



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.

If you have ideas for new members, or for potential sites for future ALP Annual Conventions, please let us know. For details, see the president’s letter on page 2.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are approaching our 2024 conference. It is scheduled for April 24-27 in Dayton, Oh. Note the change in dates from our usual times. Teena Baldrige, assisted by Susan Miller, will host the conference. Abraham Lincoln spoke in Dayton in September 1859. We will visit a statue erected a few years ago to commemorate that speech. Teena was part of the committee that raised money to create the statue. We are also visiting the VA hospital in Dayton. Lincoln's connection? He signed legislation in 1865 to create the first ever Home for disabled soldiers anywhere in the world. This was the forerunner to the current Veterans Administration. The motto for the VA comes from Lincoln's second inaugural where he said, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan." The VA still states that they are honoring Lincoln's legacy to care for veterans. Also check out the impressive list of guest lecturers Teena has added to her agenda. Details and registration information will be posted on our website in early January.

We continue our initiative to attract new members. We call on all members to help us recruit. Any time you see historical re-enactors, talk to them about ALP. Invite them to check our website. Get their business card and contact information. Provide that information to Larry Elliott (larrylikelincoln@gmail.com; 502-599-6830), our marketing manager, who will also contact them and encourage them to consider membership in ALP. Whether they portray Abraham or Mary Lincoln or any other historic character (not limited to Lincoln's time), encourage them to consider ALP.

Some good news on the membership front. We have four new members since our 2023 conference. Welcome to Jacob Truax of Murfreesboro, TN, who portrays Abraham Lincoln. Also, Bob Mergel of Reynoldsburg, OH, as Theodore Roosevelt, Curt Rada-baugh of Lancaster, OH, as George Washington, and Frank Butwin of Perrysburg, OH, who does William Henry Harrison, Francis Scott Key, and Gen. "Mad" Anthony Wayne. All four of them are hoping to attend the Dayton conference. We hope they do so we can get to know them.

The last item is future conferences. For 2025, we plan to be in Kalamazoo, Michigan hosted by Kevin Wood. But we presently do not have a volunteer host or site for 2026. We need at least one volunteer host by the time of our Dayton conference. If anyone would care to consider bringing the conference to your area, please contact Kevin Wood (abe@mrlincoln.com; 517-920-4849) and Joe Woodard (jvwoodard@proton.me; 217-932-5378) to discuss this possibility. If you are new to confer4ence hosting, we will make sure you have assistance and guidance.

Be looking forward to seeing many of you in Dayton April 24-27.

John Cooper, (740) 862-6373, 11-20-23

MEET YOUR FELLOW LINCOLN

James P. Wammack

Our featured Lincoln this issue is James "J. P." Wammack of Montrose, CA. The following story is written directly by James. According to my knowledge, he is our only second-generation Lincoln, as his late father, H. M. Wammack, (also an ALP life member) portrayed Lincoln for many years before James put on the hat and coat to replace his father. This is a dual biography as James begins the story with a biography of his father leading into his own story. I hope you will enjoy this unique story. *-John Cooper*



After my mother died at age 52, my father was left to himself. To keep his mind active, he decided to memorize poetry. He would spend evenings reciting, "the Cremation of Dan Magee", or "The Highwayman". From there he decided to memorize some of Lincoln's speeches: Gettysburg Address, 2nd Inaugural, Farewell to Springfield.

A friend suggested he portray Lincoln for school children at a President's Day event at Forest Lawn, a huge cemetery in nearby Hollywood Hills. He bought a hat, had a coat made and went to a studio makeup supply company to get a glue-on beard. Schools would bus in children to the main hall for these presentations. They also featured a portrayer for George Washington and another for Betsy Ross. Each presenter would give a 10- to 15-minute talk. The audience would leave and the next one would come in for a second presentation. They would have 3 of these presentations per day over 2 days. Probably about 300 people per show.

