

# LINCARNATIONS

Volume 33 No. 2

January 2026

“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 this (semiannual) newsletter, our Facebook, or webpage.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our big event of the year is fast approaching. Plan on joining us for the 2026 conference in Bardstown, KY hosted by Larry and Mary Elliott. Dates are April 9-12. Bardstown is close to Hodgenville and the Lincoln birth site. A visit to the birth site is planned. There are many other historic places we will visit including My Old Kentucky Home and Knob Creek, the Lincoln home for five years. Full details will be posted on the website by the end of January as well as registration materials. Anyone who hasn't joined us for a while, the Lincoln birthplace is the best place to gather for learning and fellowship.

Our recruitment efforts have slowed down this year. We have added only a couple of new members. I hope each of you are keeping eyes open for potential members and sharing information about ALP with them. You can also refer their names and contact information to me as membership chairman and to Larry Elliott as our marketing manager.

It is not too late to propose to host a site for 2028. At present, we have only one possible candidate site. If you wish to host a conference, please contact me at least six weeks prior to our conference, so we can make sure you know what you need to do to prepare to present in April.

I need to make another plug for our Zoom membership meetings that Laura Keyes has been producing during the past two years. These have been very informative (with topics related to Abraham and Mary Lincoln) and can augment the sessions we hold at our conferences. Laura puts a lot of effort into planning, scheduling, and producing these sessions. A bonus is the 30-minute social time for those signed into the session to share news and visit with one another. This is a chance to visit several times a year rather than just at the conference. We need more participants. It's free and no travel required.

I think it is time to turn over the reigns as president. I don't believe someone should be in the position for too long. I am completing my fourth year as president. I am hoping someone will consider accepting nomination for president at this year's conference. If you have any interest, please contact me prior to the conference.

***John Cooper, (740) 862-6373, 12-10-24***

# MEET YOUR FELLOW LINCOLN

## ANN BRUEHLER

Ann Bruehler of Charleston, Illinois, joined ALP in 2022 as a Mary Lincoln, which is the same year she began portraying Mary Lincoln. She also portrays both of Abraham Lincoln's mothers, Nancy Hanks and Sarah Bush Johnston. She currently does only a few performances each year. However, Ann is a long-time thespian and has performed in more than 30 plays in community theaters over the past 15 years. In keeping with her thespian activities, she has developed a one person play about the 1871 Chicago fire where she portrays ten survivors of the fire in a 60-minute performance.

She got into community theatre by enrolling in an acting class in 2012 and was in her first play at age 50. She loves all aspects of theatre-acting, directing, producing, writing, stage managing, props. She serves on the board of one of the local community theatre groups, where she is also in charge of publicity and ticketing, bitten by the theater bug. Small wonder she could jump into the character of Mary Lincoln. Almost all her theater work is voluntary as is the case with community theater.

Ann has been "retired" since 2019 but previously has worked as an assistant editor at a book publishing company. Ann has a BS degree in journalism from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign as well as some graduate courses. She also spent several years as an early childhood education teacher and administrator. During this time, she had several pieces published in early childhood publications for teachers.

Ann and her husband, Jim, have been married for 41 years. Jim is a college economics professor and is active in several local singing groups. She also spent several years as assistant manager in a retail jewelry store, which was lots of fun! Between some of these jobs, Ann was a stay-at-home mom to her daughter Kate and son, Jon. Kate is now 39 and lives in Mumbai, India, with her husband, who is Indian. They met when they

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were both working in Shanghai, China (Kate is a teacher). Her son is 36 and a computer programmer in Madison, WI. To date, there are no grandchildren.

Since joining ALP in 2022, she has attended two of the last three conferences. Ann finds the conferences fun, educational, and an opportunity to meet great people and make good friends! Ann volunteered to be part of our social media team during her first conference in Springfield.

Her biggest joy as Mary Lincoln is sharing knowledge about her and helping people understand her as a real woman. She has had some touching moments when people have said she brought them to tears, and when they've thanked her for bringing Mary Lincoln to life. Recently, she was touring a museum after a performance and encountered a family who had attended. The father complimented her and his son said, "Who is that?" When his mother said, "That's the lady who was Mary Lincoln," the boy was amazed!

One of Ann's favorite Mary stories is how Mary met Elizabeth Keckley, her dressmaker, after she spilled coffee on the dress she wanted to wear to the Inauguration and had to get a new one made quickly.

