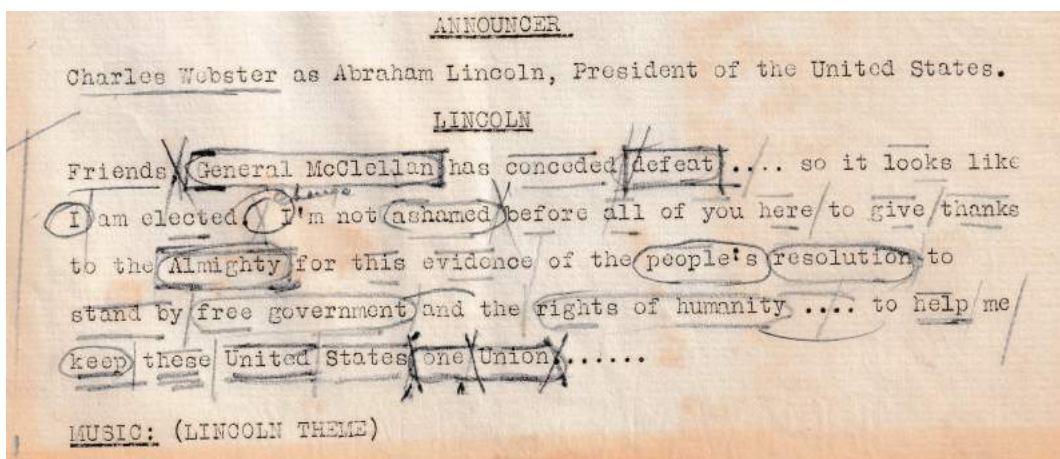
Charles Webster was born on December 24, 1888, in Egremont, Cheshire, England, to John and Julia Webster. He came to Canada as a child, and then to the United States upon adulthood. He appeared on stage, including Broadway between 1914 and 1926. His earliest appearance on radio was in 1925.

In radio drama, Webster excelled. He played Benjamin Franklin and Presidents Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Jackson, McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt. He even played as Jesus in a radio production of the Passion Play. But he confessed that his favorite role was Abraham Lincoln. He played him frequently in different programs, playing him over 300 times and had to endure being “assassinated” 31 times over his first decade. He was the National Broadcasting Corporation’s (NBC’s) first choice to play Lincoln on the air anytime they needed someone to portray him.

Having made a special study of his voice, gleaned from various records of his vocal characteristics, he checked with those who knew him and heard speak at various times. Union veteran Col. Henry Clay Rizer (1844-1938) claimed that Webster’s voice impression had Lincoln’s “exactly right.” Webster’s friends and colleagues remarked that his natural voice did not emerge whenever he spoke as Lincoln.



*Webster in 1938*



*Example of Webster's marked up script.*

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From 1932 to 1934 on the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) and from 1934 to 1936 on NBC, the radio drama *Roses and Drums* was performed weekly. After covering episodes of American history from colonial times to the 1850s during the programs first eight months, the series then restricted its scope to the Civil War. The main characters were a Southern Belle who was also a Confederate spy, with both a Union and Confederate officer vying for her affections. And perhaps anticipating such television miniseries as *The Blue and the Grey* and *North and South*, an assortment of historical figures performing in the context of historical incidents, such as the Northwest Conspiracy and Lincoln's issues with McClellan and the selection of Grant. The show allowed a live audience to view the performers, who even dressed as their characters for the event. Webster had to be careful how he stood near his fellow performers – even standing on a crate while posing for pictures to appear taller. Physically, he stood 5' 8" tall and did not sport any facial hair. As a radio actor, he was not expected to dress or look the part, as the audience typically listened and not watched. This radio program was about to change all that. He wore the typical black frock coat and matching waistcoat and pants, and even the stovepipe hat. He attached a false beard to complete the look. Beatrice Cameron (billed as Mrs. Richard Mansfield), the widow of the stage actor Richard Mansfield, played Mrs. Lincoln, while Guy Bates Post played General Grant; and three men, Charles Coburn, Charles Richman, and Jack Rosleigh all played Jefferson Davis on different episodes.

Webster continued to play Lincoln over the airwaves. Over one Lincoln Day weekend, he performed that role for eight different radio shows. He also appeared in *Cavalcade of America* in various roles. Webster continued to lend his voice as Lincoln throughout his long career in radio. Programs included *Gangbusters*, *The Falcon*, and *Great Plays*. For a broadcast on June 22, 1958, he appeared on an *Eternal Light* episode titled "Cantillation: Interpreter of The Bible", and the segment of note is how "Abraham Lincoln used cantillation to 'sing' the Gettysburg Address."