My father loved to give these talks. He would give similar talks at any elementary school in Glendale. From there he was asked to present at various gatherings. Because we worked together in the life insurance business I would hear about the presentations and the audiences that he attended. I would drive him to many of

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these events. As he got older, he preferred being driven by me in his Lincoln Town car with the license plate that read "HM ABE". He joined the ALP.

He would do about 10-15 presentations per year. He would always say that I should start presenting. I was a history major at UCLA. I had always had a keen interest in history and particularly the Civil War. I can remember trying to explain to him what popular sovereignty was. I thought that being a presenter was something that retired people might do. I was still struggling to pay my mortgage. This went on for about 15 years. My father had a stroke. He was unable to speak for a time. He stopped playing tennis. He insisted that I stand in for him for the Forest Lawn presentations. He was afraid that if that spot was not covered, he would be replaced the following year. I put on the coat and hat and the beard. I memorized the Gettysburg Address. I told a few stories and gave the speech. Between performances, I had to walk through the lobby of the hall. It was there that every kid wanted to shake hands. Every parent wanted a photo of their child with President Lincoln. People came up to me to earnestly tell me that I was their favorite president. Lincoln was a celebrity. I was hooked.

The following year, my dad performed once more at Forest Lawn. It was a success, but he would do fewer and fewer presentations. I started presenting in 2002. I've read many of the Lincoln biographies. Steven Oats, David Herbert Donald, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Ron White, Gore Vidal, etc. If I have trouble getting to sleep, I can always read Carl Sandburg. My favorite book is *Freedom* by William Safire. It is a novel, but he has back notes where he cites everything. He tells where he got the idea, the dialog, what was fact and what was surmised. It takes place as Lincoln faced the turmoil of secession. It ends with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. You can read 50 pages of the novel and 12 pages of back notes. He is a very honest writer.

I strive to give accurate presentations. I don't give the story of Lincoln writing the Gettysburg Address on the back of an envelope during the train ride to Gettysburg as depicted in the famous book, "A Perfect Tribute" that seemingly every person over 70 believes is factual. I describe the event as described by Gary Wills in "Lincoln at Gettysburg".

I would call up schools and offer to give an assembly for the whole school or 2 assemblies, one for lower grades and one for upper grades. I have presented at retirement homes, church groups, Kiwanis Clubs, Rotary Clubs, PEO groups, AAUW, etc. I have spoken to the Republican Women of Pasadena, the Republican Women of Temecula, the Republican Women of Thousand Oaks. I grew a beard (and dyed the color from brown to black). One year I gave 55 presentations. The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library heard of me and asked me to audition for their Lincoln. Somehow, I passed, and I speak there on Presidents Day and the 4th of July. I've been there for 22 years. They have crowds of up to 5000 people.

One honor I had was to mingle with small crowds while they waited to go in and see the Emancipation Proclamation. The Reagan Library had the actual document on loan from the National Archives. They would let 50 people at a time see the exhibit in a medium sized room while the next group waited in the lobby. They had to wait for about 20 minutes. I was able to describe the signing of the document. Instead of signing, "A. Lincoln", he wrote out his whole name, Abraham Lincoln. If he ever went down in history, it would be for this act.

I never tire of these presentations. I never change the wording. When I quote Lincoln, I take my hat off. Lincoln would take his hat off and put on his glasses. I don't try to higher my vocal pitch. I use my normal voice. I'm only 6'1 even with my elevator shoes. My hair and beard now must be dyed from white to black.

I'm honored to be able to say the words of Lincoln, "...a new birth of freedom...with malice toward none...to His care commending you...". Lincoln only said them once.

