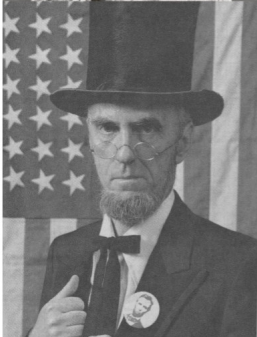


LINCARNATIONS

“Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all”

Association of Lincoln Presenters



Dan Bassuk,
ALP Founder

Lincoln and “His” New Salem Debt?

Stan Wernz of Ohio recently asked the following to the membership: *While doing research for presentations, Lincoln’s ownership of a general store with a Mr. Berry has been noted. From various sources, it seems they owned the store in partnership, and then Lincoln sold his part to Berry. Subsequently, Berry became ill and died. Creditors wanted their money. The sheriff reportedly came to Lincoln about the matter, and Lincoln said he would repay creditors as he got the money. The sheriff took Lincoln’s possessions and sold them at auction. Some sources indicate Lincoln repaid all creditors over time, the last being repaid in 1849. Can you flesh out the story? Do your sources confirm this account? Had Lincoln co-signed the purchases and then failed to get relieved of the responsibility?*

Tom Wright of Tennessee wrote that “according to my two sources, Berry and Lincoln bought their store from James and Rowan Herndon. Berry bought his half from James Herndon, who wanted to leave New Salem, and Lincoln bought the other half from Rowan Herndon (with whom Lincoln was boarding at the time). Both were given notes. The store did not prosper, so they sold the store to two brothers named Trent. Berry and Lincoln held the note (reportedly in the amount of \$1,100). But the brothers left the country when it came time to pay, leaving Berry and Lincoln with the note that came due. But shortly after that, Berry died, leaving Lincoln with the ‘national debt’ as he called it.”

Wright cited as his sources two books: “Abraham Lincoln (Volume I)” by Albert J. Beveridge (pages 126-128) and “Life of Lincoln (Volume I)” by Ida Tarbell (page 104).

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ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS

266 Compton Ridge Drive

Cincinnati, Ohio 45215-4120

New Year Greetings!

This edition of *Lincarnations* comes to you with best wishes that you have been Covid free, and enjoying the many blessings we receive daily. I recall Lincoln's words in his March 30, 1863, proclamation, where he wrote: "We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the need of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us." The rapid development of vaccines is yet another blessing!

As I write, Leavenworth registration forms are being prepared for posting online and included with this mailing. You will also find a letter from Murray Cox, conference host, explaining how we are addressing registrations. Please read it carefully and make your decision. The ALP Board has been wrestling with this issue and believes this process allows members to have input on the final decision. We ask that you respond as quickly as possible, as there are timelines that we must observe.

In November, we requested your vote on whether we should continue holding conferences in April or select another time. The vast majority of responding members have indicated a preference for keeping the April timeframe as included in our by-laws. The ALP Board is pleased to have received your input on this important matter.

We also inquired if any member has interest to serve as ALP marketer. To date, no one has volunteered to lead this effort. The future of our organization depends on recruiting additional members and keeping our services before the general public. Please give this opportunity to serve ALP your thoughtful consideration.

With best wishes for good health and safe travels as we hopefully convene in Leavenworth.

Stan

Meet Your Fellow Lincoln

Gene Griessman

Submitted by John Cooper, Ohio

Dr. Gene Griessman (ALP member since 2006), from Atlanta (Sandy Springs), Ga., is an author and lecturer who evolved into Lincoln in the 1980s. He has performed at Ford's Theater; the Georgia Dome before 25,000 people at an Amway convention (and following LeAnn Rimes on stage); the Lincoln Memorial; and aboard the famed aircraft carrier, the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln. When he performed on the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln, he was quartered in the admiral's suite. He commented to the naval captain, "Stay in the admiral's quarters? But I'm the president."

In addition to his author/lecturer career, Griessman was also a professor at William and Mary, North Carolina State, Tuskegee University, Auburn and Georgia Tech. He has a doctorate in sociology from LSU, and hosted a television program for 12 years (in the 1970s and 1980s) on TBS network called "Up Close," where he interviewed many celebrities (including presidents, actors, sports stars and business leaders). He has won numerous awards, including the Benjamin Franklin Award.

He began his Lincoln career in the mid-1980s when he developed a one-man play about Lincoln as a high achiever. He currently does about 25 to 30 Lincoln performances per year. His favorite "hobby" is writing, and he is still working on new books.

