



LINCARNATIONS

"Would I might rouse the Lincoln in you all"

ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS



Taking Care of Business

2007 Convention

Plan now to attend the 2007 convention, set to take place **April 13, 14 and 15 in Mount Pleasant, Iowa**, and "Walk Where Lincoln's Grandchildren Walked." Our host, Lee Williams, is busy finalizing details, with more information to come! Meanwhile . . .

Background: Mt. Pleasant was the home of James A. Harlan, a U.S. senator and friend of President Abraham Lincoln. His daughter, Mary, was married to Lincoln's son, Robert Todd, and the Lincoln grandchildren spent time each summer with their grandparents at Mt. Pleasant. The convention will include a tour of the Harlan-Lincoln House, while several other convention activities are scheduled to take place on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan College, where James A. Harlan served as president.

Another site of historic significance includes Camp Harlan, a Civil War training camp, located at the edge of town.

Airport Information:

Des Moines International to Mount Pleasant – 136 miles

SE Iowa Regional (Burlington) to Mount Pleasant – 30 miles

Eastern Iowa Airport (Cedar Rapids) to Mount Pleasant – 70 miles

Willing to Help? Anyone who has planned a convention knows that it takes a lot of hard work and dedication. For those willing to volunteer, Lee has a few tasks that he could use help with: Registration (pre-registration via mail and/or on-site personnel as attendees arrive); favors and table decorations; auction (procuring items and/or conducting); and program planners. (Lee writes that there are a number of sites to select from, and that he has several speaker possibilities.)

Anyone willing to volunteer and/or who has questions about the convention should contact Lee Williams at lee@abelincoln.org, or phone him at (712) 774-5781.

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An Open Letter to the ALP Membership

From Stan Wernz, President

Dear Colleagues,

The 12th annual conference of the Association of Lincoln Presenters is history. Our members assembled at the Quality Inn and Suites, Norwood (Cincinnati), Ohio, and spent several days conducting business, visiting historical and educational sites, learning during workshops and enjoying fellowship of one another.

To all members of the Conference Committee who helped plan the weekend, please accept our thanks for your thoughtful preparations; to those who attended, thank you for your trust, demonstrated by the time set aside to participate. To those unable to attend, if because of illness or infirmities, we pray for Him to attend your needs; if because of scheduling conflicts, our hope is that your activities were rewarding and that your schedule will allow you to join us next year in Iowa.

At our business meeting, we elected new Board members and new officers. To the new Board members and officers, I extend my welcome! We have a huge task to continue the legacy of effective leadership this organization has enjoyed. To the retiring Board members, please accept our gratitude for a job well done. Most of you have been in these leadership roles from the early 1990s, providing direction for our activities.

To the membership, I express my appreciation to you for electing me president of the ALP. Serving the unexpired term of our founder and first president, Dan Bassuk, has been an honor, both rewarding and challenging. Continuing to serve in this capacity will provide time to wrap up some things that were started, and to address new items that have been suggested to help serve you better.

One of the items started last year is a policy/procedure manual. As policy and/or procedures are developed or modified, the Board will make them available to the membership. Please familiarize yourself with them so that you may more fully participate in the work and activities of the ALP. You may wish to save these items for future reference.

An immediate area inviting your participation is nominations for awards. Nominations are due by September 30 to any member of the Awards Committee (members who have received the awards during the last two years). The awards criteria policy is included with this issue of "Lincarnations," and becomes a page in your policy manual. Please let us hear from you.

Respectfully,

Stan Wernz

You should find inserted in this issue of "Lincarnations" the new application form for membership into the Association of Lincoln Presenters. President Stan Wernz requests that each current member also return a completed form to him via the address at the top of the page. The information provided on the form and in any supplemental material will help him when making referrals to individuals seeking "Lincolns" for their events. Questions? Contact Wernz at (513) 761-6120; Lincolnwernzs@peoplepc.com.

AWARDS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LINCOLN PRESENTERS*(Reviewed/ Revised April 2006)***OUTSTANDING ABRAHAM LINCOLN** *(Annual Award)*

- Must have been a member of the ALP for more than two (2) years
- Dues must be current, or be a life member
- Must make an effort to present a dignified appearance as Abraham Lincoln
- Must complete questionnaire provided by the Awards Committee
- Accomplishments must merit "outstanding" status

OUTSTANDING MARY TODD LINCOLN *(Annual Award)*

- Must have been a member of the ALP for more than two (2) years
- Dues must be current, or be a life member
- Must make an effort to present a dignified appearance as Mary Lincoln
- Must complete questionnaire provided by the Awards Committee
- Accomplishments must merit "outstanding" status

GLENN SCHNIZLEIN MEMORIAL AWARD *(Outstanding Abraham/Mary Team)**(Awarded as Merited)*