Her recommended books are *The Insanity File: The Case of Mary Todd Lincoln* by Mark E. Neely, Jr., and R. Gerald McMurtry, and *Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters* by Justin G. Turner & Linda Levitt Turner. Speaking of Mary and allegations of her insanity, Ann feels that Mary certainly had some mental illness, which went untreated, and certainly had some episodes that were serious, but is not sure she was truly insane. It is interesting to note that although Mary's insanity trial may have been conducted unfairly, Illinois was progressive for the time in that a trial had to be conducted at all, because in most states a woman could be committed by a male relative without any other proof of cause.

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

## EARLY LINCOLN PORTRAYERS

### Abraham Lincoln Garber Hite

May 20, 1885 - June 24, 1948

Abraham Lincoln Garber Hite was born to Peter and Margaret Hite, a house painter and homemaker, respectively, in Roaring Spring, PA, being in the middle of three brothers and two sisters in birth order. He was named after the physician who delivered him, Dr. A. L. Garber, but was known as Abraham by his family. He came from a long line of Pennsylvanians going back to colonial days. Before he finished high school, he was working as a day laborer and in adulthood worked in a book printing company, and for many years was a bricklayer and sometimes as a paperhanger. His draft registration from 1917 described him with brown eyes and black hair, and as being tall. Those who knew described him as genial, clean-shaven, and noted similarities to the Great Emancipator, but he never tried his hand in that role until 1943. Prior to all this, he had a barber who told him to wear his hair longer as did Lincoln.

The United States was now in the largest war in its history, mobilizing its largest forces on land, sea, and in the air. The home front was involved, such as planting victory gardens as a measure of self-sufficiency and other measures to decrease personal consumption to increase war production. Part of this effort was selling war bonds, and Abram proved to be adept, but he chose the persona of President Lincoln in his presentations. His costume consisted of a beard and wig, a stovepipe hat, and the matching frock coat, vest and pants. The local college drama department would help him with makeup. He also prepared for the part. When visiting the schools, a child would recite the Gettysburg Address, and then he would give an inspirational talk, followed by the sale. He read up on the stories about the President, memorized a few speeches, and answered questions that school children asked.

Starting on Lincoln's Birthday in February 1943, he began selling war stamps at local schools in Centre County, including the State University, a Land Grant institution better known today as Penn State. By April, he had raised \$11,436.70; by December, that amount reached \$102,755.68. During breaks in schooling, he encouraged children to save their pennies. By war's end, he sold \$292,545 in war stamps while not earning anything but the gratitude of the children who were excited to see him come to their school. They would ask many questions, such as he got a pig out when he was stuck in the mud; how many yards of cloth it took to make his suit; how many rails he had to split to get money for a suit; how he had made a boat to ferry a trunk across the river; and of course about the time he walked miles to return the woman's change.

On Lincoln's Birthday in 1946, dignitaries from the U.S. Department of the Treasury expressed their gratitude for Abram's salesmanship at the Lincoln Memorial. He made the