His past work includes "The Achievement Factors," an award-winning book that is considered a classic. "Time Tactics of Very Successful People," published by McGraw-Hill, is in its 38th printing. "The Words Lincoln Lived By," published by Simon & Schuster, is in its 18th printing.

Griessman also authored "Lincoln Speaks to Leaders," "Lessons from Legends," "Lincoln's Wisdom," and the noted training film "Lincoln on Communication." If you can only buy one of his books, Griessman recommends "Words Lincoln Lived By," which features 52 authentic Lincoln quotes with appropriate commentary.

In addition to his U.S. college positions, Griessman also served as a Fulbright professor at the national graduate university of Pakistan, and as a visiting researcher at both the National Agrarian University of Peru and the University of New South Wales in Australia.

Griessman has two daughters and four grandchildren.

He has a good baritone voice, so he frequently hears the comment, "You sound just like Lincoln." One embarrassing incident involving his voice occurred during a performance in LA. He originally tried to do Lincoln with a higher tenor voice, but finally began using his natural baritone voice. He explained to his audience that "because of movies and the dummies at Disneyland," he was speaking in a lower voice so they would not be confused. After his performance, a woman from the audience came up to him and said, "My husband did the voice for Lincoln at Disneyland." Whoops!

Griessman has a 90-minute theatrical one-man play as Lincoln. He also does business groups, featuring a 50-minute presentation followed by an out-of-character discussion with the audience on lessons learned from Lincoln. Lectures about Lincoln and performances as Lincoln have comprised nearly all of his speaking performances in recent years.



“Our Members Take the Floor..”

For the February 2021 issue of Lincarnations, our members were asked, “What do you consider to be the three top accomplishments of the Lincoln administration and why?”



Larry Elliott of Kentucky wrote that “all Americans, forever, should be reminded of the great things Lincoln did while he was president.

“Since most everyone, especially the Lincolns, know the importance of Lincoln preserving the Union at all cost to keep the states the United States and, of course, the Emancipation Proclamation (which at the time was the most controversial thing any president had ever proposed), I have decided to discuss three important things he did that still live with us today and their importance.

“Number 1: The Homestead Act of 1862 was passed to give land ownership at little or no cost if you lived on the land for five years and made improvements. This encouraged more westward moving and more states being added. It also encouraged more immigrants to move to our country for a better life. After all, what a great idea because we only paid three cents an acre for much of that land out west in the Louisiana Purchase.

“Number 2: Lincoln needed revenue to fight and win the Civil War. On July 1, 1862, Lincoln signed the Revenue Act with our nation's first income tax on income... It started out at three percent over \$600 a year and was much needed to win the war. It could be argued without it that the Civil War would have been won by the South. The tax systems would go on to become a progressive tax system that we still live by today. It also eventually established the IRS.

“Number 3: In 1864, Congress passed the Coinage Act and on April 22, ‘IN GOD WE TRUST’ was first printed on the two-cent coin. Part of the motivation for adding the motto ‘IN GOD WE TRUST’ was to acknowledge increased religious sentiment that had flourished during the war. During the Cold War era, the U.S. government tried to distinguish itself from the Soviet Union, which promoted atheism. The 84th Congress of 1956 passed a joint resolution declaring ‘IN GOD WE TRUST’ the national motto of the United States. Today, the motto remains on all U.S. currency.

“Please allow me to add that a fourth and most important thing Lincoln did can never let us forget just who he was and what he was trying to accomplish after he was re-elected in 1864. That was his spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness of the South as thousands in the north wanted to severely punish the South for the ruins that the country had just gone through. His second Inaugural Address (March 4, 1865) is without a doubt his greatest speech, which ended with the message of ‘with malice toward none and charity for all.’ ‘Let ‘em up’ easy would be his orders for Grant to Lee at the surrender on April 9, 1865.”



John M McKee of Illinois suggests that the top three accomplishments of Lincoln’s administration were:

“A: Laying the ground work for the 13th Amendment. Why? He could have easily put it off until the following year, but he feared that once negotiations began with the Confederates, maintaining slavery in the current slave states (even with prohibitions outside those boundaries), the peculiar institution would continue past his time in office with no determined end in sight. By having the House and Senate passing the amendment and sending it out to the states for ratification by February, slavery would no longer be on the negotiating table, whether peace was negotiated or imposed. From then on, the question of slavery would never threaten the nation's political stability again.