[One can download the program from <https://www.oldtimeradiodownloads.com/drama/eternal-light/eternal-light-58-06-22-0689-cantillation-interpreter-of-the-bible> and pick up at 5m30s and play through 6m45s for a comparison. The total program is approximately 30 minutes.]

Webster's last radio performance was on December 5, 1959, as a physician dealing with true-to-life medical situations. He died on August 12, 1966 with no further records, though his sister and mother are buried at Kensico Cemetery in Westchester, NY.

*John M. McKee*



*Eddie Wragge as Tad Lincoln, Mrs. Richard Mansfield as Mary Lincoln, and Charles Webster as President Lincoln*

## THE LINCOLN QUESTION and ANSWERS

### QUESTION:

Explain a popularly held characteristic attributed to any of the Lincolns (or any of your other character portrayals) that you believe is historically incorrect, the research you did, and how you use your portrayal to correct the popular misconception.



The most obvious attributed characteristic, indeed one so prevalent that I am asked about it at EVERY SINGLE PRESENTATION I have given over the last 15 years is that Mary Lincoln was crazy. As we know, many books have been written on this one topic, and it's difficult to answer an audience member's question in the time allotted. Based on my research, I have decided to portray Mary Lincoln as a very human individual. And by that, I mean, she had flaws; she lost her temper; she didn't easily forgive; she suffered many losses from close family as well as friends throughout her lifetime. All those things, and more, add up to make her human. Those things, even taken together, don't add up to make her crazy. Modern terms like "crazy" cannot easily - and should not - be applied to someone living in a different century under circumstances which we can only begin to comprehend.

### Laura Keyes



One of the most central misconceptions is that Lincoln didn't have any objection to slavery, but only wanted to save the Union. Of course, it is easy to have this misconception since he did in fact write a famous letter to Horace Greeley, published 8/22/62, stating, "If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it."

Many people who know this do not also know that on July 22, 1862, a month prior, Lincoln had already presented the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet, but accepted their advice to wait to announce it until there was a significant victory in the field. That victory was at Antietam, on September 17, 1862, and Lincoln thus announced he would be issuing an Emancipation Proclamation 5 days later, on September 22nd. Thus, the statement, "If I could save the Union without freeing any slaves," was the rhetorical equivalent of, "If I could make an omelet without breaking any eggs." The point is you can't.

Also, Lincoln did say, in the same letter to Horace Greeley, "and I intend no modification of my oft-expressed personal wish that all men everywhere could be free." Thus, I observe that in the Greeley letter, as in MANY of Lincoln's pronouncements and speeches, he is doing his best to give some hope to readers or listeners of all persuasions. He was, after all, a politician.

I think he made his thinking clearest in the letter of April 4, 1864, to Albert Hodges, saying, inter alia, **"I am naturally anti-slavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. I cannot remember when I did not so think and feel. And yet I have never understood that the Presidency conferred upon me an unrestricted right to act officially upon this judgment and feeling."**



What I do in my presentation, to correct this popular misconception, is to have Lincoln make some of these points, in my play, *The Lincoln Douglass Debates*, during the second meeting of the two men. Now I know we don't know all that the men discussed, nor was it recorded, but we do know that Douglass said that Lincoln was "more anti-slavery" when you talked to him in person than you would guess from his public statements. Here is a section

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of dialog that somewhat addresses this, in the play:

DOUGLASS: ... have you not specifically told Horace Greeley ... that if you could save the Union without freeing a single slave, you would do so?

LINCOLN: Mr. Douglass, let me ask you a very simple questions, and feel free to reply in full candor ... Do you think we CAN save the Union without freeing the slaves?

DOUGLASS: NO, WE CANNOT.

LINCOLN: Of course not. Rhetoric is rhetoric. Please understand, sir, that my public pronouncements are re- strained – cabined, cribbed, confined - by the practicalities of politics and office. That being said ... Mr. Douglass, to me it is one of God’s great miracles that you even survived the conditions of your youth, to be here today. I cannot tell you ... I have no words ... I cannot ... *(to audience, as Douglass freezes)* Ironic, yes? I write speeches – some would even call me an orator. But I have no words ... I cannot ...

You know, my observation is that in your world, in your time, men commonly speak in public of their feelings, their emotions. Men did not do so in my time - not sober men. So how do I ...