- Must have been a member of the ALP for more than two (2) years
- Dues must be current, or be a life member
- Must be an Abraham and Mary Lincoln team
- Must complete questionnaire provided by the Awards Committee
- Accomplishments must merit "outstanding" status

GORDON VINCENT MEMORIAL AWARD *(Outstanding Lincoln Team)**(Awarded as Merited)*

- Can be awarded to any performing team as long as one team member portrays one of the Lincolns
- The Lincoln member of the team must be a member of the ALP
- The Lincoln member of the team must have been an ALP member for more than two (2) years
- Dues must be current, or be a life member
- Must complete questionnaire provided by the Awards Committee
- Must make an effort to present a dignified appearance as characters
- Accomplishments through the past year must merit "outstanding" status

LINCOLN LEGEND *(Awarded as Merited)*

- Must have been an ALP member for five (5) or more years
- Must have portrayed Abraham/Mary for 15 years or more
- Dues must be current, or be a life member
- Must possess a dignified appearance as Abraham/Mary
- Must possess superior knowledge of Abraham/Mary
- Must have made a lasting contribution to promote or enhance Abraham/Mary's image through work in publishing, research and/or performance
- Preferably will have made a contribution to the ALP and the ALP membership

RAILSPLITTER AWARD *(Awarded as Merited)*

- Been a member of the ALP for less than two (2) years
- Shows great promise

BILL SUBLETT LINCOLN LONGEVITY AWARD

- Presented to an Abraham, based on age and activity
- The recipient is devoted to the study of Lincoln and preserving Lincoln's legacy
- The recipient is supportive of other ALP members in fulfilling the ALP Mission
- The recipient participates in ALP conferences and activities
- The award, once given, is held by the recipient until he retires, or does not attend conferences, contests or other ALP activities, or declines to associate with ALP members. At this time, the award would become "open," meaning

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that at the next annual conference, the award will be presented to the oldest Abe present who meets the A through D criteria.

Current holder of this award receives free registration at annual conference

An award (plaque or other) will be given to the recipient.

GUIDELINES FOR ANNUAL ALP AWARDS

(Reviewed/Revised April 2006)

Any member of the ALP who wishes to nominate someone for an award should contact a member of the Awards Committee. *(See Awards Committee, below.)* Each member of the Awards Committee may submit up to three names for consideration for each award category.

Those who have been nominated will be notified by U.S. mail that he/she has been nominated for an award. Each nominee will be asked to submit information about his/her performances or a videotape of a performance if that is more appropriate. Each nominee will be asked to complete and return a questionnaire to the Awards Committee Chairperson.

It is the duty of the Chairperson to send copies of the questionnaires to the committee members, along with a ballot. Ballots are then returned to the Awards Committee Chairperson for tabulation.

All award winners shall be determined by a majority vote of the Awards Committee members.

Results are given to the ALP President.

Awards are announced and presented at the annual ALP meeting.

In order to ensure awards will be available by the annual meeting, the following timeline shall be followed:

Nominations must be submitted by October 1.

Questionnaires must be returned by November 1.

Ballots will be sent to Awards Committee members by November 15.

All ballots are to be returned to the Awards Committee Chairperson by December 1.

AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

(Reviewed/Revised April 2006)

Each member of the ALP who receives an award becomes a member of the Awards Committee for a two-year term.

Each single award winner has one vote.

Team awards are given one vote. Team members must determine which member will represent the team on the committee.

In the case that one team member is an ALP member and the other is not, the ALP member will serve on the Awards Committee.

In the event that one person has received more than one award, that person will have only one vote.

If an existing committee member receives an award, the two-year terms are served concurrently, not consecutively. For example: If, in the first year of a term a committee member receives an award, that member's term of service on the Awards Committee expires at the end of the original two-year term.

ALP ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS TO DATE *(This Year's Winners in Bold!)*

Outstanding Abraham Lincoln

1992 – James Getty
1993 – Dan Bassuk
1994 – B.F. McClerren
1995 – Jim Sayre
1996 – Charlie Brame
1997 – Gerald Bestrom
1998 – Homer Sewell
1999 – Bill Sublett
2000 – Patrick McCreary
2001 – Max Daniels

Outstanding Mary Todd Lincoln

1994 – Bev Nelson
1995 – Dorothy McClerren
1996 – Mary Eunice
1997 – Donna McCreary
1998 – Sally M. Raffanello
1999 – Donna Daniels
2000 – Donna McCreary
2001 – Bonnie Priebe
2002 – Joyce Browning
2003 – Joan Howard

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2002 – Dean Dorrell
2003 – Bill Ames
2004 – Jim Conine
2005 – Stan Wernz