“B: Use of greenbacks to expand monetary supply and thereby, federal credit. The use of bank notes that could not be redeemed for precious metals until later when they were on par with them -- but a decade later. However, this allowed the federal government to support a large war effort that was not as constricting as borrowing from banks. From this point, the government could find another way to

augment its financial resources beyond what was obtained through tariffs and excises.

“C: Supporting industrial development, including the railroad. Support of the Pacific Railway Act and the Homestead Act, both in 1862, enabled the development to the west. Settlers started moving westward as armies marched southward. The railroad would not support the war effort, but did work to unite the country from east to west. In the long run, establishment of transportation systems and communities would serve as not only a buffer against the expansion of slavery (should the war not go well), but ensure unity across the nation through interdependence. All these enabled everything else to become possible, from the enfranchisement and equality for women, minorities and other affected groups, the ability of the government to foster economic expansion through available credit (and we are no longer on the gold standard), and the diffusion of economic resources so that no one state, or group of states, exert too much control without others able to counterbalance it.”



Stan Wernz of Ohio submitted his thoughts:

“Emancipation Proclamation: After having campaigned on not interfering with slavery where it existed, Lincoln recognized the changing situation (France and England’s position, and making slavery the issue they would not intervene on the side of the Rebels).

“Transcontinental Railroad: Even in wartime, Lincoln recognized the need for unity across the nation; completing a rail line across the West was a way to promote that unity.

“Personal Value: Even though some supporters objected, Lincoln formed a cabinet including opponents and was willing to work with them, demonstrating an appreciation for their input.”



Candler Willis of North Carolina listed the following to be his top three choices: “1) Saving the Union and demonstrating the viability of democracy; 2) Abolishing slavery [I rank this as #2, as saving the union was a precondition to it.]; and 3) The transcontinental railroad.”



And from **Joe Woodard of Illinois** we read, “I think the two greatest accomplishments of the presidency of Abraham Lincoln were the preservation of the American Union and the end of American slavery. I think few, if any, would disagree with me.

“Another accomplishment of the Lincoln presidency was a necessary prior condition to these accomplishments named above -- the defense of the sanctity of elections, the principle that a minority must not be allowed to overturn the results of an election by threats of insurrection, just because they object to the lawfully elected candidate. In Lincoln’s own words, ‘there must be no appeal from the ballot by the bullet.’

“If Lincoln had tried to prevent a civil war by offering to refuse to serve as president if South Carolina would repeal its secession ordinance, he might have prevented a civil war at that time, but it would have set a fearful precedent, one fatal to the spirit of our form of government. As George Washington said, ‘The fundamental principle of our Constitution enjoins that the will of the majority shall prevail.’ History has shown the evils that have come about in other countries before and after 1860 when threats of violence were allowed to overturn the results of elections. Cynics (but not this writer) might say that it was only Lincoln’s pride and ambition that caused him to insist on serving in the office to which he had been elected, and deny that he was motivated by love of principle, but whatever his motive, he did serve and he did uphold the principle, and subsequently did accomplish the preservation of the Union and the destruction of slavery ‘within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction.’”

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT: Registration for the 2021 Conference is now open. We realize there are current COVID issues, but registering will allow us to gauge interest if it is safe to meet in April. We will make a decision at the end of February whether or not to continue. Your registration check will be held and not deposited until a final decision is made at that time.

Come to Kansas in April, and be prepared to learn not only of Abraham Lincoln's 1859 visit there, but also events leading up to that visit, and the U.S. Civil War.

We will be staying at the Leavenworth Home 2 Suites, 250 Delaware, Leavenworth.

Our Room rate is \$119 (plus tax). It offers a free breakfast, free Wi-Fi, free parking, a nice fitness center and a pool. Each room contains a refrigerator/freezer, microwave, dishwasher, cookware, coffeemaker and toaster, as well as a queen-size sofa-bed and work table. See the last page of this notice for contact information. The rate is good from April 14 until the 20th.

Our board will meet at 2:00 PM Thursday in the hotel's meeting room. At any time before and after that meeting you may leave your silent auction items in the same room.

You can check in at the hotel starting Wednesday, if you like. Thursday supper will be on your own, and at 6:30 we will meet at the Riverfront Community Center, a beautiful former train depot, for a social gathering, to be welcomed by the town of Leavenworth, and to hear a presentation from John Brown.