This man, Frederick Douglass, was born Fred Bailey, a slave, in Maryland. As soon as he was weaned, his mother was moved to a plantation miles away. The only way she could see her child was to quit the fields at sunset, walk the many miles in the dark and spend a few stolen hours with her son, whom she never thereafter saw by daylight. The many indignities, the abuses that boy suffered and observed ... to see his own aunt stripped to the waist, tied to a post, flogged, the tortured blood drawn by the lash from her all too sullied flesh ... and further foul deeds perpetrated against the females and ... I am sorry, but in any age these indecencies are still unspeakable. If slavery is not wrong, then nothing is wrong!! *(starts to pull himself together)* Well – it would seem I am becoming a modern man after all. So, how do I tell him? What do I ... ?

*(to Douglass, who vivifies)* Sir - All I can say is what I commonly do say - that whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.

DOUGLASS: I wouldn’t wish it on my worst enemy.

### ***Doug Miron***



These sentiments were created by the Rev. William J. H. Boetcker, who lectured around the United States. There is no evidence linking them to Lincoln as the author. It was on the opposite side of a piece of paper with an image of Lincoln.

At one time President Ronald Reagan used them in a speech, wrongly attributing them to Lincoln. Those who are familiar with Lincoln's writings recognize that these statements do not reflect Lincoln's “voice,” nor can they be found in any authentic Lincoln literature.

*You cannot bring prosperity by discouraging thrift.*

*You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.*

*You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.*

*You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.*

*You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.*

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*You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.*

*You cannot further brotherhood of men by inciting class hatred.*

*You cannot establish security on borrowed money.*

*You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.*

*You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.*

Source: *Did Lincoln Own Slaves?* By Dr. Gerald J. Prokopowicz

Many thanks,

**Robert Brugler**

Abraham Lincoln Presenter & Historian

5312 Parkhurst Crossing

McCordsville, IN 46055

VisitWithAbe.com

VisitWithAbe@gmail.com

(614) 312-7461



It is commonly said that Abraham Lincoln failed numerous times to be elected to various political offices until he was somehow elected President; in fact, there is a Snopes entry on that subject. In my program “The Political Lincoln: Honest Abe on Campaigns and Elections” – which is very popular in election years! – I prove the absurdity of that claim. I point out, for example, that of nine direct elections by the people, Lincoln lost the first one, when he was but 23 years old, but won the next eight. I also explain how in his two elections for the US Senate, which were not direct votes of the people back then, he really should have won both. And I also point out that he won two important non-political elections: as militia captain of his volunteer company during the Black Hawk War and for the hand of Miss Mary Todd!

**Kevin Wood**

### Three Myths Surrounding Theodore Roosevelt



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One thing that Theodore Roosevelt DID NOT do, was ride a moose through a lake. The "Bull Moose" nickname originated when Roosevelt boasted that he felt "strong as a bull moose" after losing the Republican nomination to Howard Taft at the June 1912 Chicago Convention. Thereafter, the Progressive Party was identified as the "Bull Moose" Party. After that, the photography firm Underwood and Underwood immortalized the "Three Way" Presidential Race with a doctored photograph of Theodore Roosevelt riding a moose crossing a lake. The photograph was published in the *New-York Tribune* on September 8, 1912. To mount Roosevelt onto a moose, Underwood and Underwood painstakingly cut out an image of him riding a horse, and then pasted it onto a picture of a swimming moose.

Theodore Roosevelt is the most well-known conservationist to hold the Presidency. But Roosevelt DID NOT create Yellowstone National Park. More than 30 years before his visit, President Ulysses S. Grant signed the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act, establishing the first national park in the world. However, during his Presidency, he doubled the size of the National Park System

Theodore Roosevelt is remembered as a consummate outdoorsman; but he was NOT A good marksman. To him, hunting was not merely recreation but a transformation, one with stages of apprenticeship, youthful testing, and eventual self-mastery. Roosevelt chose an American classic or, perhaps, the rifles he chose helped make them classics. Roosevelt's poor eyesight was a factor in his fondness for the firearms of Oliver Winchester and his Winchester Repeating Arms Co. He was quoted as saying that he did not "know how to shoot well, but I know how to shoot often." Winchester Repeating Rifles usually had large capacity magazines ranging from five (5) to fifteen (15) rounds.

### ***Robert Mergel***



### **LINCOLN THE LAWYER**

Many people know that Abraham Lincoln was a lawyer before becoming President, but few people know what kind of a lawyer he was. Before researching Lincoln's law career, I knew he had represented railroads. I also knew that one of his clients charged with murder was found not guilty when Lincoln used an almanac to prove a witness could not have seen the killing by the light of a "full moon."