Respectfully submitted by J. P. Wammack

EARLY LINCOLN PORTRAYERS

Andrew Waldron, the Only Lincoln Portrayer during the Civil War

While the first portrayal of President Lincoln after his death did not occur until 1891, one portrayal happened in his lifetime, though he had no opportunity to watch it. The portrayal did not appear in Union-held territories but in the South. The portrayal naturally was not intended to be sympathetic but demeaning and confirming Confederate attitudes toward the Union's despised leader. While the actual identity of the portrayer was not recorded, careful analysis of correspondence and contemporary records points toward Andrew Waldron (1847-1932). Waldron would become a noted stage and screen actor after the war, with hardly any mention of his early acting during the war.



Andrew Waldron as depicted in 1893.

Andrew was the second son of the Irish-born Andrew Roger Jones Waldron and the former Julie Martin. Born in London, he had two brothers (Alfred and Arthur) and three sisters (Fannie, Laura, and Julia), and all would have their time on the stage before, during and after the war. Records seemed to indicate that the family came to the United States prior to his birth, then returned to England, where the rest of the family (starting with Andrew) were born. The father was a merchant and likely commuted between the United States and Great Britain bringing members of the family over singly until the last arrived in 1856. Andrew came to America in 1853, attended school at the Little Church Around the Corner in New York City, singing as a boy soprano until 1857. Then Andrew and sisters Fanny and Laura were attached to Marsh's Juvenile Comedians, traveling across the South in 1859, then Ohio and finally to California. The troupe returned to South Carolina where the family settled, to be followed by the Secession Crisis and then war.

His father took the opportunity to form his children as the Thespian Family Players, using them to raise funds for Confederate troops wherever they performed. Starting out in Charleston, SC, the "Queen City," the girls were also organized as a singing group known as the "Queen Sisters." They later performed in Savannah, GA, and then Augusta. There they formed a working professional relationship with John Hill Hewitt, later celebrated as the "Bard of the Confederacy" for his many pro-Southern plays that were successful. He wrote many for the Waldron family to perform.

One play was *King Linkum the First*, described as a musical burletta (burlesque) satirizing the Northern war effort, and its leader, "King Linkum" with published performances on February 23 and February 25, 1863, when Southern hopes were high for victory. The president was depicted as a bungling drunk, henpecked by his wife the Queen, indulgent and addicted to self-will. Son Robert was a promising young man with unpaid bills, spoiled and addicted to frolicking. The dialogue employed common tunes to suit its rhymed couplets. By the end, the family is killed mercifully by a cannonball, but then revived to conclude the play.

As the local newspaper did not comment on the plays, nor provide any details, one is left to surmise which of the Waldron boys played King Linkum. Until now, writers have stated that the father's name was Alfred and Alfred Jr played the title role. Records from both Great Britain and the United States (as well as his headstone in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY) have the father's name consistently listed as Andrew.

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As for Alfred, the US Census reports put his occupation as a clerk, bookkeeper, and cotton dealer. Any acting was learned during the formation of the Thespian Family troupe. His father had to petition to keep him from being conscripted into the Confederate Army (despite being a British citizen), as well as lobby for excluding stage performers from conscription.

Yet, a letter shared from son Andrew to William Harden of Savannah, stated that Alfred and Julia took the heavy parts while Andrew was the comedian. Unlike either brother, Andrew had more acting experience, having been a member of the Marsh troupe before the war. So, Andrew Waldron was likely the first Lincoln portrayal, albeit one meant for political satire. Andrew would enjoy a long career on the stage, two marriages (both ending in death of his spouses), a transition to film, appearing in approximately 45 films during the silent era, many of these Westerns. He did his own stunts despite being over 70 years old. His funeral was well attended by fellow actors.

As Waldron became well known and highly esteemed as a comedian during his career on the stage, one



must assume that his antics, rather than any resemblance and mannerism with the President were his primary qualities, given his age, and not likely reaching his full adult stature by this time (he was not yet 16 years old by this time). While no record has been found to show his physical stature, one of his sons listed 6'0" as his height decades later, so one could surmise that he might have been above average in height for a minor his age.