Friday morning, at 8:30, we will board a bus that will take us to the University of St. Mary to view their Lincoln collection, including an original signed 13th Amendment. We then move on to Fort Leavenworth, where we will hear a speaker from the Kansas State Historical Society, who will speak on how the events in "Bloody Kansas" may have affected Lincoln's thinking during the Civil War. We will also hear from speakers at the Fort, and enjoy a full buffet for lunch. The buffet has a large selection of salads, entrees and desserts of all types allowing for vegetarian and gluten free options. We then split into two groups: One that will go to the Frontier Army Museum, which houses a replica Gatling Gun, a carriage Lincoln rode on during his trip in Kansas, as well as various forms of transportation during that era. The other group will get a tour of the grounds. Fort Leavenworth is a 107 acre facility that is the second oldest active United States Army post west of Washington, D.C, and the oldest permanent settlement in Kansas.

(Please note that the trip to the Fort has been arranged by the Public Affairs Office, using the Fort's buses, which will simplify admission to the base).

This is a "package deal," so there is no easy way to split out a part of this package into pieces. However, if you wished only to see the artifacts at St. Mary you could meet us there, then depart from our group when we board our transportation to go to the Fort Leavenworth. Likewise, if you did not want to take part in the viewing of items at St. Mary, you could meet us there, and then ride with us to the Fort. (However, you would then need to find a way to get back to your vehicle after the bus drops us off at the hotel in the afternoon.)

Cost of the St. Mary and Fort, including lunch, will be \$25, \$5 of which is our contribution toward security at St. Mary for them to display the 13th amendment, and

\$20 for the meal and presentations at the Fort.

After leaving the Fort we take the short trip back to the hotel. The Ladies will there have their Tea, hearing from a local speaker on Women's Suffrage. The men will also have a gathering during this time.

It is then time for rest and relaxation.

At 6:30 we meet at the Riverfront Community Center for supper of Stuffed Chicken Breast, with a vegetarian/gluten-free option, and to hear from Carol Ayres, author of "Lincoln in Kansas", who will tell the story of Lincoln's trip. We will also hear from our pre-presidential Lincoln, who will present a portion of a speech he gave in Kansas. Carol Ayres will also copies of her book offered for sale for those that will be interested.

Cost for this evening will be \$30.

Saturday morning, at 8:30, we will board a bus or buses to go to Lecompton, Kansas. This again is a "package deal," to see and hear a play by the Lecompton Reenactors, telling of the turmoil in the Kansas Territory leading up to the adoption of the Free-State Constitution. The Territorial Capital Museum, where we will enjoy this presentation, was intended to be the Kanas State Capital building under the Lecompton Constitution. The site is quite proud of the fact that President Eisenhower's parents were married in that building, when it served as Lane University, and some of their displays deal with the Eisenhower family.

We will then proceed to a local church for a nice fried chicken and mashed potatoes lunch, followed by a presentation of a local Lincoln presenter. (I will make sure to provide for those that ask for vegetarian fare). Next we go to Constitution Hall, where the pro-slavery Lecompton Constitution was drafted. We will also hear about the problems in the Kansas Territory of the Bogus Legislature. **Costs of this is \$40.**

It is then back to the hotel for some R & R, and a chance to stroll the area, weather permitting.

At 6:30 we will again meet at the Riverfront Center for supper and our annual business meeting. There will be a buffet with a carved beef and roast turkey, with a vegetarian/gluten-free option. **Cost will be \$25.**

Sunday Morning we will head to a nearby church for services, then depart until we next meet.

TRANSPORTATION

If you will be flying, Mid-Continent International Airport in Kansas City is relatively close.

Amtrak has a depot in Kansas City, on the Missouri side of the river.

If you are driving, there are several historical venues you may find worthy of your visit on your way to Leavenworth, or as you return home.

For those coming from the west, there is the Eisenhower Center in Abilene, Kansas, just off of I-70, which contains the boyhood home, Presidential Library and Museum, and burial site of our 34th President.

Those coming from the east may like to stop in nearby Independence, Missouri, again, just off of I-70, at the Truman Presidential Library and home.

In Kansas City, Missouri, there is the Arabia Museum, which has a fascinating display of items that were on the steamship Arabia, which sunk in the Missouri River in 1856. Across the street from the Arabia is a WWI museum.