When I portray President Lincoln, I strive to provide a greater understanding of Lincoln's extensive law career, and how that helped him become President, and preserve the Union. I had imagined Lincoln on horseback plodding through muddy Illinois wilderness trails, riding a circuit of primitive frontier courts. While true, as it turns out, Lincoln's practice brought him in contact with many kinds of cases, courts and clients.

During Lincoln's nearly 25-year law career, he prosecuted and defended thousands of cases, primarily civil lawsuits, mostly involving debt collection and many involving property disputes. Besides personal injury cases, he also handled divorces, and cases involving the laws of bankruptcy, navigation, slander, pensions, and patents. Lincoln successfully defended at least one medical malpractice lawsuit by waving old, brittle chicken bones before the jury to demonstrate the fragile anatomy of the elderly patient.

Most of Lincoln's criminal cases involved minor charges, but he defended several murder charges and once helped prosecute a murder case. He was not always successful defending clients charged with crime. Some were found guilty and one of his clients was hanged. Like most trial lawyers, he had experienced his share of defeats.

Besides local and state courts, he handled cases in federal courts and unsuccessfully argued an appeal in the US Supreme Court. Lincoln vigorously competed against opposing lawyers in the courtroom, but once the case was over, the former combatants would pal around, swapping stories and clever wisecracks. Most interesting to me is that he served as a substitute judge in over 300 cases.

Throughout his legal career, Abraham Lincoln not only gained insight into the workings of the privileged, but also developed a keen sense of empathy for the underprivileged, especially those who were enslaved.

Primary resource: *Lincoln the Lawyer*, by Brian Dirck

University of Illinois Press 2009

### ***Mr. Glenn Murray***

Adjunct Professor: University at Buffalo Law School

## DAYTON CONFERENCE REVIEW

*By Joe Woodard*

The 2024 Conference of the Association of Lincoln Presenters began in the afternoon of Thursday, April 25, 2024, at the Courtyard by Marriot Hotel in Dayton, Ohio. The Board of Directors met at 3 p.m., and distribution of badges and welcome packets began in the lobby about the same time. About 7 p.m., many of the early-arriving ALP members gathered to assemble small packages of snacks (as, for example, two granola bars and three pieces of hard candy) from materials the members brought, to be given to patients at the Dayton Veterans Hospital. When the bags were all filled, there was a good deal of edibles left over. After the assembly session was over, many stayed in the conference room to play a game. The quizmaster named an item, and then the contestants identified its first appearance as “Before,” “During” or “After” the Civil War.

Friday, April 26th, was a day mainly devoted to programming at the hotel. The day’s first presentation was by Kim Villalva, titled “Lincoln: The Servant Leader” – a talk drawn from her book with the same title that was included in the attendees’ welcome packets.

After a short break, Alex Villalva (a career soldier, an ROTC teacher, and a consultant) spoke about the qualities of a great leader and how Abraham Lincoln embodied many of those qualities.

During the lunch break that ran from about noon to half-past-two, attendees were on their own. Some chose to go to the nearby Carillion Historical Park.

Back at the hotel from about 2:45 to 3:45, Chris Burns presented “Lincoln and Grant, the Alliance that Won the Civil War.”

From 4 to 5 p.m., Margaret Kruckemeyer spoke about the history of a portion of Dayton that her audience would be visiting the next day. In March 1865, Congress passed an Act providing for care for disabled veterans of the then-ongoing Civil War. President Lincoln signed the Act on March 3, 1865. It would be one of the last bills Lincoln would ever sign. Three facilities were to be built – a Northeastern (ultimately built in Maine,) a Northwestern (finally built in Wisconsin), and a Central “National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers” (as these were called in the Act); the third would come to be placed in Dayton. The Dayton facility began to receive residents in the fall of 1867. Most of the land donated by the citizens of Dayton for the asylum would eventually come into the hands of the Veterans Administration and is now the location of the Dayton VA Medical Center and is to become the home of the Veterans Administration National Archives. The land will also become the home of the new Lincoln statue the attendees were to visit at the warehouse the next day. Much of this history is treated in a book the attendees got in their welcome bags -- *A Home for Our Heroes* by Curt Dalton. Margaret Kruckemeyer was an appropriate guide for our visit as she is a former nurse at the VA Hospital in Dayton, as well as a historian.

Supper was served at 6:30 p.m. in the hotel conference room.

The annual ALP Business Meeting followed in the same room.