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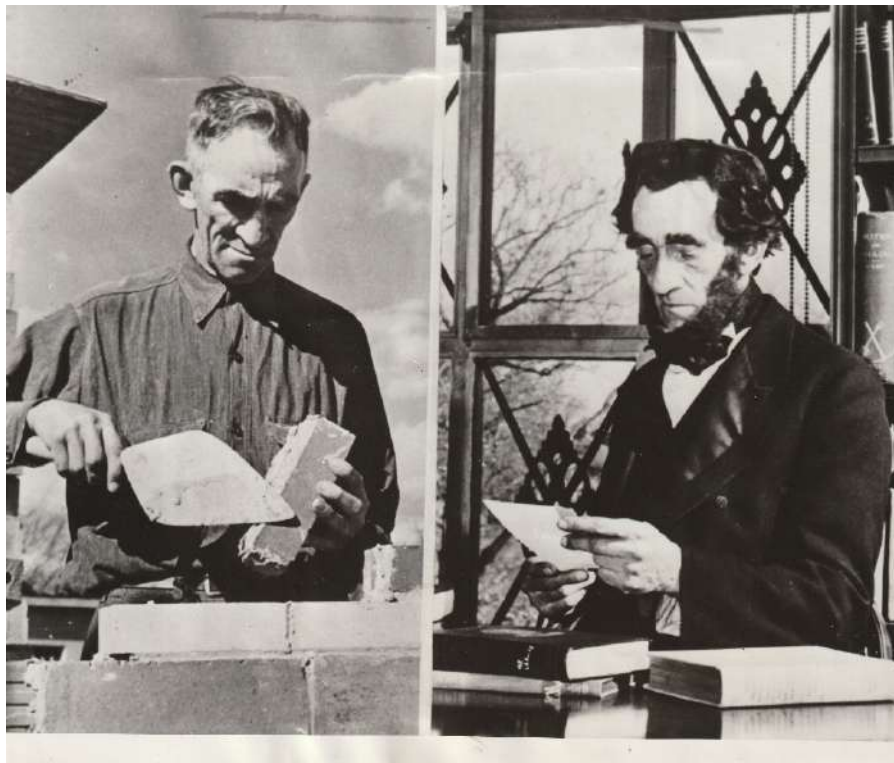
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pilgrimage again in 1947 visiting the Memorial again, and the Capitol, but was unable to have an audience with President Truman. Later that summer, he visited Lincoln's Tomb and the Lincoln Homestead in Springfield, IL, spoke to the Civic Association there, and later went to New Salem State Park, all while in persona. A Springfield newspaper presented him with a gold medal bearing Lincoln's likeness. He used very little of the money provided by the Centre County supervisors because no one in Springfield would let him spend it.

On the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address held in Rochester, NY, he met with a Union veteran, 106-year-old James Hard who met President Lincoln in May 1861. In March 1948, he was a guest on the Quiz Kids radio program. By April, he was a guest of honor at the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC.

In June 1948, he was hospitalized for heart problems. He died on June 24, 1948, and is interred at Eagle Cemetery in Centre County, PA. As a Lincoln portrayer, he paid for his own expenses, and anything he borrowed, he paid back. He also inspired people, especially young children, to know more about the Sixteenth President.

***John M. McKee***



## THE LINCOLN QUESTION and ANSWERS

### AQUESTION:

*Imagine you accept the position as a cultural representative to a faraway place, and you are to portray and lecture about your characters and their place in history. If travel limits bringing no more than ten (10) reference materials (viz., books and articles) to explain your character to deposit in their local library, what items would you bring?*



The ten books I would take with me:

<i>A Lincoln, Prairie Lawyer</i> , John Duff	<i>The Lincoln-Douglas Debates</i> , Ed. Harold Holzer
<i>Lincoln</i> , David Herbert Donald	<i>Lincoln's War</i> , Geoffrey Parrett
<i>There I Grew Up</i> , William Bartelt	<i>Lincoln and His Generals</i> , T. Harry Williams
<i>Team of Rivals</i> , Doris Goodwin	<i>Did Lincoln Own Slaves</i> , Gerald J. Prokopowicz
<i>Our One Common Country</i> , James Conroy	<i>Lincoln's Own Yarns and Stories</i> , Ed. Co. A.K. McClure

### **Murray Cox**



The items I would take with me are:

Book, <i>Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln</i>
Book, <i>Killing Lincoln</i> by Bill O'Reilly
Book, <i>Mrs. Lincoln: A Life</i> by Catherine Clinton
My laptop for my own research and language barrier help (And possibly, a lifeguard!)

### **Janet Myer, "The Tragic Mrs. Lincoln"**



### BOOKS

New in 2025

### ***Loving Lincoln: A Personal History of the Women Who Shaped Lincoln's Life and Legacy***

**Author:** Stacy Lynn

Southern Illinois University Press

Copyright 2025, \$24.95, paperbound, 278 pages, hard endnotes, appendix (of persons mentioned in the text), bibliography, index, illustrations.

The book consists of thirty individual essays which could be read in any order without detriment to understanding. Most of the essays are about the women in Lincoln's life, but a few are about Lincoln in the author's life. Those who expect a unified narrative will be disappointed. Those who want a hatchet job on Lincoln will be disappointed.

Those who would like to learn more about the book could go online to:

<https://www.nprillinois.org>lincolnhistory>lovinglincoln>

Or

<https://alincolnbookshop.com>a-house-divided.stacylynn>

***Lincoln and Douglas***

(Continued on page 8)

Author: Jan Jacobi

Reedy Press, St. Louis, MO

314 pages, paperbound, \$18.