2004 – Ruthanne Boatright
2005 – Joanne Shelby

Lincoln Legend Award

2001 – Bruce Hanks
2002 – Dan Bassuk
2003 – Bill Sublett (posthumously)
2004 – Charlie Brame
2005 – None Awarded

The Railsplitter Award

2002 – George Cheevers
2003 – Rick Miller
2004 – Larry Elliott
2005 – Lonn Pressnall

Glenn Schnizlein Memorial Award

1993 – Max and Donna Daniels
1994 – Robert and Janet Taylor
1995 – Bruce and Mary Hanks
1996 – Cliff and Joan Howard
1997 – Bill and Stacy Wiseman
1998 – Bill and Nancy Peck
1999 – Don and Susan Ancell
2000 – Jim and Ruthanne Boatright
2001 – Fred and Bonnie Priebe
2002 – B.F. and Dorothy McClerren
2003 – Steve and Sharon Wood
2004 – Jim and Mary Hitchcock
2005 – Dean Dorrell/Donna McCreary

Gordon Vincent Memorial Award

2001 – Dan Bassuk/Pat Thomas
(A. Lincoln/Laura Keene)
2002 – Jim Sayre/Cliff Howard
(A. Lincoln/Jeff Davis)
2003 – George Buss/the late Rick Sokup
(A. Lincoln/S. Douglas)
2004 – Bonnie Priebe/Armaine Osterberg
(M. T. Lincoln/Elizabeth Keckly)
2005 – Don Ancell, Ron Hargrave and
Roger Knox (A. Lincoln/Military)

Bill Sublett Lincoln Longevity Award

2004 – Robert Taylor
2005 – None Awarded

If you would like to nominate a fellow ALP member for a 2006 award, please contact a member of this year's Awards Committee. Those people include:

Don Ancell – 1361 Offshore St., Oxnard, California 93035; (805) 984-6343
Ruthanne Boatright – 112 N. Second St., Mascoutah, Illinois 62258; (618) 566-8715
Charlie Brame – P.O. Box 521, Alta Loma, California 91701; (909) 944-5438
Jim Conine – 97 Water Street, Brunswick, Georgia 31525; (912) 265-4188
Dean Dorrell – 801 E. Walnut St., Washington, Indiana 47501; (812) 254-7315
Larry Elliott (*Chair*) – 9300 Wimbley Court, Louisville, Kentucky 40241; (502) 394-0694
Jim and Mary Hitchcock – 409 Blackberry St., Stamford, New York 12167; (607) 625-9067
Donna McCreary – 4620 Lake Forest Dr., Charlestown, Ind. 47111-9033; (812) 256-2370
Lonn Pressnall – 400 Loma, Forsyth, Illinois 62535; (217) 877-7270
Bonnie Priebe – 47111 Hull Road, Bellevue, Michigan 48111; (734) 697-0484
Joanne Shelby – 906 Lilac Lane, Murrysburg, Pennsylvania 15668; (724) 327-0417
Stan Wernz – 266 Compton Ridge Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45215; (513) 761-6120



Mary's Velvet Rose

Todd Family Column

George R. C. Todd

Born on July 4, 1825, George was the youngest child of Robert and Eliza Parker Todd. George received his medical education from Transylvania Medical School in Lexington, Ky. There are stories that Mary hid in the attic and listened to lectures while her brothers attended classes at Transylvania. However, George is the only one who actually went there. He enrolled in 1846; Mary was a wife and mother in Springfield. The stories are doubtful. After finishing his medical thesis in 1848, he remained in Lexington and married Miss Ann Curry. They had one daughter, Mattie. After a short marriage, Ann left George and received a divorce on the grounds of cruelty.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, George sided with the Confederacy. He joined his half-brother, David, who was in charge of prison camps. Both George and David were known to be brutal in their treatment of Union prisoners. It was reported that George would kick the bodies of dead Union soldiers and curse them. After several complaints about George's cruelty, he was assigned to a unit in Georgia. Several soldiers recorded the medical skills and talent of Dr. Todd.

In September 1863, George was transferred to South Carolina and placed in charge of a hospital in Rikersville. The stories of his abuse toward Union prisoners continued to grow. Once, a Union lieutenant from Kentucky infuriated George to the point that he picked him up from his hospital bunk and ordered him bucked and gagged for more than an hour. The lieutenant died the next day.

Soon, George was transferred to a wayside hospital in Camden. There, he met Martha "Mattie" Lyles. George was in Camden during General Sherman's "March to the Sea." It was reported on April 15, 1865, that the rebel sick and wounded were captured, but there is no mention as to the whereabouts of Dr. Todd.

After the war, George married Mattie. They lived in South Carolina, first in Camden, and later in Barnwell. George practiced medicine for the rest of his life, and followed in the footsteps of his father by raising a spectacular rose garden.