Saturday in Dayton was dry and seasonably warm and fine for travel. Conference attendees rode a bus to several locations in the Dayton area. First, they got to see some sites they had heard about the day before. Margaret Kruckemeyer met the bus and spoke to the riders as the bus drove through the grounds of the present VA Medical Center and Veterans Cemetery (where burials are still ongoing). We were shown the location where the new Lincoln statue would be placed -- an “altogether fitting and proper” setting since Lincoln signed the legislation leading to the establishment of the Veterans “Asylum” (later Veterans Home) at Dayton and since the motto of the Veterans Administration – “To care for him who shall have borne the battle” -- was drawn from Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address.

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The bus then went to the warehouse where the new Lincoln statue is being kept while its permanent site is being prepared. The riders got off and went in to view the approximately three-times-life-sized bronze piece and to meet the sculptor, Mike Majors, and meet Bill DeFries, owner of the warehouse and president of the American Veterans Heritage Center. Attendees posed for a group picture with the statue.

The next spot for the attendees to de-bus was the old Courthouse in downtown Dayton where Lincoln spoke on 17 Sept 1859; a standing bronze statue at that place (also by Mike Major) commemorates the event. Attendees had received a book about Lincoln's visit to Dayton – Mr. Lincoln Came to Dayton by the late Lloyd Ostendorf -- in their welcome bags. A group photo was also taken here.

The nearby Dayton Women's Club provided the location for the group to eat box lunches and enjoy separate men's and women's programs. The men heard Martin Gottlieb on *Clement Vallandigham: Lincoln's Northern Nemesis* (Vallandigham had strong Dayton connections), while the ladies held their annual meeting and heard Margaret Kruckemeyer speak on Civil War nursing and heard Mary Anne Mathews play the hammered dulcimer. The group departed the Women's Club around 2 p.m.



*The image is from the Saturday evening event at the Dayton Woman's Club*

Back at the hotel, two tracks of programming were available. In the lobby, Holly Ray conducted a workshop on making earrings from acorns. In the conference room, Allen Howey gave a presentation on Lincoln's views on slavery and race relations and changes therein over time. The material was drawn from *The Fiery Trial* by Eric Foner.

The attendees returned to the Dayton Women's Club in the evening for a joint event with the Lincoln Society of Dayton. Supper was followed by entertainment combining history and magic as Rory and Angela Rennick presented the Henry "Box" Brown story. Each place setting included a copy of the Spielberg *Lincoln* DVD, donated by Larry Elliot.

On Sunday morning, Kevin Wood led a devotional service in the hotel conference room. The 2024 ALP Annual Conference concluded with prayer.

### **Mary Lincoln Events at the Dayton Association of Lincoln Presenters Conference**

*by Susan Miller*



The Mary Lincoln luncheon was held at the Dayton Woman's Club on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The luncheon started with the pledge of allegiance and the singing of grace. Twenty-three ALP members and guests attended the luncheon.

This year our Mary Lincoln meeting and lunch was again at another historic house. The mansion was built in the late 1840's in the Classic Revival style. After the Civil War, the house underwent extensive remodeling, making the residence 3 stories high. Ceiling ornamentation, marble fireplaces, and eagle crested storm doors were added. The tree shaded property at the rear had a beautiful fountain and flower gardens. In 1916 this elegant edifice became The Dayton Woman's Club.

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At the luncheon the women enjoyed two presentations. Margaret Kruckemeyer had a power point presentation about the Dayton Veterans Administration Campus.

We had an additional treat, MaryAnne Mathews, ALP member since 2015, treated the ladies with a hammered dulcimer concert. She explained the history and played several tunes that were familiar.

Later on Saturday afternoon, Holly Ray taught a Victorian earring class with 10 ladies back at the hotel. We painted acorns black, highlighted the caps with gold, and then drilled a hole in them. Wire was used to attach the acorn to an earring hook. Everyone came away with a lovely pair of Victorian earrings. Thanks to Holly for “volunteering” to lead this fun workshop.

Friday evening after the Silent Auction ended, several Mary Lincoln members participated in a consignment sale. This sale was mainly for costumes and accessories. The members set the price and received 75% of the sale price, while ALP received 25% when the item sold. Six dresses, jewelry, hats, bonnets, and other items were snapped up by ALP members. The auction and consignment sale were very successful this year!!

#### *A personal note from Teena*

This year's conference was a great success. I owe Susan Miller many thanks, who offered to do all the computer work for me. She did an excellent job, as always, and I did mine. Laura Keyes handled the registration form and information for the website. The pace was hectic toward the event; but once all was completed, we just watched our preparations fall into place. The hotel staff were at our beck and call. We had two different caterers as well as breakfast at the hotel. All the food was great. The speakers were all exceptional and excited to share with us their historical research.

I commend all the attendees. You were all on time, were very sociable and seemed to welcome each other with open arms. Plus, the atmosphere of courtesy emanated all four days. Ah, if we could have just kept the Union together in perpetuity!