“This is a work of fiction” yet “true to the historical record,” asserts the author. He includes six pages of endnotes giving sources. It is written as a memoir, in first person with Lincoln as the narrator. *Lincoln and Douglas* is third in a series, following *Young Lincoln* (2018) and *Lincoln in Springfield* (2021). *Lincoln and Douglas* takes up in October 1849 and concludes with Douglas’ death in May 1861. It is intended as a “crossover” work between “Young Adult” and “General” fiction.

*Respectfully submitted by Vicki Woodard*

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Presented to The Reverend Doctor,

Lincoln Caswell

Pastor of Cornell Memorial Church

November 8, 1933

by

Joshua Norton Singer

As a testament of My Eternal Gratitude and Boundless Admiration for His  
Greatness In Christ Likeness.

Let Us Always and In All Ways REMEMBER JESUS, OUR CHRIST

“One Sweetly Solemn Thought

Comes to Me O’er and O’er,”

“I’m Nearer My Heavenly Home

Than I Have Been Before Today”

Phoebe Cary

May Our God of Wisdom and Love Prosper You ALL WAYS and ALWAYS.

J.N.S.

The sender wrote:

“The book I am sending/giving you has sat in a drawer for over a hundred years. Nobody in my family has any interest in it. You, or someone you know, is the perfect recipient for it.

“I’m thinking Lincoln Caswell bought the book and to me, that is what makes it special, but you should have it.”

This book was presented to him a few weeks prior to the Gettysburg Cemetery 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Observance. That he had consulted it until his death in 1939 is probable.

***John M. McKee***

## Mr. Jeff Bloomquist

### Hometown Hero

*By Mr. Glenn Murray*

Like all ALP members, I have participated in many community activities, but I'm sure I'll never be a "Hometown Hero" like ALP member Mr. Jeff Bloomquist. After I recently called Jeff to let him know about our 2027 ALP conference in Buffalo, I Googled him and learned from the Jamestown Gazette that Jeff is known as the "hometown hero" of Jamestown, NY, about an hour drive from Buffalo.

ALP life member Jeff Bloomquist, of Jamestown, NY, served as a medic in Viet Nam. A grenade exploded in the midst of his unit, injuring multiple soldiers, one of whom was Robert "Rocky" Bleier, who sustained significant damage to his right leg and heel. Medic PFC-3 Jeff Bloomquist carefully removed his boot and protectively dressed the wound to prepare him to be carried through the jungle and helicoptered out to a safe location.

In Jamestown, Jeff is considered a hometown hero. He can lay claim to being the initial member of the medical team who enabled Robert "Rocky" Bleier to rehabilitate and return to professional football, play for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and win four Super Bowls. Recognizing his courage and service to his fellow soldiers, General William Westmoreland decorated PFC Bloomquist in the field.

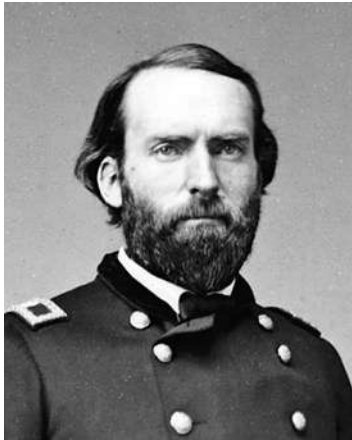
At a Viet Nam reunion of his outfit some years later, soldiers who were treated by Jeff lined up and saluted him to show their appreciation. Letters written by families of veterans thanking Jeff for saving their sons were read out loud. Also, two representatives of the NFL traveled to Jamestown to present an autographed football to Jeff on behalf of Rocky Bleier.

Jeff is also well known in Jamestown as Abraham Lincoln and marches in various parades. Jeff has marched in nearly 400 parades and has given programs in approximately 125 classrooms. He is also involved a volunteer fundraiser for the American Cancer Society for which he personally has raised over \$100,000. He himself is a cancer survivor, having been a victim of Agent Orange exposure.

See the entire article at:

<https://www.medioq.com/US/Bemus-Point/124641280944780/Jamestown-Gazette>

## David Sloane Stanley, Brigadier General, United States Army



David Sloane Stanley was a Union Army general during the American Civil War. He served in the Western theater of the war, participating in several battles between 1862 and 1864, winning the Medal of Honor for one of his actions. Later he explored the Yellowstone River, and his favorable reports encouraged settlement of this region.