George despised Abraham Lincoln for several reasons. Politically they disagreed. There had been lawsuits within the family where George and Abraham were aligned on different sides. George thought Mary was "weak-minded" for marrying someone like Lincoln. However, his son, George Jr., felt differently about descendants of the Lincoln family. He accepted a job with the Pullman Car Company from Robert Todd Lincoln. When George Jr. was injured, Robert came to his aid. Out of respect and admiration

for his cousin, George Jr. named his son Robert Lincoln Todd. There is no record as to whether or not Dr. George Todd had any comments about this.

Samuel Brown Todd (*Mary's half-brother*): Sam was the eldest of Mary's half-brothers to live to adulthood. He was a Confederate officer, and was shot in the abdomen at the battle of Shiloh. He died en route to the hospital in Corinth, and was buried alongside the road. Some historians have mistakenly written that Samuel was shot in the head; however, letters from his officers and other men in his unit to Todd family members describe Sam's wounds in detail.

Alexander Humphreys Todd (*Mary's youngest half-brother*): Alex was a 19-year-old, red-haired lad when he was killed by friendly fire. His commander was his brother-in-law, Benjamin Hardin Helm. There were some horses traveling down the road, a confused moment of shooting, and before the men realized they were shooting their own men, Alex and a few others were dead.

David Humphreys Todd (*Mary's half-brother*): David is sometimes referred to as the black sheep, or the rebel of the family. At one time early in the war, he was in charge at Libby Prison. David was relieved from his duty -- some say due to his inhumane treatment of Union prisoners. David was shot through the lung at the Battle of Vicksburg. He survived the battle and the war. He died in 1871 from complications from this wound.

News

Charles Franzen of *Georgia* writes that "Regretfully, I have been forced to retire from active participation in the ALP because of declining health. I have been a life member since the first ALP convention in Lexington, and have enjoyed my association with the organization tremendously. My best regards to the current members."

Mr. Franzen may be contacted at 988 Viscount Court, Avondale Estates, Georgia 30002; (404) 299-1772; ckf2@mindspring.com.

Bryce O. Stenzel has a new book, "Lincoln for the Stages," published by Minnesota Heritage Publishing. It is a collection of four plays about "the life and legacy of America's Civil War President." These plays are age-appropriate for middle school, high school, and community drama organizations. More information is available at <http://www.mnheritage.com/>.

The 34th annual Lincoln Days Celebration, scheduled to take place Oct. 14 and 15, 2006, in Hodgenville, Ky., will again include a Lincoln Oratory Contest, in addition to the popular Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln Look-Alike Contests. Both events take place Saturday, Oct. 14. Orations -- composed and memorized by the contestants -- should be no longer than four minutes and must fall within one of four categories: "*I, too, am a Kentuckian...*," Kentucky family, friends and associates who influenced Lincoln's personal development; "*This was the only line of salvation for our country*," Lincoln's mentors and/or Kentucky's role in developing Lincoln's character, politics and ideals; "*I hope to have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky*," Lincoln and the Civil War (the effect of Lincoln's policies on Kentucky before, during and after the Civil War); and "*Now he belongs to the ages*," the legacy of Lincoln's actions for today's world.

Anyone interested in getting a full set of rules and/or registration forms for any or all contests should contact ALP Secretary Vicki Woodard, 602 N. Pine St., Hazel Dell, Ill. 62428; (217) 932-5378; vwoodard@eiu.edu. She can forward information sent to her by the contest organizers, who would like to have registrations by Oct. 5, if possible. Information can also be obtained by contacting Iris LaRue, The Lincoln Museum, (270) 358-3163, abe@lincolnmuseum-ky.org.

Association of Lincoln Presenters

c/o Dean Dorrell
801 E. Walnut St.
Washington, IN 47501

Phone: 812-254-7315
Fax: 413-521-7552
E-mail: abe@honest-abe.com



We're on the Web!
www.lincolnpresenters.org



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More Advice...

In the March 2006 issue of *Lincarnations*, some veteran Lincoln presenters offered advice to our newer members. The following entry, submitted by **Rick Miller of Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania**, was inadvertently left out:

"I take a shiny penny with me and give it to the person in the audience with the birthday closest to Feb. 12. I ask them to read the inscription above Lincoln's head ('In God We Trust'), and mention that that was added to currency during my administration. I then ask them to turn the penny over and discuss the mean of 'E Pluribus Unum.' I use an Aesop's fable. I also mention that Teddy Roosevelt convinced Congress to make mine the first image of a president to appear on our currency.

"Another useful tip is to go on The Lincoln Log (<http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org/>) to find out what Abe was doing the day of the presentation."