Our treasurer, Murray Cox, kept me updated on our banking. All my concerns about being in the red and any other possible problems flew out of the window.

Our entertainers, Rory and Angela Rennick, did a great job, too. Please keep Rory in your prayers, I didn't find out until afterwards that he has been to the Cleveland Clinic but chose to keep his promise to us. Let us all claim the Lord's healing for him so he can continue to do what he loves.

Having been part of the 2024 ALP Conference was a great pleasure and I anticipate the next ones to be just as interesting and enjoyable. Thank all of you for making this year a success.

*Teena Baldrige*



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
4100 West Third Street  
Dayton OH 45428

JUN 03 2024

In Reply Refer To: 552/135  
VSS ID:3224179

Association of Lincoln Presenters  
620 Queen Street  
Springboro, Ohio 45066

Dear Members:

On behalf of the Veterans, families, and staff of the Dayton VA Medical Center, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation for your donation of snacks and snack packs for Veterans.

Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our Veterans and their service to our country.

Your contribution makes it possible for us to enhance the care we provide for our Nation's heroes, the Veteran patient.

Again, thank you for caring.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Knight Wills  
Chief, Center for Development and Civic Engagement

## Lincoln's Leadership Ideas – A Source?

Those who attended the ALP Convention in Dayton got the book *Lincoln: The Servant Leader* by Kim Villalva and had the chance to hear the author's presentation drawn from her book. I would like to have asked the author – Did Lincoln get his ideas on how to be a leader from any source beyond his intuition or natural genius?

I do not know how Kim Villalva would answer (I missed my chance to pose the question). If I were answering that question, I would say that a likely source was the Bible, specifically what Jesus taught his disciples about leadership. We know that Lincoln was familiar with the Bible. Kim Villalva emphasized the humility of Lincoln. Jesus taught by precept that leaders ought to be humble, as recorded at Luke 9:46-48 and Mark 9:33-37 and Matthew 18:1-6, and Jesus taught humility by example as recorded in John 13:2-16. Jesus performed an act of hospitality customary in that time and place usually performed by low-status individuals, often by slaves.

Jesus taught that a leader ought to be a servant, as recorded in Mark 10: 35-45 and in Matthew 20: 20-28 and that greatness demands service to others –

... whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister, and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant; even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered to, but to minister ... MT 20:26-28

The preceding might be fitting and proper for the coming issue, but not for later ones.

*Joe M. Woodard*

**The Association of Lincoln Presenters  
2025 Annual Conference  
April 24-27, 2025 \* Kalamazoo, MI**

The ALP's 2025 Annual Conference – our 29th – will be held from Thursday evening, April 24 through Sunday morning, April 27 in Kalamazoo, MI. Not only is Kalamazoo the only place in Michigan where Abraham Lincoln made a public appearance and gave a speech, but his trip there in 1856 was the only time he left Illinois during a nearly two-year period when the political landscape of the nation was being transformed.

In recent years there has been a strong local movement in Kalamazoo to commemorate Lincoln's 1856 visit and build upon his legacy of character, achievement, and leadership. This effort has been spearheaded by the non-profit Kalamazoo Lincoln Institute ("KLI") under the theme of "Bring Lincoln Back to Kalamazoo". Among other things, a statue of Lincoln was installed in Bronson Park, the site of Lincoln's speech, in August 2023. In addition to the KLI, other local organizations which are expected to collaborate in bringing the ALP to Kalamazoo are Discover Kalamazoo (the CVB), the Kalamazoo County Historical Society, and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. Our conference will "bring Lincoln back to Kalamazoo" in a way they never imagined!

Kalamazoo is a mid-sized city (population 75,000; metro area 335,000) which is easily accessible from other locations in the Midwest. It is located halfway between Detroit and Chicago on Interstate 94 and is served by air, train, and bus.

Our conference hotel will be the Home2 Suites by Hilton, located downtown. This relatively new hotel (opened in 2021) features spacious rooms, free breakfast, and a fitness center and pool. It is conveniently located near sites that we will visit as well as the AMTRAK (train) and Greyhound (bus) stations.