If you will travel along I-40, as you work your way up to Leavenworth, you may like to stop at Ft. Scott, in southeastern Kansas. It is a restored fort established in the early 1800's to try to keep peace between the native inhabitants and white settlers.

However you choose to travel I hope to see you there.

To Register go to <https://forms.gle/or3GDBhm6pMs8QMj9>

Any time you have questions, you may inquire with Murray Cox at indianalincoln@hotmail.com, his home at 260-563-7126 (voice only), or, the week of the conference at his cell, 206-571-2870, voice or text.

.Lincoln Presenters 2021 Hotel Reservations

April 14 - 20, 2021

**To reserve your room please call Hilton's toll-free Reservation
Number (844) 587-9779 and refer to the booking code LPI**

**To make your reservation online, please search for
[Home2suites3.hilton.com](https://www.hilton.com/home2suites3)**

Enter check in and check out dates

Check box, + "Special Rate Code" and enter Group Code LPI

Check "Rooms & Rates", select your room type, enter your information

Scroll down, check "Book Reservation" to complete

**Thank you – please reserve prior to the cutoff date of
March 20, 2021.**

**Home2 Suites by Hilton
250 Delaware Street
Leavenworth, KS 66048**

The hotel is located two blocks east of US 73, in the down-town area.

2021 ALP Conference Registration Form
Leavenworth, Kansas
April 15-18, 2021

Please complete one form for each attendee.

Name of Registrant: _____ Current ALP Member: Yes No

Mailing address: _____ Street _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Attendees main phone number: (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Emergency Contact Information: Name _____ Phone number _____

I understand the Registration Fee for all attendees, regardless of membership, is \$40 per person: YES NO

I will attend Thursday Social and John Brown presentation (no fee): YES NO

I will attend Friday morning tour of the University of St. Mary. Cost is \$5: YES NO

I will attend Friday daytime presentations and tour of Ft. Leavenworth, including lunch buffet (\$20): YES NO

I will attend Friday afternoon Mary Lincoln Tea (details in information packet). No cost: YES NO

I will attend Friday Evening Dinner & Speaker (\$30): YES Stuffed Chicken Breast

YES Vegetarian Option YES Gluten-Free Option NO

I will attend Saturday trip to LeCompton – presentations, tour of Capitol Museum, lunch of fried chicken and potatoes (cost is \$40):
YES YES Vegetarian Option No

I will attend Saturday Dinner and Annual Business Meeting Buffet meal. Cost is \$25:
YES Carved Beef & Roast Turkey YES Vegetarian Option YES Gluten-Free Option NO

I will attend Sunday Church Service at a local church (details in information packet): YES NO

I declare that all the information entered here is honest and true. If my plans, contact information or dietary restrictions change, it is my responsibility to inform Murray Cox [3979 S. Bailey Road, Wabash, IN 46992; home phone (260)563-7126 (VOICE ONLY); at conference: (206)563-7126 (voice or text)]. YES NO

Add up all costs. Enter the total for this registrant here. Mail check (made out to ALP) to Murray Cox.

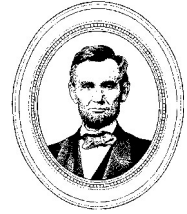
This registrants amount is \$_____.

I plan to arrive in Leavenworth on _____

Comments (registration; dietary information; other): _____

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

Phone: 812-617-1806
E-mail: abe@honest-abe.com



(Continued from page 1)

John M. McKee of Illinois wrote, “We should first consider Mary's role in managing the household finances. She maintained that he must repay his debts. Considering that he was able to pay them off within a few years and live comfortably could be equally attributed to her. On the failure of relief, it might be a case of Lincoln providing surety for his former partner in case he was unable to repay.

“Also, dissolving a partnership is not necessarily the dissolution of debts (as many divorced couples learned the hard way). Unless the instrument of dissolution specifically addresses who is responsible, the legal requirements of the note still require all signatories to honor the debt regardless of fairness to the individuals who owe (i.e., if one partner pays little, the other would be responsible to pay the balance). It is surprising that he did not file for bankruptcy. It might also have influenced his perception of corporations, as such structures would limit the liability of owners to their equity and not more.”

And lastly, from **Shirley Long of Kentucky** who wrote that she believes Lincoln was so honest that, despite the debt no longer being his responsibility, he felt duty-bound to pay the creditors. “Knowing what I do about Lincoln, I feel that it’s something that he would do.”