Not mentioning the closet plays would be remiss. Between 1861 and 1863, Southern writers produced three of these closet plays lampooning Lincoln: Stephen Franks Miller's *King Ahab: A Tragedy of the Potomac*; Stephen Decatur Carpenter's *The Irrepressible Conflict*; and William Russell Smith's *The Royal Ape*. Even the Southern press noted that *The Royal Ape* was perhaps too extreme for Southern sensibilities and did not encourage people to purchase the book or attend a live reading.

Andrew Waldron as depicted in 1891. Northern Peace Democrats also published a closet play, *The Administrative Telegraph*, which had the explicit warning not to be performed lest the actors be arrested.

Closet plays were essentially a long poem sung or recited by one performer. One had only to think of the ancient poets reciting epic poems, the medieval troubadours reciting their *chansons de geste*, or a Norse bard reciting a saga. In this case, the material was humorous rather than tragic, an exercise in political satire. Again, Lincoln is the Yankee Goon, more manipulated by the political machines, proclaiming impractical ideas, mismanaging a war, and displaying a variety of character flaws. Miller's *King Ahab* does end with Lincoln's suicide, garnering more pity than spite from the Confederate onlookers, while Smith's *The Royal Ape* displays Lincoln and his son Robert more as closet cross-dressers (while Mary was more suited to wear the pants in the family, harking back to Napoleon's quip that Queen Louise of Prussia was "the only real man in Prussia"). Underlying his actions was that the President was really a pawn of corrupt politicians, namely Seward and Scott, who should really be blamed for the war.

While Lincoln himself enjoyed the theater and admired the Bard of Avon's works, his assassination carried out by an actor in a playhouse during a performance probably did much to discourage any theater manager from presenting such work after the war for decades. So long as Edwin Booth reigned as the prince of players of the American stage, such a part would also discourage other actors from adding such to their repertoire. Lincoln's legacy was not yet established, whether he was the author of a national disaster or the savior of the Union, and no playwright would try their hand unless they had a story that the public would like.

John M. McKee

THE LINCOLN QUESTION and ANSWERS

This is an issue primarily for our members who do not portray Abe or Mary.

"In terms of portraying someone who is not Abe or Mary, who is the personage and what is their perspective on the Lincolns? For those who preceded the Lincolns, how did they influence the Lincolns? For those who followed, what was the Lincolns' impact on their lives?" (in one or two paragraphs)

Abes and Marys are also invited to comment on this from the perspective of another historic character if they wish to offer a comment.



portray several different women from history, including Mary Lincoln and Laura Ingalls Wilder. Even though Mrs. Wilder was born about 2 years after Abraham died, there is no doubt that her life was influenced by his administration (e.g., Homestead Act, various railway acts, Land Grant Act for colleges, etc.). In my first-person portrayals, I occasionally mention Mr. Lincoln, as he was a looming presence in her lifetime.

Laura Keyes, HistoricVoices



For me, the response is that I do portray other women in addition to portraying Mary Lincoln.

My husband Steve and I have a program titled "Our National Thanksgiving: With Thanks to President Lincoln and Mrs. Hale." For this program, I speak as Sarah Josepha Hale, telling the story of her thirty-year campaign to have Thanksgiving declared a national holiday.

The story begins with her early life and love of the holiday and her many editorials in *Godey's Lady's Book*, promoting her cause. She encouraged her readers to participate in a letter writing campaign and wrote many letters herself, including to presidents Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, and James Buchanan.

As Sarah's narrative reaches the onset of the Civil War, President Lincoln is brought into the story. The following is from the script that I wrote.

When President Lincoln was elected, Fort Sumter was fired upon, and we were at war! Could we not have one day of peace, laying aside our enmities and strifes on this one day? It was not until this year, after the horrible battle in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, that I wrote in September's issue, pleading that we offer God our tribute of joy and gratitude for the blessings of the year, and suggested again that a proclamation be issued by the President. Then it was time for a letter to President Lincoln.