The final line-up of sessions and speakers hasn't been determined yet, but all the following are under consideration:

\*Lincoln's 1856 Visit to Kalamazoo: a lecture by Tom George (KLI VP) which gives insights into Lincoln's political strategy Lincoln's political strategy at both a personal and party level (even who had tea with!);

\*Lincoln and Indian Affairs: a lecture, most likely by a university history professor and/or author, delving into this very important, timely, and

*(Continued on page 17)*



*(Continued from page 16)*

sensitive topic;

\*Lincoln's Winning Smile: a lecture by Cameron Brown (KLI President) about Lincoln's humanity and empathy;

\*The Underground Railroad: a visit to a nearby historical site and/or a lecture; for many escaping slaves, Michigan was the last stop before reaching freedom in Canada;

\*Sojourner Truth: a historical portrayal and/or a visit to her monument in nearby Battle Creek (when Sojourner Truth visited Lincoln at the White House in 1864, she traveled from her home in Battle Creek);

\*[for the ladies?] a lecture on Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte, an American socialite of the 19th century and sister-in-law to Napoleon;

\*[for the gentlemen?] Civil War Engineers: a lecture by a re-enactor with the 1st Michigan Engineers; and

\*Jackson, MI: a possible side trip to this city, about one hour away and the site of the first state convention of the Republican Party.

We also hope to have one or more events intentionally designed to engage the local public; ideas under consideration include:

\*A theatrical performance in which a series of Abraham and Mary Lincoln portrayals tell the life stories of the Lincolns;

\*Trivia with the Lincolns: teams consisting of ALP members mixed with people from the community;

\*Reading with the Lincolns at local libraries; and

\*a Civil War Ball.

We will of course have all our regular conference items such as the annual business meeting, a silent auction (perhaps also a consignment shop), time set aside for fellowship and relaxation, and a church service on Sunday morning.

Questions and suggestions may be directed to your ALP conference host, Kevin Wood. We are looking forward to seeing YOU in KalamaZOO!

## TRIVIALITIES

Lincoln's clemency was a staple in many stage and screen presentations. Chesley's playlet was likely inspired by a scene in which stage play?

Answer: *The Ensign* by William Haworth.



Haworth's play was produced in 1892, and like his other plays, was an instant hit. Performing on major stages on national tour and picked up by regional theaters as a recurring favorite through 1917. Set against the background of the *Trent* Affair, the play told the tale of Ensign Ben Baird, who is charged with the death of a foreign officer who tried to desecrate the national flag (also called an ensign). He is tried, convicted, and is sentenced to death. The crew rallied to the Ensign's defense, but Capt. Wilkes was compelled to carry out the sentence.



The scene in question shows a little girl named Mary, great-niece to Capt. Wilkes, who makes her way through the White House to the President, pleading for his release, even offering her prized doll. Of course, the President relents and pardons the title character.

The Scottish-born Logan Paul (1848-1932) played Lincoln in the original play and went on national tour. Critics noted his performance as “wonderfully realistic.” He later transitioned to film around 1912. Since 1893, he would perform the President in a series of plays on the vaudeville circuit. He did co-star in Ralph Ince's *Lincoln, the Lover* (1914) and played General George Washington in *The Flag of Freedom* (1913). From an interview conducted in 1910, he claimed also to have portrayed Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Admiral Farragut, Count Bismarck, and General Weyler, but still asserted Lincoln as the role he liked best.

**Next Quiz:** This play was performed in Chicago 1899, featured a young actor to play the role of Lincoln. As the part had very few lines, his performance was noted by his effective use of “registering.” He would later become a producer and director and this experience influenced his use of Lincoln in a show he produced. This person would later become more well known was:

- Benjamin Chapin
- David Wark Griffith
- Francis Ford
- Ralph Ince
- Thomas Ince

(Answer in next newsletter)

## LINCOLN DAYS AT HODGENVILLE, KY

October 5-6, 2024

While not an ALP event, Lincoln Presenters do have a history of attending this event.

For more than 50 years, Lincoln Days Celebration has offered unique experiences for young and old alike! No other place in the world can claim to be the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln and LaRue County embraces that distinction with a weekend festival that brings in crowds from around the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This year on Saturday, October 5, the stage is set for the Abraham and Mary Look Alike Contests. Contestants give a 3-minute presentation on the stage to the crowds in the square. Mary Lincoln participants may describe their costume and/or deliver a portrayal of some event in Mary's life. Participants will be judged on both authenticity of costume and presentation. Abraham Lincoln Look-Alike contestants will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes to portray/relate a "Lincoln story or speech". In addition to the short oratory, Abrahams will also be judged on costume, physical traits, and presentation.

First place contestants receive \$100. And there are second and third place prizes. After the contest the Ladies Club of Hodgenville provides the contestants with a free, delicious lunch. All costumed interpreters are invited. After the luncheon we participate in the parade that winds through Hodgenville to cheering crowds.

Everywhere people want to greet the Lincolns, take pictures, or shake a hand. We are truly celebrities at this event.