Stanley was born in Cedar Valley, Ohio (three miles South of the village of Congress, Ohio, five miles NW of Wooster, Ohio) in Wayne County on June 1, 1828. At 11 years old, he went to live with Dr. Leander Firestone, a physician in the village of Congress, and received his education.

He entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1848, graduating in 1852 and commissioned as a lieutenant in the regular army. His assignment brought him to the Western frontier to survey railroad routes and engage in occasional skirmishes with Native American tribes. He was promoted to captain in March 1861 shortly before the Civil War's outbreak. Stanley was on duty at Fort Washita in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), and the tenuous position forced him to lead his men to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

He first fought in Missouri, including the Battle of Wilson's Creek, where he guarded the supply trains. President Abraham Lincoln appointed Stanley as brigadier general of U.S. Volunteers September 28, 1861, although the U.S. Senate did not confirm the appointment until March 7, 1862. Fighting in the Western Theater, he participated in the operations against New Madrid, Missouri and the Battle of Island Number Ten. He was involved in numerous major battles, including the Siege of Corinth, Battle of Iuka, and Second Battle of Corinth, where he commanded an infantry division as part of the Army of the Mississippi. At the Battle of Stones River, he led the cavalry of the Army of the Cumberland. For these actions, he was appointed Major General of Volunteers on March 11, 1863.

From June 23 to July 4, 1863, Stanley led the Union cavalry in the Tullahoma Campaign under fellow Buckeye Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans, while forgotten proved to be a turning point in the war. Stanley fell ill late in 1863, missing the Battle of Chickamauga. Upon recuperating in early 1864, he served as a division commander in the IV Corps as part of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's Army of the Cumberland during the Atlanta Campaign and was promoted to commander of the corps when Maj. Gen. Oliver O. Howard was named commander of the Army of the Tennessee. After the city's capture, Sherman dispatched Stanley and his IV Corps to Tennessee to help protect the state from invasion by John Bell Hood's Army of

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Tennessee rather than participate in the March to the Sea.

For leading one of his brigades in a successful counterattack during a critical moment during the Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864, the President Grover Cleveland on behalf of the United States Congress presented him with the Medal of Honor on March 29, 1893. With two of his divisions having been reassigned to the defensive lines of the XXIII Corps before the battle, Stanley had no actual command. Two brigades of the remaining division, under Brig. Gen. George D. Wagner, were overwhelmed by the initial Confederate assault, having been left in an exposed position. His role in leading the counterattack by the 3rd Brigade of Wagner's division that Stanley was awarded the medal.

He was wounded in the neck at the same time and his horse had been shot out from under him. Maj. Gen. Jacob Cox, commanding the defenses, provided Stanley with a remount to seek medical attention, and ending Stanley's participation in the battle. He came back to Wooster and was treated by Dr. Firestone. In January 1865 he returned to corps command in East Tennessee and soon afterwards was transferred to Texas

After the war, Stanley was appointed colonel of the 22nd U.S. Infantry, primarily serving in the Dakota Territory until 1874. He commanded the Yellowstone Expedition of 1873, successfully conducting his troops through several unmapped areas, and his favorable reports on the country led to subsequent settlement of the region. In 1879, Stanley and his regiment were reassigned to Texas to suppress Indian raids in the western portion of the state. He was ordered to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1882, and placed in command of the District of New Mexico. In March 1884, he was appointed a brigadier general in the regular army and assigned command of the Department of Texas. He retired in 1892.

He was a First Class Companion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) and a Hereditary Companion of the Military Order of Foreign Wars. In 1894 he became a member of the District of Columbia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

In his later years Stanley acquired title to the farm on which he was born on Cedar Valley Rd. Owners of the farm have done an outstanding job maintaining/restoring the home (which had been built in 1855) and restoring the post & beam barn.

Gen. Stanley passed on March 13, 1902, and was interred at the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. He was another Wayne County Hero!!

*Jerry Payn, Wooster, Ohio*

## TRIVIALITIES

D.W. Griffith's *Abraham Lincoln* was not Walter Huston's first film portrayal as the Sixteenth President. The prior year, he performed him in a shorter film, *Two Americans*, focusing on Lincoln and General Grant. When Griffith considered auditions for his final epic, over 40 people auditioned for the part. Did female actors also audition for the part?