The story continues with Sarah writing the letter to Lincoln, which he reads when he enters the scene. He then comments about asking William Seward to draft a copy of a proclamation and ends with reading a shortened version of that document.

I also portray the mother of a NH Civil War soldier, who speaks about the contributions that civilians made to the war effort. In telling the story of the United States Sanitary Commission, which organized the efforts of women throughout the country who were collecting and sending supplies to the soldiers, I have written the following for my character, Mrs. Phelps, to say:

The efforts of local aid societies to provide for our soldiers, had but little success until the United States Sanitary Commission was organized. It has been called the artery which bears the peoples' love to the peoples' Army. As you may know, President Lincoln was reluctant to sign the bill, establishing this new official agency of our government. He expressed his concern that it could become the "5th wheel to the coach," which is to say, unnecessary and probably a hindrance! He obviously did not see the need for the involvement of women in the war effort! We soon proved his concerns to be unfounded and he is now a supporter of our work. Volunteers set up kitchens in Army camps & work on

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board hospital ships. Women in great numbers are joining together to fill boxes for the soldiers, with supplies that our government cannot provide.

I have also mentioned Mary Lincoln's efforts to visit the soldiers in the hospitals in Washington City when speaking about the Sanitary Commission, mentioning that she would bring them flowers from the conservatory, help to read and write letters, and offer a woman's touch and motherly concern for their recovery.

Because these two other figures that I portray lived in the same period as Abraham and Mary Lincoln, I do have the opportunity to mention them in my presentations.

Sharon Wood, Claremont, NH



I portray US Grant. His perspective of Lincoln is completely enrolled as his commander-in-chief. Grant followed Lincoln's directives but exercised tactical control of the army to accomplish the overall strategy. For Grant, this was the Anaconda plan created by Lincoln and General Scott at the start of the war. Grant was totally dedicated to the preservation of the Union and the abolition of slavery.

Grant believed that these goals could only be achieved with military success over the Southern armies and with Lincoln as the President.

Michael Baete, Louisville, KY



Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt came from very diverse backgrounds, yet they shared similar experiences and political philosophies. Lincoln was born in the west in humble beginnings. Roosevelt was a child of privilege raised in a well-established New York Family. Lincoln was accustomed to hard manual labor. Roosevelt was a sickly child and the doctors told him not to expect a long life. Lincoln was self-educated, whereas Roosevelt was a Harvard graduate. Yet each possessed a strong determination to succeed and a desire to help their fellow man.

Both Lincoln and Roosevelt suffered from melancholia, endured great personal family losses, both were familiar with the tragedy of war (Civil War and Spanish American War), and both left lasting impressions on the face of their country. Lincoln was physically strong; yet recognized he needed an education to succeed in life. He was self-taught and apprenticed to learned men, ultimately to become an excellent surveyor and attorney prior to entering politics. Roosevelt was well educated, but, recognized that he needed to build himself physically if he wished to survive to fulfill his destiny. Through sheer determination Roosevelt succeeded in gaining physical strength to become the "runner up" in the Harvard Boxing Competition in his senior year. Moreover, he honed his "outdoorsman" skills during many trips to the Adirondacks. After graduating from Harvard, Roosevelt attended Columbia University to become an attorney; but, decided on politics. Both were members of the Republican Party, and both were progressive.

Roosevelt was two years old when Lincoln was elected President of the United States. After Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in April 1865, the country mourned his death as his body made its way back to Springfield, Illinois during a 13-day, train journey. In several cities, including New York City, public funeral services were held. On April 25, 1865, six-and-a-half-year-old Theodore Roosevelt witnessed, from the window of his grandfather's home, the somber funeral procession as it wound its way through the streets of New York City.