Information is available online from [https://www.facebook.com/LincolnDaysCelebration\\_and\\_lincolndays.org](https://www.facebook.com/LincolnDaysCelebration_and_lincolndays.org).

Lodging: As no hotels are in Hodgenville but is available at Elizabethtown (10 miles northwest of there), with several hotels off I-65.

Sites: In addition to the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Park south of Hodgenville, one can also find to the northeast of town the Knob Creek boyhood home of little Abe from ages 3 to 7 before moving off to Indiana. The Hardin County Museum is in downtown Elizabethtown, while Bardstown (20 miles northeast of Hodgenville) has the Civil War Museum, the Talbott Inn, and My Old Kentucky Home State Park.

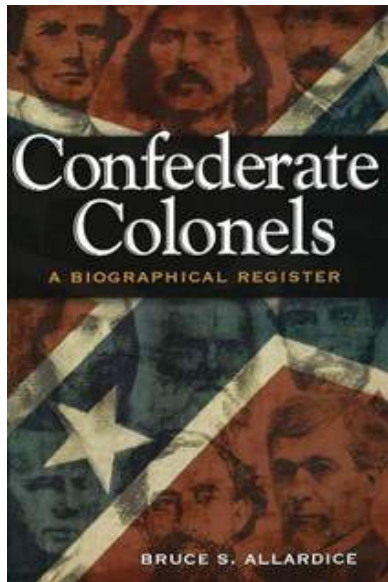
### MARY LINCOLN'S COTERIE

This year the Coterie is planned to meet in Springfield on July 12-14, 2024.

The remembrance at the tomb is July 13 at 10 AM at Lincoln Tomb, Oak Lawn Cemetery.

## VIRTUAL GATHERINGS

As was announced at the recent ALP Conference in Dayton, OH, our Association will begin to host virtual gatherings about once a quarter. These gatherings, which will be hosted on Zoom, will keep our Members connected throughout the year, as well as give us the opportunity to continue learning about the Lincoln Family and the Civil War Era. Laura Keyes will be the first hostess/moderator.



The first virtual meet-up will be held on Sunday, 18 August at 6:30pm Central, and is only open to current ALP Members. You must register for this event (registration information is below). The first half-hour of the evening will be for socializing, and at 7pm we will welcome Dr. Bruce Allardice, historian, and author. He will give us a presentation entitled "Snatching Defeat from the Jaws of Victory: The Ten Worst Civil War Generals." The generals of the armies of our Civil War were a mixed lot, quite often amateur soldiers, quite often politicians masquerading as soldiers, usually (but not always) devoted, usually (but not always) courageous. In this talk Bruce Allardice will examine the Braggs, the Burnsidés, the Pembertons, how they became generals, and why they failed to justify their promotion to high rank. You've heard about the best

--now hear about the rest!

Once again, **you must register for this event**. It will not be recorded for later viewing. Follow the link below to register. If you have questions, please contact Laura Keyes: [LFKeyes@gmail.com](mailto:LFKeyes@gmail.com)

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Aug 18, 2024, 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMucuvrjspEtGXViYQM-1lnpXeH4U4S9hO>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

SAVE THE DATE for the second ALP Member Meet-up! Sunday, 13 October at 6:30pm Central. Topic and speaker to be announced at the 18 August event.

***Laura Keyes***

c/o Dean Dorrell  
5 1/2 Daviess Dr.  
Washington, IN 47501

Phone: 812-617-1806  
E-mail: [abe@honest-abe.com](mailto:abe@honest-abe.com)



## ITEMS FOR PURCHASE

### *Patches*

The Association has two patches that are available to ALP members. The newest patch pictures Mary Lincoln in profile with her signature flower wreath in her hair. It is a 100% embroidered patch with a lovely lavender background. The logo of the Association of Lincoln Presenters is available in a multicolor patch. The distinctive pose of Lincoln is wearing a blue frock coat, vest, white shirt, and black tie.

Both these patches can be sewn onto shirts, polos, hats, and jackets. The cost is \$4 each. Email Susan Miller at [susan-violamiller@gmail.com](mailto:susan-violamiller@gmail.com) to order the patches.



### **Conference Pictures**

Once again, Tom Davison was our “official” conference photographer. He started taking photos on Thursday evening and didn’t stop until the last minute of the conference. Thank you, Tom!

You can find his images at:

<https://www.davisonimages.com/Events/Abraham-Lincoln-Presenters-Conference-Dayton-April-27th-2024>

There is a green tab over to the right where you can purchase photos.

***Teena Baldridge***