True

False



*Lucille La Verne in Abraham Lincoln*

ANSWER: True, at least according to Griffith's press agents, as published in the Washington, DC *Evening Star* ("Looks Like Lincoln", Oct. 5, 1930). Two women are noted. The first was the stage actress Lucille La Verne (1872-1945) and was not her first time to play a man's part. Though known for her part in the stage play *Sun Up*, she played Shylock on the London stage briefly in September 1929. (She is quoted as saying, "I know now that there is something worse than smoking a corn-cob pipe, and that is having to wear whiskers.") She did get the part as the mid-wife in Griffith's *Abraham Lincoln*. She also voiced the evil queen in Disney's *Snow White* in 1937.



*Sophia Hume as President Lincoln*

The other was Sophia Hume (1869-1955) of Los Angeles, "who went to the trouble and expense of being photographed in an exact duplicate of Lincoln's presidential costume, not even omitting the umbrella, the beard and the small mole on the right cheek." Standing at 5'11" tall, she kept her day job as a fancy presser at a dry-cleaning store. Active in various Lincoln Heights community groups, she started presenting herself as either Lincoln or George Washington (and sometimes both in the same presentation). Local groups called for her portrayals on patriotic holidays because of her research into the characterizations and personalities.

NEXT QUIZ: Finding a portrayal of President Lincoln that is not in English is unusual, if not unheard, among American audiences. While various films were dubbed into foreign languages for presentation overseas, these also included changing their titles. At least two stage productions about Lincoln were also performed with native cast members and under native direction. What plays were they, in what language and where performed?

(Answer in next edition)

**John M. McKee**

## LINCOLN DAYS AT HODGENVILLE, KY

**October 4-5, 2025** The Annual Lincoln Days was held in Hodgenville, KY, on October 4 & 5.

The following participated in the "look-alike" contest and presentations:

Mary Lincoln Lookalike	Abraham Lincoln Lookalike
Laura Keys - 1st place	Jacob Truax - 1st place
Susan Miller - 2nd place	Larry Elliott - 2nd place
	Whit McMahon - 3rd place
	Dennis Boggs
	Tom Wright

Other attendees:

Rick Yarbrough
Vern Risty
Sue Wright
Joan Howard

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Here's a contribution for the group. I was looking for a simple mnemonic device to help remember the Lincoln-Douglas debate sites in order. I don't have any pride in ownership; my wife came up with it. I use it and it works. Everyone's welcome to it. Here you go.

Our (**O**ttawa)  
 Friend (**F**reeport)  
 Jesus (**J**onesboro)  
 Christ (**C**harleston)  
 Gives (**G**alesburg)  
 Questions (**Q**uincy)  
 Answers (**A**lton)

***Randy Duncan***

## 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. They cost \$4 each. Email Susan Miller at [susanviolamiller@gmail.com](mailto:susanviolamiller@gmail.com) to order the patches.



### Conference Pictures

Once again, Tom Davison was our “official” conference photographer. Thank you, Tom!

You can find his images at:

<https://www.davisonimages.com/Events/Association-of-Lincoln-Presenters-Kalamazoo-MI-724-2625>. There is a green tab over to the right where you can purchase photos.

### Donna McCreary's *Mary Lincoln Demystified*

An amended edition of Donna McCreary's award-winning book, *Mary Lincoln Demystified: Frequently Asked Questions about Abraham's Wife*, was recently released by Southern Illinois University Press. Copies may be ordered directly from the publisher (<https://www.siupress.com/>), at local bookstores, or directly through Donna ([mtlincoln@hotmail.com](mailto:mtlincoln@hotmail.com)).

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### **CURIOSA**

Rather than finding a surprise, a surprise found me. In the last issue, I wrote about the Rev. Lincoln Caswell, and I must note that I was in contact with his granddaughter, and shared with her information about her forebear, including a copy of the newsletter. In the past week, I received from her a book, *Portrait Life of Lincoln* by Francis Trevelyan Miller, published 1910. The book also included some newspaper and magazine clippings, and a greeting card from the chaplain of the 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (NYNG). From reading an inscription in the back, I inferred that the book was a gift to Rev. Caswell.

Presented to The Reverend Doctor,  
Lincoln Caswell

Pastor of Cornell Memorial Church

November 8, 1933

by

**Association of Lincoln Presenters 30th Annual Conference  
April 9-12, 2026**

**Bardstown and Hodgenville  e, Kentucky**