Both Lincoln and Roosevelt were "workaholics". Lincoln took no vacations as president and worked seven days a week, often until 11 pm (or later, particularly during crucial battles during the Civil War). The burden on his secretaries was heavy. John Hay was one of Lincoln's private secretaries and was "on call" twenty-four hours a day. Twenty-five years later John Hay was Roosevelt's Secretary of State. It was observed that Roosevelt completed more work in one morning than most officials could complete in a week. So, John Hay traded one hard-driving President for another hard driving President.

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Lincoln and Roosevelt were champions of marginalized Americans. Lincoln reaffirmed the substance of the Nation's Founding Fathers Ideas in his famous Gettysburg Address "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal". Roosevelt's senior thesis at Harvard University was entitled *The Practicability of Equalizing Men and Women before the Law*. Shortly after being elected President, Roosevelt shocked the nation by inviting African American author and educator Booker T. Washington to dine at the White House.

Theodore Roosevelt admired Abraham Lincoln as a man and a politician. On March 4, 1905, during his second inauguration Theodore Roosevelt wore a ring, containing pieces of Abraham Lincoln's hair.

Journalist Alfred Henry Lewis, who compiled a volume of President Roosevelt's speeches, remarked: *More than any other book or books, President Roosevelt has read and re-read the Life of Lincoln. Lincoln is his North Star; he steers by him. In those tangles which beset a president, his first silent inquiry is, "What would Lincoln have done?"*

Roosevelt was also known to frequently refer to Lincoln when he addressed the public. Several of Roosevelt's speeches are listed as follows:

Speech at Lincoln Tomb, June 4, 1903.

Speech in New York City, February 13, 1905.

Speech at the Lincoln Birthplace cornerstone ceremony in Hodgenville, Kentucky, February 12, 1909.

Roosevelt "sat in Abraham Lincoln's old pew" at the First Presbyterian Church, April 7, 1912.

Lastly, assassination attempts were made on both Lincoln and Roosevelt. Lincoln succumbed to his assassin's attempt. Roosevelt carried the bullet in his chest for the remainder of his life.

Bob Mergel

aka Theodore Roosevelt



Abraham Lincoln was heavily influenced by Parson Weems biography *The Life of Washington* as all Lincoln interpreters should be aware of. Lincoln relates his fondness of Washington in 1861 when he speaks in Trenton, NJ on Jefferson's Declaration of Independence and how Washington fought for it, especially at the Battle of Trenton.

Lincoln quote: *I recollect thinking then, boy even though I was, that there must have been something more than common that those men struggled for...something even more than national independence...something that held out a great promise to all the people of the world to all time to come.*

Jefferson had stated a principle in the Declaration, Washington had fought for it.

Curt Radabaugh

**** Experience George Washington ****

(614) 989-9765

"The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint efforts and common dangers, sufferings, and successes."

George Washington

BOOK REVIEW

LINCOLN AND THE RUSSIANS

By Albert A. Woldman

The World Publishing Company, Cleveland, 1952

About 300 pages

We are familiar with reading in our Civil War history that in 1863 the Russian Navy sailed into port in New York City, and later sailed up the Potomac and arrived in Washington City, who both welcomed them. (Less mentioned is that its Pacific Fleet sailed to San Francisco and was likewise welcomed there). Often implied was this move was to intimidate the rebels to not attack the North, but no real or known reason is offered.

Two questions arise: Why did a despotic government and a democratically elected government become friendly with each other, and why did the Russian Navy sail into our waters? This book deals with those issues. While political issues can make the making of this relationship somewhat convoluted, I will attempt to give you a short version of the story.

An 1848 revolution in Hungary to break free from the Hapsburgs of Austria was crushed when Czar Nicholas I sent troops to help Austria regain its control there. Many of those that were crushed and left homeless fled to America, and brought with them stories of the fight there, which captured the sympathy of many in America. America sent a ship to bring exiled leader of the Hungarian revolt, Louis Kossuth, to America, from his imprisonment in Turkey, and he toured the country. While there was wide political support for the fight of Hungary to obtain its freedom from the Hapsburg Empire, and much denouncing of Russia's involvement, the United States did not otherwise become involved, maintaining a principle of non-interference.

In 1853 the Crimean War broke out, with Russia opposed by England and France. The Maritime rivalry between the United States and Great Britain led to our sympathy with Russia, as common political foes can lead to political friendships. The author makes the point the England was the great enemy of Russia, as well as the rival of the U.S. That common foe seemed to make friends of two countries that seemed to abhor each other's form of government. In the words of George Mifflin Dallas, who was our minister to Russia in years prior to our civil war, found in his diary, he wrote "Not only are our interest alike, but our enemies are the same."

An important part of this, which deals with the second questions posed above, and would manifest itself later, was that England and France kept the Russian Fleet confined to the Black Sea during the Crimean War, unable to get out.

Murray Cox

TRIVIALITIES

“An actor is going about over the country impersonating Abraham Lincoln. But it isn’t exactly what you would call a new act. A number of statesmen have been doing it for years.”

From *The Kansas Weekly Capital*, March 3, 1910, p. 4. Retrieved from *Newspapers.com*



The actor who most likely inspired this quip was: **Herbert Bela Chesley**. Chesley (1863-1958) was a native of Nova Scotia, Canada, and was active on the stage circuit, but operated mostly out of the Boston, MA area until 1905, when he with his third wife, Louie Aldrich, and stepdaughter, Ethel Barr, went on the Vaudeville circuit around the USA and Canada in a one-act playlet called *An Episode in '61* (also billed as *An Episode of Lincoln* and *The Spirit of Lincoln*). Chesley played the President, Aldrich played the maid Mrs. Smythe, and young Miss Barr played Dorothy Mason. This playlet was basically a variation of the clemency stories associated with Lincoln. A little girl pleads with Lincoln to pardon her father for desertion because he wanted to see his dying wife. The playlet proved successful, and was performed at various places, with 1910 being the last billing found. Among the acts this troupe shared the stage with was a new comedy group called the Marx Brothers. Chesley would also portray Lincoln in *The Ensign* in 1909 at the

Orpheum Theater in Boston, MA.

[Next Quiz: Lincoln’s clemency was a staple in many stage and screen presentations. This playlet was likely inspired by a scene in which stage play?](#)

- Abraham Lincoln*, by Rankin and Gordon
- The Ensign*, by Joseph Haworth
- La Clemenza di Tito*, by Mozart and Mazzola
- The Crisis*, by Winston Churchill, adapted for the stage
- Abraham Lincoln*, by Heresford and Schnaacke

(Answer in next *Lincarnations*)

ON-LINE RESOURCES

Other Lincoln Material

Secondary sources are also digitized, and one should be aware of their presence. Explore and determine their suitability. For example, the first one contains the archive of the Lincoln Lore newsletter, part of the document collection that was part of the former Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, IN. Certain museums have extensive collections relating to the Lincolns. If you can recommend additional sites, or share experiences with any of them, please contact John McKee for inclusion in the next edition of *Lincarnations*.

<i>Friends of the Lincoln Collection, The Rolland Center for Lincoln Research,</i>	https://www.friendsofthelincolncollection.org/
<i>Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum,</i>	https://www.lmunet.edu/abraham-lincoln-library-and-museum/index
<i>Lincoln Heritage Museum</i>	https://museum.lincolncollege.edu/
<i>The Lincoln Collection,</i>	https://www.lincolncollection.org/
<i>Abraham Lincoln Collection, Shapell Manuscript Foundation</i>	https://shapell.org/collection/us-presidents/lincoln-abraham/

For the next few newsletters, I am considering listing online resources on Lincoln locations, and another for

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ITEMS FOR PURCHASE



We still have more Association of Lincoln Presenters patches. They are \$4 each. The patches look very smart on ball caps, jackets, and shirts. Please include an extra dollar for postage. Make the check out to ALP.

Susan Miller

108 Hidden Meadow Lane
Nicholasville, KY 40356